



Minutes of the Ramsgate Ratepayers and Residents Association Annual General meeting held at the Lions Club on Saturday, 22 March 2025 at 10:00

Minutes

1. Administrative matters

1.1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all those present in person and on Zoom. He noted apologies from Cailyn and the Millers.

1.2. Verify a quorum.

The quorum was confirmed with more than 10 paid up members present at the meeting.

1.3. Approval of the previous Annual General meeting minutes 2024-03-25

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 2024-03-25 were proposed by Doug Sparks and second David Knowles.

2. Councillor update

Alan mentioned the RNM strikes and noted the impact that had on refuse collection, and he acknowledged the residents who took on the task of removing rubbish and thanked Tidy Towns initiative and the Recovery Center for their efforts in cleaning up the area. However, there was illegal dumping happening, and he appealed to members to expose the culprits by taking a photo and sharing that information with him.

The longer-term issues with the strikes are more serious, particularly the backlog on road repairs. He is currently maintaining a list of road repairs; 85 roads need to be looked at, and that was not a complete list. The capital project needs to address some of the roads. Alan informed the members that he had an information table at the market at Hibiscus Center, to collect information. His current list has over 100 roads that need attention, and he knows that they will not all be resolved.

We need to ensure that verges are cleared, stormwater systems are maintained, and streetlights are functioning to contribute to those lists.

One thing we need to understand is that we are competing with other wards for funding, so we need to be organized.

Fasciade Road is an issue; it is unsafe, and this will be tackled as a project. It is a priority. Roads remain a significant issue at the moment.

Regarding waste disposal, there is a motion for there to be a credit on everyone's account due to the lack of delivery from RNM.



The rehabilitation of Marine Drive roads will be completed by September. While we may be frustrated with the stop-and-go situation, we need to be patient with this.

Water supply hasn't been too bad until this week; the reservoirs are filling up and need to be over 80% for everyone to have adequate water access. It is being filled, and there will be breaks due to infrastructure maintenance.

Sewage in Providence and Amenzi has been an issue for 15 months. Something is being done about it, and that should clear up the sewage in the water. Ugu is battling with funding.

The final point is that we, as a community, can't rely solely on the RNM, and we need to invest in our area, especially where there is a community handling issues that arise.

A big thank you to all who get involved for the betterment of the community.

3. Nominations and voting

It was noted that there were three members whose terms automatically ended: Sarah Unsworth, Sarah-Jane Capazario and Bob Black for which we need nominees, along with an additional two resignations from Pauline and Steve. Sarah-Jane nominated Wesley and noted that Sarah Unsworth was prepared to stand again. She also pointed out that David Knowles was willing to serve. Therefore, Sarah, Wesley, and David were all prepared to stand again for a two-year term. Paul and Suzette will automatically remain on the committee.

The floor was opened for additional nominations, and Bob McKnight put his name forward.

Nominees:

- Wesley
- David
- Sarah
- Bob McKnight

This means the vote will be for them to serve for two years. With five openings and only four nominations, there was no need for a vote. The nominees were thanked and accepted to serve on the EXCO.

4. Chairman's report

Bob delivered his address which was as follows he noted: The Chair Bob Black presented the first part of their report, covering the period up until his resignation due to an impending move from Ramsgate. He noted that the second part of the report would be presented by the Chair, Paul Johnson.

The Chair expressed gratitude to his colleagues on the RRRA and sister groups for their invaluable efforts during their tenure. They highlighted that the RRRA had successfully revived and established positive dialogue with other Ramsgate civic groups and committees. However, it was noted that various factors contributed to a loss of momentum during the second half of 2024. The disruption caused by the eagerly anticipated renovation of the main road through Ramsgate was more serious than expected and inadvertently threatened the financial viability of local businesses. This disruption also affected many businesses on the road from Southbroom to Port Shepstone. Local residents and visitors experienced



delays and dangerous driving conditions, which discouraged locals from using the road and caused visitors to bypass Ramsgate. The rapidly rising cost of living also impacted everyone, particularly those on fixed or unlinked pensions.

