MINUTES OF THE 17TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLARENDON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION HELD AT CLARENDON PRIMARY SCHOOL, ROBERTS ROAD, ON THE 9TH OCTOBER 2024

PRESENT:	Rowan White	Chairman
	Dylan Horn	Treasurer
	Pam Read	Secretary

Jim Read, Derek Butler, Mark Dent, Rob Evans, Marlene Daly, Noel Thompson, Karen Rosenberg, Chris Withers and Craig Smith

82 residents

1. Welcome

Rowan welcomed everyone to the 17th Annual General Meeting of the CLARENDON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION. He extended a warm welcome to Darryl Schoeman, the new Town Hill CPF Chairman, Kevin Watt, Prestbury CPF Chairman and his team and the Mi7 and AET representatives who were present.

A quorum as stipulated by the CCA Constitution was no less than 10% of the total membership or not less than 10 members, whichever is the greater, which was achieved.

2. Apologies: 20 Apologies were received.

3. Minutes of the Clarendon Community Association AGM held on 11th October 2023

He mentioned that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 11 October 2023 were circulated after the AGM in 2023, and on the Telegram Chat group and were also readily available on the Clarendon community website. The Minutes were proposed for acceptance.

Proposer: Jim Read
Seconder: Mark Dent

4. Ward councillor feedback

Rowan read out the ward councillor's report:

Good evening Clarendon Community,

Firstly I'd like to apologize for missing my first CCA meeting due to unforeseen but important business.
We have been visited by National & Provincial COGTA today and we started late (African time).
I'd start by thanking the CCA executive for always being supportive and understanding in the hourly challenges we face as a Municipality
In particular, Rowan, who is the City Manager of Clarendon and continues to communicate and support myself as the Ward Councillor.
I may not always get it right, but I persevere as best as the situation allows.
For the first time ever, Council rarely has any opposition. What we propose is mostly supported. So progress is being made.
Life after elections

Many South Africans have felt a sense of stability after the anxiously anticipated May General Elections this year.

A result that has shaken the ground in terms of South African Politics, a watershed moment that could cause the realignment of the Political landscape in this country.
For many it has shown a clear loyalty to their social identity, their culture and heritage. For many it has created a clear distinction between the centre, the right and the left of the Political spectrum.
Conservatives, radicals and liberals have been separated through an aggressive campaign. A campaign for a new government that would strive to finally give the masses economic freedom and equality.
KwaZulu-Natal being a focal point after a few years of absolute turmoil under the imploding ANC government. With Service Delivery literally collapsing local government and corruption eating at the very foundations of our democracy.
It has left a barren wasteland of urban decay in all major cities and towns across the province. Basic services like water & electricity have become non-existent in parts, rapid infrastructure failures are visible to the naked eye, and lawlessness thrives in an environment created by anarchists.
The Capital City, the "City of Choice" being a bedlam of a Municipality, has gone from one of the most attractive economic hubs, to a disgraceful shell of a city.
Investment at an all-time low, and an aura of depression that sweeps across its communities due to a failed state.
The people of Msunduzi needed hope after this election, the people need to feel positive about the future of their livelihoods. These are the fundamental questions that are on the tips of every resident's tongue.
Anger, outrage, and disharmony on Community Social Media Platforms. Social disparities and villainism seem to be at the top of the agenda on every WhatsApp group.
Character assassinations have now become blasé, in a sense that stumbles the imagination, that people can be so disrespectful to one another, especially people you've never met.
We need to go back to our values and principles; we need to rediscover "ubuntu" in its true definition. No one was born bad, our own decisions led by our circumstances created that narrative or attitude.
One good man, one good deed and one great decision can make or break the following, that that narrative will traject.
We need to promote positivity, and we need to support those individuals that carry the weight of those who cannot speak for themselves and those who want better futures for themselves and this Country.
The Political Tyrants have been humbled, those that sway right must move right, those that sway left must move left, those that remain in the centre (the vast majority of South Africans) must stay resolute.
There is hope after elections, there is a realignment that has started to unfold. It's happened Nationally, it's happened Provincially, and it will happen locally.
We will continue to strive for better, we will continue to support and work with those who strive for the same.
Cut out the background noise that causes obstructions, let's get this City back on its tracks.

