

MINUTES OF THE TWELTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLARENDON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, HELD AT CLARENDON SCHOOL, ROBERTS ROAD, ON WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2019 AT 6 P.M.

Present: Rowan White Chairman
 Dylan Horn Treasurer
 Pam Read Secretary

And 115 residents

1. WELCOME :

Rowan welcomed everyone to the 12th edition of the Clarendon Community Association AGM for 2019. A special welcome was extended to Ross Strachan (Ward councillor), Captain Jeary (Station commander Townhill SAPS) W/O Wayne King (Townhill SAPS), W/O Van Zyl (Prestbury SAPS), Megan Nichol (Chairlady of the Townhill CPF), Jody Hollis (Chairman of the Prestbury CPF)

2. APOLOGIES:

Apologies received - 23

A Quorum was attained according to the constitution which states that whichever the greatest of either 10% of membership or more than 10 members establish a quorum. 115 members present

3. MINUTES FROM 12 SEPTEMBER 2018:

The AGM minutes for 2018 were adopted, proposed by Craig Sadler and seconded by Lee Calitz

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Rowan emphasized that as has become tradition, the AGM would be as concise and accurate as possible and everyone present was welcomed to enjoy some refreshments after the meeting closed.

Thanks was extended to previous committees of the CCA, in particular the previous Chairmen namely Phil Kretzmann and Rob Evans, and all contributing households. Clarendon was in a unique position to provide services to the entire community ranging from security, general neighbourhood cleanliness and pothole repairs as a result. We have become an unofficial urban improvement precinct or special rating area, affording us the ability to fulfil neglected municipal obligations and responsibilities, in order to ensure our safety is secured, our neighbourhood is presentable and that our investment in the area remains financially viable for the future.

Crime is a constant concern within all communities some certainly worse than others but that being said it is amazing what can be achieved when a community stands together and combines resources.

Clarendon has been very fortunate this year and we have been spared from a crime perspective by comparison to previous years and certainly within our policing precinct. Our security initiatives have had a serious impact, our boundaries have been secured, and all open areas have now been fenced off, we have motion cameras installed at vulnerable areas, Magma Armed Response circulates our streets day and night, all vehicles entering Clarendon are screened and recorded by SNIPR cameras, and our neighbourhood does not appear to be a target for sensible criminals.

Pam Read and her team work tirelessly to ensure that the common areas and gardens are maintained, litter collected and fence lines relatively free of weeds and overgrowth.

Rowan thanked Pam for all her hard work in the neighbourhood and mentioned that her vast influence and subtle hand in Clarendon being most evident when the aloes are in full bloom during the winter months. He also made mention of her being the backbone of the association and the key to the success that this association has achieved over the past 12 years.

Rowan thanked the treasurer, Dylan Horn for keeping all association finances in-check, Rob Van Heerden, who has been advertising the AGM with his signs at strategic points throughout the neighbourhood.

Rowan acknowledged all the other CCA committee members namely Jim Read, Greg Dreyer, Dion Curtis, Rob Evans, Derek Butler, Chris Withers, John Kassner, Mark Dent, Steve Crosly, Deidre Serfontein, Rouen Bruni, Marlene Daly who have all given so freely of their time to offer their input during meetings, decision making processes and in all the unseen duties affiliated with the Clarendon Community Association.

Thank you to Clarendon Primary School for the use of the school hall.

He extended gratitude to Athlone Circle's Pick n Pay (Conrad Thatcher) for supplying the snacks, Coffee Box (Con Malherbe) for supplying some outstanding coffee and to Hyde Park for supplying some platters.

Thanks was extended to Craig and Shelly Smith for their perseverance in ensuring that all street light faults are reported and attended.

He thanked Ross Strachan, our ward councillor, for his persistence and ever present hand in holding the municipality to account and for his support of the Clarendon community.

Rowan also thanked all the SAPS members from Townhill and Prestbury Police Stations, Captain Jeary, W/O Wayne King, W/O Van Zyl, Megan Nicol, the chairlady of the Townhill CPF, Jody Hollis the chairman of the Prestbury CPF. He reiterated the community's full support and gratefulness for the work that is done behind the scenes in keeping us safe bearing in mind all the adversity and challenges faced.

He thanked everyone for their attendance at the AGM, and mentioned that the support for the meeting justified the association's resolve to never give up and to persevere in ensuring that Clarendon remains one of the safest, brightest and cleanest suburbs in Pietermaritzburg.

5. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT:

Ross said it was fantastic to see such great support at the Clarendon AGM and it shows what community activity is all about. He went on to highlight the following:

Problem of the Landfill site: Doubt existed as to who is responsible for it and they are now being sued by Economic Development Department. Mismanagement and corruption is rife. He quoted examples of the valuation roll and the billing system and that staff are not trained to run with the new billing system. He is fighting for improvement and it is slowly coming right. Ross said we must fight the small battles and appealed to residents to do their bit. He is fighting the valuation roll and said he is confident we will win the battle.

Ottos Bluff Road, Hardingdale: Multi million rand houses have been built. This area was earmarked for agriculture but the politicians have secured sites for themselves and get free services.

Ross said there will be consequential management. The Hardingdale services are being stopped and it would be interesting to see the outcome.

Melanie Veness is a power house who is doing great work to assist with holding the municipality to account.

The Administrator is not really making a difference and it is because the municipality has got no money left. Section 71 Report is the current balance sheet and they won't show it. He said it will take about 5 years to get the municipality right and he is determined to get it right.

Mr Sithole, the Administrator, needs support.

Lorna brought in her dog Sasha which survived the snake bite as she particularly wanted to thank the amazing Clarendon community as well as Blackridge and Prestbury for the contributions towards the medical expenses. Ross said the generosity of Clarendon was particularly noticeable.

Ross wants to see things come right in the city and Clarendon has taken the bull by the horns.

We must do something to help the city – each and every one of us must make a difference. The decisions will affect the children of tomorrow.

Ubuntu – we all need to have the spirit and make the difference and help the authorities. We can make this city better and we must do it together.

He thanked Con for making a difference with his business ventures.

Jan Combrink asked if a high court declaratory order could be sought to ensure that services are paid for by occupiers of the land in Otto's Bluff and Hardingdale. Ross mentioned that legal opinion is being considered in this regard.

A member asked what accountability is taking place in the municipality and Ross said there is consequential management and various people are being charged.

Cynthia Stevens asked about the legal requirements for outside lighting and CCTV installation, potentially infringing on privacy and comfort. Rowan said he would look into the matter but that it would be neighbourly and courteous to just approach your neighbour with any concerns and resolve any disputes amicably.

Rowan thanked Ross for attending and for his informative report.

6. TOWNHILL SAPS - CAPTAIN JEARY

Captain Jeary said SAPS faces challenges on a daily basis.

He commended the Clarendon Community Association for their stance on crime as it helps the SAPS.

He welcomed W/O Sumay van Zyl from Prestbury and W/O Wayne King from Town Hill.

He shared the crime stats for the area and said it was due to efforts by the SAPS and the Clarendon Community Association that the stats are so positive. He encouraged residents to contact them if needed.

Town Hill have a staff of 37.

He said they look after Wembley and Oak Park as well and cannot concentrate on Clarendon only.

The question was asked why SAPS cannot stop the music at Alexandra Park. Captain Jeary said report it when it is out of control and they will assist wherever possible.

Captain Jeary said they have weekly meetings where progress is tabled. SAPS members know if they mess up they will be charged. He stressed that patrollers need to take care and in difficult situations should call the SAPS.

Captain Jeary thanked Clarendon community for their support.

7. MEGAN NICOLS

Megan said it is important to get involved in community initiatives and Clarendon is a leader and other neighbourhoods have modelled themselves on Clarendon.

She said they lost Sgt Ngcobo from the Town Hill station this year who was murdered and they had managed to raise R11 555 from the Town Hill precinct for the family. She thanked residents for their generous donations and this was to assist the family during this difficult time.

In April a Youth Desk was established comprising young adults from the ages of 14 – 35 years and is a sub-committee of the CPF. They are involved in drug awareness drives and many other projects. Megan asked if anybody in the Clarendon community wishes to join the Youth Desk, to please contact her. She said these young people should be encouraged to get involved.

She said they have lost a part of the police station due to the Athlone Circle development and it is making it very awkward for Captain Jeary and his team to operate.

The CPF meets once per month and have a public meeting every quarter. She encouraged everyone to attend some of the meetings and see what is going on in various suburbs as it is very important to stay in communication with each other. She said it would be good to get a turnout like tonight at their AGM.

She said the CPF ran a series of combined patrols in the Town Hill precinct and thanks to Clarendon for always being so willing to come on board. Megan said her husband owns a security company and has donated some panic buttons to vulnerable members of the community, the CPF has also invested in car magnets in order that patrollers can identify one another while out patrolling and these were sold to patrollers for R10 to recover CPF costs.

Clarendon community made a generous donation to the CPF account.

Ladies being attacked was of real concern and she urged vigilance especially if living alone.

She thanked SAPS for their dedication especially with the challenges they face. A detective retired in August and has not been replaced which has put a bigger workload on those remaining.

