

**BETTY'S BAY RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION  
BETTY'SBAAISE BELASTINGBETALERSVERENIGING**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD ON FRIDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2014  
IN THE CRASSULA HALL AT 18H00**

**1. OPENING AND WELCOME**

The Chairman extended a word of welcome to all present, especially all the new members. He welcomed Councillor L. Krige and thanked her for taking the time to attend the AGM. He said he was delighted with the attendance, but felt that a number of the members had not attended due to the fact that both the Chairman's and Treasurer's Reports had been sent out early. The Chairman informed the meeting that it had been decided to hold the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> as so many members had complained that the 27<sup>th</sup> was in the middle of the Christmas festivities with their families. He said that it was difficult to please everyone and requested that members inform the committee of a date which they felt was more acceptable.

D. Fick requested everyone to please complete the attendance register with all their details so that the data base can be updated. The meeting was advised that the quorum requirement of 30 members was exceeded thus the meeting could take place.

32 members attended the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from D. Hofmeyr, G. van der Merwe, Mr. and Mrs. Swart, Mr. and Mrs. Van Niekerk, Prof. and Mrs. Orren, Mr. and Mrs. Dall, A. Scholefield, Mr. and Mrs. Pollard, R. Starke, R. Howell, K. Smith, L. Birch, P. Lawless, B. Edwards, C. Chaplin, Dr. and Mrs. Heydorn, J. van Deventer, A. Louw and H. de Kock.

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM**

The Chairman advised that the AGM Minutes would once again be published in the Buzz and on the website, as well as emailed to members early in February and that the AGM Booklet for the AGM for 2014 had been emailed to all on our data base, posted to those who do not have emails and also posted on the web site at the end of November 2014.

The Minutes of the AGM held on 27 December 2013 was taken as read and approved.

**PROPOSED: JUDGE FARLAM**

**SECONDED: MIKE ROUX**

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

There were no matters arising which would not be dealt with in the Chairman's Report.

## 5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**INTRODUCTION.** Your Committee has had a very strenuous year, faced with many problems and there remain many challenges that still lie ahead. We have endeavoured to keep members informed of the more important issues through newsletters and notices either through our website or by email. We certainly do not wish to spread any pessimism but rather to alert our membership to the prevailing circumstances. We are at times inundated with complaints from the community (both members and non-members) about conditions in the village. We have also not taken unilateral decisions without first consulting with our members. We appreciate responses we receive as we are guided by the views and comments of our members. Inevitably most of these issues need to be channeled through the Municipality or the Ward Committee. However, there are also tendencies to have unrealistic expectations and some residents are critical of what has or has not been achieved by the Committee without coming forward with constructive and realistic solutions. Many of these are issues over which we have little, if any, control.

We would be most remiss in not thanking our Ward Councillor for all her assistance and support throughout the year. A special word of thanks to the Committee and members for their generous support and in particular members of our Volunteer Fire Fighters and Neighbourhood Watch, many of whom are not even members of the Association, for all their hard work and dedication.

Sadly we had to bid farewell to Nancy van Heerden, wife of Louis van Heerden our former Chairman of the Association and former Councillor of Ward 10, who passed away early in June after a long illness. Nancy will be remembered for her involvement in BotSoc, which she served as Chairperson, the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve and the Ratepayers' Association.

**MUNICIPAL MATTERS.** Of particular concern are the perceived financial constraints of the Overstrand Municipality which will inevitably hold serious consequences for ratepayers in the foreseeable future. Expenditure is outgrowing the revenue being collected from ratepayers. Income has reduced because ratepayers have been saving on water and electricity usage whilst costs have increased due to increased salaries above the rate of inflation. An anticipated decrease in Capital Expenditure is ultimately going to result in a decrease in maintenance of our ailing infrastructure. There is more and more reliance on revenue from ordinary cash strapped ratepayers to balance the budget. It is anticipated that we will face an even tougher budget in 2015.

