



## MINUTES OF THE PLETT TOURISM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

MEMBERS and ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF PLETT TOURISM and INTERESTED PARTIES WERE INVITED TO ATTEND THE AGM AT THE WHITEHOUSE THEATRE VENUE, ON 31 AUGUST AT 12h00 – 14h00

### 1. Welcome by Bruce Richardson (BR), acting Chairperson

- Honorary attendees noted
  - ✓ Peter Wallington (PW), inaugural chairperson of PT; noted his accolades and gave a brief history of PW's experience with PTA; PW was presented with a gift as outgoing chairperson
  - ✓ Sivu Nkomo from the Bitou Township Tourism Forum; BR gave a brief introduction and commented about our communities, potentially disrupting agendas and poor communication that sometime divide us; BR commented that the support of this association is very exciting for the future
  - ✓ Dave Swart, Bitou Municipal Councillor
  - ✓ Peter Lloyd, Chairman of PAA
  - ✓ Peter Rooyen, Marketing Chair of PAA (incorrectly acknowledged, he was not present)
  - ✓ Neville Peterson, Chairman of Rate Payers Association
  - ✓ Tony Lubner, as previous board member; brief background, won't be standing for reelection but is available for future consultation
  - ✓ Ian Hunter, as previous board member; brief background, won't be standing for reelection but is available for future consultation
  - ✓ Outgoing board members; thanking them for their hard work and dedication
- Apologies if there are other dignitaries present who have not been recognized
- At the time of the Welcome by BR, no member from the Bitou Municipality (BM) was noted
- BR commented that it was important for the town and communities of Plettenberg Bay to work together as the tourism industry is a very fragile industry easily negatively impacted upon.
- BR urged that we should never underestimate the importance of the industry in Plett and commented that we will never achieve what we need to achieve as a conflicted society and need to work more closely as a community to take local tourism to the next level.

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2. Welcome (BR)
  
3. Attendance Register and Proxies (please see attached Attendance Register)
  - 136 guests in total attended the Plett Tourism AGM
  - 51 paid-up Members were in attendance
  - 7 paid-up Members via Proxy were represented
  - 11 paid-up Associate Members (non-voting) were in attendance
  - 72 interested individuals were in attendance
  - 5 PTA staff members were in attendance
  
4. Apologies from the floor: 1 apology was noted from the floor
  
5. Attendance Register and Proxies:
  - Apologies by email received and noted (see attached Apologies and Proxies). Apologies from the floor accepted and noted. P Butterworth (PB) confirmed that 20% of members in good standing were required to attend the meeting in person or by proxy in order to constitute a quorum as per the Plett Tourism Association (PTA) Constitution. The attendance list and received proxies showed that 20 % of confirmed paid members were in attendance.
  - An interested member of the public, Sbu Skosana requested from the floor that an actual count be conducted for the quorum as opposed to receiving an assurance from PB. It was agreed by BR that the full list would be made available after the meeting once the PTA cross-referenced the signed attendee list, received proxies and the RSVP list.
  - Skosana requested that the holding of the meeting be suspended pending the provision of the list of members in attendance but in order to avoid wasting member's time, PB asked for a show of hands, 27 being required for a quorum. A headcount of members was done and there were 66 Members present, well exceeding the 27 required for a quorum. A final number would be subject to cross-reference. BR asked for a show of hands for those in favour of moving on. All hands but 7 were raised, all of whom were interested individuals only. All Members raised hands to support moving on with the agenda.
  
6. Adoption of Previous Minutes: there were no objections, comments or observations from the floor; the minutes were adopted by PTA member Africanyon Adventures and seconded by PTA Member Fynbos Ridge.
  
7. Matters Arising from the minutes: BR commented the PTA presentation would be different for this year due to PW's absence.
  - Comment 1: Sivu Nkomo Bitou, an interested party from the Township Tourism Forum addressed the issue regarding PTA membership fees stating that some of the individuals present at the AGM

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are unable to afford the PTA's R1500 yearly membership fee. BR thanked the individual for his comments and acknowledged that the meeting with the Bitou Township Tourism Forum regarding the membership structure for PT did take place prior to the AGM, although brief in nature. BR advised the cost of membership issue would be included on the agenda for the inaugural board meeting. BR explained he did not have executive powers on such matters and that it would need to be addressed and decided upon by the new board.

