

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS
AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION HELD ON 29 JUNE 2023 AS A HYBRID MEETING**

	Minutes	Action
1.	<p><u>Present & Welcome:</u></p> <p>The meeting was attended by the Councillor, Exco, members and visitors</p>	
2.	<p><u>Approval of minutes of General meeting : 2 March 2023</u></p> <p>The minutes were proposed by James Ricketts and seconded by Judy Bean and taken as approved.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Guest Speaker: Dr David Balfour Managing urban wetlands for conservation : challenges and approaches :</u></p> <p>Peter Scott introduced Dr David Balfour to the meeting.</p> <p>Dr Balfour started with describing what the definition of a wetland is, generally considered to be the interface between the surrounding land, and a river. He went on to question what was meant by restoring a wetland to its historical condition. Images showing different layouts for the Southern Peninsula were displayed, showing the coastline 1,5 to 5 million years ago, and 20,000 years ago, and then the layout as we know it today.</p> <p>A photo taken 100 years ago showed how the sand dunes covered the valley and stretched from Fish Hoek Beach to Noordhoek. More recent images showed how the sand dunes had been completely covered with vegetation. In 1982 a dune rehabilitation project was carried on Fish Hoek Beach and in 2000 alien vegetation had been removed and the Silvermine river estuary had been rehabilitated into a wetland.</p> <p>Typically wetlands were being conserved within urban areas, and were under pressure from surrounding development. Additionally nutrients carried by the stormwater inflow, and the overflow from sewage pump stations had an effect on a wetland.</p> <p>Dr Balfour ended off by describing the latest thinking on wetland development, which should consist of a combination of wet areas and raised dry islands that allowed birds and other wildlife to breed undisturbed, combined with recreational spaces.</p> <p>Questions from the floor on the Presentation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The existence of reeds in the wetlands was queried, and whether these reeds are indigenous. While it was agreed that the reeds were indigenous, they were not from this area, and were thought to have been brought in to stabilise the sand dunes. 2) Was the dredging of the Northern side of the wetland being done to channel water away from the southern side. The COCT has a responsibility to protect the existing properties adjacent to the wetland from flooding, and this was part of that program. 3) Councillor Francke asked if this presentation could be presented to the Sub Council and relevant City Officials. Dr Balfour agreed that he would 	

	<p>do a presentation.</p> <p>4) Brian Youngblood queried the application of 1 in 50 year, and 1 in 100 year floodlines when determining the location of new developments near the wetland. Dr Balfour said that this was more of a legal matter.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Questions from the floor:</u></p> <p>1) Vallyland Pump Station</p> <p>The progress with the placement of a generator at the Vallyland pump station was queried. It was believed that a pump could not be placed on the circle as this would have an effect on traffic sight distance. However there were other considerations, and the W&S department was in the process of expropriating land from the Vallyland site for the placement of a dedicated generator. BY explained that a portable generator had been placed at the pumpstation to cope with loadshedding periods of longer than 2 hours</p> <p>2) New Municipal Charges :</p> <p>Could the City please explain how the new charges are calculated. Also, could there be more transparency on how the charges are arrived at. It was noted that Eskom customers pay less than COCT customers, per Kilowatt/hr.</p> <p>3) Meeting Agenda</p> <p>Councillor Francke asked if questions requiring a response from the City could be placed on the agenda, so that the relevant Officials could be present at the meetings to answer these type of questions.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Next meeting:</u></p> <p>Next meeting 2nd November 2023</p>	
6.	<p><u>Closure</u></p> <p>The meeting closed at 20:30</p>	