

MINUTES OF THE TENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLARENDON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION HELD AT CLARENDON PRIMARY SCHOOL, ROBERTS ROAD, ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER 2017

PRESENT: Rowan White Chairman
 Dylan Horn Treasurer
 Pam Read Secretary

120 residents

1. WELCOME:
 Rowan welcomed everyone to the 10th Annual General Meeting of the Clarendon Community Association. He extended a special welcome to Francois Rodgers, Mergen Chetty, Ross Strachan, W/O Wayne King, W/O Pillay, Craig Jamalodeen and Nikki Rajkumar.
2. APOLOGIES: 28 Apologies were received.
3. MINUTES OF AGM 2016 :
 As these had been circulated, they were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.
4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:
 As has become tradition, I will attempt to make tonight's meeting as concise and to the point as possible and we can all enjoy some refreshments shortly afterwards.

The Clarendon Community Association has been active over the last 10 years, the original origins due to a perceived increase in crime but also the beautification of the neighbourhood. Criminal activity in the neighbourhood and indeed the Townhill precinct is generally down but due to deteriorating socioeconomic conditions around us, will always be a threat. I don't think we will ever completely eradicate crime, but I do believe that we can make it as difficult as possible for any would be criminals and this requires a team effort by all who live here. By this I mean general vigilance while driving home, to work or to the shops, get to know your neighbours, join the neighbourhood watch and encourage non-contributing residents to join the Clarendon Community Association in order that we can continue to expand our security projects.

Our security initiatives are certainly having an impact, and with Magma circulating our streets day and night, neighbourhood patrols reintroduced and a general vigilance, our neighbourhood is not an ideal target for sensible criminals.

The gardens in the neighbourhood are constantly tended to by the evergreen Pam Read, and I would like to formally thank her for her unrelenting commitment and dedication to this neighbourhood not only in the gardens but with all administrative duties that she effortlessly takes on behind the scenes.

A big thank you to Dylan Horn, our Accountant, who personally and at no charge oversees all the association finances and accounts.

Thank you to Dion Curtis who schedules and manages the neighbourhood patrol teams, a tough job but very much appreciated by all.

To Craig and Shelly Smith, for their ongoing battles with the municipality to keep our street lights burning and neighbourhood lit.

I would also like to publicly acknowledge and thank the other CCA committee members Jim Read, Peter Bristow, Greg Dreyer, Derek Butler, Marlene Daly, Chris Withers, John & Jane Kassner, Mark Dent, Steve Crosly, Rob Van Heerden and Deidre Serfontein, who have all given so freely of their time in attending committee meetings and assisting in all the unseen duties affiliated with the Clarendon Community Association.

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

To the neighbourhood patrollers, your continued personal sacrifice of sleep and time in the early mornings is greatly appreciated by all and the enthusiasm recently of residents wanting to patrol has been fantastic.

To the representatives from Magma, Craig Jamalodeen and Nikki Rajkumar, the past year has seen a few challenges but I think we are on the right track. The professionalism of Magma Security is evident every day by the conduct of your armed response officers, friendly to those who live and work here but a headache for those with ulterior motives.

To W/O Wayne King, W/O Pillay and indeed all the SAPS members from Townhill and Prestbury, SAPS, Ed Szudrowski, Chairman of the Townhill CPF, for your support of the Clarendon community. I would like to reiterate what I said last year that we as a community are in full support of the work that you do in keeping us safe bearing in mind all the challenges you face in keeping the station operational.

A big thank you to Dave Kruger from M'EAT for supplying the biltong and dried wors. Dave sells the best rump steaks that you will ever taste, I am sure the rest of the meat is equally as good. He is local to the neighbourhood, an active patroller; he also delivers to your home. Con and Sue Malherbe from Coffeeberry and Sagewood café, for providing snacks. As local residents we can always rely on you to deliver and I am sure you will receive the reciprocal support from the community. Hyde Park Café: Thank you to Donovan Boshoff for also providing eats and welcome to the neighbourhood.

Thank you to all the residents who also donated plates of eats.

5. FEEDBACK: Most fencing projects have been completed; we have a new camera site that has been installed. I will give a more detailed presentation a little later. The Kei apple hedge was planted but with drought conditions, municipal workers inadvertently cutting them down and a little fire, they have unfortunately not done too well.

