

# PENNINGTON RATEPAYERS' AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION - PRRA

Minutes – Annual General Meeting

**29<sup>th</sup> of May 2014 at the Relton Hall, Pennington**

The Chairman, Olive Goll, welcomed everyone and formally introduced the Committee.

**1. Apologies** were received from Tom & Dawn Shanks, Adrienne Edgeson, John Lord, Gary Barker, Alex Blackburn, Gwen Frayne, Liz Edmunds and Carolyn Schwegman. Proxy forms were received from Carolyn Logan, Anthony Lailvaux, Gwen Frayne, Liz Edmunds, Dawn Bell, Colette Carty, Michael Reeves, Don Bernhard and Alex Blackburn. A total of 28 members were present with 3 having joined at the door, making a total representation of 31 in all. The Chairman thanked the Committee personally for the time they gave attending meetings both with Council and Committee.

**2. Minutes of the May 2015 General Meeting** had previously been circulated and formed the basis of the current meeting. They were duly approved, proposed by Mary McKenzie and seconded by Evelyn Heunis.

**3. The Chairman's Report** was illustrated by a Power Point presentation that highlighted the key issues:

- Umdoni Council: Most issues relate to finance with a lot of media criticism. Unions striving for more for their members. The imminent inclusion of Vulamehlo Municipality which is a large rural area with a small rates base. We cannot address this. We have to accept that our rates are not just spent on Pennington. We do pay rates which are spent elsewhere. This will not change. Meetings with Umdoni Council managers have been productive and show they are keen to discuss ways to work together.

Many issues we complain about are things we can help with:

- Dumping on vacant plots is often done by neighbours!
- Maintaining our own verges and gutters would save the council a large monthly cost which could be used to upgrade our roads. Verges are not maintained in many other municipalities.
- Surface water drainage is something residents can monitor themselves. Many home owners are contravening the building regulations by allowing storm water to drain into the sewage system.
- Our Association is apolitical, we are not affiliated with any other ratepayer association or political party however we do cooperate with like-minded bodies such as the KwaZulu-Natal Combined South Coast Ratepayers' and Residents' Association, the Pennington Conservancy and Pennington Recreation Club. Our attitude to the Municipality is non-confrontational and non-aggressive. What does this achieve? An open door and an ear to listen to us. The resurfacing of Pennington Drive and the Walkway are examples of this and have been a very positive addition to Pennington. Maintenance of the walkway and the addition of speed humps are still an issue. A taxi rank shelter should have been erected on the R102.

**Ugu District Municipality – Dolphin Drive Pump Station:** The previous Chair, Jan van Hilten, has spent many hours following this disastrous project. The contractors have been off site since 15

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December 2014. Stories of non-payment or late payment by Ugu and work not completed by the contractors abound and we are left with a large smelly hole in Dolphin Drive. An adjudication process between this contractor and Ugu is being arranged. NB: Since the AGM was held a number of meetings have been held with senior UGU personnel.

Storm water causes strain on the sewage system. Please do check the drainage on your property does not enter the sewage system.

Please conserve rainwater! The current Green Drought is Serious. Please report leaks to Ugu who usually are quick to respond. Let us know via Gmail if you have a problem.

**Umdoni Point Development:** The final documents have been available at the library in printed format and have been posted on the PRRA web site [www.penningtonratepayers.co.za](http://www.penningtonratepayers.co.za) Our stance is still to grow our rates base providing that all rules are followed and service constraints observed. There are conflicting items in this report which refer back to matters dated 2008 involving service issues not only for those adjacent to the development but for the whole of Pennington. The PRRA has made a substantive submission – available on the PRRA website.

**Festive Season Controls:** SAPS, RTI, Protection Services, Civic Bodies and Business meet to discuss safety on all Umdoni Beaches during the Festive Season, largely 1 January. This could involve stopping traffic to the beach areas from the R102. However, SAPS have the last word on how these controls will work.

