

MINUTES OF BLOCK 2 MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 26 JULY 2018 at 3pm at the McGregor Municipal Hall

1. WELCOME

Hetty Knapp welcomed those present.

2. ATTENDANCE REGISTER & APOLOGIES

13 people present – no apologies

3. AGENDA

No Agenda was presented but Hetty advised that Anne Binos had asked for points to be added to the Agenda via e-mail.

4. ITEMS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD 8th MARCH 2018

Hetty Knapp asked if there were any items from the last meeting's minutes and the meeting replied that no-one had seen any minutes. Hetty then produced copies of the Minutes of the 8th March meeting but there were not enough copies to go round.

David Zeller commented that we should receive minutes of previous meeting prior to current meeting to allow residents to go through them, they should not be presented at the meeting.

Hetty replied that minutes are taken at the meeting and sent through to the Municipality and then to the various sections and they have to wait for the comments then they return the minutes to McGregor.

David Zeller advised that Hetty was incorrect – Ward Committee minutes go to the municipal departments for comment before the minutes are given to Ward Committee members, but this is not the case with Block meeting minutes - these do not go to municipality.

Jimmy Binos then asked if Hetty was right why hadn't we received the minutes of the 8th March meeting? There was general consensus that we have never received minutes of any Block Meetings and Hetty said she would get Mr Coetzee to come and explain. She said that there have never been any complaints in the last 15 years – if you attend a meeting you get the minutes.

David Zeller marked that there were no municipal department comments on the minutes presented, to which Hetty said she had removed all comments as there were nasty comments about "a woman who worked 24 hours a day to get everything sorted out in McGregor – the thanks she gets is a kick in the backside". Hetty said she has never in 15 years had problems like this.

Anne Binos said that the reason people were unhappy is that because there were no minutes they felt that items raised at previous meetings had never been resolved – there is no follow up.

Hetty said unfortunately all the departments do not answer so you sit and wait – sometimes it takes two Ward Committee meetings before we get an answer. David Zeller repeated that this is not a Ward Committee - it is a Block meeting for input from your community that gets minuted for you to take back to the Ward Committee.

Hetty then said she has been asking for these minutes for the past month and a half. She has to read through this and see whether what we have asked for has been done.

Bruno de Robillard said the comments should be noted on the progress so that the community knows which department is not responding. There is a problem of procedure and if procedure is not followed. Hetty then agreed to e-mail the minutes out as soon as she gets them or ask Anne to do so.

Helaine Shand asked the meeting to proceed using the 8 March minutes as an agenda.

Hetty produced Agenda points mailed to her by Anne Binos :

- 4.1) Why is the municipality not giving the BMX bike park project land on the community erf at the bottom of White City.
Funding is in place including wifi and 30 bikes, as well as club house for McGregor Warriors.
- 4.2) Dogs: Only two dogs per erf, and dogs must be trained/disciplined not to bark.

- 4.3) Minutes of the last block meeting of 8th March.
- 4.4) Why was there was no 2nd quarter block meeting as is required. We are now in the 3rd quarter. Hetty replied – we have a large farming community around us which we have not been able to get to so we have now spent time going to all the farms in Ward 5. So there will be meetings every month to catch up.
- 4.5) All of the items discussed at the last meeting are still on the table, as these have not been concluded.
- 4.6) Add Vodacom tower to the agenda.
- 4.7) From the minutes of the meeting held 8th March 2018 –

i) Aesthetics Committee: Outstanding queries:

David Zeller said the Municipality is still not adhering to the strictures of Council Resolution B3895 that requires them to give a written response as to why they do not accept the recommendations of the Aesthetics Committee.

Martin Johnson had asked for a special meeting of the Aesthetics Committee to discuss the building of four houses on one Erf and how that got passed; was that special meeting held and what was the finding?

Hetty replied that the Building Department disagrees that there are four houses on this Erf. There was general disagreement – there are four houses and four kitchens. Hetty said it was passed before “we” were there.