Interaction with the Municipality on budgetary issues has however not been very helpful. We do not believe it inappropriate to question the Municipality about service delivery or unusual rates increases. Unfortunately, some efforts to engage the Municipality on issues of concern have been met with disdain. Questions raised about unrealistic increases and expenditure is viewed as an attack on the establishment. It does not auger well when we are faced with such intolerance. Infrastructure backlog remains a major challenge for the entire Overstrand.

Whilst water and sewage infrastructure levies have been charged to property owners over the last couple of years there is no likelihood of water borne sewage being provided in the next decade. We have been told categorically that the Municipality does not have the financial resources to undertake the backlog all at once. It is going to take years if not decades for this to be done. Members are therefore justified in wanting to know what is happening to this revenue.

Despite our many requests over the years the Overstrand Municipality has continued to neglect maintenance and the upgrading of our fractured infrastructure. It is not necessarily the lack of service delivery but rather the quality and the pace of services received especially when ratepayers are experiencing increased rates far in excess of inflation and in the face of enormous salaries being earned by senior officials. More often than not our budgetary requests have been rejected as not being a priority. The unfortunate perception is that Betty's Bay is being regarded as a low priority area. The perception is that outlying towns have over the years been subsidizing development in Hermanus. Our requests for boardwalks onto our beaches to facilitate access (wheelchair and elderly folk) have been ignored but then we read of an undertaking into the implementation of the Phase 2 of the Hermanus CBD which will include street furniture upgrades, signage, etc. Our request for signs giving tourist's direction to the penguins has also fallen on deaf ears. Our requests that the Municipality provide us with an analysis of the budgets so that we can compare the proportion of rates collected with the proportion of expenditure for both Capital and Working budgets, never materialized. Whilst we accept a degree of cross-subsidization it could be that Betty's Bay is being starved of an equitable share of the rates revenue.

So as to assess the concerns of our membership we sent out an email earlier in the year after the budget was released to determine whether there was any cause for concern. The response was overwhelming. Residents expressed deep concern about the unrealistic increases in rates and taxes without there being very little improvement to our area. We are constantly being reminded by the Municipality that there is no money. Whilst we have been experiencing a shrinking economy, a sliding currency, ailing infrastructure and diminishing service delivery, we find senior officials earning enormous salaries. We believe that we have the right to pursue issues which affect our village and its residents without fear, favour or prejudice and without being accused of being radical or wanting to form an 'independent party'. **It is therefore necessary that we obtain a mandate from our members to continue to pursue these matters.**

Salaries and wages is some 30% of the budget. This has also received adverse media attention. Salaries are growing at a rate which is out of proportion with the rate of inflation. Salary of the Municipal Manager in particular, apart from George, is reported to be the highest in the Western Cape. Ratepayers simply cannot afford this in the long term. Many already have to dip into savings to balance their personal budgets as pensioners cannot keep pace with rising costs.

Whilst the rest of the country was taking austere measures through these difficult times to cut costs, the Overstrand Municipality does not appear to be adjusting to economic changes. We are also alarmed at R80mil being spent on Contract Services and R12.8mil on Consultant Fees. This was a 37% increase since 2009. Whilst services were being contracted out there was no showing of any savings.

The Finance Minister has in fact taken the step of capping spending on Consultants. What assurance do we have that ratepayers are not paying twice for the same work as officials pay consultants to do the work?

Another issue of concern is the Overstrand Municipality wanting to take over the Eskom services in towns like Betty's Bay where we enjoy pre-paid services. This will result in much higher rates being charged to residents in Betty's Bay should this become a reality.

The Overstrand Municipality has acknowledged that the 67% increase in rates on vacant land last year had been unreasonable despite our previous objections.

**WHALE COAST DEVELOPMENT FORUM.** The Association combined with some 22 other organisations in the area of the Overstrand Municipality has taken the initiative to establish a united umbrella body (WCDF) to address issues affecting the region. The Forum is fully representative of communities across the board. Ratepayers' Associations of Hermanus, Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay, Kleinmond, Vermont, Onrus, Gansbaai, De Kelders, Stanford and Sandbaai are all members while business and special interest groups like the Hermanus Business Chamber, Gateway Centre Directorate, Hawston Seafarms Foundation and Proteadorp Community Association have joined the Forum.