**4. Finance:** – Allan Cooper the Treasurer presented the accounts. A copy of these are attached. The web site costs R150 per annum to avoid Google advertising. Meetings we sponsored for the Community Policing Forum for domestic staff at Relton Hall last year were a further cost.

We will not require an annual membership fee again this year and the R10 registration fee will remain the same. Membership Forms and payments can be made to Jane at Seeff in Pennington Mall.

### **5. Election of Committee Members.**

The present committee remains in place but Olive Goll to retire by rotation, however available for re-election, leaving 7 members whereas we can have 9. Members are elected for a period of 2 years and then must stand down but are eligible for re-election. Continuing members were Mrs Jan Downey, Mr Anton Hawkes, Mr Dorian Dowsett, Mr Jan van Hilten, Mr Allan Cooper, Mr Mike Eardley and Mr Marcel Verleur.

Jan van Hilten nominated Olive Goll, seconded by Allan Cooper and duly confirmed by a show of hands by those present.

Mrs Goll introduced the committee members saying that they are representative of the various age groups and occupations of the residents of Pennington: Retired members are Olive Goll, Allan Cooper and Jan van Hilten but a consultant, Marcel Verleur and Jane Downey are still working whilst Anton Hawkes and Dorian Dowsett are working and have young children attending local schools, Mike Eardley is a new resident .

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The meeting was asked for nominations and Jonathan Malkin expressed an interest to join the committee. He was formally proposed by Olive Goll and seconded by Jan van Hilten.

The Chairperson of the Association would be elected at the first Committee meeting and Members informed accordingly.

### **7. Individual Questions:**

James Blackburn: Suggested that Pennington comprises 2000 stands with a population of some 1500 people. As such he questioned how representative the PRRA really was. He felt that the various Civic organisations should cross-subsidise each other by appointing an overarching committee of the Conservancy, Recreation Club, Crime Prevention and Ratepayers all representing Pennington.

Anton Hawkes: replied that we have too many committees and do not have time to attend yet another meeting. He like many of the younger residents has many school and club meetings to attend.

Jan van Hilten: Did not accept PRRA was not representative – The Association is open to all and is recognised as being representative by the Umdoni Council.

Olive Goll: replied that it has been a lot of hard work to increase our membership to the present 200 plus members. Our quarterly newsletters ask members to spread the word to neighbours and friends.

Allan Cooper: Membership numbers are in fact double as they are representing a household.

Jonathon Malkin: A bigger membership base would give more clout when asking for service delivery and as such he supported James Blackburn's proposal.

Jerry Davey: The Crime Prevention group lacks funds and PRRA doesn't need money in the bank. Some cross subsidy should take place.

Gordon Lennox: Crime initiatives tend to fail when crime is under control and we have long periods of inertia until crime builds up again and residents want action.

Olive Goll proposed that James Blackburn joins the Committee, seconded by Jonathan Malkin. He declined stating that Umdoni Point and other matters were taking up all of his time and he preferred to work alone rather than have the constraint of attending committee meetings.

Jonathon Malkin: then withdrew his support James Blackburn's proposal as he was not prepared to be part of the PRRA Committee.

Mary McKenzie: The meeting should move along as the proposal was only one person's view.

Evelyn Heunis: It would be too much for the PRRA to also run over arching committee.

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### **8. Pennington Community Watch:**

Macel Verleur introduced Derek Johnson who is the Chairman of the newly constituted body. Marcel is the PRRA representative on their Committee. Meetings are held at the Library Activities Room on the first Tuesday of the month at 4.30pm. Street Groups have been established using WhatsApp and the web site <http://pennington.org.za>. Sign boards will be erected at entrances to the village. Other proposals are to install cameras and explore joint initiatives with security companies to identify escape routes throughout the village. Volunteers may be asked to assist SAPS and protection services. Details will be on the web site.

### **9. AOB:**

Leonart Ericson: Expressed thanks for the Committee for their hard work.

The Chairman then thanked all present for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 12.15 PM.

Signed

**Chairman**