

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ONVERWAG NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEMBERS HELD ON 15 MAY 2023 at 18h00 IN THE N.G. CHURCH, ONRUS.

WELCOME : Jean thanked Anne for her contribution as Chairman for the past year and welcomed SAPS members Lieutenant:Col Fortuin and Warrant Officer Mathee, the SRA represented by Meredith and the SRA Patrollers, Donovan Van Der Westhuisen from ADT and his team members.

PRESENT and APOLOGIES:

Chairman	Anne Droomer
Vice Chair	Rob Molyneux
Communication	Jean Orban
Secretary	Vanessa Sutherland
Treasurer	Gray Thomason
Community	Michiel de Kock
Patrols	Coenie Groenewald
Membership	Ilse Myburgh

Attached – Signed Attendance register

Apologies : Caroline Gabb, Tom and Madelein Jordaan, Sylvana Doran

No other apologies were noted.

1) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM MEETING HELD

29/04/2022

Rob Molyneux Proposed.

Ilse Myburgh seconded

No other matters arising from the minutes.

2) FEEDBACK FROM ROLEPLAYERS:

2.1 Crime Overview from SAPS Hermanus and Community Policing Forum

Lieutenant Colonel Fortuin and Warrant Officer Mathee represented SAPS (no visual presentation was provided.) Eddie Holloway presented on the topic in the role of “Acting Chairperson of the Hermanus Community Police Forum”.

- April was identified as an “interesting month” in relation to crime statistics for the Larger Hermanus Area.
 - As reported – three Murders were committed in April 2023 which was the same figure for April 2022, all murders occurred in Zwelihle.
- As far as local crime statistics for Vermont, for April, in Onrus there were seven housebreakings and three in Vermont a total of ten out of the fifty occurring in the greater Hermanus overall.
- There has been an increase in crime in Zwelihle and Fisherhaven.
- Eddie addressed the topic of how Onverwag is “leading the pack” in regards their creating an awareness of to commercial crime. Specific mention was made of fraudsters contacting victims via mobile phone or via internet. Police are currently investigating a case (on a very high level) unrelated to Onrus and Vermont but related to a suburb close to the CBD, a single case and the amount involved is twelve million rand, highlighting the cunningness of perpetrators in their modus scamming such a large amount from a single victim
 - Eddie referred to the roadshow undertaken by Onverwag at the Public Accountability in 2022 where the facts and figures wrt commercial crime, which generated a large amount of interest, and outcoming from that, an additional presentation was done for the older residents of Mount Pleasant, both of which were very well received as well as the ongoing smaller workshops held with local residents.
 - Eddie reiterated that communities must remain vigilant at all times as there are no preventative measures the police can do to assist community members before these types of crimes are committed they can only investigate post the incident. Eddie elaborated how he himself had been a victim of a cybercrime via a data service provider
 - SAPS confirmed that the past week in May there had been an additional five incidences of cyber-crime targeting elderly persons. Anne encouraged people to remain vigilant and calm and not provide any personal information over the phone as most scammers relied on the anxiety levels of victims and pushed them for information.

Eddie also raised the issue of scamming taking place wrt fake accommodation offers on Social media and Facebook where people are scammed into paying deposits for properties that they don't own. Booking.com has also been targeted by scammers.

The last issue raised in relation to Crime is the theft of goods out of motor vehicles in Onrus and Vermont, 90% of the incidents occurred with unlocked vehicles and theft out of the back of bakkies. Community members were encouraged to take preventative measures in this regard.

2.2 SRA (Special Rating Area) – General Manager: Meredith Thornton

Meredith completed introductions and by way of an overview she confirmed that the SRA is funded via the Municipal Rate Payer facility by means of a special levy, the SRA is listed as a non-profit company and run by Board of Directors (no remuneration) who are members of the community.