Bruno disagreed saying that the plan was passed within the last 9 months and wanted to know if this was going to be followed up.

David Zeller asked whether the Aesthetics Committee passed it.

Hetty replied that as Mr Okkie Brink said – we fall under the Western Province Building Laws and the building falls within the WP Building Laws there is nothing we can do about it until we have our Heritage Overlay done. Helaine disagreed – the Heritage Overlay deals with old buildings. A precedent has been set and in future neither we nor the municipality will have any control.

Bruno said National Law says that every village should have an Aesthetics Committee. McGregor is one of these villages where the heritage aspect is important so he is worried why council is dismissing the Aesthetics Committee’s opinion without consultation. Procedure is not being followed. We get no feedback and this must be addressed to Council. David said the question is that building control section council resolution B3895 stipulates that where building control approval goes against the recommendations of the Aesthetics Committee they must give, in writing, their reasons for doing so. In this case we still haven’t had an answer whether the Aesthetics Committee passed it or not. James asked whether the plans were approved by the Aesthetics Committee and Helaine said they did not.

Hetty said the Building Inspector said that if two alterations were made to the plans they would be passed but there has been no confirmation in writing.

The Council must follow regulations – Hetty / Wilma to follow up.

- ii) **Heritage Overlay** – David Zeller tried to put this into the Intergrated Development Plan and Hetty was one of the people who signed that she did not want it in the IDP. The Heritage Society is the only body trying for the Heritage Overlay because there is no support from the Ward Committee.

- iii) **Pamphlet of Building Guidelines** – John Barrow busy with this and the request from the meeting is that it be distributed for comment before being finalised.

Recommendations of the Aesthetics Committee should be made available (e-mail) at Block Meetings and to interested parties. The Block Reps should be advised when an Aesthetics Committee has been held and minutes be made available on request. Building Inspector Howard attends meetings and takes minutes.

- iv) **20 March dialogue and discussion future working of Block/Ward Meetings** to be in a constructive and participatory manner – the taking of minutes should resolve this.

- v) **Why 3 p.m. meeting time** - majority of pensioners in this block prefer 3 p.m. whereas working people prefer 7 p.m.

- vi) **By-Laws regarding late night loud music** – separate community meeting with Dan Plato on this issue on 20th March – no follow up or solutions emerged. James said policing not effective. National Noise regulations specify levels and places. A legal Decibel Meter needs to be funded by the community – Anne to find out about this. Susan to check with Athol re Noise By-Laws.

- vii) **Budget for the Krans** – The control of Port Jackson is a legal requirement irrespective of the status of the land and therefore not for the Krans Reserve Budget. Heritage Society writes to Council once a month about council decisions on this matter and have had no response. David brought the meeting up to date on the Krans proclamation: He said Hetty had reported at the Block 2 meeting on 8 March that the Krans Proclamation is in hand and that Michelle Hucklesbery had presented a management proposal to the Council for consideration and that Prof Colin Johnson of the Protected Area Advisory Board and Corné Claassen Cape Nature had contributed towards that. This was not true; there was no management plan and Colin Johnson and Corné Claassen had no input into that plan – there was a small budget drafted by Michelle Huckleberry which she had presented to the senior management team of the municipality. The Strategic and Social Portfolio Committee, which Councillor Wilma Strauss chairs, held a meeting on 7th May where the Krans and proclamation of the Krans was discussed and this portfolio committee decided that the Krans not be declared a protected area because of cost implications and also because it will hamper future development with a caveat to say the majority of Ratepayers should agree in writing to a special levy to be charged on McGregor residents to cover the cost of the declaration and maintenance of the protected area; then on 15 May the Mayoral Committee, again supported by Councillor Wilma Strauss, took a unanimous decision not to declare the greater area of the Krans as a protected area because of cost implications and also because it will hamper future development; this recommendation then went to Council on 29 May, Council Resolution Item 83618. There was no consultation or participation with experts. David said that Prof Johnson has suggested that we now take the issue up with Minister Anton Bredell because there is political interference. David and Helaine to discuss this action with Prof Johnson.

