

FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 18TH MAY, 2017 AT 19H30

IN THE CIVIC CENTRE MAIN HALL, FISH HOEK.

1 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance as per attendance register.

Apologies: Derius Norris, Debby Herrman, John James.

2 WELCOME

Chairman Brian Youngblood welcomed members, Ward Councillors Alderman Felicity Purchase and Cllr. Aimee Kuhl and the Guest Speaker, Xanthea Limberg.

3 MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING OF 23RD FEBRUARY 2017.

Approved: Proposed Allen Rose – Innes Seconded: Ald. Felicity Purchase.

4 CHANGES TO THE FHVRRA CONSTITUTION (Circulated to all members with the Agenda).

Proposed: Ald. Felicity Purchase Seconded: Mr Richard Lowndes with reservations described below.

4:1 Clause 1: Members voted in favour of deleting the reference to the Fish Hoek & Clovelly Residents Association, the former name of the Fish Hoek Valley Ratepayers and Residents Association.

4:2 Mr. Richard Lowndes raised an objection to Clause 2:2: Objects of the Association. He stated that by increasing the objectives we are actually making them more limited. He also commented that there is no reference in the Constitution to retaining sustainability in a more inclusive society in terms of promoting green buildings and green energy and that the FVRRA should be more inclusive. The Chairman suggested that the Committee would reconsider Clause 2:2 and craft a statement for the members at a later date.

5. GUEST SPEAKER

The Chairman introduced the guest speaker : CLLR. XANTHEA LIMBERG. Councillor Limberg is a member of the Mayoral Committee of Cape Town for Water and Waste , Energy and Informal Settlements as well as being a member of the Mayor's Advisory Panel. She is also the City's representative on the Cape Peninsula University of Technology Council and the South African Renewable Energy Business Incubator.

Previously, she served as Mayoral Committee Member for Corporate Services and Portfolio Chairperson for the Economic Development, Environmental and Spatial Planning Portfolio as well as for the Energy and Climate Change Committee. Cllr. Limberg's presentation was entitled:

THE CITY OF CAPE TOWN WATER SITUATION : YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

Setting the tone of the gravity of the situation, Cllr. Limberg started by noting that Cape Town is the largest city in modern times that cannot supply a sufficient water supply to its' residents. As at the 15th May, 2017 there was only 21.2% water in all dams supplying Cape Town – down 8% from a week ago. The last 10% of water in these dams cannot be extracted, therefore there is only 11.2%

of useable water left. The dam levels of the 6 major dams and 8-9 minor dams are all constrained due to 2 years of official drought and a third year of potential drought is envisaged.

Cllr. Limberg outlined the current, past and future scenarios as follows:

The current situation:

- There is a general perception that the City of Cape Town (COCT) has overall control over its' water supplies, but this is not the case. Overall control falls under the National Department of Water and Sanitation, from which permissions and licences must be obtained.
- COCT has an extensive water reticulation system , with 12 water plants, 422 pump stations and sewer pipe lines equivalent to the distance between Bucharest and Romania.
- COCT only consumes 40% of its' available water. Another 40% is used by the agricultural sector, business sector, small industrial users and smaller municipalities and natural evaporation takes care of the rest. Of the 40% consumed by COCT, 70% of water usage is residential - formal and informal – the most being used by the formal housing sector.
- The 2004/5 drought was not as long as the current drought and the combined dam storage was not as low. We are experiencing the worst drought in the last century and current available water is the lowest in the last 5 years, due to a lack of rainfall in catchment areas. There is therefore an urgent need to save water and plan ahead.

What has been done in the past?

COCT has been able to balance population increase with water usage over the last 20 years by the following means:

- Maintaining leak detection : water loss in COCT is below 15%, whereas other municipalities show a loss of 40-50%.
- The roll out of water demand usage in residential properties.
- Implementation of Section 55 of Disaster Act: Cape Town water situation was declared a disaster two months ago.
- Acceleration of water supply schemes, procurement processes, etc.

Future interventions.

