

MINUTES OF THE 19TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLARENDON
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION HELD AT CLARENDON PRIMARY SCHOOL ON
WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2026

PRESENT:	Rowan White	Chairman
	Dylan Horn	Treasurer
	Pam Read	Secretary

Committee Members : Jim Read, Marlene Daly, Noel Thompson, Karen Rosenberg, Chris Norman and Craig Smith,

Plus 89 residents.

1. WELCOME: Rowan welcomed everyone to the 19th AGM of the Clarendon Community Association. He extended a warm welcome to our ward councillor Ross Strachan, Dante Kemp, Shadrach Karien Mi7 CEO and Ant and Sue Stratford. 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 ensuring that Clarendon remains one of the safest and well managed neighbourhoods in Pietermaritzburg. He thanked Clarendon Primary School and Lynda White the current principal who was present at the meeting, for availing the school hall, to Hayden Spencer and his team for ensuring that the hall was ready, audio and projector prepared, to Mel from Hyde Park for the snacks that were prepared for the evening. A quorum as stipulated by the CCA Constitution shall be no less than 10% of the total membership or not less than 10 members, whichever is the greater, which was achieved with 97 residents in attendance.

2. APOLOGIES: 23 Apologies were received.

3. MINUTES OF 18TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE 15TH OCTOBER 2025: The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 15th October 2025 were circulated after the AGM last year, on the old Telegram Chat group and again on the newly formed Clarendon WhatsApp chat group and they were also readily available on the Clarendon community website - www.clarendoncommunity.com. He enquired if there were any objections or amendments, of which there were none, and assumed as read. Rowan mentioned that there was a minor amendment to the Agenda with an extra item about hunting dogs that was added under general.

Proposer Ilan Lax

Seconder Jim Read

4. WARD COUNCILLOR: Rowan welcomed Ross Strachan, our Ward Councillor, who reported as follows :-

Ross said it is good to be in Clarendon as it is his 9th AGM as he has served the community for 10 years since 2016.

Glenn set a lot of groundwork as he was a Councillor for 15 years. I couldn't have made it without help from Rowan, Jim and Pam

Clarendon is the most established community in Pietermaritzburg with a commitment of its members and getting issues done.

July unrest has been a benchmark for active citizenship and therefore a prime example of keeping the area safe.

He said it is a special night for him as he will no longer be ward councillor as he will be in caucus and PR councillor and feels he has given his best to Ward 26. He is handing over to Dante Kemp.

Ward 26 is a very big Ward and Peace Valley has grown from 1000 to 6500. This is the only ward that has a clinic, a prison, mental hospital and botanical gardens.

He is very proud of his achievement as most money has been spent in Ward 26 with regard to the tarring of the roads.

He said our city is in trouble and businesses are leaving the CBD and there is no accountability from the municipality. We are about to lose our licence to Eskom and Water. People owe the municipality millions and they are not collecting revenue.

The biggest election is coming and if things stay the same that's the end of Pmb.

This city cannot rely on government and must rely on the private sector. There must be private and public partnership – not privatisation but collaboration. Bring the public closer.

There is no reason why Pmb should not be the beacon of hope – we have the Drakensberg, the sea, the Midlands on our doorstep as well as good schools.

He made thanks for the support received from the Clarendon community as well as the Clarendon Committee and asked to please give Dante the same support.

Unfortunately, the Townhill CPF community meeting was being held on the same evening so representatives from the Townhill CPF could not attend the AGM.

5. TOWNHILL CPF FEEDBACK: Rowan said that the CPF held a meeting on the second Wednesday of every month where crime stats were shared, crime trends and mapping were presented, and feedback was received from private security companies in order that resources could be deployed to crime hotspots. This deployment of private security companies had dramatically reduced crime in the Townhill precinct, and he implored those residents who were not contracted to a security company to seriously reconsider, in order that this level of law enforcement was sustainable and economically viable. The previous chairman, Brett Teichmann had recently resigned, and he thanked him for his tireless efforts and contribution to the CPF during his tenure. He welcomed, Sam Green, the new chairlady, who had taken the reigns of the Townhill CPF and he wished her well on this important community position. He said the community policing forum was the vital link between the community and Townhill SAPS within our sector where feedback pertaining to challenges faced by the community could be shared to the station management for follow up, be kept up to date on challenges faced by the station as well as crime trends and occasionally a traffic report, together with a list of parolees who had previously been convicted of crimes in the Clarendon area. There are 4 public meetings held at the community hall in Athlone which residents were encouraged to attend, there were also some new enthusiastic members who had joined the CPF EXCO, and he thanked them for their commitment to this important forum.