- Comment 2: BR pointed out that he was appointed the non-executive chairperson of the PTA and in that capacity has no executive decision-making powers other than the conduct of meetings as opposed to the previous chairperson, Peter Wallington, who was an executive chairperson.
- Comment 3: BR commended the PT team for their presentation with the outgoing board members; he thanked the team for their dedication and hard work. "Please give them a hand. I regard them as the best tourism team in the country." This was followed by his presentation (please see attached Acting Chairperson Presentation).
- Comment 4: Fundisiwa Mazwayi, an interested observer from the Bitou Boxing Academy, queried the current PTA event budget structure. In particular, the funding for the PW&B festival; BR commented that in only one year was the event subsidized by BM. CWT commented that it would be outlined in her presentation
- Comment 5: Nkomo commended PW for his role in the PTA. In particular, the Community Centre desk. His main concerns: 1) too much rhetoric amongst role players, 2) individuals sitting in wealthier suburbs of Plett do not understand the problems those less-fortunate are facing, 3) some locals are seen as 'thugs' directing messages to the media houses which is uncalled for, 4) his forum are unhappy with the meeting and time slot allocated on the PTA AGM Agenda – referred to it as unconstitutional, 5) his forum would like well-established tourism businesses to work with more closely with emerging tourism companies to 'mentor', 6) he acknowledged that his forum community members were unhappy with the current unemployment rate and linked this to increased crime in the area and 7) he accused the well-established tourism businesses in Plett of not giving back to the community through social responsibility.
- Comment 6: BR acknowledged these comments and reconfirmed the common vision was not to become disconnected, but to rather work together. He commented that, in his view more could be done in the form of a mentor-style programme.
- Comment 7: BR acknowledged that PTA was ready to build relationships, not to damage them. He also disagreed with Nkomo's regarding comments alleging that he had ignored the Bitou Township Tourism Forum's request to be added to the AGM Agenda. He commented they were still on his Agenda and that he had allocated a spot for the organisation before 'Matters Arising' and there was no basis upon which the official Agenda could be changed at such a late stage. He also commented that the PTA has been wanting to engage with a formalized community initiative for some time now, with the aim to pull together to achieve outstanding results.
- Comment 8: Kenneth Mgaga from the Bitou Boxing Academy addressed the guests, giving a brief about his past relationship with PTA. He commented that he did want to see some people as charity case, some as providers and some as masters. He commented that the town appeared to be politically divided. Township tourism was established in 1996 with Ocean Blue Adventures, and it has been a successful example of a project done with private and public engagement. He commented, that in his view, he denies native Africans to be treated with charity. That native Africans want to participate fully in tourism and to see activities across the board. He commented about the small boat harbor and the use of wealth to stop it. He also commented on the security in the town.

- Comment 9: Henge Thembinkosi from Imbo Business Solutions, requested that the guests at the meeting refrain from abusing the opportunity to address the meeting. His concern was that the forum members are not formally part of the existing PTA. But members of the forum, and others, are direct beneficiaries of whatever PTA has been and will be doing. The forum, and others, should be included in the strategy of the PTA and as part of the Agenda to raise issues and discuss the matters on the agenda. He commented that he does not want to interject. Regarding the forum, how will it be helping black tourism? There should be credence to the forum infrastructure without running a parallel association.
  - Comment 10: BR thanked all for their contribution and commented that forums and associations can participate in the process, however they would have more credence and acceptance if they were formalized entities (with their own constitution, membership base, etc.).
8. Presentation and adoption of PTA'S Annual Report (Cindy Wilson-Trollip) (see attached PTA Presentation); BR thanked PTA Manager Cindy Wilson-Trollip for maintaining momentum during such a difficult transitional phase in local tourism.
  9. Presentation and approval of Annual Accounts (BR / Liz Phillips): the accounts are currently being audited by an accredited firm (Mazaars) and will be made available to Members online.
  10. Resignation of existing board members and voting in of a new board: new Board Members were nominated and accepting the position include:

Voted in (only one candidate nominated for each category, no voting to take place)

- 1) Self-catering and small accommodation services: Nokuzola (Noksi) Kolwapi
- 2) Guest house and B&B services: Therry Wuetrich
- 3) Hotel services: MJ Birch
- 4) Activity services: Lara Mostert
- 5) Restaurant services: Nicola Ash
- 6) Eco-tourism services: Mark Brown

By appointment

- 1) Bitou Municipality 1: TBC
- 2) Bitou Municipality 2: TBC
- 3) Business Chamber: Duncan Brown
- 4) Community 1: TBC
- 5) Community Police Forum / Professional Services: (no appointment as yet – we have an exco meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> September so just leave this blank)
- 6) Chairman: TBC after the inaugural PTA Board Meeting
- 7) Treasurer: Liz Phillips

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- Comment 1: Skosana, an interested observer, interjected regarding how disappointed he is with BR conduct of the meeting and commented on the quorum procedure for the meeting to continue. He also commented that the current PTA constitution was unconstitutional.
- Comment 2: BR thanked Skonsana for his comments and that they will be noted, but that the majority are satisfied with the way in which the quorum issue was addressed as demonstrated by the show of hands earlier by PTA Members.
- Comment 3: BR highlighted the new category of Self-catering and small accommodation. He also explained the process of appointing the next chairperson which is done by the board at their inaugural meeting. There were no additional comments and there were no objections.

## 11. Any Other Business (BR)

- Comment 1: Findisiwa Mazwayi raised the question about representation of the youth on the board. Why was there no representation specifically for the youth category on the PTA Board? Mention about the youth; who is representing the youth as per the constitution to have youth representation?
- Comment 2: A comment from the floor requested that each new board member introduce themselves. Each candidate stood, gave their portfolio and company they were representing.
- Comment 3: Henge Thembinkosi queried the Community representative appointments and how they were to be appointed.
- Comment 4: BR responded that there would be a community engagement process to put candidates forward for consideration for these two seats. This would be addressed at the inaugural meeting of the new PTA board and will be initiated in due course.
- Comment 5: Thembinkosi commented that if Sivu Nkomo was not elected as one of the Community representative appointments, then the forum would not recognize the PTA or the decisions coming from its new Board.
- Comment 6: BR commented that the PTA would be engaging with community representatives, from all the different communities in Plettenberg Bay. The PTA Constitution was formalized 6 years ago, and a great deal has changed between now and then. We need to remember that the individuals either voted onto the board or appointed as Community representatives are required to have a legitimate tourism business, and someone who is well-respected in their industry.
- Comment 7: Jacky Pepler, an interested observer from Events & Tents, acknowledged the need for more community tourism products and working together between all businesses.
- Comment 9: Nandipha Bulabula (PTA Member) commented on the need for more transformation on the PTA Board and that we should not confuse the policies of the government with those of a private association. She also commented on the need for a Youth representative.

## 12. Date of Next Meeting: August 2020