



Minutes of the 25th Watamu Association 2023 Annual General Meeting

Held: 30th December 2023 at 10 am

Location: Turtle Bay Beach Club and via Zoom

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Notice to convene the meeting
3. Adoption of the minutes of the 24th AGM held on the 27th December 2022
4. Adoption of the Chairman's report for 2023
5. Adoption of the financial reports: INCOME/EXPENDITURE 2023, PROPOSED BUDGET FOR YR 2024
6. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2024
7. Any other Business
8. Closing of the Meeting

Minute 1/2023

The meeting was opened at 10.15 by the Vice Chairman Damian Davies.

Apologies were received from people listed in attachment.

All attendants signed the attendance list which is attached, a number of members attended virtually.

Minute 2/2023

The notice to convene the meeting was read.

Minute 3/2023

The minutes of the 24th AGM of 27th December 2022 were adopted and signed.

Minute 4/2023

The Chairman's report was read out and adopted by the members.

The report is attached as an addendum to these minutes.

Minute 5/2023

The status of the financial reports for 2023 was explained and the budget for 2024 will be presented asap.

The financial report is to follow.

Minute 6/2023

Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2023

Chairperson	Sharif Said. Proposed by Damian Davies, seconded by Bea Andersen Schipper
Vice Chairman	Max Chelli. Proposed by Damian Davies, seconded by Lynne Tundo
Treasurer	Shafique Ebrahimjee. Proposed by Dan Rogers, seconded by Sharif Said
Secretary	Bea Andersen Schipper, Proposed by Damian Davies, seconded George Zibarras

Members

Andrea Vernizzi	Proposed by Stuart East, seconded by Lynne Tundo
Dan Rogers	Proposed by Damian Davies, Seconded by Ian Rowe
Mike Wilson	Proposed by Richard Bennett, seconded by John Llyle
Eric van der Linden	Proposed by Richard Bennett, seconded by Tony Allport
Ian Rowe	Proposed by Stuart Eastwood, seconded by George Zibarras

Wallace Garland Proposed by Damian Davis, seconded by Anthony Gross

Steve Trott Proposed by Tina Allen, seconded by Clare Taylor

Alexander Juras Proposed by Bea Andersen, seconded by Damian Davies

Hannah Karanja Briggs Proposed by Ali Allport, seconded by Sharif Ebrahimjee

Emma Wilkinson Proposed by Bea Andersen, seconded by Clare Taylor

Mr. Justin Kitsao was coopted as Watamu Association member as a Watamu local community representative. Proposed by Damian Davies and seconded by John Llyle

Minute 7/2023

AOB

Minute 8/2023

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.33

Signed:

Chairperson

Questions and Answers after the AGM

1. Nuclear power plant

Members asked how they can get info about this project.

ACTION: Link to the whatsapp group will be given to membership.

Members asked if we can stop it. There are strong efforts of an activist group and the local community but as Watamu Association we can only keep our members informed on where to find updates and attend the community meetings.

2. KWS ticketing on the beach

There was a court injunction but situation not yet clear.

In 22 a group of A Residents took KWS to court to stop them implementing uncompetitive fees and rate increases for Watamu, although that affected the whole country and for not following the law on public participation. At that time the petition included challenging KWS to prove they have rights over the reserve, and therefore no rights to charge for the reserve, particularly the creek.

This case is ongoing and the hearing is in March 2023.

The first part of the first case is taken over by the second and third case as KWS reviewed the fees each time and each time the injunction was granted.

The last petition between Christmas and New year 2023 was to stop the latest fees that KWS published. This injunction is now in place and includes any rate increase until the court case has been heard in March and April 2023.

There have been 3 court cases in total. We are still trying to raise funds to pay for these cases and we currently have a deficit of about Kes 500k. So, any contributions would be most gratefully received. Please contact Lyndacholt@gmail.com.

We had a meeting with the DG and his people to try and come to some compromise but the outcome was that they would not negotiate while the injunction is in place. So stalemate. We will not drop the case. We fight for the rights to protect Tourism in Watamu, to protect the employment of the thousands of people who rely on this income, and to protect the businesses that employ these people. This is not a level playing field as other destinations such as Kilifi or Diani are not subject to KWS marine park fees. The new fees KWS published are not just outrageously overpriced for non-citizens but for citizens of this country that, if KWS gets their way, will charge for such things as a sundowner fee of \$10, to name but one category. We have recommended a fee structure that is acceptable to all stakeholders and we have prepared a document of a new way of collecting fees through an environmental fee on incoming international flights to alleviate KWS of fee collection and allow them to concentrate on their main function to protect our parks.

3. Land without title deed on Mida creek

The validity of the title deed has to be challenged. Sharif S. mentioned that the case is already in court.

4. Building on Riparian land on Mida Creek

Member asked if this can be stopped and if NEMA approval has been issued.