Sam Green sent a message to be read on her behalf:

"The Townhill CPF is committed to building a safer, more connected community through cooperation, communication and active community involvement. We recognise that crime does not stop at neighbourhood or policing boundaries, and that strong relationships between neighbouring CPF's can make a meaningful difference. As a newly established committee, our focus is on strengthening relationships with SAPS, our local sub-forums, security partners, residents and neighbouring CPF structures. We believe that sharing information, experiences and resources where appropriate allows us to support one another and respond more effectively to challenges affecting our wider community. We look forward to building a positive working relationship with our neighbouring CPF's, learning from one another and finding opportunities to collaborate on shared concerns and community safety initiatives. Ultimately,

we may represent different areas, but we share the same goal- safer, stronger and more connected communities.”

6. CHAIRMANS REPORT:

Rowan said that crime in Clarendon had been sporadic but we saw a large spike during December especially in the Taunton, Fettes, Wavell and Kitchener areas and he said that he would share the monthly comparative schematics later in the presentation together with an annual schematic for the year, but it was clear that the Christmas period was the time to be vigilant particularly in the current economic times. He mentioned that he had noticed concerning trends with all the burglaries, there were some homes that were contracted to a security company but alarms were not armed, homes that were not contracted to a security provider nor had any early warning measures, houses were not locked up overnight with non-existent backyard perimeter fencing. The most disturbing trend was the capacity of a burglar to gain access into a home undetected by the sleeping occupants and by the dogs sleeping in the house, this had happened in a number of cases, including some homes in Oriel Road which was situated across the stream from Taunton Rd. it was not clearly understood how the suspect was able to spend more than an hour in some of the houses, with one occasion a daughter woke up with the intruder in her bedroom but thinking it was her father checking in on her, went back to sleep. They did not have an alarm but contracted a security provider the very next day. This is not an isolated case, and Rowan said that he visited most homes where a burglary had occurred, but the recurring emotional distress was invoked by the invasion of one's personal space which far outweighed the loss of electronic equipment and valuables, particularly when the family was present and asleep while a stranger was in their home. He emphasised the importance of having the home and personal space protected by an alarm and a security company.

He said that he would also run through security recommendations that he urged everyone to integrate into their homes and social behaviour.

The thermal and motion sensor camera installations were working well, with the motion sensor cameras outside Crestview flats having intercepted a few burglary attempts. He said that we would be looking at other sites to hopefully address the Taunton and Dan Pienaar Rd incursions.

Rowan said that Clarendon now showcases some of the most pristine roads that had been resurfaced recently, and thanked Ross Strachan for his work behind the scenes in having this work done in the neighbourhood. He asked that Ross intervene with the reinstatement required after the latest damage caused by the water department above the Roberts/Taunton traffic lights, while repairing a burst water pipe. He said that we would still be attending to any other potholes, where necessary, but hopefully not to the degree of previous years. He thanked Rob Evans and Noel Thompson for heading up this portfolio.

Rowan thanked Pam Read and presented power point slides showcasing the work undertaken in the neighbourhood by her and her team consisting of Xolani, Paulina and Patrick, involving maintaining all common areas and gardens, collecting litter, painting curbs and rehabilitating the mess left by the municipality after water pipe repairs. Rowan also thanked her for keeping the association running and relevant. He said that the aloes that flower every winter in Clarendon have mostly been planted and tended by Pam and her team and will be a mark of her legacy in the neighbourhood forever.

He thanked Haloprop for sponsoring the maintenance of the Villiers Drive lookout area and Altair/Fettes Roads Garden, which he said was looking very good.

Rowan thanked our Treasurer, Dylan Horn, for keeping all the association finances in-check although previously his services had been free of charge, we now ensure that he does not incur any additional expenses in attending to association duties.

Rowan thanked Chris Morewood for all his help in assembling of the A-frame notice board which had been positioned at the Roberts and Taunton traffic lights. He thanked all the committee members namely Jim Read, Rob Evans, Derek Butler, Chris Withers, Brett Croeser, Chris Norman, Don Smale, Mark Dent, Noel Thompson, Rouen Bruni, Craig Smith, Marlene Daly and Karen Rosenberg who had 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. He bid farewell to Brett Croeser who had moved to Hilton, and Chris Withers a long-standing committee member who he acknowledged and thanked her for her commitment to the association in service of this neighbourhood since the inception of the association.

Rowan thanked Ross Strachan, our ward councillor, and Councillor Daniel Kemp, for stepping in during Ross's absence and the continual service delivery updates and support of the Clarendon community and ever-present hand in holding the municipality accountable. He acknowledged their efforts, which he said were not always readily noticeable on the chat groups but their hard work and communications regarding community issues were highly appreciated and their commitment, against the odds, acknowledged.

Rowan thanked the Magma and Mi7 guards who watched the vehicles parked in the road.

