

MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLARENDON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION HELD AT CLARENDON PRIMARY SCHOOL, ROBERTS ROAD, ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 6 P.M.

Present: Rowan White Chairman
 Dylan Horn Treasurer
 Pam Read Secretary

And 61 residents

1. WELCOME : Rowan welcomed everyone to the 11th Annual General Meeting of the Clarendon Community Association and extended a special welcome to Councillor Bill Lambert, Councillor Ross Strachan and W/O Wayne King
2. APOLOGIES : 23 Apologies were received
3. MINUTES OF AGM 2017: As these had been circulated they were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.
4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND FEEDBACK:
Crime is a constant entity in all our communities and if there is a positive that can be drawn from this, it is the unity that has developed across the racial and cultural spectrum within communities looking out for one another and working together with a common cause to fortify our neighbourhoods for the safety of our families.

Our security initiatives are certainly having an impact and crime has declined remarkably in Clarendon, our boundaries have been secured and all open areas have now been fenced off, the immense presence of the Magma patrol team who monitor our streets day and night, sporadic neighbourhood patrols being reintroduced, all vehicles entering Clarendon being screened through SNIPR technology together with a vigilant community, our neighbourhood is not an ideal target for sensible criminals.

Pam Read and her maintenance team have worked tirelessly to ensure that the aesthetics of our neighbourhood are maintained, fence lines are free of weeds and overgrowth and gardens are well-tended. Pam was thanked and acknowledged for being the backbone of the association and the key to the success we have achieved over the years.

CCA committee members : Jim Read, Greg Dreyer, Rob Evans, Derek Butler, Chris Withers, John Kassner, Mark Dent, Steve Crosly, Rob Van Heerden, Deirdre Serfontein, Marlene Daly, Dion Curtis, Craig Smith and Rouen Bruni were thanked for giving so freely of their time to offer their input during meetings and all the unseen duties affiliated with the Clarendon Community Association.

Clarendon Primary School was thanked for the use of the school hall, the new principal Mrs Kamal Maharaj has been a breath of fresh air and has been very supportive and engaging with the community. It would be great for our community to support Clarendon school fun-days, walks and other fund raising initiatives.

Craig and Shelly Smith were thanked for their relentless struggle with the municipality to keep our street lights operating and have yielded some recent success, but this is a never ending and frustrating responsibility.

SAPS members from Townhill and Prestbury SAPS, Megan Nicol, the Townhill CPF chairlady and the CPF were thanked for the support of the Clarendon community and affirmed the full support by the community for all the work that is done in keeping us safe bearing in mind all the daily challenges faced.

Feedback

Razor wire fencing between the mosque and 23 Villiers Drive, between 39 and 43 Villiers Drive, between the mosque and Jacaranda has been completed; palisade fencing at the end of Voortrekker Road, Dan Pienaar Rd, and Villiers Drive entry into World's view conservancy have been installed with the gates being locked at dusk and opened at dawn by the Magma officers.

K9 Fischer, the community sponsored police dog is doing well and has been ruthless in his work. The K9 fund, currently, is approximately R55000 which is available for the purchase of new dogs for the unit.

Speed humps in Kitchener, Villiers and Roberts Rd have been completed.

SNIPR cameras are installed and working well.

5. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT:

Councillor Ross Strachan presented his report.

He said the Clarendon community are working hard and collaborating with him to assist with the problems being experienced.

Recycling tariffs have been acknowledged as illegal and refunds have been promised to residents.

The recent delayed refuse collection on 4 September 2018 was the result of workers being unhappy with the brand of boots that were supplied to them, and the subsequent strike had political affiliations.

The recycling depot at the Prestbury municipal dump had unfortunately deteriorated into a refuse site, and was subsequently closed down.

Missing Prestbury child. Thanks to the Clarendon community for distributing the information pertaining to the young girl's disappearance and in particular who heeded the call for help with donations of food, as this brought some desperately needed community unity around a common cause.

Street lights: Thank you to Craig and Shelley for their tireless efforts in keeping the street lights working with recent repairs being undertaken.

Disconnections: They are illegal as 14 days' notice needs to be given. No unauthorised unmarked vehicles are permitted, and if no identification is produced then no access should be granted. Should there be any unauthorised access to your property, it is trespassing and camera footage is required for legal action to be taken. Melanie Veness and J Leslie Smith & Co have issued a legal warning to the municipality in this regard.

