

WESTERN HEADS GOUKAMMA CONSERVANCY (WHGC)

Minutes of the 15th Annual General Meeting of the Conservancy, held at 15h00 on Friday 5th May 2023, at the Brenton Community Hall.

Present

Johan Labuschagne	Chairperson of WHGC (Uitzicht 216/46)
Dave Edge	WHGC ManCom – Treasurer
Hanna Edge	WHGC ManCom – PR and membership
Charles Marais	Landowner (Uitzicht 216/120)
Jenny Jones	Landowner (Uitzicht 216/114)
Mark Dale	Landowner (Uitzicht 216/163)
Tom Terblanche	Landowner (Uitzicht 216/49)
Andy Crawford	Landowner (Uitzicht 216/113)
Rein Hofmeyr	Landowner (Uitzicht 216/62)
Susan Campbell	Landowner (Uitzicht 216/39 and 75); WHGC ManCom – Legal
Rudi Neethling	Landowner (Uitzicht 216/152)
Vanessa Weyer	Southern Right Estate; WHGC ManCom
Tony Rischbieter	Brenton Ratepayers Association
Eddie Hart	Belvidere Heights
Lorna Watt	Private (Garden Gate)
Nicky van Berkel	Private (Stinkwood, Brenton-on-Sea)
Chris Gow	Private (Belvidere Estate)
Ivonne Albers	Private (Yellowwood Crescent, Brenton-on-Sea)
Judy Harrison	Private (C R Swart, Brenton-on-Sea)

Apologies

Guy Thesen	WHGC ManCom – Old Belvidere
Henrico Knoersen	Buffelsbaai Inwonersvereniging
Jacques Malan	Buffelsbaai Inwonersvereniging
Vera Carstens	Buffelsbaai Inwonersvereniging
Christa le Roux	WHGC ManCom – Fauna & Flora), Landowner (Uitzicht 216/77)
Herman Joubert	Landowner (Uitzicht 216/50)
Ann Sole	Landowner (Uitzicht 216/112)
Dirk Smit	South Cape Fire Management Agency

Welcome & apologies

The AGM was declared open at 15h00.

1. Confirmation of minutes of the 2022 AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 4 March 2022 was accepted. Proposed by Susan Campbell, seconded by Hanna Edge.

2. WHGC Annual Reporting

Annual reports were presented in the form of presentations. The presentations are attached to these minutes. Matters arising during the presentations are summarised below:

- a. Overview and Confirmation of WHGC Objectives – Johan Labuschagne
- b. Table Mountain Fund (TMF) Project – Dave Edge
The TMF will contribute 50% to the cost of clearing of alien vegetation; the landowner the other 50%.
- c. NPO, Fundraising and Finances – Dave Edge
The financials are only for the first 6 months of the financial year.
- d. PR, Marketing, Website, Newsletter – Hanna Edge
Susan agreed that small signs on each paid up member's gate would contribute to attract more members. Johan suggested a short video could be made to showcase the natural beauty of the area. He suggested Andy Crawford and Duran de Villiers could be of help.
- e. Membership – Hanna Edge
Hanna emphasised the need to increase the membership, particularly of landowners.
- f. Fauna and Flora – Christa le Roux

- Christa was unable to attend the meeting
- g. Fire Management
Johan read the report received from Dirk Smit. (Attached)
Jenny Jones asked how often the firebreaks should be mowed, and remarked on the beauty of the wildflowers that appear after mowing.
- h. Trails – Johan Labuschagne
Mark Dale asked how the maintenance of the cycle and hiking trails are funded. He suggested that Johan Labuschagne appoint a contractor and that the users should pay for the maintenance.
- i. Rules and regulations – Vanessa Weyer
Vanessa emphasised how difficult it is to get development approvals in a Critical Biodiversity Area. She recommended that landowners appoint a competent Environmental Assessment Practitioner early in the process, as registered with the South African Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPASA). Susan reiterated that although many of the larger properties are zoned Agriculture 1, this does not mean one can cultivate these properties as Critically Endangered Knysna Sand Fynbos would need to be removed, which would trigger EIA processes.

3. Residential Areas Specific Feedback

- a. Buffelsbaai
Johan read out the report received from Vera Carstens. (Attached)
- b. Brenton on Sea
Tony Rieschbieter said there was a high level of support for the WHGC in Brenton on Sea
- c. Lake Brenton
A recent resignation left no-one to be able to report.
- d. Old Belvidere
Guy Thesen unfortunately could not attend the meeting.
- e. Belvidere Estate
No report

4. Ratification of the proposed changes to the constitution

Dave explained that some small changes had to be made to the original constitution to comply with the Non-Profit Organisation requirements. The changes were proposed by Dave and seconded by Susan, with no objections.

5. Election of Management Committee Members

As the Management Committee is elected on a biennial basis, it was not necessary to have an election. However Judy Harrison had resigned as Secretary. Johan Labuschagne thanked her for her hard work. Vanessa Weyer was elected as the new Secretary. Nominated by Johan Labuschagne and seconded by Judy Harrison.

6. Objectives for the coming year – Johan Labuschagne

- Deliver on WHGC-TMF project objectives
- Increase awareness or education
- Foster stronger relationships
- Strongly encourage eradication of invasives
- More effective and inclusive core team

7. General issues

- a. Bushbuck
There are now many more bushbuck than just after the fire of 2017. The buck seem to be moving from the Lake Brenton area towards Belvidere. Lorna Watt suggested that this was a manifestation that the natural balance has not been restored yet, and that the bushbuck population was growing healthily.
- b. Rabbits at Lake Brenton
Charles Marais reported that the rabbits at Lake Brenton (who are descendants of escaped pets) seem to be on the increase and asked for suggestions on how to control the population.
- c. More information sessions
Judy Harrison suggested that an information session and informal discussions should be held on a quarterly basis where topics of interest can be discussed.
- d. Disposal of cuttings
Rudi Neethling has a chipper which he has been using to chip alien vegetation cuttings from his property. Anyone interested should contact him. There will be a small cost involved.

8. Closure of meeting

The meeting closed at 17h30.