While individual organisations will continue with their business within their mandates, we believe that in joining forces we can successfully participate in and contribute to the sustainable development of the Overstrand region. This will include representations, negotiations and communication with the Overstrand Municipality, promoting the interests of the Overstrand in co-operation with the Overstrand Municipality and facilitating regular communication and consultation between members. The main objective is towards keeping rates and tariff increases within the recognized rate of inflation. Whilst we accept that the Overstrand Municipality has a budget to balance they need to take cognizance that ratepayers also have financial constraints. As one can imagine we are dealing with some very complex issues as each town in the Overstrand has its own unique problems. Roads, storm water drainage, flooding of properties, shifting sand dunes and ailing infrastructure are just some of our own on-going concerns in Betty's Bay. The aim of the Forum is not to seek confrontation but it is inevitable that by its nature it will be seen as confrontational especially when it raises controversial issues. The Forum has consulted with an independent Economist and we are satisfied that the current increases are not sustainable in the long term.

A Committee of the Forum met with the Mayor, Municipal Manager and other senior officials on 30 October. The Overstrand Municipality was not very amenable to the meeting since they believe that all representations should be through the respective Ward Committees. The Forum is however of the view that some Ward Committees have not been functioning effectively when dealing with the Overstrand Municipality. Although Ward Committees are supposed to give communities the opportunity to express their needs, their opinions on issues that affect their lives and to have them heard at municipal level it would appear as if the Overstrand Municipality is not very receptive. The Municipal Manager is of the view that the Overstrand Municipality is under no obligation to meet with the Forum and was quite adamant that they would not engage with any other organization other than through the Ward Committees. The Mayor was also of the view that the Overstrand Municipality would under no circumstances allow any input by other organisations in the budget process.

We suspect that the budgetary public participation processes through the Overstrand Municipal Advisory Forum (OMAF) are simply to appease the public. The Manager's view is that the OMAF is simply an information session. The Overstrand Municipality calls for budget input when in fact the budget has already been finalized and submitted to government for approval.

**TREASURER'S REPORT.** Adrian de Kock reports that an examination of our income and expenditure account accompanying this report and some underlying information reveals the following:

- 1) The Volunteer Fire Fighters have started a campaign to raise funds for equipment and to this end have begun a monthly "boerewors roll" sale. On the two occasions where the sale was held this year they raised R4630-00 and received donations of R2340-00 in addition to this amount.
- 2) The Neighborhood Watch had no expenditure during the year as there was sufficient equipment at present. We hold R10545-00 in surplus funds for their use at present which is sufficient to cover any unanticipated cost which may arise. Eight radios and three spotlights previously supplied by DOCS and handed back by previous members of the NW were handed to SAPS for use in Kleinmond.
- 3) The running of the Crassula hall cost us a deficit of R6429-43 due to the purchase of sound equipment for R4849-00 and certain plumbing and electrical repairs.
- 4) The supply of the Buzz ran at a surplus of R546-25 but this should have been a surplus of R1026-25 if we had not to write off a bad debt of R480-00 being advertising costs not paid by Naturesscapes.
- 5) Printing costs have reduced considerably due to the amended distribution process introduced but we still have to pay for the cost of printing the AGM booklet for those who do not have E-Mail addresses.
- 6) Bank charges have been kept in check and are in fact less than the previous year.
- 7) As you are aware the BBRA acted as custodian of certain funds collected for the Eco Centre. These funds amounted to R31471-62 in 2009 when the BBRA accepted custodianship. Since that date R8372-84 in interest has been added giving a total of R39844-46. We recently paid out R38000-00 for the "illustration wall" to be installed in the Stony Point Eco Centre, run by Cape Nature on the authority of the fund raisers. We therefore currently hold R1844-46 being the balance.

Overall your association had a deficit of R10570-17 for the year but the true position is a surplus of R27429-83 taking into account the R38000-00 paid out where we are only custodians of these funds.