The latter part of the year was marked by the effects of a strike by RNM employees, which impacted all aspects of the community. Rubbish accumulated on street corners, and residents had to pay for rubbish removal. Verge cutting, pothole repairs, and other maintenance issues were neglected.

On a positive note, the progress on the main road repairs has been encouraging, with completed sections that are now pleasant to drive on. The RNM employees have returned to work and rubbish collection has resumed.

The Chair then addressed the topic of funding for the RRRRA. The R76 per month UIP payment included in rates bills is allocated to the umbrella company RUDP, which funds the Ramsgate Community Policing Forum (RCPF). This funding is a key reason Ramsgate is arguably the safest town on the South Coast. The CPF is the only NGO/NPO under the RUDP umbrella that receives these benefits.

To maintain operations, the RRRRA relies on ratepayers and tenants to contribute a voluntary membership fee of R150 per annum. Currently, only 4% of ratepayers contribute, although some generous donors provide monthly support. The RRRRA incurs approximately R50,000 per year in costs, with R30,000 allocated to the regular maintenance of the beautiful Ramsgate Ramble. If 50% of ratepayers paid the R150 annually, the RRRRA could fill the six standby water tanks 18 times or transport 26 truckloads of household rubbish to the tip after deducting running costs.

In closing, the Chair made an appeal to Ramsgate ratepayers and residents to support local groups. They encouraged individuals to engage in positive activities rather than merely voicing complaints. The Chair suggested that residents could dedicate time to keeping their verges clean or collecting litter while enjoying the beaches or the Ramble. It is essential for every resident of Ramsgate to help make Ramsgate the preferred place to live, work, and play.

Finally, the Chair extended their gratitude to the residents, friends, and colleagues who helped them and their wife enjoy their time in Ramsgate and wished everyone well in the future. He then handed over the Chairperson

Paul Johnson, the new Chairperson, presented his address to the gathered members. He began by expressing his pleasure in seeing so many attendees at the Annual General Meeting, emphasizing that they were not just here for a meeting but to celebrate their shared investment in the Ramsgate community.

Paul introduced himself as the Chair and shared his honor in standing before everyone to reflect on their collective journey, recognize their achievements, and outline a united path forward. He stated that the ratepayers are the heart and soul of the association and the lifeblood of Ramsgate. Their investment—through rates, time, and active participation—fuels the association's progress.

Before highlighting recent achievements, Paul took a moment to express deep gratitude to those who contribute behind the scenes to the smooth functioning of the association. He specifically acknowledged Bob Black for his outstanding contributions over the past two years as Chair and for being a driving force in rebuilding the Ramsgate RRA. He thanked Bob for his countless hours of dedication, which served as an inspiration to all.



Paul also extended his appreciation to all committee members for their hard work, passion, and collaborative spirit, which are the backbone of the organization. He acknowledged that the association would be losing four members: Pauline Lee, Steve Thomas, Alan Hurlbatt, and Sarah-Jane Capparazio. He expressed profound gratitude for their dedication and contributions, noting that while their presence would be missed, their foundational efforts would always be cherished.

In light of these changes, Paul invited volunteers to join the committee, particularly for the positions of Treasurer and Secretary.

He then celebrated the past year's significant achievements, mentioning the effectiveness of collective action in bringing about tangible improvements in the community. Paul shared some key victories from the past four months:

- The Ramsgate RRA rehabilitated the shower and ablutions at Big Tree Beach. After encountering a blockage in the water supply where UGU was unable to assist, a special thanks was given to Warwick Chapman and the Beach Plumbing team for resolving the issue and ensuring the facilities were ready for use.
- Paul acknowledged the unique photo frame at the main beach designed and built by committee member Guy Spittal.
- The "Welcome to Ramsgate / Welcome to Margate" sign on Marine Drive was completely rebuilt. Paul recognized Suzette de Jager for canvassing the neighborhood for sponsorship, along with the donors who contributed to the reconstruction.
- The bridge before the Waffle House, which had numerous broken or missing slabs, was repaired using funds from the Ramsgate RRA, allowing pedestrians to walk safely along the bridge.
- Paul emphasized the significance of the Ramsgate Marine Ramble, stating that its maintenance costs are primarily funded through membership fees and donations. He urged others to support this vital community asset to ensure its upkeep.

Paul underscored that these achievements are a direct result of community support and involvement, attributed the annual donations as essential for funding such projects, and highlighted the desire to work with RNM and UGU to ensure proper maintenance services are rendered.

He acknowledged the ongoing challenges faced by the community, including unreliable water supply and sanitation services, and UGU's inability to fill the six water tanks in Ramsgate. He assured the members that the association is actively engaging with UGU to demand accountability and explore sustainable solutions. He also mentioned the persistent issues surrounding infrastructure maintenance, specifically roads and stormwater drains.

Paul conveyed the commitment of the association to confront these challenges. He emphasized the importance of attending RNM HoD meetings, meeting with contractors like Raubex, and establishing direct relationships with key local leaders.

Describing the community as resilient and united, he reiterated that the challenges faced are opportunities for strengthening resolve, deepening connections, and amplifying their voice. Paul invited all members to remain involved, informed, and committed to the betterment of Ramsgate. He encouraged attendance at future meetings, participation in initiatives, and volunteering for projects, emphasizing that the Ratepayers Association is a platform for their voices.

The session concluded with Paul announcing an upcoming BIG fundraising campaign, with Sarah and Alan set to share further details. He thanked everyone for their engagement and commitment, encouraging continued collaboration to build a brighter future for Ramsgate.

5. Annual financial statements



Steve presented the Annual Financial statements and noted that members who wished to view the details were able to do so as the hardcopy was printed and available at the reception.

6. Address on the exciting “Vision for Ramsgate” Project

Alan presented the village vision and noted that they had met with the owners and residents on the main road. There has been a struggle due to COVID-19 and road issues, and there was a consensus that a refurbishment of the main street was needed.

Over the past year, there have been changes intended to bring colors from the beaches onto the main street. We don't have control over how the building owners respond to the concept. A huge thank you to the building owners and the remarkable Popeye Ramsgate Le Sali; these buildings are looking colorful under the VIP concept.

The pavement is where the road stops, and we need to address this. There are one or two buildings that still need to implement the concept. We need to raise funds to complete the concept. Alan highlighted the need for planting trees and introducing more streetlights into the pavement sections. We also need to address Ramsgate signage and the rubbish issue. Utilizing colors in everything we brand will promote Ramsgate on the map. We can add fun to Ramsgate with colorful pots for branding space.

7. Results of the vote and announcement of the new RRRRA Executive committee

The following people were nominated and appointed to the Executive committee:

1. David Knowles
2. Sarah Unworth
3. Suzette de Jager
4. Bob Knight
5. Paul Johnson
6. Wesley Marnitz

8. Any other business

Illegal dumping was brought up as an issue by a member, who noted that a company picked up and dumped waste. He asked if sending photos is really a solution within the framework of POPIA. Paul noted that it is a huge problem and was brought up at the HoD meeting. Nick suggested bringing back a dumping area. Sarah addressed the meeting, noting that the key focus was the rubbish, and it was voted against having a central dumping area. RNM collects at 22:00, and while there were going to be colorful wheeled bins for the restaurants, residents started dumping there.

Paul noted that once again this is on the HoD agenda and is being addressed. He suggested a couple of options to explore: asking RNM or taking photos, as Alan had suggested earlier. It was suggested that we should name and shame those guilty. However, it was noted that "name and shame" isn't a solution as it promotes bad news. She went on to suggest that we need to promote good news and proposed night races as a positive activity.



Meeting close