Two emergency water supply schemes are planned:

- 1. Boreholes into the Table Mountain Group aquifer, which extends from Cape Town to Mossel Bay and van Rynsdorp, is expected to yield 10 million litres of water per day by the end of July 2017.
- 2. A desalination plant, powered by Eskom nuclear plant and a second, smaller plant are expected to yield a further 10 million litres of water per day . In addition:
- Recycling of water is expected to yield 10 million litres/day later this year.
- The proposed Cape Flats (Mitchell's Plain) aquifer is expected to yield 5 million litres water/day.
- Water pressure lowering is to be intensified as it is more effective than water shedding, which can cause massive damage to water pipes which may burst when the water is switched on again. Moreover, people may hoard water when the supply is on only to waste it when the supply is off.
- The Voëlvlei Plant uses old data not in sync with the present reality and the old contract had expired. The COCT vigorously objected and a new service provider was appointed. A future Voëlvlei Water Augmentation Scheme is expected to yield 16 million litres water per day.
- Excavation of dam floors to increase the water capacity of the dams
- Continued communications with all stakeholders on new developments and the continued need to save water.

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- Possible diversion of water from other municipalities, i.e. the Hermanus aquifer has enough water for 400 years.
- Consultation with the National Department of Water and Sanitation to allow COCT to go ahead with water supply schemes and EIA's and to apply for permission at a later stage.
- Water tankers to deliver water to affected areas.
- The implementation of Level 4 water restrictions. These restrictions include:
 1. Use municipal water for essential purposes only : use non-potable water for non-essential purposes and use sparingly.
 2. Water monitoring by the use of water measurement devices will be implemented in residences with high water usage.
 3. Contraventions should be reported and will result in a fine or a court appearance.
 4. Naming and shaming
 5. Borehole and well point users must stick to the watering of gardens on Tuesdays and Saturdays only, before 9 am and after 6 pm.
 6. Boreholes and well points must be registered with the COCT, as this gives officials an idea of where they are being used so that groundwater can be managed more effectively.
 7. Over extraction from well points and boreholes must be avoided.
(Pamphlets on water saving and water leakage were made available at the door)

Cllr. Limberg reported that she recently attended a Water Indaba where water scientists reported that they are no longer able to provide accurate predictions of rainfall because atmospheric heat is diverting rain to other parts of the country.

Cllr. Limberg expressed confidence that COCT will be able to supply the City with adequate water. However, a hybrid solution is needed to combat the negative effects of global warming and climate change. For example, desalination is expected to provide 450 million litres water/day but 780 million L/day are already being used, even under severe water restrictions. Water consumption must be reduced to below 100 litres of water per person per day. Diversification of water provision/water saving measures is key – all methods must be used.

Concluding, Cllr. Limberg said that the vision for Cape Town is that of a Water Sensitive City with water sensitive open spaces. She thanked all citizens for their water – saving efforts to date and reiterated that these efforts must be vigorously continued.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

6:1 Why are all (water conserving) measures considered except that of a moratorium on further development until the necessary infrastructure is in place?

Cllr. Limberg replied that planning approval goes through several departments, including the National Department of Water and Sanitation. Considerations include:

- Identifying sources of non-potable water for building operations
- Meters on site to monitor water usage.
- Since not all building sites are near a source of non-potable water, the transport of treated affluent to sites is an option.

6:2 Why was the reduction of water pressure started in the South Peninsula ?

Answer: This was not a selective decision – the decision took into account the way the water system is designed.

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6:3 The South Peninsula has the poorest quality water – even vets advise boiling pets’ water.

Answer: Geosmin in the water occurs as a result of poor management of Theewaterskloof Dam which is the responsibility of National Department of Water and Sanitation, not the COCT. Extensive weekly water testing results meet national requirements and seasonal diarrhoea, exacerbated by the unseasonal heat, is often wrongly ascribed to poor water quality.

6:4 Why can dam walls not be extended to increase carrying capacity?

Answer: This will be done at Voëlvlei together with clearing the dam of extraneous material and plant growth.. More large scale dams cannot be built quickly enough to alleviate the current water situation.

6:5 Complaints of broken water pipes and prolonged leakage and wastage in Glencairn

ANSWER: There is a replacement and detector programme to identify major losses, but the Call Centre is overburdened with calls. Additional budget was allocated in February 2017 for call centre and dispatch teams, so there should be a decrease in response times. Residents can advise local councillors if no response is received.

6:6 What percentage of the present population of Cape Town is informally housed and how many will there be by 2020?