Should there be any questions about the accounts Adrian will be only too happy to provide answers at the AGM.

The under mentioned is some information on our input for the proposed 2015/16 Overstrand Municipal budget for Betty's Bay.

#### **BUDGET 2015/16**

We as Committee Members of the Betty's Bay Ratepayers' Association who are Ward 10 Committee members refer to our E-Mail of 22 April 2014 wherein we listed our requirements for the forthcoming budget and your subsequent Ward 10 Capital Budget wish list distributed at the recent Ward Committee meeting and advise the following:?

- 1) It is apparent that this list contains a mixture of capital and operational budget items.

- 2) There are a number of duplications on the list.
- 3) It appears that there are many items carried over from previous wish lists without ascertaining whether they are still relevant.
- 4) One item is reflected as Betty's Bay i.e. storm water Overhills where its locality should be Kleinmond.

Besides these observations it is apparent that there is a need for prioritizing items and to this end we list below the items which we wish included separated into capital and operational items. They are listed in priority order and only refer to Betty's Bay whom we represent. It is up to the other members of the Ward 10 Committee to deal with their specific areas. As far as Mooiuitsig is concerned they in fact have their own representative and this area should in fact be handled by them but we comment on some of their items as their suburb is in Betty's Bay.

#### **CAPITAL ITEMS - BETTY'S BAY**

- 1) Tarring of Roads - Certain well used roads must be placed on the priority list for tarring i.e.
  - a. Wheeler Road from Porter Drive to intersection at Lakeside Drive/White Road and continuing up to Salvia Road intersection.
  - b. Main Beach parking area - This area must be enlarged by removal of the dumped sand.
  - c. Oxalis Road from Disa Road to White Road.
  - d. White Road from the intersection with Wheeler Road to Porter Drive where it changes its name to Lakeside Drive.
  - e. High Level Road - Steep areas.
- 2) Replacement of Potable Water Pipes - The phased replacement of pipes needs to be stepped up.
- 3) Otter Close Bridge - A suitable permanent structure needs to be constructed.
- 4) Storm Water Pipes - Installation of storm water pipes in areas which historically become flooded such as surrounding the lakes i.e. Lachenalia Road.
- 5) Industrial Refuse Bins - Required to replace the decrepit trailer and thus avoid the current health hazard.
- 6) Life Saving Equipment - Appropriate equipment must be supplied as well as suitable signage re "rip tides" etc. installed.
- 7) Disabled access - Main Beach and Silver Sands boardwalks. This has been dragging on for some time and needs to be addressed.
- 8) Hangklip Library Extension - Is this not the responsibility of Provincial Authorities?

#### **OPERATIONAL ITEMS -BETTY'S BAY**

- 1) Gravel Roads - Sufficient funds must be allocated to maintain gravel roads in Betty's Bay on an ongoing annual basis. The current processes of scraping roads without any "run off" being catered for will with the rains convert roads into dams and rivers.
- 2) Storm Water Channels - They must be cleared on an ongoing annual basis and not just confined to the main roads.
- 3) Road Side Clearing - Many roads have narrowed due to encroachment of vegetation and must be cut back on an annual ongoing basis to allow vehicles to pass each other and avoid accidents.
- 4) Bass Lake Boardwalk - Secure boardwalk to prevent it being moved by storm water annually.

All current items on the wish list headed as being in Betty's Bay may be deleted and replaced by the above capital items.

As far as Mooiuitsig is concerned we comment as follows:

### **CAPITAL ITEMS - MOOIUITSIG**

- 1) Sidewalk Clarence Drive to Mooiuitsig - There are various problems delaying such an undertaking such as piping near the surface.
- 2) School Children Bus Shelter - We understand that this has been scrapped as the children are picked up in Mooiuitsig.
- 3) Clinic Room at Community Hall - Is this not the problem of the Health Department?
- 4) Paving of Road to Mooiuitsig Hall - We do not consider this a priority as long as the gravel road is maintained.
- 5) Storm Water Mooiuitsig - We are unaware of this problem.
- 6) Building of Clinic - See 3) above - This is not required.
- 7) Replacement of Storm Water Pipes - See 4) above under Betty's Bay Capital items.
- 8) Upgrading of Houses - I thought that the houses had been transferred to the residents and as such they are responsible for repairs, etc.

