

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
PINELANDS RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, 31 OCTOBER 2022 HELD AT THE PINELANDS TOWN HALL AT 19H00.**

**EXCO PRESENT:**

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. John Berry       | Chair                    |
| 2. Aslam Clarke     | Vice-Chair & Environment |
| 3. Emily Bolton     | Secretary                |
| 4. Nasir Adam       | Treasurer                |
| 5. Marilyn McNamara | Parks and Open Spaces    |
| 6. Paul Holdsworth  | Service Requests         |
| 7. Yazied Davids    | Media                    |
| 8. Carol Clark      | Plans                    |
| 9. Kabelo Masihle   | Social Development       |

Item	Portfolio	Notes
1	<b>Notice convening the meeting</b>	Emily Bolton read the notice convening the meeting.
2	<b>Welcome and apologies</b>	John Berry welcomed all present.
3	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>	The minutes and agenda were received. Minutes were proposed by Stephen Mills and seconded by Riad Davids.
4	<b>Matters arising</b>	None
5	<b>Brief updates from exco portfolios: SAFETY AND SECURITY</b>	Reported crimes were presented as a graph on the projector. It was encouraged those present to vote for the Pinelands CID. Cllr Davids also spoke on CIDs, stating that the CID will protect our borders and there are currently 47 active CIDs.
	<b>MEDIA &amp; COMMUNICATION</b>	<p><b>Facebook</b></p> <p>The Association had a reach of 18,000 people on Facebook, with 525 followers. The posts in the past year that went viral were posts regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pinelands North Primary School</li> <li>• Uber drivers protest (no incidents but there was a concern from residents)</li> <li>• Pinelands Athletic Club</li> <li>• Recycling</li> </ul>

- Home composting
- Refuge collection

**Website**

Articles posted on the website include:

- Pinelands City Improvement District
- Verges and gardens
- Law Enforcement
- Heritage
- Community in Blue
- SAPS promotion
- Referrals

**HERITAGE & BUILDING PLANS**

The Plans Portfolio is a very busy portfolio that receives an ongoing influx of plans with deadlines to meet. These come either from residents/ their architects or via the City planners when a notification letter is sent out as the planning application involves permanent departures or Title deed amendments. In fact we are unsure how busy we are compared to other suburbs, but we average on 13 plans a month.

We have two teams of people who give their voluntary time, above their own business and personal commitments, to look at the plans the PRRA receives.

Our Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) is chaired by heritage architect Dr Shaun Adendorff, and comprises John Wilson-Harris, also a heritage architect, Ankia Bormans (Landscape architect) and Carol Clark. This team views and comments on plans in the Heritage Protection Overlay Zone (HPOZ) from a heritage perspective. This past year we have really missed our other team member Dieter Rooseboom who passed away in September 2021 and who was awarded the Pinelander of the Year award for his contributions to the HAC and the HPOZ.

Once the HAC has processed the HPOZ plans, they are also sent to our PRRA team and the Ward Councillor to view them for departures. If the plans are supported then they are signed off by all parties, namely HAC, PRRA and the Ward Councillor. For plans in the non-HPOZ part of Pinelands: these plans are just seen by the PRRA team and Ward Councillor for sign off. Our PRRA team currently consists of Adriaan Lambrechts, an architect, Councillor Brian Watkyns and Ward Councillor Riad Davids.

Carol Clark co-ordinates all the plans between the teams and resemble something of an air-traffic controller with plans incoming, in flight; between two airfields and plans outgoing. At times we have dealt with 20 or more "in process"/ in the air – with some doing extra loops as revisions as required.

We are in the process of moving our PRRA team to the plans system that Trevor Robertson helped to design last year after I approached for help and explained HAC/PRRA plans process and requirements to him. I hope that once both teams are using the system that it will be easier to track the input and progress of each plan.

Since the AGM in October 2021 we have received:

2021	
October	16 (6 since AGM 2021)

November	24
Dec	12
2022	
January	15
February	16
March	6
April	13
May	16
June	12
July	5
August	9
September	14
October	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>158</b>

On average about 50% of the plans we receive each month are in the HPOZ.

I don't know how many planning application are received in other suburbs but Pinelands seems a busy suburb as people extend their homes, or people move out and new people move in and extend and upgrade houses; or people buy a house with a view to demolish the existing and build a brand new house!

We do object to some applications; the applications are then seen by the Municipal Planning Tribunal. Our experience to date shows that the MPT approves most of these as the focus of the City is to densify. We are then given the opportunity to appeal the MPT decision. Concern buildings involve: departures, unapproved buildings and second dwellings

When necessary we are in contact with the Building Inspector to request site visits if there are problem with building or not being built according to plan.

