



## **MINUTES OF THE 22ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD AT THE LION'S HALL, HILTON**

**WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2016 AT 17H00**

### **1. Welcome and Notice of Meeting**

Chairman Colin Johnstone (CJ) welcomed and thanked all for attending the meeting. Special welcome to guest speaker, Kevin Meier, Manager of Planning Services, Umgeni Water. The notice was distributed via email to the database, Hilton village, Security Whatsapp groups and on Facebook. Attendance: attendees were recorded in the register.

### **2. Apologies**

Prozetskies  
Arthur Hickinbotham  
Craig Millar  
Judy Bell  
Sue Carter-Brown  
Rob and Beulah Wegener  
Barry Lewis (late arrival)

### **3. Approval of Minutes of the 21st AGM held on 26 March 2015**

Former secretary, Carey Wylde-Hughes' computer crashed, and the minutes were lost. The Chairman salvaged minutes from handwritten notes, but no discussion from the floor had been recorded. It was suggested that the minutes were approved at the end of the meeting. These were approved and adopted. Proposed by Heather Morkel and Seconded by Liz Law.

### **4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **5. Chairman's Report**

A copy of the Chairman's Report is attached.

### **6. The Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer, Namhla Sihlali presented the report:

- Copies of the audited Financial Statements are available. Statements will be emailed to those interested. The annual financial statements were presented fairly.
  - Account Balances: O/b R35 125.00
  - Revenue of R20 720.00, operating expenditure reduced slightly, R35 515.00
  - Operating loss (R14 795.00, sharp decline (60%) in membership fees
  - Subs are due, now R300 per annum with various payment options: direct deposits and Zapper

## 7. Security Initiatives

Dave Stewart - Resident volunteer, member of the Hilton Street Hawks committee

- Operated under the auspices of CPF, street patrols: we need to maintain possession of the streets to deter criminal elements. 6 guards patrolling currently (originally 14)
- Does not serve as a replacement for private security companies
- Project is successful - Hilton is relatively safe, but we don't have nearly enough members
- Membership is as low as 26% of total households in some areas
- Fees are between R210 and R250 per month
- If we do not increase membership, we will lose this initiative. There are not enough households to carry the project
- Please support - fill in form for details
- Hilton Gardens? This is an option, but will depend on numbers of households willing to support the project

Trystan Banger (TB) Committee Member and Resident - presentation attached

- All community-based organisations have the same challenges; moving forward it makes sense to combine resources and share information to leverage results
- Background slide: declining membership base (average of 34% members), 375 people contribute in central Hilton (shortfall of 525 people)
- If more people contributed, we could be more effective from both a security and community perspective
- Recent discussions between organisations included challenges such as declining membership, reliance on volunteers, effective communication and marketing
- Suggested that the various CBO's around Hilton strategise regarding the pooling of resources with a view to leveraging results and mitigating the duplication of effort which depletes the scarce resources available, be they financial or manpower, or both
- Sharing of information, combined database, Hilton Village restructured interface, including a payment portal
- CommUnity Hilton "mindmap" slide - structures that we need to work through

## 8. Umgeni Water - KZN Drought Presentation

Guest speaker, Kevin Meier, Manager of Planning Services, Umgeni Water (presentation attached)

*Drought Impacts and Mitigation Measures in Umgeni Water's Operational Area*

- 2014 second lowest rainfall ever recorded
- 2015 third lowest rainfall
- This has put two dry years back to back
- This is a very serious drought: one in 200 years
- We haven't necessarily felt it because we have water resources in place
- Major dams and capacities: Mearns Weir 48.7%, Spring Grove Dam 77.1%, Midmar Dam 45.7% - supplies PMB, Albert Falls Dam, Nagle Dam, Inanda Dam 76.6%, Hazelmere 45.7% - supplies North Coast, EJ Smith supplies South Coast
- The development of Spring Grove Dam was strategic, Umgeni Water is pumping 400 000 KL per day into Midmar
- Midmar levels declined in 2014, and dropped significantly in 2015
- Midmar will fail next year if we don't pump from Spring Grove Dam
- Albert Falls has not recovered from the low rainfall, and will be empty at the beginning of 2017 if we do not curb water use
- Pumping from Inanda Dam to Albert Falls is possible in order to relieve pressure
- However, pumping costs money - 250 000 tons daily, up an incline of 50m
- How bad is this drought? Currently modelled on a 1 in 200 year drought graph, and why there are water restrictions implemented. Storage must be over 55%
- Each water services authority has developed a Water Saving Plan which is being implemented. 15% reduction in domestic and business, 50% for agriculture (restrictions)
- Pressure-reduction valves implemented