ROSS STRACHAN

Caucus Leader
Democratic Alliance
Msunduzi Municipality

5. Townhill CPF feedback

A community Policing Forum is a critical link between the community and the local SAPS. EXCO Meetings are held monthly and the chairman or member of the CPF attends weekly meetings with the station commander and his staff.

Darryl Schoeman is in Real Estate and, in a voluntary capacity, stands as the Town Hill Community Policing Forum Chairman.

Rowan welcomed Darryl Schoeman who then presented his report:

Darryl welcomed the opportunity to say a few words.

The CPF is working closely with SAPS to address the crime and in our area we have had good success with reducing the crime. He stressed that every crime needs to be reported to SAPS which affects their crime stats. It also affects the allocation of cars, materials, etc. to the station and that is why every crime needs to be reported.

Cyber-crime is a major concern and quite a few residents have lost money as a result. He cautioned people to be very careful and not to respond to telephone calls and messages. These criminals are very clever and very convincing. They will ask one to view and respond to an OTP and this could be the method by which they get access to one's bank account. If in any doubt, cut the call. Banks will never ask for personal details, pin number and passwords. Calls are often to alert a person of an illegal transaction taking place. He related how he himself nearly got scammed by a phone call.

He stressed the importance of communities working together with the CPF.

6. Chairman's Report

Rowan said that it is so nice to see everyone and thanked everyone for their attendance. He thanked all the contributing households in the Clarendon area, without whom the CCA would not be able to fulfil all the duties of the association and attend to all the neglected municipal obligations and responsibilities, together with the safety and security needs of the community. He thanked Clarendon Primary School for availing the school hall and projector for the AGM.

Rowan said that crime has been consistent but quieter than in previous years and has been showing some very interesting trends but cautioned against becoming complacent particularly in these trying economic times, together with the approach of Christmas.

He said that thermal and motion sensor camera installations were working well, with the latest being outside Crestview flats where 2 motion sensor cameras monitor the conservancy below the flats off Roberts Road. These camera placements have been strategically placed to curb any incursions from the railway conservancy which was previously identified as the main entry point to break into the flats and homes in that area. Magma recently intercepted a suspect behind the flats at 14-18 Roberts Rd, after receiving a notification from the camera positioned off Cordwalles Drive, across the road from Riverwood College.
He said that potholes were an ongoing challenge especially with the rainy season approaching, and a budget had been established to institute these repairs if the road is left unattended by the municipality and particularly if the potholes were becoming dangerous. This was a limited budget, so repairs needed to be strategically considered in terms of what repairs needed to be prioritised. He thanked Rob Evans and Noel Thompson for heading up this portfolio.

Rowan thanked Pam Read, for keeping the association running and relevant, and to her team, Xolani, Paulina and Patrick, for maintaining our common areas and gardens, collecting litter and rehabilitating the mess left by the municipality after water pipe repairs. The aloes that flower every winter in Clarendon have mostly been planted and tended by Pam and her team, will be a mark of her legacy in the neighbourhood forever.

He thanked Kevin Cockcroft for assisting Pam with all the neighbourhood maintenance needs, ensuring that the staff are fully equipped, hydrated and fed, enabling them to tend to the Taunton Rd bank, in Wembley, and Villiers Drive Lookout point, among other areas.

Rowan thanked REMAX Midlands for sponsoring the labour costs for maintaining the Taunton Rd embankment upward from Tanner Rd. Patrick can be seen hard at work every Wednesday.
He thanked Haloprop for sponsoring the maintenance of the Villiers Drive Lookout area and the garden at the Taunton Rd and Fettes intersection.

He thanked Dylan Horn for keeping all the association finances in-check.