A few of the "well known" applications that were ongoing or we requested the Building Inspector to view:

1. 79 Forest Drive
2. 7 Oranje – demolished without permission
3. 2 Ajax Way – corrugated metal garage
4. 10 Erica Way

If you do submit a planning application, the process is much simpler if there are no departures, or if you don't try and shortcut and build without approved plans; and if you provide all the documentation up front, such as neighbours consent if required. It's easier to get neighbours consent if you build with consideration! It also helps to keep good neighbours relationships.

<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</b></p>	<p><b>Noise Pollution</b>  The fight with CoCT dept of Environmental Health: Specialised Services continues without resolve. The noise from the Ndabeni industrial area continues unabated despite numerous logged complaints, and the said department conducting noise measurements a few times over the past year. Its again the same challenge where the department do not want to engage with the Noise Nuisance factor. The last measurements were done during the month of June. To date, we are still awaiting the results. Apparently the decision is with the City's prosecutor for a decision to prosecute.</p> <p>We have subsequently engaged an environmental attorney to assist in holding the said department accountable. This is unfortunately still work in progress with the assistance of a Pinelands resident. PRRA made a small donation to start the process. More funding would be needed should it become a protracted engagement.</p> <p>Oude Molen Eco Village remains a problem with loud music disturbing our residents well into the early morning hours over weekends. Law Enforcement is totally ineffective dealing with the myriad of complaints logged against this. This also forms part of our engagement with the attorney.</p> <p>The BP garage noise disturbance of loud music during their Friday outside braai events was successfully dealt with the active engagement of the current Councillor.</p> <p>Old Mutual also appears to have made good on their promises in the reduction and control of the noise emanating from their blowers and generators. To date this thankfully appears to be under control. A big thank you to them.</p> <p>Noise nuisance is subjective and is difficult to argue. We unfortunately can't get law enforcement out to enforce these by-laws.</p> <p><b>Air Pollution</b>  The Air Pollution department still made no progress in procuring the services of a laboratory for the scientific analysis of the soot samples in the Camp Road area. It must be added that the departmental head is the same person as for the Noise.</p> <p>Heavy black smoke is intermittently observed from a few perpetrators in the Ndabeni/Maitland industrial area. Here we have to commend a model civil servant, Mr Prentan Chetty, whom tirelessly respond and attend to our sightings. On a few occasions, we were advised that he issues non-compliance notices. The frustrating part is that we have no sight of these notices and/or the subsequent compliance of these perpetrators.</p>
<p><b>PARKS AND OPEN SPACES</b></p>	<p>Unfortunately due to the Recreation and Parks department's lack of capacity, which constrains what it can achieve, the aftermath of COVID, and the department's reliance on contractors (most notably mowing services which are currently adversely affected by an ongoing appeal related to a mowing tender), very little has been achieved in the Parks and Public Spaces portfolio over the past year. Marilyn McNamara apologised that more has not been achieved under this portfolio.</p> <p><b>Mowing</b></p>

		<p>Lack of mowing: There was going to be a delay due to spring flowers to bloom and seeds to drop and get the indigenous flowers to come back. The contractor previous has now taken the city to court which means the new contractor cannot move ahead.</p> <p><b>Parks</b> To manage expectations and this portfolio appropriately, McNamara has requested, through Councillor Davids' office, the planned maintenance schedule for the recreation section of the Recreation and Parks department. Having access to this document would assist me in pending discussions with residents who are willing to volunteer their time and or expertise in addressing those items that the Recreation and Parks department does not have either the capacity to maintain or to upgrade.</p> <p>Planned maintenance that we would like to implement: repairing of equipment, painting of equipment, analysis of whether equipment is safe, rubber mats underneath slides to keep to dust away.</p> <p><b>Renew the Elsieskraal River</b> A community based, volunteer organisation. Using the app iNaturalist allowed for taking wildflower photos, and identifying and recording their location. To enhance biodiversity, the collecting of wildflower seeds for the seed bank has occurred with sowing of the seeds to happen next year.</p> <p>The bi-monthly cleaning of the river and its banks and the removal of alien weeds continues in collaboration with NETwork, community groups and residents. During this year, trees were planted by the Clyde Pinelands Sports Field. Approximately 300 trees have been planted on both sides of the Elsieskraal river from Ringwood Drive bridge past the Clyde Pinelands Sports Field.</p> <p>See <a href="https://www.renewelsieskraal.org.za/">https://www.renewelsieskraal.org.za/</a> for other planned activities.</p> <p><b>Friends of Pinelands Parks</b> An advisory group that meets intermittently. Some of its projects include the upgrading of park signboards, and returning Julianaveld back into a wildflower site by reseeding it in collaboration with the City's Biodiversity Assessment team.</p>
	<b>SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT</b>	<p>New exco member, Kabelo Masihle, described how his proposal of building a bridge between the youth and elders. Under the bridge we find the homeless. He would like to find ways to acknowledge, assist and ask the homeless. His proposal includes investing in the youth and taking care of elders.</p>
	<b>CHAIRMANS REPORT</b>	<p>John Berry recognized members that have left and deceased. He implored people to join the exco committee. Berry spoke about the year ahead with new challenges and requested residents to assist the exco in making the garden city what it can be. He encouraged the councillor to get the services we deserve. There is an intent to keep Pinelands dry with the continuation to object to liquor stores. Strive to maintain our garden village. J Berry gave thanks to office bearers and members.</p>