7. FINANCE – DYLAN: Dylan presented the Financial Statements and Budget for 2027

Approval of Financial Statements

Proposer – Craig Smith

Seconder – Chris Morewood

8. MATTERS ARISING:

8.1. STREET LIGHTS:

Rowan presented a slide showing the latest streetlight report, reflecting 88 out of 241 faulty streetlights, roughly 37% of the neighbourhood, he urged residents to phone and report faulty streetlight outside their property, and share the reference numbers on the chat group so that he could follow up by our ward councillor. Ross said that the streetlight contractors had not been paid by the municipality, and he could not guarantee that streetlights would be replaced in the foreseeable future.

8.2. LITTER: Litter continued to be a problem, and Rowan asked if residents could regularly discourage gardeners and domestics from littering, especially where they waited for taxis. He said that the schools were always going to be a challenge as a lot of litter is from children that waited with the taxis and the taxi drivers had a habit of discarding rubbish from their vehicles. He encouraged residents, while out walking, to consider picking up 3 items of litter and discard in the bin at the lookout or at home.

8.3. POTHOLES: Rowan said that potholes that have previously been repaired all bear the CCA marking but hopefully there would not be too many of these in the future with our new roads, unless the water department needed to dig up the road.

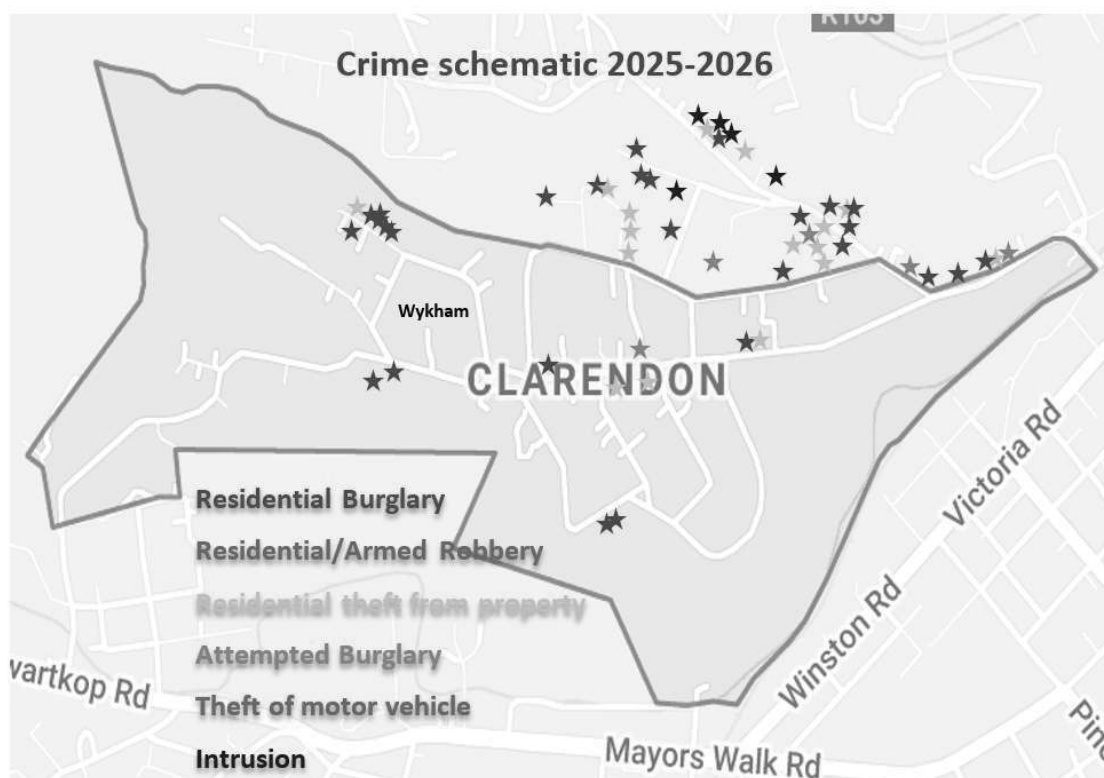
8.4. WATER LEAKS: Rowan said that water leaks were generally attended quickly and he urged residents to ensure that any leaks were reported timeously and reference numbers posted on the chat group for follow up by Ross. He said that there was no consideration for the infrastructure and very poor communication between water and roads departments after a water pipe repair, and our cars must bear the brunt of the mess left behind after repairs as was the case above the robots in Roberts Rd.

8.5. **RECYCLING** : Rowan said that recycling was becoming increasingly more important particularly with the frequent fleet challenges within the refuse department and the recent municipal strikes. He said that Musa, our local recycler, was very efficient and cleared the recycling first thing every Tuesday morning and that he made approximately R1 per bag of recycling. The CCA committee resolved to contribute a monthly R2000 to his recycling efforts from the community funds, and hopefully he could afford to maintain his vehicle in the long term, and we encouraged all residents to consider recycling if they were not already. He said that Karen Rosenberg published a list every Monday of what could be recycled and thanked her for her efforts with the recycling portfolio.