- Restriction washers in household meters
- Internal leak repairs undertaken - this is a challenge, especially in low cost housing areas, which are not metered or restricted. Plumbers have fixed 20 000 leaks within this group of households.
- Umgeni Water has communicated with municipalities, but their response has been disappointing. The presumption is that it is an election year, and there are political ramifications
- Water shedding is ongoing
- Water signs: place bucket in shower, install water-saving shower heads, turn off taps whilst shaving or brushing teeth
- Umgeni Water: joint Operating Committee established. Umgeni is now monitoring daily off take, and shutting off the water treatment plants, or are supplying a reduced amount of water when daily supply volume is reached. The municipalities in turn have to manage this (these measures were implemented because there was no response to Umgeni's call for reductions between December and March)
- Daily monitoring of reservoirs
- Projections: below average rainfall except January and February. But dams did not fill because the water table is low
- Plans: pumping stations on Inanda Dam
- Questions: Hilton water source? Midmar Dam supplies a reservoir at Groenekloof (next to Cowan House), which supplies the whole of Hilton
- Water shedding at night negates water loss through leaks in the system
- There are future plans for supply: Umgeni have a plan to develop a dam on the Umkomaas River (project will cost ± R20 billion, 10 years to construct)
- Reservoir at Umlaas Road - Umgeni puts in 80 000KL per day (25% goes to Hillcrest)
- What about emergencies and firefighting at night when the water is turned off? The municipalities need to have contingency plans for this
- Desalination plants: there are plans, for the North Coast, but not sure whether these will be competitive. These plants are energy-hungry (28-30 mega watts)
- Strategies to reduce water consumption? Municipalities will not consider these as long term options, only in drought relief. Could restrict growth, which in turn becomes both a political and social problem
- Question about effluent and contamination of Midmar? Waste water goes from Mpophomeni to the Howick treatment plant at present. The water quality is good. There is always a problem with agricultural runoff, but this is no worse now than ever before.
- The main challenge is contamination of heavy metals, settling at the bottom of the dam. As dam levels drop, concentration increases, i.e., water quality in the dam will worsen as the dam levels drop
- If the drought continues, water restrictions will increase, in order to sustain some supply. Umgeni will eek out water supply
- What about big developments? Economic development should not be stifled. If Spring Grove had not been planned and constructed, there might have been limitations to developments

## **9. Nominations of Members for the Committee for 2015/16**

Current members are available and were re-elected without any new additions from the floor.

## **10. Other Business - Questions from the floor**

There is a lot we can do, but we need to grow membership, committee members, and subs. There are professionals who contribute pro bono, but we will need to pay for services eventually. And support municipalities where they are deficient.

- Dianne Perret, question: Is it possible for everyone to pay one amount? We would like to implement a combined collection with the security initiative. This will be accessible via a one-payment portal. TB said that the idea is to drive membership for the security initiatives, and then provide the HRA with a small takeoff to fund the HRA initiatives
- Chris asked whether this meeting would be reported in the press? CJ confirmed that the information will be circulated via email, Facebook etc. A quarterly newsletter is planned, but communications are challenging, as we need feedback and update the database. A question was asked whether the municipality would provide the HRA with their database. No, they will not.

- CJ commented that the water issues are not very widely publicised. The technical team is doing a great job, but because it is an election year, the political side is not being driven.
- What skill sets are required for the committee? CJ replied that we need energy, rather than specialised skills. Raising money, marketing, among the priorities.
- Andries Keyser asked: There are more and more vagrants moving into the old train coaches, is there anything we can do? CJ responded: The Heritage Steam Association is proactive, and Craig Millar is very involved. One of the main challenges is that Transnet will not relinquish ownership of the land, even though it has fallen into disuse.
- TB added that the Ward 6 Committee is aware of the problem, and the area will be fenced off. But it is falling between the cracks in terms of maintenance - it is not uMngeni municipality's problem (not owned by the municipality), and Transnet are not doing anything to take care of the area.

## **11. Closure**

The meeting closed at 19H00