He thanked all the committee members namely Jim Read, Dion Curtis, Rob Evans, Derek Butler, Chris Withers, Brett Croeser, Chris Norman, Mark Dent, Noel Thompson, Rouen Bruni, Marlene Daly, Karen Rosenberg who have all given so freely of their time to offer input during committee meetings, decision making processes and all the unseen duties affiliated with the smooth running of the Clarendon Community Association.

7. Financials

7.1 Approval of financial statements

Dylan presented the Clarendon Community Association Financials and they were proposed and seconded for adoption.

Proposer : Rob Evans
Seconder : Craig Smith

8. Matters arising

8.1 Streetlights

Rowan said that a monthly street light fault report is filled in on a template by the Magma patrol team while out on patrol and is shared on the Chat group, for reporting reference numbers. He recommended that everyone check on this report and report faulty streetlights outside of their respective property and share the reference numbers which can then be submitted with the report. He indicated that he had only received reference numbers for upper and lower Villiers Drive and Wavell Drive.

8.2 Litter

Rowan said that litter remains an ongoing challenge, he urged everyone to ensure that their verges were clear of litter and while out walking to please try and collect at least 3 items of litter that may be lying around and discard in the bins. He said that the pick-up areas outside the neighbourhood schools are a constant challenge and visitors to the viewpoint are discarding a large amount of litter that is constantly having to be collected by the CCA team. He asked everyone to request that their domestic workers and gardeners not to discard litter and rather use the bins that are available.

8.3 Potholes

Pothole repairs have been intermittently instituted throughout the year, and the CCA sign has been painted over each repair. He thanked Noel Thompson and Rob Evans for their input and Duzi Asphalting for the excellent repair work.

8.4 Water leaks

Rowan said that we had fortunately been spared too many water issues for the past year, but repairs have generally been instituted timeously by the Water Department and a note of thanks to Ross for assisting with escalating the urgency of the latest burst outside 75 Villiers Drive. While repairs were conducted very efficiently, there was a massive amount of water lost with the unfortunate delay due to the pipe being an Umgeni bulk supply line which needed to be turned off by Umgeni Water before repairs could commence.

8.5 Recycling

Rowan thanked Karen Rosenberg for spearheading this portfolio, he said that Musa had been collecting recycling consistently every Tuesday, and if you had not already started to recycle, he urged reconsideration as it eased the pressure on the landfill site, but also made clearing the waste much easier in the event of a municipal strike. He said that tetrapacks, polystyrene and glass can be delivered to Jim and Pam Read and are delivered to Wildlands, at the Hilton Quarry Centre. Should you require the list of all recyclable items that Musa collects, look at the Telegram Chat group where Karen publishes on a regular basis.

9. Clarendon Crime statistics

Rowan said that we are in a very fortunate position where we have 3 prominent security companies that patrol and stand-off in the Clarendon area, and who monitor the Telegram Security group, namely Mi7, AET and MAGMA.
He said that we had recorded 17 residential burglaries since the AGM in October last year, 15 were either complexes or flats and notably none were contracted to an armed response company or had any security measures in place. He encouraged residents who do not have an armed response company to seriously consider contracting one of these companies as they have made a massive impact to the crime in our area. He urged residents to pay special attention to the security recommendations.

He said that we have definitely seen a decline in reported crime over the past 5 years and stressed the importance of reporting all crime to SAPS, in order that SAPS resources can be deployed to the appropriate areas.

He presented the comparative crime schematic for October 2022-October 2023 and October 2023 – October 2024

17 Residential burglaries

8 Residential theft
3 reported attempted burglary
2 motor vehicle stolen
2 attempted motor vehicle theft
1 Fatality

10. Security recommendations

Store all valuables in a safe place and out of sight from windows
Ensure your alarm is armed while sleeping or away from home, test it regularly
Early warning measures, such as beams, Roboguards or motion sensor cameras, should be installed and functional
Discuss remote panic buttons with your security company
Never exit your property to investigate noises outside, always contact your security company
Ensure that there is adequate lighting around your house
Ensure that inter leading doors are locked when away from home to restrict free access in the event of a burglary
Ensure your verge is free of any litter
Check on neighbour's alarm activation and barking dogs
Advise your neighbours when you are away from home
Ensure your boundary fencing is a sufficient deterrent, especially if you live adjacent to a conservancy
Report any suspicious vehicles or behaviour
Keep documentation of all past and present employees

Online Fraud is the most reported crime at Town Hill SAPS currently.