She said people must feel free to contact her and she appreciates the contribution by communities.

Rowan thanked Megan Nichol, and the CPF executive committee, for all their hard thankless work that has gone into reinvigorating the Townhill CPF, re-establishing the Townhill youth desk, and the support for Townhill SAPS station and members to keep crime and general security under control. Rowan also mentioned that Townhill CPF, under Meghan's leadership, has been very proactive with the future of our community safety well in hand and he encouraged residents to attend the monthly CPF meetings, where community members and SAPS members tasked with our neighbourhood security can interact.

8. FINANCIALS:

Dylan presented the Financial Statements which were adopted, proposed by Mike Summerlee and seconded by Jim Read.

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD PATROLS:

Rowan said that the nightly neighbourhood patrols had been placed on hold, a few months ago, in order that patrol fatigue be avoided, but emphasised that all patrollers were in contact should the need arise to support any Townhill Community Policing forum patrol initiatives or if there is a perceived spike in criminal activity. Magma currently fulfils the neighbourhood patrol role and unless required the men who once volunteered and sacrificed their own sleep time have been able to rest. He thanked Dion Curtis being in control of the neighbourhood patrol team.

10. CLARENDON CRIME STATISTICS:

Rowan presented some interesting stats with regards to crime when compared to previous years as well as a representation of the areas affected during 2019.

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Burglary residential	9	9	15	7
Robbery residential	1	2	0	1
Attempted burglary				2
Attempted theft	3	2	5	1
Armed robbery		2	4	
Theft		6	2	4

March	Burglary residential, Theft residential
April	
May	Theft residential
June	Theft residential, Burglary residential
July	Attempted hijacking, Burglary residential
	Burglary residential, Attempted burglary
August	Robbery residential GBH, Burglary residential
September	Attempted burglary,
October	Burglary residential, Burglary residential

11. SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Rowan reiterated what was said last year.

1. Please store all valuable items out of view preferably in the cupboards while sleeping or when away from home.
2. Alarms need to be armed when retiring to bed and when leaving house unoccupied
3. Early warning measures need to be installed and functional
4. Discuss with your security company about remote panic buttons.
5. Never exit house to investigate outside noises, notify your alarm company
6. Install CCTV cameras
7. Ensure there is adequate lighting around your house, ideally day/night LED globes.
8. Ensure inter-leading doors are locked when away from home to impede free movement through the house in the event of a burglary
9. Ensure verge is clear of any bottles, cans and other litter
10. Check on neighbours activated alarms & barking dogs
11. Tell your neighbours when you go away in order that they can monitor your property
12. Ensure boundary fencing is a sufficient deterrent especially if bordering conservancy
13. Report suspicious person's/vehicles on the security group
14. Keep copies of present and past employee identification documentation

12. WHATSAPP GROUPS:

Rowan advised muting the chat group. He also said that social media has become one of the greatest innovations of our time but unfortunately one of our greatest enemies with general etiquette largely ignored or just misunderstood and the emotional responses and indiscriminate forwarding of fake information may potentially divert understaffed policing resources, cause unnecessary panic or negatively impact social relations.

The WhatsApp chat group is a very useful and informative forum that if used appropriately is still very relevant. The group relies heavily on mature and responsible posting, he also mentioned that it was a community building group, and cautioned against engaging in debates around issues that would tarnish community cohesion, foster hostility or attempt to draw reaction. He said that all communities faced challenges, and certainly in Pietermaritzburg, but it required positive community engagement.

Rowan highlighted guidelines for this WhatsApp and social media in general, which would be published on the website for future reference.

WhatsApp Guidelines

Rowan mentioned the difficulty faced by group administrators in controlling chat groups and highlighted that the groups had been established to serve a useful purpose and being included on these groups was a privilege not a right, participation was voluntary and required patience.

Recommended:

- Keep the group relevant to community issues
- Street lights/Electricity/Fires
- Water
- Lost dogs/cats
- Contact details of service providers not available on the website

Advisable to:

- Extend any gratitude privately
- Not send data insensitive messages
- Not have one-on-one conversations in the group. Private message rather
- Check your sources before posting unverified information
- Ensure that you have the correct recipient for the intended message

Avoid

- Confrontational/insulting/condescending messages
- Graphic photos
- Opinions or airing grievances seeking a reaction
- Racism
- Religious or political views

In the event of an emergency or should medical assistance be required to please contact ambulance services, all details are available on the website.

He cautioned that any consistent transgressions will unfortunately result in removal from the group to protect the relevance of the forum and spare the other group members from the unnecessary messages.

