

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the NVRA, held on
19th DECEMBER 2024 at 1700
VENUE: NGK Church Hall, St Georges Ave

1. **WELCOME.**

The Chairman opened the meeting, confirmed that the agenda had been posted within the notice period of 7 days and declared the meeting duly constituted. He welcomed those attending and thanked them for showing interest and support and giving up their valuable holiday time.

2. **PRESENT AND APOLOGIES**

58 people, representing 55 erven attended the meeting (as listed in Attachment A), and signed the meeting register.

Invitations to attend were sent to representatives of Bitou Municipality, SANParks and the NVT and we welcome Jessica Kamkam (Executive Mayor, Bitou), Marco Barnardo and Tumi Linwani (Bitou), Elias Mtumunye (SANParks) and Prof. Hendri Coetzee and Giorgio Lombardi (NVT).

Apologies were received from; Marcel Minne, Irvin Varnicker and Victor Felton (Bitou Municipality) and the following owners; Elma Du Plessis, Geoff McIlleron, Peter May, Ina Brandt, Patrick Quarmby, Andrew Van Hassalt, Paul Erens.

3. **NVSRA AGM**

The NVSRA commenced operations in July 2023 mainly to manage the growing threat of baboon invasions in NV. In addition, the SRA has taken over responsibility for Security and Verge clearing in NV. The two organisations (NVRA and NVSRA) had agreed that it made sense for the AGM's for both organisations to take place "at the same time" to make it easier for owners and other interested parties to attend both events.

Rob Nicol, the Managing Director of the NVSRA then presided over the proceedings of the 1st AGM of the NVSRA, which are recorded elsewhere.

4. **VOTE OF THANKS**

The chairman proposed a Vote of Thanks to following parties and individuals who continue to make a difference in the NV Community.

Bitou Representatives

- The Honorable Mayor, Councillor Jessica Kamkam
- Town Planning; Chris Schlieman, Marcel Minnie and Marius Buskes
- Building Control; Irvin Varnicker
- Engineering Dept; Victor Felton, Eddie Oosthuizen and Zola Mputa
- Environmental Manager, Anje Minne

NV Superintendent; Marco Barnardo

SANParks

- Victor Makoena (Tsitsikamma Park Manager)
- Euginia Mkhathshwa (Senior Section Ranger)
- Elias Mthimunya (Section Ranger)

Fid-ADT and Plett Security

- The Fid-ADT Security guards and the Fid-ADT Management team

Natures Valley Trust

- Prof Hendri Coetzee and his team
- Lauren Moriarty for her assistance and commitment to making the Covie Kids Xmas party a success.

Others

- Melissa of Blue Rocks Café, for providing burgers for the Covie Xmas party
- Mike Louw of Signtec who assists with the NVRA banners each year at no charge
- Dr Chris DuPreez of the NGK for allowing the use of the Church Hall for the AGM and other community functions.
- Dave Evans (NV Owner) for allowing the use of his property to house NSRI jet-ski and other equipment over the season.
- The Municipal lifeguards and the NSRI for their commitment to making the coastal waters safe for holidaymakers.
- The Baboon Monitors, whose patience and expertise is making a big difference to life in NV.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2023 AGM.

The Chairman requested approval of the 2023 AGM minutes which had been sent to all members. John Blaine (Erf 239) proposed that they be accepted as a true reflection, seconded by Justin Mudge (Erf 290)

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 2023 AGM.

Numerous questions raised at the meeting required no specific follow up, but the following items were noted for further consideration by the NVRA Committee:

1. Improved servicing and supply of toilet paper to the public toilets.
Efforts were made to ensure that staff were allocated to attend to the facilities during weekends and public holidays. In addition, plans will be made to lock the facilities after dark. Further consideration needs to be given to installing effective toilet paper dispensers.
2. Control of building Contractors: The NVRA Contractor Protocols document is passed to all contractors and owners when new work commences in the valley and a committee member together with Marco Barnardo, make routine checks on building sites in the village to ensure protocols are adhered to.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT for 2024

The Chairman noted that the Report had been circulated to all owners and it would be translated into Afrikaans and will be available on the NVRA website. He proceeded to highlight the following matters contained in the report.

6.1 Introduction and Thankyou's

- The chairman thanked the majority of owners in NV who continue to show their support for the activities of the NVRA.
- He expressed his thanks to the NVRA Committee members for their support and particularly Rob Nicol, James Martin and Paul Richards who serve as the directors of the newly formed SRA but continue to serve on the NVRA Committee.

6.2 Obituaries, Farewells and Welcome.

- The chairman noted the sad passing of the following NV community members during the past year: Dallas Mason-Jones (Erf 141), Jaques Putter (Erf41), James Venter (Erf 258) and passed on the condolences of the NVRA to their family and friends.
- He noted that there had been 4 families who sold or moved on and welcomed the following new owners to NV: Jennifer Crocker (Erf41), Drs Lizl Dannhauser and Jan Niemandt (Erf 191), Mark Chewins (erf 258), Marcus La Grange (Erf 275), Gabriell and Annemart Swanepoel (Erf 389) and Magnus Pistorious (Erf 177).