6. WARD REPORT : COUNCILLOR ROSS STRACHAN

Ross thanked everybody for their support and said there are challenges. The Ward 26 logo is "Don't be a leader sell ice cream". Ward 26 is comprised of Wembley, Clarendon, Prestbury, Napierville, Blackridge, Boughton and Peace Valley 3 and there are representatives from these suburbs on the Ward 26 committee. James Rivett-Carnac is an ex Water Engineer and has been able to give a lot of insight to the committee. There are problems with infrastructure. The capacity of the water supply has not kept up with the increased population. Recycling is not a priority of the municipality and Ross will be calling a meeting with Chris Whyte, an expert in waste management, with a view to getting big businesses on board.

There is huge traffic congestion in Mayors Walk and the RTS project has not taken off.

Ross congratulated the Clarendon Community Association for their commitment and that has proved that a good community works.

James Rivett-Carnac gave a brief talk on the problems relating to water which comes back to management. The reservoir has no storage capacity and with the expansion of Edendale, etc. it is not coping. Management is at fault and this year R120 million rand was returned to Treasury because projects were not implemented.

Mergen Chetty reiterated some of the problems we as a city are experiencing and said we as citizens must become more active in demanding accountability and honest performance from the municipality.

Francois Rodgers said it is impressive to see a community that comes out and unites. The CBD is appalling and there is an endemic problem with all departments with poor management. The Health Department is about to collapse in the province and this year they again received an unqualified audit report. We need to elect a government that puts us first and not a political party.

7. TOWNHILL /PRESTBURY SAPS REPORT: W/O Wayne King said that due to our security initiatives and patrols, the crime has been shifted to the bush on the neighbourhood perimeter which is being used to gain access, so residents must ensure that they secure their fences if they border the open veld. W/O King thanked the neighbourhood patrollers as well as Magma patrols which helps the SAPS. He also thanked Prestbury SAPS for their co-operation.
8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS : DYLAN
Dylan presented the Financial Statements which were accepted.
9. NEIGHBOURHOOD PATROLS : DION
Dion said the residents are getting involved and it is appreciated. We started the patrols again last month which have been highly successful and we now have 52 volunteer patrollers – with one being a husband and wife team! Dion thanked SAPS and Magma for their support and also to the patrollers who give of their time.
10. CLARENDON CRIME AND CRIME STATS:
Rowan shared the following crime stats (month, street and number of incidents) :-

October	Dan Pienaar Rd	(2)
	Voortrekker Rd	(3)
	Wavell Drive	(1)
November	Roberts Rd	(1)
December	Clarendon Hill flats	(1)
January	All Saints Court	(1)
February	Beacon Hill,	(1)
	All Saints Court	(1)
	Holland Hill	(1)
March	Roberts Rd	(1)
April	Clarendon Primary School	(1)
May	Dan Pienaar Rd	(1)
	Villiers Drive	(2)
June	Roberts Rd	(1)
July	Moreland Rd (intruder)	(1)
	Kitchener Gardens	(1)
	Roberts Rd	(1)
August	Wavell Drive	(1)
	Taunton Rd (armed robbery)	(1)
September	Fettes Rd (attempt theft)	(1)

Interesting info regarding the crime stats that were recorded over the last year

- 25 incidents of crime for 2016/2017(since last AGM)
- Burglary residential 15
- Burglary non-residential 1
- Robbery residential 2
- Theft 5
- Attempted burglary 2

- 10 complex homes
- 8 free standing homes
- 10 homes were contracted to a security company
- 14 homes targeted, residents were at home
- 13 Burglary (02h00- 04h00),
- 3 Burglary (18h00-20h00)
- 2 Armed robbery (complex and outside flat at 18h00 – 20h00)
 - Residents surprised in their unit/flat
 - Lone African male armed with a knife
 - Cellphone, laptop, iPad and vehicle taken
 - Vehicles stolen and both recovered in Burger Street
- Trend of homes being entered from the front and suspects exiting through back of property to avoid responding security

Security Recommendations:

