GRIPOA AGM Meeting Minutes

Location: Farm Kumbaya, Stilbaai

Date: 27 December 2024

Agenda items

1. **Opening and welcome**

Chairperson welcomed all present.

2. **Attendance register**

Attendees:

Apologies: Phil Couchman; Piers Sibson; Angus Robertson; Hennie Volschenk; Hannes Brümmer; Albert Basson; Judith Matthews; Stefan Antoni; Baden Jacka and Wynand Wessels.

3. **Guest speakers**

The guest speakers present were Jean du Plessis from Cape Nature and Alison Bryant of the Stilbaai Community Police Forum.

4. **Approval of 2023 AGM minutes**

4.1 Opening and welcome

Chairperson welcomed all present.

4.2 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; Thomas Krömker; 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.

4.3 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 esturine 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.

4.4 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 – Spuithoek 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

GRIPOA 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.

4.5 Date of next Annual General Meeting

To be confirmed.

5. Presentations / Report backs

- **Financial Report – Herman van As**

Opening Balance

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

Income 2024

Membership fees	R	12 000,00
Interest - Investment Account	R	7 899,45
Interest – Savings Account	R	395,44
Total	**R**	**20 294,89**

Expenses 2024

Security cameras	R	11 000,00
Admin	R	8 100,00
Maintenance - Fire equipment	R	5 700,00
Website hosting	R	1 200,00
AGM Refreshments	R	736,57
Fees – Investment Account	R	1 218,95
Total	**R**	**27 955,52**

Closing Balance

Cash	R	15 497,00
Nedbank Savings Account	R	10 409,19
Nedbank Investment Account	R	105 244,21
Total	**R**	**131 150,40**

- **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 since last reporting. The membership is currently as follows:

GK	106 Members	John Harding 083 324 8060
SP	77 Members	Alison Bryant 062 681 7091
Droëvlakte	110 Members	
Blikhuis	24 Members	
Rietvlei	25 Members	
Blombos	182 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.
- Please remember to observe protocols when using the groups as they are now large and some of us, including Captain van Tonder, are on all groups and that's potentially messages from over 500 people.
- 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. Regular patrols are carried out by members, so when you see a vehicle with flashing white lights passing by, that's what it is.
- We have recently received 2-way radios for the various areas and this allows us to stay in communication with the control room as well as in areas where cell phone reception is dodgy.
- The cameras still play a huge part in managing safety and security and more have been added this year. Soon all accesses in and out of are areas will be covered.
- 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

- ❑ Once again, 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 - TBA
- Successful - TBA

- Control Lost - TBA

- ❑ This equates to not far short of xxx per day when non-burn days are taken out into account.
- ❑ The burn season is officially closed until the end of April but could open earlier depending on weather patterns.

<u>Some tips from the fire department to prevent loss of property were:</u>

- 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 are 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.

Fire Reporting Protocols

This remains as per the SCFPA circular and the contact numbers are as follows:

Hessequa (Riversdale) - 028 713 2222
084 014 1828

Eden (George) – 044 805 5071

- **Roads and verges – Nico Lotterie**

In 2023, GRIPOA committed to ensuring that the GK path is improved. GRIPOA met with relevant stakeholders during the year and a road inspection with Jacques Joseph was conducted. Pothole filling and tree clearing commenced in October 2024.

- **Membership update – Charl Krumm**

- GRIPOA has a database comprising of, at present, 51 riparian property owners. This database does not include the Riverside Sectional Title Scheme although the trustees are invited to the AGM.
- For the 2024 year, we received membership levies from 24 of the owners.

- Being a member of GRIPOA is voluntary. Benefits include ensuring that your voice will be heard whenever issues affecting ownership rights raise their heads.
- Recent examples include the Goukou Estuary Management Plan, wherein GRIPOA spent hours providing input protecting our rights; the maintenance of the GK Road; as well as the Spuithoek Road and the security camera projects.
- We urge you all to become paid up members and to actively engage committee members on any matters which have an impact on the estuary or our communal interests.

6. Closure

The Chairman thanked everyone present for making the time to attend this Annual General Meeting.