Suggested that members who are concerned in that area take action themselves just like residents on the beach front did when they saw possibly illegal building going on.

5. Palm Exotica update

There seems to be no progress and all licences that were issued seem to be expired. WA is monitoring .

6. Water pipe update: the new large pipe will only go as far as Turtle Bay.

There is work ongoing on the supply from Sala Gate to Kakuyuni where there will be storage for Watamu.

7. Data collection to build cases

Caro suggested that WA should start collecting data in a more organised fashion.

The data log on the KPLC issues is a good example of this. If collecting more data on the issues that they want to take up with the government or that they want to get funding for.

This might require an employee.

8. Questionnaire

Many members had not received the questionnaire.

Watamu Association committee will try again Q1 2024 but will mention to the members to keep in mind that the Watamu Association is run by volunteers and that resources are limited.

Meeting closed 11.30am

Appendix 1

Attendance and Apologies

Present	Present via Zoom	Apologies
Claire Taylor	Emma Wilkinson	Rick and Sharon Ashley
Damian Davis DD	JB Kwangwani	Julie and Tad Watts
Sharif Said	Bob Barnes	Shafiq Ebrahimjee SE
Mike Wilson MW	Andrea Vernizzi	Steve Trott
Bea Schipper Andersen BA	Justin Beswick	Rod and Debbie Evans
Hannah Karanja HK	Wallace Garland	Jan Barnes
Max Chelli	Eric Van DerLinden	Maria Valentine
Dan Rogers	Connie Nanzala	Grant and Netty Munn
Stuart East		Gordon and Vanessa Murray
Lynne Tundo		
Ian Rowe		
Richard Bennett		
Tony Allport		
Ali Allport		
George Zibarras		
Anthony Gross		
John Lyle		
Derek Dames		
Sandra Erickson		
Daniella Gusman		
Richard and Deborah Bradley		
Chris and Jessica Venn		
Holger Eggers		
Nicky Parazzi		
Florence Midwood		

Stuart and Gina Scott		
Carolyn Tarr		
Brian and Brenda Rottger		
Paul and Jane De Voest		
Ann Clear		
Gina Scott		
Mike Scarpellini		
Anna Rarity		
Alexander and Elmira Juras		
Simon and Lucinda Rowe		
Richard Briggs		

Appendix 2

Watamu Association Annual Report prepared for the 2023 AGM

Welcome to all, also those attending via zoom.

2023 in Watamu has been an interesting year where we have seen a continuation of the changes since covid. Watamu is flourishing with a lot of new buildings going on, many more Kenyan tourists from upcountry, still the large group of old residents and the stream of foreign tourists as well as the building of new shopping centres and sports facilities and many new restaurants.

And as exciting as this all is, it also presented us with the reality that the infrastructure of Watamu is not yet ready for this growth.

The electricity network is worn and outdated. It cannot meet the current demand. After numerous meetings with the KPLC up to the highest levels we now understand that there is no budget available for replacement of materials only for dealing with emergencies. Many of us have experienced that this Christmas with the numerous power outages.

The WA keeps reporting, logging all the reported issues, and continuing the discussion with KPLC. This is often time-consuming and relentless.

The water situation is not much better for big parts of Watamu. The hope is that once the new large supply pipe is in use this might change.

More activity means more noise and more waste. These issues are constantly addressed with the government authorities in Kilifi and Malindi.

Other issues that are always on the WA meetings agenda are the streetlights, the road conditions, and the crows.

In 2023 new people joined the committee and with new blood come new ideas. However, we are mindful of how much can be realistically achieved because we need to keep in mind that all work done by the committee members is on a voluntary basis and that the working capital is very low based on a membership fee of K5000 per year.

For 2024 we therefore envisage that we will consolidate the membership data, then improve the communication with the membership and inform them better and more regularly of the current issues in Watamu.

The committee will have an executive committee that will meet more regularly for proper coordination of activities and subcommittees that will work on certain topics.

Initially the focus will still be on the supply of government services. This also means we will have to attend more government meetings with the local communities. We may have to consider employing a part time employee.

In 2024 we will start mapping more of the community activities to get a better understanding of the needs of the local Watamu population. There is a Canadian-supported initiative to develop local self support organizations. WA has been invited to sit on the committee of the Watamu CBO.

The WA would like to co-opt a community member into the membership to help build this bridge.

As for bigger projects that need funding WA members and Watamu residents form groups that raise the funding for those activities; examples are the beach clean up, court cases to stop controversial building activities, or KWS fees etc.

And then there are the very big projects where we can only inform the membership of the status of such projects but we do not have the capacity to make any changes. The nuclear power project initiative and the Palm Exotica development would be examples of that.

We look forward to an exciting 2024 with a new chairperson and new committee members with more engagement with the membership and the entire Watamu population.

Thank you for your continued support of the Watamu Association