

GRIPOA AGM Meeting Minutes

Location: Oudewerfskloof, Stilbaai

Date: 28 December 2023

Agenda items

1. Opening and welcome

Chairperson welcomed all present.

2. Attendance register

Attendees: Nico Lotterie; L Eales; A Eales; L Glaum; Piers Sibson; Chris Krömker; Hannes Brummer; Archie van Dyke; Rory McKellor–Basset; Sieg Maier; Herman van As; Courtney Ulyate; Willie Botha; Thomer Krömkov; Teager Eales; C Boehme; C de Villiers; John Harding

Apologies: Jan Lombard; Angus and Lisa Robertson; Francis and Judith Matthews; Jolene Schmidt; Stefan Antoni; Hennie Volschenk; Charl Krumm and Alison Bryant.

3. Chairperson's Report – Sieg Maier

Goukou EMP feedback

The Goukou Estuary Management Plan has been formally approved by the Minister of Environmental Affairs. GRIPOA represented the riparian owners on the necessary forum in order to ventilate all concerns identified by the committee members.

After eleven years of effort by GRIPOA, we are satisfied that the two primary objections raised by GRIPOA were taken into account in the adopted final report. We would like to thank all members who raised their objections and contributed financially during the public participation process. In short the two primary objections identified were:

1. The arbitrary proposed five metre vertical set-back line on the riverfront;
2. Ensuring public access to the riverfront on privately owned riverfront land.

Both of these potentially far-reaching and may it be said “draconian” proposals by Cape Nature were struck from the final version of the report.

Additionally, Cape Nature confirmed to GRIPOA that their primary focus with regard to the Goukou River is estuarine health and not managing access or prescribing farming practices. The estuary is however a sensitive bio-diverse area and best practice is to be expected from all riverfront owners in all matters affecting the river.

4. Presentations/ Report Back

- **Financial report – Herman van As**

1. Opening Balance

Cash	R	4 000,00
Current Account	R	7 479,99
Investment Account	R	0,00
Total	R	11 479,99

2. Income 2023

Membership fees	R	8 725,30
Interest	R	9 059,48
Other - Donation 20/01/2023	R	172 400,00
Total	R	190 184,78

3. Expenses 2023

Security camera project – Spuihoek camera point	R	34 541,00
Secretary @ R 750,00 per month	R	9 750,00
Replacement and maintenance – Fire equipment	R	10 640,00
Website	R	1 320,00
AGM Refreshments	R	877,80
Refund loan to pay legal fees DEADP	R	5 862,00
Total	R	62 990,80

4. Closing Balance

Cash	R	8 497,50
Current Account	R	5 038,17
Investment Account	R	125 275,36
Total	R	138 811,03

• **Safety and Security – John Harding**

Rural Sub-forum

Alison, Anton, Charl and I had continued involvement during the year and once again this year Alison also chaired the mother body (the Community Policing Forum). Monthly committee meetings were held, as well as a few Community meetings.

WhatsApp Groups continue to play an important role in our communications. The group numbers have increased slightly. The membership is currently as follows:

GK	103 Members
SP	79 Members
Droëvlakte	108 Members
Blikhuis	27 Members
Rietvlei	26 Members
Blombos	170 Members

Although the police have a presence on all the groups and can take swift action, this does not obviate the need to report the crime to the police station. The station number is 028 754 6100.

Through DOCS (Department of Community Safety but now called POCS) under which the rural sub-forum falls, we have managed to obtain all the necessary equipment and training to act as neighbourhood watch, or in our case, farm watch.

We have recently received two-way radios for the various areas and this allows us to stay in communication with the control room. Furthermore, the cameras still play a vital part in managing safety and security and more have been added this year.

A new Control Room near SAPS has been completed which will allow 24/7 monitoring of the cameras as well as two-way communication for neighbourhood and farm watch patrollers.

- **Fire Protection and Equipment – John Harding**

- Permitted Burns

The controlled burns were well managed by Hessequa Fire Department with almost all farmers/landowners complying with the protocols for inspections and daily permits.

Permits Issued – 1400

Successful – 1398

Control Lost – 2

The burn season is officially closed until 30 April but could open earlier depending on weather patterns.

Some tips from the fire department to prevent loss of property were:

- Keep the area around your houses free of excess bush and trees where possible.
- Thatch roofs are still an issue, so consider replacing with conventional roofing when maintenance is required.
- One of the biggest causes of fires is still braai fires that are not doused on completion, so please ensure you do so, particularly where there is combustible fuel (as in dry bush etc.) nearby.

- **Roads and Verges – Nico Lotterie**

History

The previous Road Portfolio Manager, Henry van den Hoven, has made repeated requests for the upgrading and maintenance of the Goukou and Spuithoek roads. In 2017 a detailed request was submitted pinpointing problem areas along the GK road. The general feedback in the past was the lack of budget, gravel and labour.

Recent Requests

Recent requests were made for road maintenance, but were met with the same response. New vehicle counts (150 thousand impressions/year), captured by security cameras, were submitted to prove the increase in road usage in our area. By showing an increase in traffic, the hope was to have our roads reclassified in order to secure a larger budget. The department updates their traffic count every two years and according to them the GK road carries 266 light vehicles and 30 heavy vehicles per day (half of our estimation). Other roads in the area carry up to 2000 vehicles per day and thus get more attention than ours.

Recent Feedback

The Deputy Manager of Operations for the Garden Route District Municipality, Mr Gert Verwey, responded to our requests as follows: In the Eden area, the department only has the capacity to re-gravel 45 km of roads per year, but is responsible for 548 km. In general, gravel roads are only scraped once per year, but are subject to a scraping cycle. The GK road specifically has been earmarked for an upgrade but taking resources into account this could take any number of years.

Future Developments

GRIPPOA intends to make the roads in our area a priority this coming year. The idea is to get all relevant stakeholders together in order to increase the visibility

of our requests and gain more leverage in order to get the department to take more action sooner.

5. Date of next Annual General Meeting

To be confirmed.