



Minutes of the Rooiels Ratepayers Association (RERA) 2023 Annual General Meeting (draft, 7 Jan 2024)

Held at Pringle Bay Community Hall

on December 22nd December 2023, 1300-1500

Attendees:

Theresa Els – Overstrand Municipality (OM) Ward Representative

30 RERA Members and their representatives, 5 non-members

RERA Exco members: Piet van Rensburg, 2023 Chair, Achim Halpaap and Andre Roothman, 2023 Vice Chairs, Lesley Lundie, Treasurer, Tom Baigrie, Bridge-building, Ralph Pina, REC Representative

Representatives of the Rooiels Conservancy and Rooiels Boat Club

Apologies: Andries & Madeleine Brink, Mark and Linda Butler, Izak Smit

Minutes:

Piet welcomed all, especially Theresa Els, OM Ward Counsellor, and declared the meeting quorate. He noted that the 2023 Exco had, at the start of the year of office, committed to following the [Rooiels Vision](#) and 4 guiding principles on good governance as noted in the [2023 RERA Exco Report](#). See Appendix 3. He thanked the committee for its hard work and noted that RERA had ended the year with significant progress on several issues, despite some challenges faced. The meeting voted to accept the [Agenda](#) (Appendix 1).

Theresa Els addressed the meeting. See [Appendix 2](#). She mentioned that significant amounts of municipal resources had to be allocated for urgent road repair work following the winter rains, creating budget constraints for routine maintenance work. She urged Rooielsers to support efforts of the association, and the mayor's lead and decisions. She concluded by congratulating and thanking RERA on the way RERA had worked with her and the OM to improve life for all in the village and municipality. In response to a question, she noted that all the water-pipe bursts she knew of were of the old asbestos pipes. The new PVC ones are working well.

The chair thanked Theresa. The meeting then approved the minutes of the 2022 AGM with no additional comments.

Tom opened the review of the [2023 RERA Exco Report](#) (Appendix 3) by noting that we had been elected at a time of division in our little community and so decided that alongside the day job reported on we would seek to add a new standard of openness and communication, to better demonstrate our accountability and desire to represent as many Rooielsers as we could.

Ralph, Piet, Achim and Tom took us through the headlines of our work:

1. On the Rooiels Sustainable Energy Project – Ralph.
2. Maintaining the village infrastructure in the face of scarce OM resources and budgets – Piet.
3. Maintaining the walkways, community gardens and road reserves – Achim.
4. On land use matters – Tom.
5. With RESA on Rooiels potentially becoming a Special Rating Area to advance security – Achim.
6. Traffic Calming on the R44 through Rooiels – Piet.
7. With OM on all of the above and on their own agenda.

All as detailed in Appendix 3.

There being no questions the meeting accepted the report with a round of applause.

Lesley presented the [2023 RERA Financial Report](#) from 1.12.22 to 13.11.2023. See Appendix 4. She noted that RERA had 92 members and received substantial donations for the Baboon Information Programme and the community maintenance work. Substantial amounts were spent on Baboon Information Officers and related signage, The Breeze Magazine and village maintenance.

In response to a question regarding expenditure on legal expenses, Lesley noted they were for 3 legal opinions on whether RERA should take action on specific land use matters. In each case our decision was not to. John Biesman-Simons offered support on accounting matters, if desirable.

The meeting voted to accept the financial report.

2 resolutions were put forward by the Exco.

1. **Constitutional reform in 2024.** Achim introduced the work undertaken in 2023 and the proposed way forward. The meeting passed the [Resolution](#) (Appendix 5) Through the Resolution, RERA Members decided to establish in early 2023 a Task Team to develop specific proposals for amending the 2028 RERA Constitution and to undertake a participatory process with the goal to make RERA an inclusive, participatory and transparent organization.
2. **Community maintenance of walkways, road reserves and Rooiels gardens.** Achim introduced the work undertaken in 2023 and a proposed way forward. The meeting passed the [Resolution](#) (Appendix 6). Through the Resolution, RERA members decided to continue the

community maintenance work in 2024 and beyond, taking into account a [Terms of Reference](#) developed with input of interested Rooieler in 2023.

Piet handed over to Achim for the election of Exco members for the 2024 Exco Committee. Achim explained that despite a thorough process of advance notification and reminders, there had been no nominations received. He further noted that only 2 members of the 2023 Exco, Lesley and Tom were standing for 2024. Given this situation, the RERA Exco met 3 days previously and agreed to continue serving for a maximum of 3 more months, as allowed by the current [RERA Constitution](#), so that new officers could be encouraged to stand and elected. This meant that technically, this AGM would reconvene on this issue by 30 March 2024 at the latest and close thereafter.

Several attendees expressed confidence that given the progress demonstrated at the Meeting new candidates would be forthcoming. Piet stated that given personal commitments in early 2024, he is not available to serve as RERA Exco Chair during this period. The current Vice Chair, Achim, had agreed to serve as chair until the new committee is elected, with Piet serving as Vice Chair.

John Biesman-Simons suggested that the calendar year-end was a poor time for the AGM and RERA year end, and it was agreed the constitutional reforms process would consider this.

Theresa Els noted how vital the stated views of RERA are in presenting arguments on behalf of the village to the OM council and emphasised the important role that Ratepayers Associations play in helping her to make a case at council.

Stephanie Mills proposed a vote of thanks to the 2023 RERA Exco for their efforts through the year. John Biesman-Simons noted that he would report back to the REBC that RERA is going in the right direction and their substantial donations to RERA were money well spent. He thanked the Exco members for their persistence in trying to improve relations across our community.

Piet ended the meeting, reminding all that it would not formally close until after it had been reconvened in early 2024 and until 6 Members of Exco will have been elected. On behalf of all Exco and RERA Members, Achim thanked Piet for his leadership and dedication as a RERA Exco chair in 2023, and for the many uncounted hours he spent on RERA matters and for the village.

Ends.

Appendix 1. [Meeting Agenda](#)

Appendix 2. [Theresa Els' address](#)

Appendix 3. [RERA EXCO 2023 Report](#)

Appendix 4. [RERA Financial Statements](#)

Appendix 5. [Resolution on Constitutional Reform](#)

Appendix 6. [Resolution on Community Maintenance](#)