

RIEBEEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Riebeek Valley Hotel, Riebeek West
15 April 2025, 18h00-19h30

1. Introduction

The Chairperson (William Pulles) welcomed everyone and declared that there was a quorum as required by the RVRA Constitution.

2. Proxies and apologies noted

3. Minutes of previous AGM approved and seconded

4. Chairperson's report

- William thanked the experts in the village who provide their time and expertise to different ongoing projects.
- There are currently two sets of experts involved in two different projects:
 - i. Springbok Hill group
 - 1. Mike Fuller-Gee
 - 2. Maarten Venter
 - 3. Rob McQueen
 - 4. Barry Coetzee
 - 5. Neil Moir
 - 6. Hannah Young
 - ii. Architectural and planning guidelines for the Riebeek Valley
 - 1. Eugene Da Silva
 - 2. Kevan Moses
 - 3. Christine Roos
 - 4. Maarten Venter
 - 5. Mike Fuller Gee
- Announcement that Koos Erasmus that dealt with roads and traffic and streetlights resigned from the RVRA committee due to personal reasons. William thanked Koos for his longstanding efforts and support within the committee.
- The RVRA has been appointed by Heritage Western Cape as the Conservation body for the Riebeek Valley from August 2024.
- By a show of hands, the attendees voted in favour of continuing to be the appointed conservation body for the Riebeek Valley and to continue with their membership of Heritage Western Cape.
- The second point that the attendees voted in favour of is that the main means of communication should be via the Town Hall Forum WhatsApp group and not through Facebook or the RVRA website (the latter of which will still be used for publishing annual AGM minutes and other important information).
- Other things done by the RVRA:

- i. Dealing with roads and streetlights on behalf of the ratepayers/residents.
- ii. Application of rezoning involvement, SDF, trying to catch anything that concerns the valley regarding different town planning issues
- iii. Involved in trying to get together an integrated security system for the CBD
- iv. The RVRA will be compiling a set of guidelines for people who want to build/renovate/develop within particular heritage areas of the town.
- v. Involved in the Springbok hill development on an ongoing basis with a vast amount of work involved in this – 5 detailed applications dealt with in the last 12 months.
- vi. PPC and the ongoing efforts to engage with the mine
- vii. Every town planning application that is put in for Riebeek Kasteel or Riebeek West comes to the for attention

3. Development Guidelines

- Henk noted that people should realize that we are here because we love the ambience, because the valley is our home and we want to preserve what we've got.
- The people involved are volunteers and doing it for the love of the valley, the culture and ambience.

4. Springbok Hill

- William highlighted the 5 different detailed applications regarding Springbok Hill (Erf 878 RK) that the RVRA and its various experts had dealt with in the last 12 months. These included 2 municipal rezoning applications, 2 environmental impact assessments and 1 heritage impact assessment.
- The RVRA had dealt with all these applications in a comprehensive and professional manner but was extremely unhappy to note that the developer and his consultants had treated the RVRA comments with disdain and disrespect. The RVRA's unhappiness with this had also been communicated to the developer, his consultants and the HWC.
- Approximately 30 minutes of the meeting were allocated to discussions and report back on Springbok Hill issues
- On a last note in this regard William added that it should be reiterated that the RVRA is not opposed to development, but is very serious about any development being in line with guidelines and to the benefit of the Valley on different levels.

5. PPC

- Basil reported the following:
 - i. PPC has been operational for something like 70 years.
 - ii. The First EIA regarding PPC was done as far back as 2008 and the second EIA in 2012, the third EIA in 2018.
 - iii. PPC has an obligation to engage with stakeholders (the residents of the Riebeek Valley) but so far it has been extremely difficult to get any communication or feedback from the management of PPC with regards to

the imminent new development that will change the valley and cause immeasurable damage to a myriad of features within the Riebeek Valley.