Esther House. Ross stressed that we are not opposed to the safe house in the neighbourhood but expressed concern with the daily management of the facility. Security issues have arisen as husbands and boyfriends pursue the ladies at the facility, and children are being harshly disciplined. A petition will be circulated shortly to ascertain the way forward, bearing in mind that the direct neighbours are the worst affected and are obviously the most concerned.

The city has faced some major scandals and has been racked by considerable corruption.

Municipal Manager – Sizwe Hadebe has officially been suspended and an independent investigator has been appointed to investigate all mismanagement.

His appointment as municipal manager was irregular, 2 voice clips have been circulating exposing his affiliation with and taking instructions from senior politicians with regards to the municipal employment of friends and the purchase of a farm earmarked for the establishing of a cemetery for an overinflated price of R23 million. The criteria for the project were not met and the subsequent purchase was approved for only 40% of the property, at the same price.

SAP Billing System was awarded to 'Lipsit' and R6 million authorised for the project, with funds being invoiced by KPMG through 'sundries' to hide the expense.

Woodlands Ward 32 councillor, Clive Lotz, elected as a DA representative but 'bought' by the ANC and allocated a position at the Speakers Office, with a R40 000 monthly salary, but yet to work a single day since his promotion.

In order for a municipality to run effectively, there needs to be political stability, but unfortunately we have a situation of City Capture with different factions vying for control of the city's finances.

In conclusion he said we must keep up the pressure as a community, it gives him hope, and together we must work harder to bring the city back to what it should be. He said it is great to have a community such as Clarendon that is so involved.

Rowan thanked Ross for his hard work in holding the municipality to account for all the community related issues, amidst dealing with all the other municipal challenges.

6. SAPS REPORT :

W/O King presented his report:-

He said some crime is down for the Townhill sector by comparison with 2017, burglary residential in particular by 25%, and mention was made of the collaboration of security companies, communities and SAPS working together which has yielded great success, SAPS is grateful for the community involvement. Carjacking incident at 60 Roberts Rd, vehicle was found and returned to the owner on the same night.

Roberts Rd Bridge: There is a new principal of Voortrekker School, Mr Anton Immelman, and he appears interested in working with the community and Pmb West Bowling Club to secure the bridge areas.

Magma standing off at the bridge in the morning and evenings appears to have made a big difference in reducing crime.

Old age homes: SAPS will investigate, check and advise on their security. Wayne said Captain Jeary expressed his thanks to the Clarendon community for their help.

7. CPF REPORT :

Rowan presented on behalf of Megan Nichol

At the AGM October 2017, Megan Nichol was elected as the new chairperson of the Townhill CPF, with representation throughout the Townhill precinct, James Martin Vice-chairperson; Siobahn Redinger, secretary; Melika Singh, treasurer; Bruce Williams, Dereck Lawson and Rowan White. The CPF committee held a year end braai for the Townhill SAPS members which was a great success and useful team building exercise. Through donations from the Clarendon, Athlone and Montrose sub forums, "do's and don'ts while away on holiday" flyers were financed, printed and distributed together with Easter eggs as an awareness 'Easter campaign'. There has been an increase in property related crime, during August in the Townhill precinct, in particular homes adjacent to the N3, complexes and homes adjacent to vacant land, bush or forest. A joint anti-crime operation was held on 16 August 2018, in collaboration with Townhill SAPS, private security companies and neighbourhood watches from the Athlone, Wembley, Chase valley, Montrose and Clarendon areas, very successful and no crime was recorded on that particular day. Vehicles attempting to cross the border with stolen motorcycle and bicycles were intercepted through community and SAPS partnership, gratitude to all involved. Please remember to report any crime to SAPS in order that crime patterns and activity can be monitored by CID. Well done to the CCA for leading the way in the Townhill precinct, you have done an amazing job in Clarendon and we are proud to have you work alongside the CPF. Megan Nichol, Chairperson, Townhill CPF.

8. FINANCIALS :

Dylan presented the Financials which are in a very healthy state.

They were proposed for adoption by Craig Sadler and seconded by Ivan Scholtz. Rowan thanked Dylan for all the work he puts into the smooth running of the association's finances.

