

MINUTES OF THE TOWN HILL COMMUNITY POLICE FORUM AGM HELD AT CARTER HIGH SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY, 8 MAY 2013

1. **WELCOME**
Ed welcomed those present at the meeting and thanked them for attending the AGM. It is with mixed feelings to see so many people as this is always a sign that crime has been high in the area.
2. **A MOMENTS SILENCE**
Ed asked all those present for a moments silence and to specifically remember the victims of crime and the SAP personnel who have lost their lives in combating crime and those helping to fight the surge of crime in our country.
3. **PRESENT AND APOLOGIES**
Attendance registers where signed by all those present.
Apologies:
Charles and Sharon Martens, Thomas Vermuelen, Lynda Tyrer, Doug and Pam Timmerman, Alan Cullis, Leon Grove, Manfred Schroeen, Maudie Stravrides, Karen and Derek Austin, Peter Miller, Pat and Nivan Viljoen, Duncan Paul.
4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
The minutes from the previous AGM were circulated at the meeting. These minutes were accepted as a true and accurate reflection of the previous meetings.
Proposed : W/O Maharaj
Seconded : Councillor Dave Ryder
5. **AMENDMENT / ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**
Nil
6. **REPORT BY THE STATION COMMANDER, CAPTAIN KHANYILE**
Captain Khanyile well and thanked all those residents who attended the AGM. Looking at crime for over the last year, the areas that were affected by house robberies and house break-ins were Chase Valley and the Montrose area. Some arrests have been made at the end of last month and the beginning of this month and since these arrests, there has been a decrease in house break-ins. Most of the house break-ins happened during the day. There are other leads that are being followed, as the arrests that have been made are not the only syndicate working in the area. Another problem at the moment is the number of fraud cases being opened by people buying things over the internet that are not legitimate. People must not respond to websites or e-mails if they do not have all the relevant information about that person or company.
7. **TREASURER'S REPORT**
Gail Moll presented the treasurers report. The opening balance for the CPF account was R1 526.00 and the closing balance was R1 526.00, there has been on movement on the account.
8. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
Ed once again welcomed and thanked all those present at the meeting and said it was encouraging to see so many people attending and hopes that the numbers can continue to remain so strong. Ed thanked Captain Khanyile for attending the meeting while he was on study leave. Ed welcomed and thanked all the staff from Town Hill SAP, those present from

the Cluster, Dog Unit, Highway Patrol and the Serious and Violent Crime Unit. We are in appreciation for the work that they do.

It is incredible that 2 years has passed since the last election.

It has been a rather unsettled two years for the CPF as Captain Naidoo was transferred left Town Hill SAP without a Captain. The late W/O Diamini was appointed Acting Station Commissioner before Captain Khanyle was permanently appointed as Station Commissioner. Ed has heard very positive comments about Captain Khanyle and Captain Khanyle can be seen at times patrolling himself in his Police vehicle.

Ed attends the weekly Monday morning meetings where all the crime for the previous week is discussed. The two major crimes for the Town Hill area have been the theft of motor vehicles and housebreakings. Housebreakings are obviously the most serious crime as they create danger for the occupants in their homes.

Over the last two years, there has been a variation of housebreakings taking place. There has been the original 5 minute gang, and more recently gangs that have copied the original gang's modus operandi, which crimes taken place, mostly, during the day and then the night break-ins.

There are two different groups of criminals:

1. Night break-ins are normally the local "boys", from informal settlements, who break-in and steal what they can carry.

2. The sophisticated 5 minute type gang, who arrive in luxury vehicles, they make sure a house in vacated before they enter, the ring the doorbell, if no one answers, they de-rail the driveway gate and smash the front door. They are in and out of the premises within 5 minutes, stealing electronic equipment, cash, jewellery and firearms. They are often hiring "hired cars" and using metered taxis in the evenings. A number of variety of cars have been seen leaving different crime scenes, from luxury vehicles, GTI Golf's, Audi's, Mercedes right through to a Fiat Pinto. This gang changes their vehicles all the time, so it is very difficult to catch them.

Ed stressed if you are not using your firearm and not planning to, please either sell it or take it to your local SAP and have it decommissioned.

Car thefts have drastically reduced. Since some positive arrests have been made for the theft of Fortuners and the Hilux Bakkies, there have been no reports of any of these two types of vehicles being stolen, recently.

What can be done about crime? Ed quoted some statistics of criminal activity in all different countries.

- It is impossible for any police force to place personnel on every street corner. Residents have to look after their own personal security. People must get involved on street level: Get involved in any security property proposed in your street, neighbourhood.
- Start sub-forums.
- Get to know your neighbours, they can alert you about any criminal activity in your neighbourhood and they can come to your assistance in time of need.
- Your strength in a time of need is the number of people who can come to your assistance.