- iv. What is important to note is that, as it stands currently, the biggest employers within the Riebeek Valley are the Farmers, second to which will be the Tourist industry, then the businesses and only then does PPC come into the picture in terms of providing employment for local people.
- v. It is noted that PPC makes money out of the valley and its residents but they do not spend the money within the Riebeek Valley.
- vi. They are going to have to retrench 198 people in their other facilities that are in the process of shutting down to be replaced by the new facility in Riebeek West and likely to use some of the retrenched staff for most of the new positions created resulting from the extension of the plant in RW.
- vii. It has always been the viewpoint of stakeholders that stakeholders interests should be respected and it should be ensured that these are not compromised.
- viii. Firstly dealing with transport through the valley as PPC insists on sending their trucks through the valley and with the new operation in place a truck will drive through the valley transporting PPC product every 8 minutes of a 24-hour day, seven days per week, which is obviously unacceptable.
- ix. Recognizing two different phases (Construction phase and Operational phase) with 1.6 million tons/annum of cement that's going to be produced. Labour in the construction phase will be temporary and employment will be limited to a minimum in the Operational phase due to the need to utilize PPC staff retrenched at other facilities. This project would therefore not provide significant employment for Riebeek Valley residents.
- x. Professional and technical labour will also be mostly coming from China and these people will need housing and other services, but will probably not spend their income in the Riebeek Valley.
- xi. This creates social and economic problems that accompany that.
- xii. There is also the problem of noise pollution, dust pollution and a negative visual impact from the new stack that will be about 50m higher than the existing stacks. Air pollution impacts are not currently fully understood.
- xiii. To date, efforts to properly engage with PPC have been frustrated by lack of response, save for a hastily arranged PP meeting with 48 hours notice given and taking place hours before the start of a long weekend.
- xiv. A recommendation from an attendee was that the RVRA should contact Carte Blanche in this regard.

6. Treasurer's report

- Solveigh Smit gave a short overview of the current financial situation of the RVRA –
- Currently there is R31,000 in the bank
- Everyone that paid from the 1st of January 2025 onwards is deemed to have a valid membership up until the 28th of February 2026.
- Those who paid between June 2024 and December 2024, we ask you to pay again/renew for this new financial year.
- For this reason, the fees will not be increased as the financial year should align with the RVRA financial year from 1 March to end of February. Annual fees remain at R250.

- The Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted.

7. Nominations and election of Executive Committee

The following persons put themselves up again for re-election as part of the Management Committee of the RVRA and they were all again unanimously accepted by attendees with a show of hands. Appointed persons are shown alphabetically below.

- Henk Bruwer
- Basil Friedlander
- Karin Pulles
- William Pulles
- Solveigh Smit

Resignation: Koos Erasmus

New Nominations:

Ashley Stone – accepted by show of hands

Mark Tame – accepted by show of hands

Wessel de Wet – accepted by show of hands

8. Questions to the panel

- Don King: He noted that there was a notice from the Swartland Municipality with a deadline of 30 March 2025 to indicate any added construction on your property and a couple of people had someone in to help them indicate these additions to the municipality, only to be hit by the same municipality with absurd requirements for any of these. William noted that he will look into this.
- Walid Dabbagh: He noted that more speed limits should be indicated on the main roads to get trucks to go through town at a much slower speed.
- Gail Friedlander: Noted that street lights in many areas are not working and it was noted that it may also be a problem between the responsibility of the Municipality and Eskom. There was confusion as to which organization had responsibility for which streetlights.
- Rob Mc Queen: He suggested that a sign should be put up at Eight Feet to make tourists aware of the town lower down that some may not know about. Ashley Stone answered that Swartland Tourism is attending to this at the moment.
- Henk Bruwer wanted to indicate on a positive note an instance where one visitor to the town was so impressed by the cleanliness of the whole valley after the headmaster of the school took him on a tour, that he contributed R20 000 towards the school and projects at the school.
- Rudolph Willemse noted that he wanted to thank the RVRA and William Pulles especially for all the efforts they put into a rather thankless job to assist the valley and it's residents with the many different issues that most are not even aware of, but remains problematic.

9. Meeting Closure

William then formally closed the meeting at 19:32