When in doubt? Ask yourself 3 questions

Is this relevant?

Is this necessary?

Is this a good time to post?

The etiquette of social media interaction relies heavily on adult responsibility and respect.

If you are not able to say in person or display on a billboard what you are about to post, avoid putting it on social media!

13. TELEGRAM SECURITY GROUP

Rowan said that the Telegram Security group has been a very effective security forum and is being well respected, with Magma reacting very quickly to any alerts with appropriate feedback, with more than 340 residents linked. Telegram replaced the WhatsApp Security Groups negating the need of forwarding security information between 2 groups, as was the case previously, with Telegram accommodating more members. There were enquiries as to the lack of Magma input onto this group and not receiving notifications. This was attributed to the lack of criminal or suspicious activity within the neighbourhood necessitating alerts. Rowan advised to check that notifications were enabled in the Security App. He requested that should anyone want to be added to contact him directly.

14. MAGMA

Rowan said that there were currently more than are over 140 contracted homes, schools and businesses. He said that a dedicated Clarendon MAGMA vehicle patrolled 24/7/365 with 6 armed response officers rotating on night and day shifts.

Magma guards have intercepted a few suspects either loitering, for attempted theft or involved in a recent burglary all of whom were arrested and handed over to Townhill SAPS for processing. He said that Dewald Van Rooyen is the new Magma area manager and everything is operating very smoothly and efficiently under his leadership.

15. SNIPR CAMERAS

Rowan said that SNIPR cameras have replaced the old CCTV cameras, with the cost of the administration of the data base as well as the outlay for the specialised camera and SNIPR software all covered by the CCA. All number plates entering the neighbourhood are screened and should any plates have been flagged for criminal activity or stolen, alerts are transmitted via the SNIPR App. Magma Security bear oversight of the cameras and SAPS were notified for appropriate response.

Motion Camera

Rowan said that a motion camera had been installed to detect any movement from the botanical conservancy adjacent to 53 Villiers Drive, with still pictures distributed instantly to the Magma patrol phone, allowing the patrol team to intercept any suspects before they can target any homes from this area. There was a recent positive hit after an attempted burglary but the camera picked up the suspect leaving through this area, with his entry point unknown at this stage. He thanked Mike Summerlee for all the time spent setting up the motion camera.

16. MATTERS ARISING:

16.1. Street lights

Rowan emphasised that a safe neighbourhood is a well-lit neighbourhood. He asked that residents please check on and report faulty street lights outside individual property's and reference numbers be sent to Shelly Smith or himself in order that monthly bulk emails to all relevant senior management and Ross being able to follow up from his side. Rowan said that there had been a very good response to the emailing initiative and street lights were being repaired. A private contractor was contacted to restore power and replace a few bulbs to

the Roberts Road Bridge and he mentioned that with the lighting reinstated the bridge was hopefully a lot safer to navigate at night.

He emphasised that this would be an ongoing challenge that required persistence and a little effort from everybody and that the municipality could not attend to problems or faults that were not reported with reference numbers.

16.2. Litter

A recent newspaper article highlighted the huge problem the municipality faces with regards to litter. There has been a clean-up campaign organised by a very proactive private group within the city centre as well as at the university, but unfortunately there seems to be an ingrained belief that littering created employment and the general inconsiderate discarding of litter will require more clean up campaigns.

Rowan requested that while out walking in the neighbourhood, if everyone could take a packet with and collect any litter that may be found, and that it really made a huge difference to the general appearance of the neighbourhood.

He asked that employees were advised against littering. The view point is an ongoing challenge and visitors to this area do not seem cognisant of the impact of littering, and mentioned the indiscriminate discarding of bottles down the view point bank, together with cigarette butts and packets, and take away containers. The CCA employs a local man, Brian, to pick up litter in the neighbourhood which certainly made a difference but even if only 3 items of litter are collected by each walker, frequenting our neighbourhood would be a better experience for everyone.

The dump fire was an environmental disaster that had been looming for years, but we couldn't just blame the municipality mismanagement and we need to acknowledge that it is our litter that was burning. There was a petition that was being circulating on social media urging the municipality to move the landfill site and Rowan urged everyone to sign it. He said that the landfill issue is finally being addressed receiving attention from provincial and national structures, unfortunately to the detriment of the health of the residents of Pietermaritzburg.

The fire had raised some serious questions about the need for recycling to be reintroduced, and this would require an individual and collective effort, and everyone was encouraged to reconsider and revisit recycling where possible. Clarendon School were considering a recycling village in the future, but currently there was a recycling depot in Hilton that could be utilised. The major setback for previous recycling was the break down in the collection of recyclables and the lack of a sorting facility provided by the municipality.