- Get to know the SAP in your area.
- Educate your domestic workers about security, get them to wear a mobile panic button and make sure they know how to use it.
- Have a good look at your home security and improve where you can:
 - Get an alarm fitted
 - Switch your alarm on, even if you are just popping down to the shop.
 - If your dogs are barking, ask your security company to come and have a look around your property for you, do not go out yourself.
 - Have new employees vetted by the SAP. Take their ID book to the police station and have a security check done on them, checking for criminal records.
 - Don't allow strangers onto your property.
 - If you buy new electronic equipment, don't put the empty box on your pavement advertising that you have new electronic equipment!
- Create a sense of community, it is impossible for the SAP to protect us 24 hours a day.

What is the CPF? The CPF is here to create a bridge between the SAP and the community, to make sure the flow of information is free between the two. Having 20 000 pairs of eyes in the Town Hill area, scouting out for suspicious behavior, can greatly assist the SAP, no matter how trivial you may think the information is, it may be the last bit of information the SAP are needing to put a case together.

The CPF can only be effective if the relationship between the Community and the SAP is strong and Ed is very happy to report that we have a very good working relationship with Town Hill SAP and it is an effective tool in fighting crime.

Ed thanked the staff of Town Hill SAP, as well as the Town Hill CPF Committee members.

Ed has opened a Town Hill twitter account which address is @Townhill CPF. This is a very strong tool to disseminate information about security related issues taking place in the Town Hill area. Everyone is encouraged to join this twitter account. Two people attending the meeting volunteered to assist anyone needing help with setting up a twitter account.

Ed thanked all those personnel who were present from the Highway Patrol, Dog Unit and Serious and Violent Crime Units for the positive arrests of 3 people in possession of T.V etc. These suspects have been linked to house breakings in the Town Hill area.

This ends the meeting under the Chairmanship of Ed. Ed once again thanked Town Hill SAP for all the help they have given him.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

3 committee members

Ryan Thompson

Nominated by Shannon Berriman

Seconded by

Bev Lalor

Nominated by Ed Szudrawski

Seconded by Ann Rennie

Rob Chetty

Nominated by Ed Szudrawski

Seconded by Shannon Berriman

Treasurer

Gail Moll

Nominated by Ed Szudrawski

Seconded by Shannon Berriman

Secretary

Jean Davey

Nominated by Ed Szudrawski

Seconded by Shannon Berriman

Vice-Chairman

Derek Butler

Nominated by Ed Szudrawski

Seconded by Shannon Berriman

Chairman

Ed Szudrawski

Nominated by Jean Davy

Seconded by Rob Chetty

Questions:

How many housebreakings occur in complexes? Sergeant Naidoo informed the residents that both complexes and free standing houses have been targeted.

Are any profiles done on house-break-ins and car thefts e.g. where were the guards, which side did they enter from, did the resident have a dog etc? Inspector Pillay informed the meeting that each crime scene is visited to get all the relevant details about a crime and a profile of the criminal is made, but unfortunately this information cannot be given out to the public.

Jean Davy informed the meeting that the criminals are entering the Oak Park area from the overgrown stream. There is a big debate going on at the moment as some residents say if the bush is cut back, it will be easier for the criminals to enter and exit, while other residents feel they can hide in the bush and have a quick getaway after a crime has taken place.

Rob Chetty informed the meeting that he has a list of 80 % of the residents residing in Copson Close and they share information amongst themselves.

A resident from Braithwaite Road has a good relationship with her neighbor and the watch out for each other and their homes.

Stuart Howes asked about phoning 1011. He informed the meeting that should be a "jacked up" person answering the phone, not someone who can't speak your language properly and who doesn't understand what you are talking about. Captain Khanyle did advise that meeting that if 1011 is phoned from a cell phone, he is not sure whether it goes through to Hilton or not. If you phone 1011 from a land line in the Town Hill area, it will go through to Radio Control in Hilton, if they are busy, it will get through to the closest station to where you are phoning from. If you are not getting much help from the person answering the phone, always ask to speak to their supervisor.

A resident from the Chase Valley area asked if road blocks could be set up as there is only one entry and exit into the Chase Valley area. Ed informed the resident that road blocks have been set up; there was one on the 2nd of May near the Mall and one in Robert's Road this morning. Different operations have been put into place and this will be an on-going process.

There have been no reported violent crimes in the Town Hill area e.g. gang rapes, murders etc.

A resident suggested that a tracking device should be fitted to flat screen T.V sets for them to be tracked.

It is important to record your serial numbers of all your electronic equipment off site from your home, so if something is stolen, this will help the SAP tremendously in tracking these items to your crime scene.

Jean Davy asked what could be done about alarms that go off all day and for weeks on end. Unfortunately there isn't much that can be done, besides the security company contacting the own and informing them.

A question was asked whether security companies are involved with the SAP and CPF. Ed informed the meeting that there is an open invitation for any security company to attend any of the public meetings.

A resident informed the meeting not to become complacent about what you read in the newspaper. When it is reported that the "5 minute gang" has been arrested, this doesn't mean that there are no other gangs operating in your area.

Stuart Howes extended a vote of thanks to Ed, his committee and the SAP.

Ed encouraged all residents to please let us know whether you have anything bad or anything good to say about the SAP.

10. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.