

**MINUTES OF THE GRAHAMSTOWN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT 6PM ON 24 APRIL 2018 AT GRAHAMSTOWN CITY HALL**

1. **WELCOME:** Philip Machanick welcomed all to the meeting.
2. **PRESENT:** As per attendance register.
3. **APOLOGIES:** Sally Scott, Catherine Letcher, Tim Dold, Marion Hendry, Sally Moss.
4. **PREVIOUS MINUTES:** The previous minutes were accepted by the floor – proposed by Michael Whisson and seconded by Richard Gabbya.
5. **CHAIRPERSONS REPORT:** Attached
6. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Attached
7. **MEMBERSHIP FEE:** Resolved: keep the fee at R10 but allow members up to three years' grace before their membership lapses.
8. **Election of Committee**

The new committee was nominated and, there being the exact number of nominations for vacant positions, the following were elected uncontested:

  - Treasurer – Sally Price-Smith
  - Secretary – Tim Bull
  - Remainder of the Committee (making up the maximum number of eleven):
    - Philip Machanick
    - Xolani Simaxuhle
    - Richard Alexander
    - Edward Gaybba
    - Leroy Maisiri
    - Fleur Way-Jones
    - Sally Price-Smith
    - Mazwi Makana

**9. Questions from the floor discussed**

Q – Is there legislation regarding number of residents on one property? Cllr Jackson – Yes, there is legislation, contact afterwards.

Q – Re-zoning of properties is a serious problem. Cllr Jackson dealing with some on Ward 8.

Q – Looting of foreigner shops, no effective response from councillors.

**Brief Presentation by Richard Gabbya, Chair of Grahamstown Business Forum**

See presentation attached.

**Introduction of SiliRhini by Ron Weissenberg – 'Collaborate or Perish.'**

See presentation attached

Pity that we only have a small number of members present when we all face such critical issues. Half the lights in this hall not working, buildings next door should be condemned. We have a failed municipality, with little or no chance of a 5 year improvement. R2billion infrastructure deficit, not being addressed. The constitution and laws are not the solution. We have illiterate and innumerate councilors, with little understanding of economics. To counter this we have a lack of civic society organization working together. 'Let's Fix Grahamstown' only attracted a handful of volunteers. I propose adoption of SiliRhini which stands for 'We are Grahamstown.'

Each member body would maintain its individual identity within an overarching body. Joining together sharing administration, promotion and resources. The President of SiliRhini would act as a facilitator for the constituent bodies. Suggest there should be a unity mandate and guiding principles.

RW concluded by proposing a motion for GRA committee to respond.

Observation that this proposal would be relevant for Grahamstown Hospitality Guild, and it was requested that the presentation be circulated to members. Most comments were favourable, though it was further proposed and agreed that: ***GRA committee should decide whether to join taking into account any concerns raised by members through email.***

[At GRA committee meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 the adoption of SiliRhini was not approved as numerous issues raised from various quarters, though a proposal to share a joint office and administration being considered by GRA/ GBF and Makana Revive]

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.