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD PATROLS:

Rowan reported on behalf of Dion Curtis

Patrols are ongoing, but random allowing for the element of surprise while eliminating the possibility of defined trends being established. A special mention to Dave Edwards who has been an active patroller since the inception of the neighbourhood watch initiative, he is now over 80 years old, has withdrawn from patrolling and entering semi-retirement. The patrols undoubtedly made a contribution to reducing crime and all the active patrollers were thanked for their efforts. A recent joint anti-crime operation with Townhill CPF took place on 16 August 2018, covering Clarendon, Montrose, Athlone, Wembley and Chase Valley, in collaboration with Townhill SAPS, sector neighbourhood watches and security companies. This was a very successful effort with more possibly planned for the future. He thanked Dion Curtis for all the hard work arranging the patrols and keeping the initiative operating.

10. CRIME STATS AND SECURITY :

Rowan showed a slide of the crime stats.

Burglary residential has decreased considerably and Clarendon accounted for 5 of the 128 reported property crimes in the Townhill sector and 2 of 120 reported in the Prestbury sector. All houses that were affected, bordered the Taunton Rd stream, conservancy or Botanical gardens and entry and exit points were predominantly from these areas. Mugging on the Roberts Rd Bridge is a concern but Townhill SAPS are aware and together with the CCA, Magma and Voortrekker School, efforts are being considered to secure this area. Attempted burglary and theft was slightly increased from previous years with 4 and 3 cases being recorded respectively in Clarendon. 1 carjacking recorded and subsequent recovery of vehicle and arrest of suspects. Please report all crime to the relevant SAPS station.

11. WHATSAPP GROUPS:

WhatsApp groups make an enormous contribution and are highly effective means of communication that needs to be kept relevant avoiding inconsiderate and irresponsible messaging.

Potential hoax messages without verification are discouraged as this can cause unnecessary panic in the community and divert scarce SAPS resources to investigate these reports.

Please take special note of the shoes and pants worn by a suspect when posting an alert, as multiple jackets are often worn so as to divert any security identification.

The security groups are restricted to security only, bearing in mind that the Magma patrol phone is linked to these groups in order that they may react to any alerts.

The chat group is a fantastic forum for the exchange of useful information and caution and respect needs to be observed, when posting large unnecessary messages that potentially use up valuable data.

12. MAGMA :

Rowan introduced the Magma staff who were present and thanked them for their efforts in reducing crime in the area. Over 130 homes are now directly contracted in Clarendon with alarm activations, directly received by the patrol phone and together with the 24/7/365 patrolling there is a massive deterrent to crime in the area.

Magma holds vigil at the Roberts Rd Bridge before, during and after shift change, keeping an eye on Clarendon staff to and from work. The bridge remains a challenge, staff and residents are discouraged from walking in this area alone.

Magma guards have intercepted multiple suspects either loitering in the neighbourhood or with criminal intent, appropriate action being applied.

The most recent arrest happened on 5 September 2018, where the Magma guards arrested one of the most wanted house breaking suspects in PMB attempting to offload stolen items, leading to the arrest of a Malawian national, and recovery of other stolen items at a property in town.

A very big thank you to all the armed response officers stationed in Clarendon, some of the most professional, dedicated and fearless men, an asset to the company and a great source of comfort knowing that they are at hand in the event of an emergency.

13. SNIPR :

The SNIPR number plate recognition cameras are working well and have replaced the old CCTV cameras outside 205 Villiers Drive, 53 Taunton Rd and 60 Roberts Rd. The data base administration fee of R599 inclusive of VAT per camera/month and the initial outlay for the specialised cameras and SNIPR software are covered by the CCA. All number plates entering the neighbourhood are screened and all persons linked to the Clarendon SNIPR App receive alerts should any plates being flagged as stolen or involved in criminal activity enter the area. SAPS are notified for appropriate response.

14. MATTERS ARISING :

Rowan said he has a copy of the Municipal Bye-Laws pertaining to Municipal services should anyone require a copy.

Disconnection of Electricity

The municipality have intensified their efforts in order to collect much need revenue and there have been a spate of disconnections at inopportune times and often illegally, and the new SAP billing system is creating massive problems.

Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy 2017/18 (adopted/approved by the full Council on 1 June 2017)

6. *Metering of Municipal services*

6.8 The owner or occupier of premises in this municipality must give an official of this municipality, [who must clearly identify him/herself by either a letter of appointment signed by authorised person of the Municipality or a Municipal Identification card or a clearly marked vehicle confirming the relationship with the Municipality] or any representative of a service provider authorised by the Municipality, access to the premises at all times in order to:

d) Disconnection of supply for fault finding purposes and for operational reasons;

12. *Queries in respect of accounts*

12.2 In the event of an account holder providing reasonable grounds as a basis (in writing) for a query on any item or items on the municipal account, no action shall be taken against the account holder provided the account holder has paid, by due date, an amount equal to the monthly average of the three most recent undisputed accounts in respect of the service in dispute

13. *Disconnection/Restriction of services*

13.1 The Municipality is obliged to issue any final request notices or other reminders to customers whose accounts are in arrears, prior to disconnection in terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 (Act No.3 of 2000) in so far as possible.

13.2 The account, if in arrears for 30 days or more, shall reflect a message warning of disconnection.

In the event of a disconnection team being dispatched to your home:

Vehicle displaying Municipality logo & official uniforms

- 1 Valid municipality identification
- 2 14 day warning of disconnection
- 3 Official authorisation to disconnect
- 4 Correct property address and billing details
- 5 Manager details responsible for dispatching disconnection team

In the event of unmarked vehicles & civilian clothing

- SAPS verification and clearance

Unless the above criteria are met it would be advisable for your own safety not to grant access to your property.

Useful email addresses for

Billing: billing@msunduzi.gov.za, 033 3922980,

Water meter submissions: meter.readings@msunduzi.gov.za, 033 3922980,

Reconnections: paymybill@msunduzi.gov.za, 033 3922663 / 033 3923062

Billing Problems : Please WhatsApp Ross Strachan and he can then immediately forward any queries to Marlin Hoskins

15. RECYCLING

The eco-brick initiative has been adopted by many schools around PMB and something to consider for all plastic waste, Clarendon School are considering recycling as a future school project with a recycling depot possibly being set up on the school grounds.

16.CCA MEMBERSHIP :

Rowan appealed to everyone to encourage neighbours and non-members to consider joining the CCA, as the control of the neighbourhood, the security of our properties and ultimately the safety of our families is paramount. He stressed that numbers are slightly down compared to last year and this may be due to people having moved out of the area.

17. COMMITTEE 2018 : It will remain the same

Chairman – Rowan White

Treasurer – Dylan Horn

Secretary – Pam Read

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

Rowan said if anybody wishes to join the committee, they would be very welcome.

18. GENERAL:

18.1. Walking Dogs: Municipal Bye-Laws stipulate that dogs be on leashes when walking through residential areas, especially if they are uncontrolled and pose a danger to other dogs and people

18.2. Street lights: A big thank you to Shelley Smith, repairs have recently been undertaken.

- 18.3. Potholes: Ross said there is a new supervisor allocated to this area and hopefully it will improve. Rowan will provide a report on all potholes that require attention.
- 18.4. Website: Bonny Gray Thompson is busy setting this up. CCA members wishing to advertise their business can do so through the website. Please email all details to bonnygraythompson@gmail.com.
- 18.5. Letter from a resident living next door to Ester House, concerns have been raised about children being beaten/disciplined by their mothers in the safe house, resulting in unnecessary screaming and noise especially over weekends, which is counter to the purpose of this home. We are not in opposition to this place of safety but stricter management and control needs to be exercised. If anyone would be interested in getting involved or assisting in this regard, please contact Rowan.
W/O King said a Sgt Rico is affiliated with Esther House.
- 18.6. Speeding in Roberts Road. This issue has been raised at CPF meetings but we will be raised with the Traffic Department at the next CPF meeting. There is an option of a speed bump in this area.
- 18.7. Cordwalles Road. It was mentioned that this is now being used as a main thoroughfare, with residents unable to exit their driveways in the mornings. Rowan said he will raise this at the next Town Hill CPF Meeting.
- 18.8. A WhatsApp message requesting donations and support in order to challenge the municipality was being circulated. Ross said residents should exercise caution as the build up to the 2019 elections may generate many of these controversial messages and groups.
- 18.9. A resident questioned if the rot in the municipality is being resolved. Ross said that there is an acting municipal manager and we should give her our full support bearing in mind the challenges she faces and intimidation tactics that are being used to destabilize any changes that are required. We must keep the pressure on the municipality and this must come from the communities.

Rob van Heerden on behalf of everyone present, said the success of the CCA is due to Rowan's leadership and thanked him for all that he does.

Rowan thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

19.CLOSURE: There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19h13

CHAIRMAN:.....
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DATE: