

throw light on how one moves forward.

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Regards

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Ian Stewart

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----- Original Message -----

From: Love Knysna - Mike

To: undisclosed-recipients:

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 8:02 PM

Subject: draft: Meeting #1 minutes

Please state if you're interested in a follow-up meeting. If so, what topics interest you the most?

Please add any corrections or extra points in red below and email to me by this Wednesday 5pm.

Thanks.

Meeting #1 Minutes

Jan 24 2014

AGENDA

Introduction to each other.

- a.. Outlining of topics discussed in prelude, one-on-one meetings with Mike Hampton.
- b.. Decision on whether there is sufficient commonality to pursue second Knysna First meeting.
- c.. Initial contemplations, possible connections to each other and goals for next meeting.

ATTENDANCE

This meeting was undertaken, in a personal capacity, by the following:

- a.. Susan Campbell

b.. Eleanor Bouw-Spies

c.. Enrico Campher

d.. Enrico Prins

e.. Ian Stewart

f.. Terry Hime

g.. Ralph Stander

h.. Christy Jacobs

i.. Marylou Newdigate

j.. Joanne McDonogh

k.. Blanche Oluoch

l.. Stephen Oluoch

m.. Nathalie Belet

n.. Barry Eslick

Meeting was chaired by Mike Hampton.

APOLOGIES

The following people wished to attend but couldn't attend due to previous commitments and emergencies (they have expressed interest in the next meeting):

a.. Peter Meyers

b.. Shaun van Eck

c.. Brother Maxi

d.. Magda Moos

e.. Richard Thorpe

The final version of these minutes will be shared with them.

GOAL

To understand the problems we're facing in Knysna and to help fix where we can. To discover if any of us, as a growing group, can find commonalities that we can work on as a whole or as sub-groups.

FEEDBACK

- 1.. The Knysna Municipality is not getting the job done.
- 2.. There is weakening faith in municipal directors and politicians of all parties. The Knysna DA has failed to fulfill their election promises and the Knysna ANC has failed to be opposition.
- 3.. There is a worrying unwillingness to cooperate with the public, a willingness to lie, delay or block so as to cover-up the true state of Knysna's health. Real participation by the public has not been allowed by the Municipality. When there is, people without dissent seem to be cherry-picked for false participation.
- 4.. Lack of transparency into the workings of the municipality, especially with regards
- 5.. finances.
- 6.. Lack of info on many matters such as education standards and needs, holiday home
- 7.. statistics etc.
- 8.. Apathy of the public who seem to have become divorced from matters most affecting
- 9.. their lives.

ISSUES

All issues share the common problems of a lack of transparency/knowledge and effective public participation:

- 1.. Finances - loans, salaries, tenders, favouritism. The Audit Committee, in particular, has failed to be a watchdog. There is rubber-stamping of projects rather than sufficient insight into them before approval. Performance audit details and the structure of the Municipality is required.
- 2.. Infrastructure - condition of roads, truck size, bypass, sewage lines, water pipes, signage, planning submissions etc.
- 3.. Standard of services and tracking of complaints.
- 4.. ISDF tender award seemingly illegal, lack of public participation, lack of response to

tender complaints and a lower misrepresentation of how many complained.

5.. Forced removals of forest dwelling communities.

6.. Knysna Tourism leadership, financial mismanagement, lack of public participation with regards new branding and possible collusion between DA and ANC Board Directors.

7.. Crime, drugs and alcohol, failed relation between SAPS and public, dumbing down of

8.. statistics.

9.. Education - status and standards.

10.. Public motivation and cultural integration.

11.. Lack of coordination of residents. Failure of Ward Committees.

OTHER

The unexpected attendee from Plettenberg Bay has expressed his apologies for his inappropriate interruptions on behalf of his town.

Point that wasn't discussed (but was brought up in pre-meetings) was: Do we work as citizens who interact with politicians or do we allow politicians to participate with us? It's important that there's no point scoring. This needs to be discussed at next meeting.

TO DO

a.. Performance audit details.

b.. Structure of the Municipality.

c.. Structure of the Western Cape Government.

d.. Structure of the Political parties.

e.. Necessity for whistleblower culture wherein informant can be safely anonymous.

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Mike Hampton

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Knysna, the Prettiest Town in South Africa

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