- iPads, cell phones, laptops and other valuable items should be concealed, out of view preferably in the bedroom while sleeping or away from home.
- Alarms need to be armed when retiring to bed and when leaving the house unoccupied
- Consult security company about remote panic buttons
- Early warning measures on pedestrian and driveway gates and in the garden recommended.
- Never exit house to investigate noises outside, notify alarm company
- Install CCTV
- Ensure adequate lighting around your house.
- Ensure inter-leading doors are locked when away from home to impede free movement through the house by any would be burglars
- Ensure verge is clear of any bottles, cans and other litter
- Check on neighbours activated alarms & barking dogs
- Tell your neighbours when you go away in order that they can monitor your property
- Ensure boundary fencing is sufficient to deter entry especially if bordering on a conservancy or open area
- Report suspicious person's/vehicles for Magma follow up
- Please have copies of present and past employee identification documentation

11. WHATSAPP GROUPS

The security groups are being well respected and only security issues and relevant security information is being shared, thankfully there have not been too many security issues of late and hopefully it remains that way. The chat groups have been combined to form a single group and it needs to be emphasised that these groups are not a platform to express opinions or vent frustrations but a forum to share useful community information. There are over 230 people on this group and I appeal that we exercise restraint where possible. There was a mass exodus following some

technical glitches with the internet and municipality frustrations, but there has been a return to respectful and considerate communications lately.

12. CAMERAS :

A quick review of the camera positions

Roberts/Taunton Rd intersection, top of Taunton Rd, Villiers Drive heading into Prestbury, outside Jacaranda School, LPR cameras

The latest camera installation is outside 11 Villiers Drive monitoring the open veld towards the lookout, and towards the mosque. We have been having issues with connectivity but are in talks to have a more comprehensive Wi-Fi system put in place which may require a monthly fee.

13. MAGMA :

The Magma initiative is in place for the safety and security of everyone who lives in Clarendon and to harness the full benefit of this concept it is advisable to consider contracting them directly.

In the year that Magma has been entrenched in Clarendon, we have seen over 100 homes, businesses and schools contracting Magma. This means that they will be entrenched in Clarendon looking after our safety and security for the foreseeable future.

Software on the patrol phone has been loaded in order that alarm and panic signals are detected by the patrolling officers as well as the control centre which significantly reduces response times should the need arise.

The total cost of contracting Magma is R570 including VAT and you sign into a month to month contract, with a notice period of 20 working days being required to terminate the contract if you are not happy with the services that you are receiving.

All Magma clients are added to a Magma 24/7 WhatsApp group which gives each contracted home a direct communication link to the Magma guards and staff in the event of an emergency.

We have a team of six armed response officers who have become permanent and familiar faces in the Magma vehicle patrolling our streets 24/7. They are Welcome, Sanele, Given, Wiseman, Sandile and Lindani,

All of these men are highly professional and extremely dedicated to Magma Security and to each and every one of our personal safety. Their performance and responses to incidents has been phenomenal, they are immensely proud of the company and an asset to Magma Security and I hope we have them at our side for years to come.

Tuesdays are free of loiterers who no longer pick through the refuse, please advise on WhatsApp group if anyone slips through. Weekends are also very quiet with job seekers being advised to be in possession of reliable references and viable identification or encouraged to look elsewhere.

14. NEW PROJECTS:

We have taken on a number of new projects in 2017

Fencing off access areas has been completed

- End of Voortrekker Road leading into the conservancy
- Villiers Drive leading to World's view
- End of Dan Pienaar Rd bordering the conservancy
- Reinforcing fencing below 11 Villiers Drive next to the mosque

- The latest fencing project extends from behind Jacaranda School across the drop off to the mosque

Please will anyone while walking in the vicinity of the fences please check for any signs of tampering or damage, and notify us accordingly in order that we can have it repaired immediately.

The final phase of perimeter fencing is the gap between 39 and 41 Villiers. The area has been cleared and work will commence shortly. Ultimately the entire perimeter of Clarendon will then be fenced off and access into the neighbourhood will either be over a fence or under the cameras.

15. MATTERS ARISING:

15.1. Speed bumps

Of the 9 proposed sites, only 4 have been approved by the municipality namely

- 86 Roberts Rd,
- 6 Villiers Drive,
- 74 Kitchener Rd,
- 11 Kitchener Rd.

Work on the first hump will be outside 86 Roberts Rd and will commence on 29 September 2017, during the school holidays. The cost of each speed hump is R17 600,00 which the CCA is financing.