<b>HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT</b>		Nasir Adam displayed the financial statements on the screen and explained them to members. Desray Britz proposed the financials and seconded by Aslam Clarke. There was a query on a seemingly low interest rate of the fixed account (3.1%). Adam will investigate other accounts for a possibly higher interest rate, for example a 30-day notice account. There was R90 members previously put towards a Pinelands CID – this has been used on printing forms, advertising (printing flyers), newspaper adverts and other CID expenses.																						
<b>APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY AUDITOR</b>		Mr Peter Kampers our previous honorary auditor, however he is not practicing. SSC – Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors are not able to continue on a pro-bono basis, therefore Adam requested if any members can recommended an auditor that will audit pro-bono for the PRRA.																						
<b>ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>		<p>It was not necessary for voting, therefore no voting took place. The executive committee members for the ensuing year are:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="667 464 1534 1050"> <thead> <tr> <th>Portfolio</th> <th>Name</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Chair</td> <td>John Berry</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vice-chair / Parks &amp; Open Spaces</td> <td>Marilynn McNamara</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Emily Bolton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assistant-Secretary / Media</td> <td>Yazied Davids</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>Nasir Adam</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assistant Treasurer / Environmental Health</td> <td>Aslam Clarke</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plans</td> <td>Carol Clark</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public Relations</td> <td>Desray Britz</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social Development</td> <td>Kabelo Mashile</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CCT Service Requests</td> <td>Paul Holdsworth</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Portfolio	Name	Chair	John Berry	Vice-chair / Parks & Open Spaces	Marilynn McNamara	Secretary	Emily Bolton	Assistant-Secretary / Media	Yazied Davids	Treasurer	Nasir Adam	Assistant Treasurer / Environmental Health	Aslam Clarke	Plans	Carol Clark	Public Relations	Desray Britz	Social Development	Kabelo Mashile	CCT Service Requests	Paul Holdsworth
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<b>LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD</b>		<p>Yazied Davids presented an overview of articles written by Brian and the launch of the website, History of Pinelands. The site contains stories and articles that highlight's the heritage of Pinelands and gives insight into the area as the first Garden City of South Africa. The website was launched to celebrate the centenary of Pinelands and published on <a href="https://pinelandshistory.co.za/">https://pinelandshistory.co.za/</a></p> <p>Councillor Riad Davids spoke on Brian's achievements while in office, some of which are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over the years he has served in almost every Councillor position including Deputy mayor and Acting Mayor</li> <li>• He led the Cape Town delegation to the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development where the team won first prize for their exhibition</li> <li>• He was invited to be part of a small UNESCO group meeting in Budapest to prepare a handbook on socially sustainable cities in developing countries</li> <li>• He successfully opposed a reduction of open spaces in Pinelands</li> </ul>																						

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the Ratepayers Association, he successfully opposed the <i>Pinelands General Valuation</i>, which would have increased Pinelands rates up to 72%</li> <li>• He ensured that Council accept responsibility for workers health issues resulting from asbestos exposure at the Athlone Power Station</li> </ul> <p>Longtime colleagues and councillors Alderman Clive Justus and Councillor Ian Iverson paid tribute to Brian.</p> <p>In thanking the association for the award, Brian also thanked his family, the residents of Pinelands, Thornton and other areas of the ward for supporting him for many years.</p>
	<b>GENERAL</b>	No items were included in General after handing over of the Lifetime Achievement Award to Brian Watkyns.
	<b>CLOSING</b>	The meeting closed at 20h30.