Never click on any unidentified links emailed or shared with you
Never give away any OTP numbers, no matter how convincing the person may be
Never give away any personal details over the phone
Never release payment until you are in possession of the item
Purchases off Gumtree and Facebook marketplace are discouraged
Never release an/ item until money has cleared in your account or you have cash in hand

11. Telegram groups

Rowan said that we have 2 community groups that have been restricted to contributing homes/residents only.

Security 518
Chat 517

12. Thermal and motion sensor cameras

Rowan said that thermal and motion sensor cameras have been gradually installed at strategic points throughout the neighbourhood to monitor areas that have been identified as previous incursion points. The most recent motion sensor camera installation was outside Crestview flats off Roberts Rd, the area behind Holland Hill and Crestview has been cleared allowing direct line of sight for the cameras.

He said that the motion sensor camera monitoring the stream between the Willows and Eldorado flats, and the 35 mm thermal camera monitoring the Villiers Drive Conservancy have successfully picked up suspects who were intercepted before they had the chance to initiate a burglary.

He explained how the system works by a notification received on the Magma patrol phone, the response officers can then tap on the relevant camera and are able to access a live view from that camera and initiate the appropriate response. The Magma RO's commonly standoff near Hyde Park Superette where they are in constant Wi-Fi range and can pick up any Telegram or camera alerts instantly.

Rowan presented a camera view from the 2 motion sensor cameras that are mounted next to 53 Villiers Drive, below Hilltops, facing in opposite directions, monitoring the area bordering the botanical gardens where previously access was gained to break in to properties in Lancelot Place, Davey Close and lower Villiers Drive.

2 motion sensor and 1 thermal camera, monitor the conservancy behind 25 Villiers Drive, this area is just out of the 35 mm thermal camera range and sight.

1 motion sensor camera monitoring the stream behind the flats off Roberts Rd and Cordwalles Drive, across the road from Riverwood College.

35mm thermal camera mounted on the roof at 51 Villiers Drive, monitoring the entire Villiers Drive conservancy.

2 motion sensor cameras monitor the Railway conservancy behind Crestview and Holland Hill Flats

13. CCA Membership

Rowan said that the CCA membership is sitting at just over 56% of the neighbourhood, he encouraged residents who do not subscribe to the association to reconsider. If we all give a little, we can do so much!

Rowan said that he wanted to acknowledge Dion Curtis who has decided to step down this year after many years of service to Clarendon. Dion Curtis was instrumental in organising and administrating the original neighbourhood watch patrols back in 2014, was intimately involved in the original negotiations with armed response companies and has played an integral hand in the evolution of the neighbourhood patrolling and security initiative that we enjoy today. Dion was at the forefront during the July 2021 unrest and barely had any sleep over this period but ensured that the neighbourhood was protected at all costs. Rowan said that Dion's objectivity, wisdom, experience and commitment will be sorely missed, and extended our gratitude to his selfless service to Clarendon and wished him well in his future.

14. Committee 2025 : The following committee was elected :-

Chairman	Rowan White
Secretary	Pam Read
Treasurer	Dylan Horn
CPF representative	Jim Read / Rowan White
	Rob Evans,
	Chris Norman
	Marlene Daly
	Chris Withers
	Brett Croeser
	Noel Thompson
	Mark Dent
	Craig Smith
	Derek Butler
	Rouen Bruni
	Karen Rosenberg

In closing Derek Butler proposed a vote of thanks to Rowan for the tremendous effort he puts into the CCA. He is a busy person but always finds time to deal with CCA matters.
He thanked Dylan for keeping tabs on the association's finances.
He also thanked Jim and Pam for their continued support.

15. Closure:
There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 18h49.

CHAIRMAN:…….. DATE:……..