15.2. Recycling

Recycling has experienced a few problems and Ross Strachan has been in talks with a recycler in town. Wednesday has been earmarked for collection. We will monitor the next 4 weeks and should there not be a cohesive and regular collection then we will consider approaching a private company. Polystyrene can be dropped off at Arlington's Antiques at the Roberts Rd shopping centre. Thank you to Veronica, for volunteering to be the drop off site.

15.3. Street lights:

Please will everyone take responsibility of checking on and reporting faulty street lights in your immediate vicinity. Neighbourhood watch patrollers and Magma guards will endeavour to report where possible but if there is mass reporting then there may be urgency on the municipality's part to attend to the faulty street lights. A well-lit neighbourhood deters criminals so please it is in the interest of your safety, it does not require more than a few minutes and a phone call (033-3925029).

15.4. Car discs:

Car discs have been deposited in all member post boxes, 2 have been allocated per household. If more are required please contact Pam. We recommend placing them on the front left of your windscreen.

15.5. Esther House: Emma Flemming reported and said Esther House is a shelter for abused women who stay between 3 – 6 months. She asked the community to assist with clothes and food and they are also developing skills for the ladies, teaching them to cook, sew, computer skills, etc.

15.6. Roberts Rd substation:

W/O King has been very proactive in overseeing the cleaning of the area around the substation, supervising the culprits who make the mess to clean it up using bags from the community. Black bags donated to this initiative can be dropped off at Arlington's Antiques. Thank you W/O King for this undertaking; I think this sort of approach should be adopted throughout the city. It is so reassuring that we have

policemen who are willing to go above and beyond the call of duty and Wayne King was applauded for his efforts.

15.7. Dikkops (Thick Knees):

Our resident Dikkops have welcomed another member to the family and can be seen in the common below Sunnylea primary. Thanks to Jim Read for the photograph.

16. CCA MEMBERSHIP :

Currently we have 315 contributing households, which equates to 56% of the neighbourhood contributing to the security of all who live here.

The fee structure has not changed over the years and each member household still contributes only R200 unless contracted to Magma in which case the monthly contribution is reduced to R50. Other neighbourhoods are finding it really tough going to achieve what we have here, and it is the community support that has been garnered over the last 10 years that makes what we have here all the more special and without the contributing membership none of these security initiatives would have been possible, so a very big thanks to each and every member of the CCA.

Please encourage those who are not members to join the CCA in order that we can make Clarendon one of the safest neighbourhoods in Pietermaritzburg.

17. COMMITTEE 2018

At a recent committee meeting it was decided that all committee positions be retained and remain unchanged for 2018, there were no reservations or objections from the floor.

Chairman	Rowan White
Secretary	Pam Read
Treasurer	Dylan Horn
CPF representative	Jim Read

Committee : Rob Evans, Rob Van Heerden, Marlene Daly, Chris Withers, Dion Curtis, Peter Bristow, Greg Dreyer, Steve Crosly, John Kassner, Mark Dent, Craig Smith, Derek Butler, Deidre Serfontein and Rouen Bruni

Thank you to each member for volunteering to be on this committee and for the sacrifice of your valuable time in the interests of making a difference in our community.

Thank you to Ross Strachan, Mergan Chetty, Francois Rodgers, W/O King and Pillay, Magma representatives and everyone who attended the meeting.

18. GENERAL:

18.1. Karin Rosenberg said it is not easy living next door to Esther House as they are very noisy, accommodating 35 people.

18.2. Recycling: Ross said we should take the initiative and drive for a green zone and go private. Midlands Recycling is a private company operating in Howick which we will be considering, but in the meantime we will support Mbuso. We also await the outcome of the meeting with Chris Whyte.

18.3. Water Reservoir: Ross said we have to prepare for the lack of rain and we need a reserve reservoir and he said he has requested an upgrade.

18.4. Litter and garden refuse is being left outside some properties: A member said residents should get into the habit of picking up litter outside their properties in the interest of safety and hygiene.

18.5. Saving water: A member raised a point, that we as individuals should be taking individual and collective responsibility for saving water and play our part as a community. We tend to complain about water issues but too many are taking this resource for granted. Don't use a hose, collect bath and shower water, no need to flush the toilet too regularly, use grey water to water the garden.

Jim said the CCA is effective because of its leadership in Rowan. Rowan spends a huge amount of time on CCA work and it is so appreciated by the community. Thank you Rowan for everything you do.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 19h25.

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