Rowan asked for anyone passionate about recycling and having spare time to consider establishing a sub-committee to initiate a recycling initiative in Clarendon that might spread to other areas. He said that there was a young entrepreneur who had assisted in removing uncollected refuse and suggested contracting him, through the CCA, on a monthly basis to transport recycling from Clarendon to the Hilton depot. Rowan suggested publishing information on what can be recycled and how and what recyclable items need to be separated, on the website for reference. He asked that all interested person's contact Pam Read.

16.3. Potholes

Rowan said that the CCA had financed SEALCOAT to institute repairs to all potholes in the neighbourhood and that we were in the fortunate position due to all contributing households, and surplus funds were used for this project. He said that while this was a municipal responsibility, the committee had decided to institute these repairs as there was no clear indication that any pothole repairs would be conducted by the municipality, in the near future. He thanked each contributing home and said that the small monthly contributions made a huge difference and if more homes considered joining the CCA, we would be in a position to do so much more.

The invoice for the pothole repairs would be submitted to the financial officer at the municipality for reimbursement.

16.4. WATER LEAKS

Rowan emphasised that constant reporting of water leaks to management had yielded prompt repairs to some old leaks and a few new ones, but leaks needed to be reported timeously with reference numbers sent to Ross or himself for the bulk emails and for Ross to follow up. Water services managers were very efficient and when notified were able to mobilise plumbing teams to major water leaks very quickly.

16.5. WEBSITE

Rowan said that the Clarendon Community website had been completed and very beautifully designed; he encouraged residents to go onto the website for all details and insight into the functions of the association in Clarendon. He extended a big thank you to Bonny Thompson, for organising, designing and administrating this site. Should you want to advertise your business particulars, and are a CCA member, please contact her directly or through the website.

16.6. DEFORESTATION IN WORLD'S VIEW

Rowan said that the deforestation in the World's view conservancy had been noted with concern for the past year and most recently by a resident who happened to be riding in the plantations. Timber is being felled illegally in places and unsustainably with no replanting, rampant littering taking place, alien species invasion, poaching and serious erosion in various sites of the conservancy, due largely to off-road motorbikes. This appeared to be a huge problem around Blackridge, Boughton and Old Howick road in particular. The municipality was aware and was apparently setting up a formal forestry division with board members and other important people to deal directly with this issue to ensure sustainability. We as a community needed to maintain vigilance and apply pressure on the municipality, through our ward councillor, by emailing pictures of any forest damage, vehicles involved together with GPS co-ordinates while out walking, riding or driving.

An online petition was being investigated in order to incorporate other communities with similar concerns of the deforestation and hopefully the plantations could be either privatized or managed sustainably for the future. It was suggested that a subcommittee be established to bear oversight, and assist Ross to keep the pressure on the municipality. He asked that all interested person's to contact Chris Wither's after the meeting.

16.7. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

Rowan said that the CCA membership approval was required to formally make an amendment to section 1.7.3 of the constitution which required the addition of the word 'exempt' as is necessary for tax exemption and in compliance with the tax exempt unit's requirements.

1.7.3 On dissolution of the association, any assets held by the association shall be donated to another organization with objects similar to those of the association provided that the latter is itself exempt from income tax in terms of section 10(1)(cB)(i)(ee) of the Income Tax Act

He asked for all in favour to raise their hands. A majority of those present were in favour and the amendment approved.

17. CCA MEMBERSHIP

Rowan said that the CCA monthly fee had been maintained at R200 for the past 10 years, with Magma clients being discounted the Magma patrolling costs, in order to keep individual household security costs affordable. CCA membership is stable at about 56-57% but does fluctuate occasionally with people leaving the area, and he appealed to encourage neighbours who are not members or new neighbours to consider joining the CCA. Rowan also said that the neighbourhood, individual properties and our families would benefit in the future. He also said that with a lot of people contributing a little we are able to do a lot, but this requires a little from everyone.

18. COMMITTEE FOR 2020:

It was decided that the committee would remain unchanged for 2020

Chairman Rowan White

Secretary Pam Read

Treasurer Dylan Horn

CPF representatives – Rowan White and Jim Read

Committee: Rob Evans, Rob van Heerden, Marlene Daly, Chris Withers, Dion Curtis, Greg Dreyer, Steve Crosly, John Kassner, Mark Dent, Craig Smith, Derek Butler, Deirdre Serfontein and Rouen Bruni. Chris Norman requested to join and offered to assist with the lower part of Villiers Drive – Villiers Drive west.

Rowan thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 19h30.

CHAIRMAN:..... DATE:.....