6.3 Roles of the Organizations in NV

- The chairman noted that with the formation of the SRA in June 23, there had been queries from some owners as to why the 2 organizations (NVRA and SRA) could not be combined into one organization. The chairman noted that such a move should only be considered if it improved the effectiveness of the functions of these bodies. He noted that the SRA has a specific mandate in terms of the SRA agreement with the municipality, for which funds are collected and disbursed for primarily Baboon Management, enhanced security, verge clearing and management of alien species. The NVRA represents the interest of the Ratepayers in NV and relies on voluntary contributions and deals with issues such as municipal service delivery, infrastructure and the built environment. Even if it made practical sense, the combining of these two organizations would definitely reduce the effectiveness of the NVRA.
- The chairman referred to a VENN diagram on the screen highlighting the roles and functions of the NVRA, the NVSRA and also the NVT. The diagram clearly shows that the three organizations perform important independent roles, but interests which intersect in some areas, which lead to good liaison and co-operation between the organizations.

6.4 Municipal Matters and Infrastructure

The Chairman then made a brief presentation of the highlights of his Report under the headings listed below. (The details are not recorded here as they are available in the Chairmans report for 2024 which was circulated to all owners and is available on the NVRA website).

- New Mayor for Bitou
- Integrated Development Plan (IDP) Budget
- Current IDP Capital Budget
- Water and Sewerage
- Roads and Road Safety
- Electrical
- Waste Management

6.5 NV Built Environment

- Title Deeds and Compliance
- NV Overlay Zone
- NVRA Building Guidelines and Plan Approval process
- Plan Approvals and Objections
- Island Erven

6.6 Environment

- Contractual National Park and SANParks liaison
- Estuary Management
- NVT Activities

6.7 Other Matters

- Dogs and Wildlife

- Rabies Scare
- Estuary water sampling
- Canoes and the Lagoon edge
- SANParks Trails

7 FINANCES.

7.1 The Chairman handed over to James Martin who presented a summary of the NVRA's finances for the Year End, June 2024 as shown below.

NATURES VALLEY RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION			
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS			
For the 12 Months to 30 June 2024.			
	R	R	R
INCOME			204,435
CONTRIBUTIONS/ DONATIONS		101,787	
DONATIONS LEGAL FEES		-	
DONATIONS COVIE CHILDRENS FUNERAL EXPENSES		40,350	
REFUND OF PRE-SRA EXPENSES		52,463	
BANK INTEREST		9,835	
EXPENSES			153,295
CONTRACTS (Salaries)	119,061	48,192	
LESS: SHARED EXPENSES	(70,869)		
OFFICE EXPENSES	57,210	26,556	
LESS: SHARED EXPENSES	(30,654)		
COMMUNICATIONS NEWSLETTERS		4,901	
COVIE CHILDRENS FUNERAL EXPENSES		28,190	
COVIE CHRISTMAS PARTY		3,947	
LEGAL FEES		5,198	
REPAIRS and MAINTENANCE		14,556	
SPED BUMPS		10,965	
SOUTHERN CAPE FIRE PROTECTION SUBS		4,506	
WAGES SUPERINTENDENT STAFF		4,000	
WEBSITE FEES and UPGRADE		2,285	
SURPLUS of INCOME OVER EXPENSES			51 140
CASH ON HAND at 30 JUNE 2023.			210,057
CASH ON HAND at 30 JUNE 2024.			261,197

The Chairman asked that the Financials as presented, be approved. John Blaine, Erf 239 proposed that they be accepted and this was seconded by Justin Mudge, Erf 290.

7.2 NVRA Membership Contributions

- The chairman emphasised the importance to the NVRA of contributions as an indication of support for the activities of the organisation, which exists to protect the interest of the ratepayers of NV.

A strong base of measurable support is vital in negotiations with the Municipality. He noted that contributions to the NVRA have declined since the formation of the SRA and the associated compulsory levy. The NVRA and SRA are sharing office space and utilising various other common resources, which is helping with operating costs, but legal (Erf 130) and consulting costs (Overlay Zone) need significant funding and there will be others going forward.

- He noted, as previously emphasised, that any contribution is valuable as it is an indication of support and grants membership of the NVRA. Previous meetings have agreed to a recommended contribution of R 1000 pa, but in order to assist any owner to indicate their support, the NVRA committee have agreed to reduce the recommended contribution to R 500 pa. It was noted that the meeting agreed to this proposal, by a show of hands, although there were a number of members who felt that the recommended contribution should remain at R 1000.
- The chairman noted that there were a number of owners who made very generous contributions to the NVRA and they were thanked very much for their generosity and support.

8. ELECTION OF NVRA OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2024.

The Chairman thanked the 2024 committee members for their important contribution for the year and was pleased to announce that all members, excluding Rob Nicol had agreed to stand for re-election in 2025. Rob has played an important role over the past few years but his involvement in managing the SRA will occupy much of his time. We thank him for his valuable contribution to the NVRA.

Members automatically re-elected (1 year)

- Mark Langton (Infrastructure, water and sewage, Estuary Management)

Resignations during the current year.