- viii) **Professional Traffic calming methods** – Hetty advised it was debated in Council – no budget. Hetty reported Mr Everson had driven around and found no necessity for 4 way stops or speed bumps. Hetty read out his e-mail.
David said we need a professional to do a traffic calming plan for the village. Hetty advised that Sandy Munro's petition signed by 100 residents asked for stop streets and they were installed.

David said there was R100,000-00 in the Ward Committee budget and some of this could be used for a Traffic Calming Study but Hetty said the R100,000-00 was withdrawn because of water shortages in Langeberg and a truck with a tank instead.

Hetty - The Traffic Management Plan – Traffic Department in McGregor patrolling.

- ix) **Fencing of the dam** – the entire meeting is against this.
Hetty stipulated that the dam we swim in is drinking water which is pumped from the Vaal Dam into the drinking water dam and cleaned.
David stated the entire community at the meeting of the 20th was against the fencing and the community will not have the dam taken away from them. Hetty said it is not the community's dam and everyone disagreed vehemently. Hetty said all water falls under the Government and we should be careful as there will be a meter added to our boreholes.
David and Helaine said it is the only public open space and the lung of McGregor.
There will be protests if the dam is taken away from community access.

Helaine said that the people of McGregor built the dam and Kaduit confirmed "die ou mense het dit gegrawe".

Helaine said that Hetty had to be on our side regarding this issue and Hetty replied she is not on anybody's side.

Bruno said the Block should be represented by Hetty and her opinion does not matter – procedure. She is going against her own community.

David referred to a comment by Hetty that the Ward Committee members are paid by the Municipality and therefore work for the Municipality. Hetty replied the Ward Committee member is the liaison between the community and the municipality.

David then asked Hetty to resign.

Anne said Hetty was warning us and came across as aggressive. Hetty replied that she did not wish to see anyone fined for disregarding the Notice Board at the dam. Susan said the loss of the dam would be a loss to the entire village.

David said Hetty is doing nothing to put forward the community wishes to the municipality but rather putting forward the municipality's determinations against us. Bruno asked if Hetty was our Rep or the Council's rep – she seems to be going against her own Block's wishes.

Susan called for a Vote of No-Confidence.

xi) Fencing of the dam cont/...

David repeated the call for a vote of No-Confidence and Hetty ignored him. She read out an e-mail from Wilma Strauss that she passes on the info from Sakkie saying no one could be allowed to swim in the dam as it is dangerous and the law on safety does not allow it. James said she could answer that the community does not accept this instruction. David said this also shows that the Councillor is also working against the wishes of the community. Calls for Wilma Straus's resignation were made.

Hetty said she would put this across to Council – do we want our names on the reply and all agreed – yes.

James said to Hetty it was very clear she had not prepared for this meeting and she should not have had this meeting and postponed it for a week. This meeting was a circus and Hetty had not controlled it. Previous meetings have been conducted in the same manner – he supported David's suggestion that we ask her to resign and we find someone who can manage it.

Anne said we must ask the people at the table who supports this request and who doesn't by a show of hands.

Hetty asked why, if she has not done anything wrong in the eyes of the municipality, we ask her to resign so that somebody else can take over because we are not satisfied with hearing the truth.

Six of the remaining nine people called for Hetty's resignation and Hetty said she would object to it. David said there were 17 votes for her to be Block Rep so we will only need 18 signatures on a petition to get rid of her. She does not listen to the people, she does not follow up on anything. Hetty said David has always been against her.

Anne suggested we keep personalities out of it – The Block feels they are not being properly represented by Hetty. We have had to fight to get to this point and if Hetty was more organised and not just shifting papers around we would be more confident in her. James said the work has overtaken her.

Hetty then started telling us she apologised for receiving the minutes at the last moment and then gave the breakdown of the Block Reps in White City.

The meeting concluded at 4:40 pm