ANSWER: At present, 55.6% of the population is formally housed and 4% informally housed. Even although only 4% are informally housed, they make up 40% of the COCT population and this is expected to increase. All taps in informal settlements are monitored. There is a need to roll out water management devices to both informal and formal residences. COCT will repair water leaks on properties of homes costing R 400.00 or less .

Under the Masiphumelele Comprehensive Plan, COCT is committed to improving living conditions in terms of population density, roads, water and sanitation, illegal invasions and protection of wetlands through open, unbiased discussions with residents.

6:7 What are the consequences of tapping into aquifers, boreholes and well points i.t.o water removal land subsidence.?

ANSWER: It must be remembered that the water obtained from these sources has been accumulated over many years. If drained, it will take many more years, especially in drought conditions, to recover. Boreholes are already used for public parks and gardens, but a conservative approach is needed to future water removal with awareness of possible effects on ecosystems. Conditions of drilling and removal of water must be closely controlled.

6:8 Will there be any water-saving incentive packages?

ANSWER: COCT is considering an incentive package similar to that given during load shedding i.e. solar heating packages. A similar water saving incentive package could include installation of grey water systems, water tanks and other water saving measures, paid off over a period of time on the municipal rates bill.

6:9 Is the drought the new normal?

ANSWER: Climate change is core to the situation. Even if we have substantial rains this winter the dams will take at least 3 years to recover. Insufficient rain this winter will result in dire consequences next summer. COCT is currently reviewing the Climate Change Policy in an effort to adapt to the situation.

There being no further questions, Brian thanked Cllr.Limberg for her presentation and presented her with a gift in appreciation.

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7. COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

The time for Councillor's reports was given over to Cllr. Limberg.

8. MATTERS ARISING

8:1 At the first EXCO meeting held after the last QGM on 23rd February, 2017, Brian Youngblood was elected Chairman of the FHVRRA as Allen Rose-Innes was not available for re-election.

8:2 Mr. Youngblood introduced the FHVRRA office bearers and their portfolios as follows:

- **Brian Youngblood:** Chairman. Far South Peninsula Community Forum (FSPCF), Departures and Fish Hoek Centennial events.
- **Matthew Gray:** Vice Chairman: FSPCF, Urban Design and Building Departures.
- **Allen Rose – Innes:** Treasurer, FSPCF, Ward 69 Committee member.
- **Jo Goddard :** Secretary, Health Issues, objection to proposed Harrington Road Electricity Depot access.
- **Helen O'Regan:** Communications, Registration/Membership, Ward 64 Committee member, Pollution Monitoring.
- **Rob Downey:** Central Improvement District (CID), Beach matters, General Meetings organiser, Fish Hoek Centennial events.
- **Derius Norris:** Roads, Sun Valley representative , Dust Pollution from Evergreen Retirement development.
- **Alan Lindner:** Heritage and Tourism
- **Kobus Luyt:** Safety, Sun Valley.
- **Penny Price:** Clovelly representative, alien vegetation, safety.
- **Chantal Breytenbach:** FHVRRA website, Facebook, Newsletter, Safety.
- **Debby Hermann:** Vice chair for Beach, CID, Newsletter and Facebook.

9. CHAIRMAN'S QUARTERLY REPORT.

9:1 REZONING AND DEPARTURES

The Chairman reported that during his short tenure (3 months) there had already been 12 land rezoning and building departure issues .

9:2 FISH HOEK CENTENNIAL : 5TH MAY 2018

The Chairman announced a meeting of all interested parties to form a working party to discuss the City's Centennial Budget on 1st June 2017 in the Fish Hoek Library meeting room.

9:3 ROADS

Clovelly section of Main Road: The dislodged stone channels are being lifted and re-laid and manholes are being set at their final level. A handrail for the new retaining wall has still to be fitted plus a glass barrier to protect Metrorail's overhead electricity cables.

Tree stump removal in Kommetjie Road / Sun Valley up to the four-way stop has servitude issues as there are COCT and Telkom electricity cables among the roots.

There is growing pressure to have Houmoed Rd. opened from Kommetjie Road to Sun Valley.

Reverse cantilever LED lights are to be installed for greater safety.

A Transport Model was presented to the FSPCF on 11th May, 2017, but the Far South Transport Plan is still awaited.