9. **SECURITY REPORT AND CRIME STATISTICS**: Rowan said that we are very blessed to have several security companies patrolling our streets and attending to alerts on the security group, and he encouraged anyone not contracted to a security company to seriously reconsider.

Rowan presented monthly and then an annual representative crime schematic from the AGM in October 2025 till September 2026 September.

We had 28 burglaries, 8 reported attempted burglaries, 15 cases of reported theft, which was an increase when compared to the previous year.



Rowan presented a power point slide of the serial burglar, who had been terrorising the neighbourhood, who had been apprehended in Clarendon on 1 February (with stolen property from homes in Dan Pienaar and admitting to being involved in a number of the Taunton Road burglaries in December), in Wembley on 10 May (he was apprehended wearing a stolen jacket belonging to the owner of the stolen TV, while on his way to recover the TV that had been stashed under a bed in a neighbouring BnB) and most recently in Prestbury. He was continually released on bail but was currently incarcerated hopefully awaiting court appearance and conviction. Rowan said that he would stay abreast of this case.

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 interleading 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 was the most prolific crime being reported at Townhill SAPS, these cases tied up the detectives' time and prevented them from addressing the more important cases.

- 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 item until money has cleared in your account or you have cash in hand

11. WHATSAPP GROUPS: Rowan said that WhatsApp groups have now replaced the old Telegram groups, and the number of members has grown to over 600, he emphasised the need for social media etiquette when posting on these forums, he also emphasised that posting on the security group should only be done only if a security response was required or an urgent security alert to other residents. Comments and opinions, while respected, tended to negate the effectiveness of this security platform.

12. THERMAL AND MOTION SENSOR CAMERA INSTALLATION : Rowan said that motion sensor and thermal cameras were covering our eastern boundary comprehensively and we would be exploring potential camera sites to monitor the Taunton Road stream and Dan Pienaar soon. Intelligence extracted from arrested individuals recently suggested that suspects were gaining access into the neighbourhood from the Fettes/Taunton stream via the Cordwalles sports fields and we would investigate how to monitor this area more effectively.

13. ANT STRATFORD : Rowan introduced Ant Stratford, who is the Chairman of the Ezemvelo Lions River Honorary Officers and was invited to do a short presentation about hunting dogs, how we could contain this problem, the procedures to follow and who to contact in the event that hunting dogs are seen in the area.

ANT STRATFORD : TALK ON HUNTING DOGS

He said he is the Chairman of Lions River Honorary Officers.

Their main role is the support of wildlife for which they don't get paid and are always looking for donations.

They report to a Conservation Officer at Ezemvelo and they cover vast areas.

There is no easy way to control the problem and it takes time.

He said they had a case in Howick where they caught 5 poachers with 16 dogs. It took months to get them arrested and they got 8 years imprisonment, of which 4 years were suspended and they also got a fine. They can also be found guilty of trespassing.

SAPS don't take wildlife seriously as there are too many other priorities.

There are 3 different kinds of poaching :-

1. Subsistence
2. Syndicate – which is well organised. Their hunting dogs cost R150k each
3. Sport and gambling

Section 43 states you can kill the dogs but it is not advised as this will no doubt involve Court action. They can only observe and report as there will be repercussions. He said they don't encourage taking on the dogs as handlers will be around.

They work a lot with Magma and Mi7 in the Howick, Karkloof and other areas.

They encourage security companies to get involved and encourage them to open a case – observe and report and it is a good idea to get the Press involved.

Who to call –

Security company – front line

Secondly - local honorary officers – who will roll a response as best as he can.

Call SAPS

It proves intent if they are caught with equipment as well as trespassing.

Ant said he has contacts in high places who can help.

Rowan said we need a buy in to security companies as we are putting a lot of responsibility on them.

14. CCA MEMBERSHIP: Still lingered around the 56% mark, and Rowan asked that residents whose neighbours are not members or where new people move into the neighbourhood to consider joining.

15. COMMITTEE FOR 2027:

Rowan welcomed Luke Walters onto the committee, who would assist with the CPF representation and bid farewell to Brett Croeser and Chris Withers.

Chairman	Rowan White
Secretary	Pam Read
Treasurer	Dylan Horn
CPF rep	Luke Walters, Jim Read, Rob Evans, Chris Norman, Marlene Daly, Noel Thompson, Don Smale, Mark Dent, Craig Smith, Derek Butler, Rouen Bruni, Karen Rosenberg

Craig Smith paid thanks to Rowan for his leadership and tireless efforts from the Committee and from the broader community.

16. CLOSURE: There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 7 p.m.

CHAIRMAN:DATE:.....