

SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE EROSION OF THE SPIT

SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE AT C. BECKLEY'S OFFICE

Present: C. Beckley  
B. Morsink  
B. Lahana  
B. Firth  
J. Robson  
N. Danohar  
C. Cawood  
H. Kleinhans  
C. de Lange

B. Morsink welcomed all to the meeting which is a follow up to the meeting held on March 20<sup>th</sup> which was to discuss a letter received from Messrs Voster and v d Merwe, a copy of which was given to those not present at the first meeting. **BM** said he had looked at the spit together with Mr. M. Cuff and some representatives of the BJAC and felt that although the spit was eroded it was wider than first thought, but all felt it is still a concern.

Mr. Craig de Lange offered his legal advice and **BM** thanked him for offer of assistance. **CB** said, as we had not yet received any money from the Municipality it was a bit embarrassing to continue using Garth Webb until we have at least paid him for his past work. He also stated that Craig's services would mainly be involved in the spit.

**BM** then asked Mr. Cawood to explain to us where we stood with regard to the Municipality and the dune. **CC** explained that the sandy beach, which excluded the rocky beach from Frank Road to the Mouth, is 2,93km of which the spit is 1,22km, which is 41% of the total beach. Other municipal areas such as roads etc. add up to 664m. The spit is public open space, which is a municipal asset. The total municipal asset of the beach is 64% in other words, the State has a real vested interest in what happens to this land. At the moment there are two thrusts in the community, not opposing but dovetailing, and next Tuesday they will be getting together to dovetail their efforts. He was not including the Riparian Owners as one of these bodies, he was talking about mobilizing the community to put something in the hat to finance one experimental reef. Then there is a second huge effort that he is leading from the touchline, as he is no longer on the Council, to obtain State funding for recent disaster for short protective measures in the medium term and for a long-term solution. His only concern at this stage is that at the moment he has got the State at least interested at the moment and the Disaster Management person from Bisho and Kakadu on Monday on the spit and on Tuesday he had the environmental committee meeting to try to get State funding for this project. The proposal is that the community finance the first experimental reef and that the state funds the balance.

The problem with getting the finance from the State could take some time. In the meantime within the next ten days they will have a group of technical people working out exactly what the total protection of the spit would entail, this did not include the golf course, the hotel site or residential properties as insurance should cover these. His biggest worry now is if we say we will fix it they will sit back and leave it up to us. Unfortunately there is no guarantee that the State would provide the funds but he is doing his best to show them that they too have a vested interest in this. He asked that this committee should dovetail its efforts with the Kouga Municipality.

**BM** informed the meeting that that he had been advised that there was to be a meeting at the Links on Tuesday and we had been asked to attend.

**HK** asked how much time we had, **BM** replied that we should wait until after the meeting on Tuesday but then, if necessary, call a Special Meeting for all riparian owners, to discuss a levy or donation to repair the spit. **CB** asked if the donation was tax deductible, **CdL** would look into this, but felt it was unlikely.

**HK** again expressed his concern as he had asked the same question about the beach and while everyone was arguing the beach was lost and nobody thought it could happen so quickly. He felt there were two options, the one was to go through the correct channels which could take some time and the other is that if we see we will be in trouble is to do something ourselves. **BM** said that we had a quote for a revetment, it was R2200 per running metre but we must dredge at the same time. **ND** said this would depend on the spec and the size of the rocks, **CB** said that Werner Illenberger had advised that we need to do it as it had been done at the bottom of Aldabara Run as this was a very good wall. **ND** suggested that we ask W. Illenberger what size storm would breach the spit as he felt that Werner should have some idea and could let us know how urgent it was. **CB** also felt we should ask as many people as possible to help fund a report on the damage to the spit and how best to fix it. This report was expected to cost approx. R15 000. **CB** also felt that this report could help influence people to buy into repairing the spit.

**CC** said we should not let internal politics or anything jeopardize our efforts to protect our properties, but still felt that the State should be involved. **ND** replied that this report would be of assistance to them in obtaining the money from the State. **CC** said Werner should have all this information on hand as he is doing the same thing for them. He also said we should wait a month before we do anything as he should have an answer by then. **HK** said we must draw a line at a month and if nothing happens we must carry on with our own efforts as we are due to have high seas within the next few months. **JR** said that the longer that we delay it the more it would cost as every day more sand was being eroded and this would need to be replaced. **CB** said that he felt we should carry on with our efforts as if, or when, the State could not do it we would be in a position to do it ourselves.

**BM** advised that the Municipality had been asked for approximately R200 000 to do a revetment wall to allow sand from the dredging to be pumped behind this wall. This would be in their budget from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2007.

**CB** said that of the 110 replies to our survey, 100 had been positive and felt that we should be more proactive in getting people to reply to this survey. He also said that we were busy also sending out SMS messages to friends. **CB** then nominated Hennie Kleinhans to head the "Save the Spit" project. **HK** advised that he was prepared to accept this position and would start with a list on what the best method of obtaining our goal was. **ND** and **CdL** together with the rest of the committee offered their support.

There being no further business the meeting closed.