- Anton Du Preez is the Chairman, Meredith the Manager, Renata, Hennie, Jean and Duncan are the other members of the Board, Caroline Gabb is a co-opted director, Vick Barnard the accountant and executive officer.
- Meredith stated that a Co-Management team has been set up with various role players from the community. i.e. representatives from the Neighbourhood watches', rate payers' organization, Local security and armed response companies, Overstrand Municipality and Law Enforcement .
- SRA's current Service provider is Fidelity ADT who are contracted to help us with crime prevention in public open spaces. The Cameras are monitored 24/7.
- There is a 24/7 response vehicle that patrols Ward 13, this is a shared Vehicle with ADT (as funding is limited).
- The SRA Team is connected 24/7 by a radio network and communication is extremely effective and response is immediate.
- Also part of the team is Kuselo Makapelo, who has completed his firearm competency and is now a response officer in the shared vehicle
- Environ patrollers who joined last year Calvin Pungulwa, Thandinkosi Mfakadolo and more recently Xolisa Nobhishi
 - Patrols in March included 4600 km covered for armed response and over 3000km by the enviro patrollers (by foot) which equates to around 10km of walking per day and 40km of cycling
 - Patrollers are receiving training in Environmental matters. They patrol the Coastal path by foot and the Streets by bike and they are starting to do some work in the greenbelts to contribute to the environmental awareness and protection
 - Meredith mentioned that the work was totally reliant upon cooperation with many including residents, SAPS, neighbourhood watches. Patrollers work for a 12-hour period.

Anne thanked the SRA team and patrollers and by way of thanks from Onverwag contributions were made for new bikes and boots for the patrollers as well as bike lights. The current bikes will be sent for servicing. Basson workwear (Melanie and Steyn) received a special thanks for their contributions to the SRA patrollers

The SRA patrollers each gave a short outline of their roles.

3) GENERAL PRESENTATION – Community Safety

Jean presented some Home safety tips

- Load shedding presents several challenges to all residents but all precautionary measures detailed should be applied as a basic to homes.
 - Recommendations were made to install back up lights both in home internal light fittings and external security lights
 - Consider an inverter and power banks for back up.
 - Alarm systems to be tested for functionality, particularly in reference to the batteries being used, battery health is key. Lithium Ion batteries were recommended , (one with a charging module).
 - It was recommended to activate beams early in the evening not only when retiring to bed.
 - “App operated Alarm systems” are convenient for effective remote functionality, especially for those who have holiday homes or are away frequently, old alarms can be upgraded to accommodate this feature.
 - Communication is key, residents were encouraged to join some form of group where information can be shared and people alerted, WhatsApp groups prove effective,
 - Ensure phones are charged continuously particularly if there is downtime in power supply/load shedding.
- General – get a basic alarm system, lock access and security gates, CCTV is also an option, perimeter fencing should be impenetrable, have spare keys if your battery systems aren’t functioning due to no power
 - Vary your daily routine, perpetrators observe habits and act accordingly
 - Don’t leave items lying in yards.
 - Secure gas bottles and bicycles.
 - Don’t provide food to beggars, rather support the night shelter.
 - Do not pick up casual labourers’ , safety is knowing who is working for you and having their details such as ID . Using unknown casual labour also contributes to vagrancy with people loitering, residents are encouraged to rather use the local chat groups for recommendations for known workers/help required.
- Keep emergency numbers handy and store emergency numbers as ICE on your cell phone or under “favorites”, emergency personnel are trained to use “Ice” on your phone and this can be accessed on locked phones.
- Battery backup for internet services is a recommendation.

Anne confirmed that all info will be loaded on the Onverwag website and reminded everyone that there is also “safety at home tips

4) CHAIRMANS REPORT

Anne outlined that the role of Onverwag as a neighbourhood watch was reviewed in respect of delivery once the SRA was in place for safety issues in 2022, Onverwag having been very involved with “crime and grime” since inception, but felt that a move to “Caring and Sharing” was an option benefitting all in the community.

- The night shelter was sponsored with 4 cameras supplied by Onverwag and installed and activated by CLV. Their driveway gate motor was also replaced.
- The online fraud targeting the community was highlighted and workshops initiated.
- Patrols have also changed to do these in high season and long weekends, refresher training sessions are held once a year

The definition of an “Accredited Neighbourhood watch” means that all the patrollers get security clearance from SAPS and that Onverwag is registered with the Department of Community Safety (DOCS) (now changed to “Police Oversight). Onverwag works with the Local WC Government (Regan Allen- Minister responsible for policing) who holds sessions at various times of the year (recently with Alan Winde on the bicycle tour) per the sessions attended it was made clear after discussing fraud matter that Local Gov does not have an Ecommerce fraud department and an appeal has been lodged for this.

Anne reiterated that the sharing of information from the WC Gov has enabled residents on the groups to stay abreast of amongst other local matters, that of loadshedding schedules and consequently this reduced the flood of queries on

the groups and mitigated unnecessary panic wrt loss of power. Lack of power and sanitation results in compromise of safety hence the importance of keeping residents abreast of events.

Anne thanked all members for ongoing support and the NG Gemeente for the use of facilities. SAPS and the SRA team and finally to the Auditors for their probono work.

5) FINANCIAL REPORT: Gray Thomason.

Gray presented the Financial report for the year ending November 2022.

A few entries : Membership income amounted to R75765.00, Donations R3000.00. In total the amount income received was R81217. Income to expenditure left a surplus of R33 000.00

- Admin costs included website development, a new phone , addition of "Dropbox"and "Sage One Accounting package"
- Web was redeveloped to be more in line with current trends and social media usage
- Surplus funds were transferred to a special savings account.
- CPF sponsorship was R3500 for food costs – spent on Youth development workshops
- In term of ongoing activities and expenditure, the Coastal path was identified as a vulnerable area and cameras are being set up at entry and exit points and fibre will be explored in terms of the comms used for the cameras.
- A full report is available on Request
- Special thanks to the Auditors

ONRUS VERMONT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Income/Expenditure for 2022

	2022	2021
INCOME	RANDS	RANDS
Donations Monitoring	-	8 152
Donations	3 000	2 982
Sales	650	960
SRA assistance Credit	-	70 267
Membership	75 765	71 400
Interest (Bank)	1 802	43
Total Income	81 217	153 804
Admin	13 749	905
Bank	2 112	3 855
Camera Monitoring	-	48 655
Computer expenses	5 106	-
Advert/ Marketing	1 300	430
Artwork	2 250	-
Printing	1 356	230
Special Projects	4 720	-
Sponsor	3 500	1 208
SRA Assistance	-	29 834
Web Site	14 004	1 210
Total Expenses	48 057	86 326
SURPLUS	33 120	67 478

Savings Account

109 790

1 346

6) MEMBERSHIP ISSUES

Anne confirmed that membership fees have been captured onto the Sage system, and that fees will not be increased and remain at R150,00 for first member and extra R50,00 for second member. The fees have not been increased for a few years.

Anne made special mention of the founding member Abner Ingles who is still active with Patroller training. Anne issued a complimentary membership certificate in appreciation of his ongoing support of Onverwag.

Elma Vaster was also bestowed a complimentary life membership and honorary patrolership recognition in honour of her contribution to the same. Special mention was also made of Elma's late husband Jan Voster who was the Onverwag patrol co-ordinator.

7) NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

List of people who are available from past EXCO : Anne Droomer, Eddie Holloway, Coenie Groenewald, Gray Thomason, Michiel de Kock, Jean Orban, Vanessa Sutherland and Zhan du Toit.

Nomination and Election of committee members

- Rob confirmed that the committee expires for the year and re-election was required
 - The members available for election included Jean Orban, Jean du Toit, Gray Thomason, Eddie Holloway, Coenie Groenewald, Michiel de Kok, and Vanessa Sutherland
 - Ilse proposed the Nomination and Basil Seconded and it was passed
 - Rob enquired as to whether anyone else wanted to stand for election, none did
- The Election of the Chairman for the new EXCO was conducted. Rob confirmed Anne Droomer was prepared to re-stand as Chairman. Emmie Gouws proposed the nomination and Brenda Wessel seconded
- Rob mentioned the Night Shelter and the benefits bestowed by way of a R20 Voucher which can be purchased to support those using the facility, the benefits included were a shower, a meal, a bed for the night and support from the centre and he asked that the public support this initiative as much as possible
- Anne announced that Ilse Myburgh was resigning and thanked her for her ongoing support of Onverwag. Rob Molyneux was resigning as vice Chairperson (Rob contributed to many background projects including the work done with cameras and in setting up the invoicing system)

8) GENERAL AND QUESTIONS :

Jean confirmed his gratitude in relation to the contributors who make the meetings possible, NG Kerk for the Venue, the sponsorship by Basson Workwear to patrollers, Work Hub and Sally's for her assistance in various OVW matters.

Jean closed the meeting and invited attendees to join us for drinks and eats.

CHAIRPERSON: ANNE DROOMER:

DATE:20-5-2024