- Rob Nicol (Security, Chairman SRA Management Committee)

Members standing for re-election.

- Doug Blaine (Chairman, Municipal Liaison, Built Environment, Secretarial)
- James Martin (Deputy Chairman, Treasurer, Admin, SRA Management Committee)
- Paul Richards (SRA Management Committee)
- Johann De Wet (Deputy Chairman, Built Environment, Infrastructure)
- Peter May (Built Environment, Environment, Newsletters)
- Paul Vlaming (Infrastructure)

New Candidates standing for Election.

- No nominations

Co-opted Members (current and agreed to serve for another year)

- Paul Erens (Built Environment)
- Roy Parkhurst (Website)
- Conrad Wiehahn (Town Planning)

New Co-opted Members

- Ian Palmer (Sewerage matters)

The meeting agreed by a show of hands to the election and re-election of the nominees as presented. There were no objections.

The Chairman congratulated the committee members for their appointment and thanked Ian Palmer for offering his assistance.

9. QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Since the formal items of the agenda had been addressed, the chairman invited questions from the floor, which were recorded as follows, together with the chairman's or other responses:

- **Question:** John Gonsalves, Erf 60
Noted his concern about the municipal funds for the Reservoir. Has funding been lost due to costs being over budget?
Response: The Chairman noted that he believed it would be rolled over to next year. This was confirmed by Ms Kamkam (Executive Mayor)
- **Question:** Michael and Helen Fleming, Erf 153:
Noted that the stop sign placed by Bitou at the St Andrews/St Georges intersection is not effective. Asked that STOP should also be painted on the road.
Response: Bitou Superintendent Marco Barnardo undertook to follow up and improve signage.
- **Question:** Renee Campbell, Erf 182.
Asked why there are so few speed bumps in St Andrews and can things be improved.
Response: The chairman noted the need for nine additional speedhumps in NV, four of which are planned for St Andrews. The municipality is unlikely to assist financially as they believe there are already too many in NV. The NVRA will establish costs and then approach NV owners for assistance.
- **Question:** Marion Marchand, Erf 198
Noted that monkeys are becoming a problem in NV and asked if anything can be done.
Response: The chairman noted that they have been around the Valley for many years but may be becoming bolder due to absence of baboons. They do not break into homes, so owners need to be aware of their presence as they are opportunistic.
- **Question:** Justin Mudge, Erf 290
Noted that construction work at Erf 177 is overflowing onto the sidewalks and activities are generally insensitive to other owners. Asked if action could be taken.
Response: Chairman advised the NVRA will follow up with owner and Bitou (Marco Barnardo) will be asked to ensure by-laws are respected.
- **Question:** Dup Venter, Erf 374
Reiterated his belief that the NVRA and SRA should be merged into one organization.
Response: The Chairman confirmed that the matter had been debated at length by the parties involved and it had been agreed that the two organizations should operate independently in the best interest of the ratepayers of NV.
- **Question:** John Braithwaite. Erf 397
Confirmed that the legal process related to the establishment of the SRA and its specific mandate make it impossible to simply merge the two organizations.

10. CLOSING

In closing, the Chairman thanked all for attending, for the interest they had shown in issues affecting Natures Valley and wished them a Happy Christmas and a pleasant and peaceful holiday.

Attachment A: Attendance Record

NVRA AGM, 2024. Attendance Register

ERF	NAME	SURNAME	ERF	NAME	SURNAME
9	Peter	Harpur	273	Lombaard Otto	Burger
28A	Alan	Duff	290	Justin	Mudge
31	Paul	Richards	301	Bruce	Engelsman
37	Peter	Harpur	374	Dup	Venter
43	David	Evans	387	John	Roux
53	Francois	Naude	392	Inge & Amri	Kahts
56	Lina& Gene	Breytenbach	392		Trevor
60	John & Robyn	Gonsalves	396	Harriet	Perlman
64	Donovan	Baguley	397	John	Braithwaite
76	Paul	Vlaming	398	John	Braithwaite
81	Shaun & Brenda	Reed	399	AH	Girdwood
92	Hennie	Cronje	410	Marie	Wagener
96	Charles	Bothner	413	Christina	Burmeister
114	Marita	Alexander	428	Mark	Langton
114	Betta	Kemp	432	Rob Nichol	
114	Roy	Parkhurst	437	Georgina Martin	
146	Kim	Goeller	439	Don& Colleen	Theron
153	Michael	Fleming	451	David	Evans
161	Ann C	Haxton	452	Jan	Du Plessis
166	John Wilson	Wilson	456	HJ	vd Hoven
173	GP	Lombaard	472	Leni	Du Plessis
176	RJ	Young	Bitou	Jessica Kamkam	MAYOR OF BITOU
182	Renee	Campbell	Bitou	Marco	Barnardo
191	Johan	Niemandt	Bitou	Tumi Linwan	Bitou
198	Marion	Marchand	NVT	Hendri	Coetzee
205	Willem	vd Walt	NVT	Giorgo	Lombardi
239	John	Blaine	SPARKS	Elias Mthimunye	SanParks
249	A	Mudge			
252	Ann	Moore			