



BELASTINGSBETALERSVERENIGING

HERMANUS

RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Hermanus Ratepayers Association

held on 7 March 2024 at 17:30 at the Marine Hotel and on Zoom



EXCO MEMBERS PRESENT

Brian Widgway (Chair)
Anne Stern (Vice Chair)
Jennifer Howard
Arlene Ross-Smith
Aloma Jonker
Elizabeth van Niekerk (Secretary)

MEMBERS PRESENT

50 members in person and 5 via Zoom

DOCUMENTS CIRCULATED IN ADVANCE

Notification of 2024 AGM
Minutes of the 2023 AGM
Agenda for 2024 AGM
Annual Report
EXCO Nomination Form
Proxy Form
Membership Invoice
Financial Statements

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

As a quorum was present the meeting was declared open. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM. There were no apologies.

2. CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA

It was requested from the floor that the Cliff Path be added as an item to the agenda. The agenda of the AGM was then confirmed.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 9 MARCH 2023

Bob Stanway proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2023 be adopted. This was seconded by Jenny Howard. The minutes were accordingly adopted.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- 4.1. The HRA Constitution – The Chairman confirmed that this had been amended.
- 4.2. The Country Market – The Chairman noted that this is still an issue.
- 4.3. Strategy going forward – The Chairman advised that the existing HRA EXCO had decided that as a result of low membership at the time the survey should be held over.
- 4.4. The joinder of the Cliff Path is still an issue.
- 4.5. The Overstrand Municipality website has been updated. Members were encouraged to visit this.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman handed down his report summarising certain salient elements:

THE GOOD (Achievements over the year by the HRA)

- The Bypass has been suspended.
- Assistance on the part of the HRA to residents with property valuations.
- A donation had been made to the Cliff Path Management group.
- Efforts had been made by the HRA to mediate between the Country Market and the Municipality – this problem has not yet been resolved.
- A communication strategy has been adopted.
- The HRA has established a good working relationship with the Mayor.
- The Municipality was commended on its good service delivery.

THE BAD

- Over the past year there has been waning support for the HRA.
- Densification of the Hermanus area has increased and the effects of this on existing infrastructure were noted.
- The financial viability of the Municipality was referred to as a concern.
- It was recorded that the Fernkloof Nature Reserve is at risk of being encroached because of insufficient municipal control.

THE UGLY

- Unemployment within the Hermanus area is creating a threat to the Hermanus 'bubble'.

6. **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Chairman referred to an error in the Financial Statements and confirmed that the entry referring to 'Accounting Fees' of R5000 had been corrected and amended to read 'Secretarial Services'.

Jonathan Stern then proposed the Financial Statements be adopted, seconded by Bob Stanway.

7. CONSIDERATION OF OUTCOMES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

The Chairman advised that the HRA had received a vote of confidence at the Special General Meeting, held on 15 February, to continue as is.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Anne Stern agreed to remain on the HRA EXCO. Eight nominations were received.

Those who were nominated spoke to their credentials. As no objections were lodged, the following nominated people were approved:

- Aloma Jonker
- Ken Briggs
- Russel Schierhout
- Andrew Errington
- Ian Paterson
- Martin Barnard
- Deon de Kock
- Delia Scott

As a nomination had been received late for Tobie Louw, it was suggested that he be co-opted onto EXCO by the new committee.

9. DISCUSSION ON MATTERS OF CONCERN TO MEMBERS

- 9.1. Errol van Staden mentioned his concerns about the representivity of the HRA in Eastcliff and Kwaiwater.
- 9.2. Bob Stanway stressed that the new committee should appreciate that 'form follows function' and suggested that attention be given to the establishment of the following possible portfolios within the committee:
- Water, sanitation and sewerage tariffs
 - Safety and security – representation on the police forum
 - CBD
 - Transport and traffic management
 - Town planning
 - Baboon management
 - Relationships with the Overstrand Municipality
 - Community togetherness
- 9.3. Pat Redford expressed her concerns on densification and the deviations presently being experienced in how Council meetings are held.
- 9.4. Jobre Stassen commented on the HRA relationship with the Overstrand Municipality, emphasising that the Municipality is there to work for the community.
- 9.5. Vince Romano emphasised the need for coordination of the areas serviced by the HRA and again mentioned that the Municipality is there to serve the residents.

10. THE CLIFF PATH

Simon Koch stated that the HRA needs to stand up to the Municipality and in particular to take up the issue of the cliff path joinder with the mayor.

Jobre Stassen mentioned that the Mayor is against the cliff path project and requested the Chairman to take this matter up with the Mayor.

Simon Koch asked for a motion to be adopted supporting Jobre in this issue.

Royden Pybus asked for a secret ballot, but it was decided that it was not suitable for the HRA to make any decisions on this issue at this stage as those present at the meeting were not representative of the HRA membership. It was decided that there was a need, however, to take a vote on the views of those present at the meeting as to whether there should be Cliff Path continuation or not, and thereafter crystallise the attitude of the HRA to the views expressed at the AGM.

Members voted on the topic: whether the joinder of the cliff path was desirable with a YES or NO.

11. CLOSURE

There being no further comments the Chairman expressed his thanks to EXCO.

Anne Stern then thanked the Chairman for his contribution to the HRA.

The Chairman then closed the meeting and refreshments were served.

Approved by

Date

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