9:4. OBJECTIONS

Objections to the PRASA application for the erection of a 25m cell phone mast on Fish Hoek station, as well as 12 telecommunication antennae panels , microwave dishes and a cell phone tower were raised with the City in December 2016. The application was refused on 3rd April 2017. The matter is now under appeal by Warren Petterson Planning on behalf of PRASA.

As yet there has been no reply from the Minister of Environmental Affairs, W. Cape, concerning residents' appeal against the proposed access road to the new electricity depot to be built in Harrington Road, Fish Hoek.

32 objections to the granting of a liquor licence to Pick and Pay, Main Road, Fish Hoek, were delivered by the FHVRRA Chairman to the Western Cape Liquor Authority (WCLA). On 15th March, 2017, our local sub-council did not support the granting of the licence and on 18th April 2017 the Fish Hoek sub-council met with the WCLA and it was decided that:

- Title deed showing no sale of liquor restriction must be observed.
- The proper process for requesting the lifting of restrictions must be followed
- The WCLA will in future consider adding the requirement of conveyance certificates (pivot deeds), which must show no restrictions.

An objection was raised with the City concerning the proposed new electricity tariffs. It was requested that the Home User per day charge of R8.21 per day (whether at home or not) be repealed and that the Lifeline Threshold be raised.

9:5 SAFETY

Evanne Rothwell, Secretary of Riverine Rovers, has asked that her comments on safety concerns, mentioned in the FHVRRA May 2017 Newsletter, be minuted. She regards the wording " a very dangerous place to walk" as being alarmist and that it does not reflect the true status of security around the wetlands. Whilst the FHVRRA apologises for any upset this comment may have caused, information from Neighbourhood Watch, security companies and the Community Policing Forum suggests that the number of muggings reported has increased , as has the number of vagrants in the area. Therefore, FHVRRA continues to urge people in that area to be careful, be aware and be vigilant.

There has been an increase in stolen vehicles and housebreaking (some aggravated) in Fish Hoek. Again, residents are advised to be aware.

9:6. TREASURY

Funds are satisfactory but, at 60% subscription rate compared to the full subscription rate of the previous year, they could be better. More members are needed to boost subscriptions.

9:7 ALIEN VEGETATION

Penny Price is planning to liaise with relevant organisations to identify and eradicate alien plant species and encourage the planting of water wise, indigenous alternatives as well as the planting of vegetable gardens.

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9:8 FISH HOEK BEACH MATTERS.

Rob Downey is trying to work with the new beach manager, appointed on 2nd May, 2017.

9:9 POLLUTION MONITORING

In April a sewerage blockage was noted in First Crescent.

Storm water pollution readings are still high and are affecting our beaches. The source of pollution has still not been found.

The City has asked that malfunction of sewage pumps be reported by residents. This can be done via e-mail: contactus@capetown.gov.za, by phone 086 010 3089 or by SMS 31373. The notification should also be logged with the Fish Hoek Emergency Call Centre: 021 782 0333.

10. SPEAKERS

It is anticipated that the speakers at the next Quarterly General Meeting will be an expert on the possible health effects of kaolin dust (relating to the new Evergreen Retirement Village development on the corner of Kommetjie Rd. and the Glencairn Expressway) and the co-founder of TEARS.

11. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

11:1 The Fish Hoek Jager Walk has been dark for the past month. Rob Downey said he is addressing beach problems.

11:2 Objection to the 25m cell phone tower. (See 9:4 / Chairman's Report)

12. CLOSURE AND THANKS.

The Chairman thanked the guest speaker, Cllr. Xanthea Limberg and our two hard working councillors, Marti Weddepohl for co-ordinating security with MACH 1, Metro Police and SAPS, Allen Rose-Innes for assistance in handing over Chairmanship, Arthur Smith and Terry Rothwell for sound and projector, Rob Downey for organising the meeting and his company, Cape Coastal Property Group for the printing of the revamped, coloured newsletter, Jo Goddard for taking minutes, members of the Executive Committee for their services and assistance, the Girl Guides for providing refreshments and everyone who attended the meeting.

13 CHAIRMAN CONTACT DETAILS

The Chairman, Mr. Brian Youngblood, may be contacted on 021 782 1950 or bdyoungblood@gmail.com.

The meeting closed at 9:40 p.m. with attendees invited to partake of refreshments.

Parking for attendees was prepaid.

Signed: Chairman Secretary