### **OPERATIONAL ITEMS - MOOIUITSIG**

- 1) Roads and sidewalks - See 1) and 3) under Operational Items for Betty's Bay.

The Area Manager was requested to give effect to these items.

**DUNE AND DRIFT SAND MANAGEMENT.** We are particularly grateful to one of our members, Gottlieb van der Merwe, for taking the initiative to revive the Dunes Interest Group.

Gottlieb reports as follows:

We reported previously on the conclusion of the court action and promises by the Municipal Manager made at a subsequent Ward Committee meeting that despite the Court ruling, the Municipality would continue to clear the roads of drift sand and that the Municipality is in the process of drafting an appropriate management plan for the dunes as provided for in the Overstrand IDP. Work on the latter has however subsequently been terminated upon instruction from Municipal Management.

Affected homeowners have established the Betty's Bay Dune Interest Group (BBDIG) with a membership of about 40 and managed by a committee comprising Gottlieb van der Merwe, Ron Whytock and Belius Potgieter. The committee has a mandate to negotiate on behalf of the group with the authorities (local and Provincial) on the dune issue and is working closely with the BBRA (Dan Fick).

Removing the sand from the roads presented a problem due to the limitations imposed by the various environmental Acts and Regulations and the Directorate Land Management at the Province suggested that the Municipality present a temporary Maintenance Management Plan to the Province that would allow them to remove the sand and legally dispose thereof. The plan was drafted, presented for public participation and approved by the Province in record time just before Christmas 2013. Unfortunately, the Municipality's preferred alternative for disposing of the sand (transferral onto the beach at the eastern end of Morea Road) was rejected due to (understandable) objections by Morea Road property owners. The approved alternative (dumping the sand on the Main Beach parking lot) turned out to be completely impractical. Sand is still being removed from the roads, but we are not sure how it is being disposed of.

In May 2014 the BBDIG committee finally managed to have a meeting with Municipal Management and was informed that as a result of the Court ruling and further legal opinion obtained, the Municipality believes that they cannot be held responsible for the stabilization of the dunes, but is willing to help facilitate a solution. They have met with Cape Nature on the issue. Cape Nature is concerned about numerous similar sand encroachment problems in the Province and plan to do a survey with a view of establishing a policy to handle such problems in future using the Betty's Bay problem as a case study. The Municipal Manager stated that the Municipality could not do any work in areas not under their jurisdiction (i.e. the dunes). However, the BBDIG managed to establish at the meeting that most of the land in question (i.e. between the Nerine and Morea seafront Erven and the high water mark) is indicated on maps as commonage (ERF 3784) and is therefore under Municipal jurisdiction!

The BBDIG continued to follow up the Cape Nature promises and a site meeting was held on Main Beach in September 2014, attended by representatives from the BBDIG, Municipality, Province, Cape Nature, BBRA and Overberg District Municipality. It was resolved at the meeting that the Municipality would update the current Maintenance Management Plan and re-issue it for public participation and approval by Province before the start of the holiday season. Work on the Sand Encroachment Study and a long term Dune Management Plan for Betty's Bay (the case study) will be coordinated by Cape Nature, but will be executed by Coastal Management of the Province with the help of various specialists and consultants. The BBDIG is monitoring both these activities, which is currently underway. It should be noted that the Cape Nature project could take a year or more to complete.

**DAWIDSKRAAL RIVER.** The eroding embankments of the Dawidskraal River continue to remain a huge problem and the forest of Milkwood trees is under threat of being washed into the sea. There has over the past few years been no definitive plan and associated budget allocated to construct a bridge which will withstand the ongoing assault of the annual storms. This bridge has been washed away on a number of occasions in recent times and it is time that a concerted effort is made to address this issue.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT AND TRAFFIC CONTROL.** Our beaches and parking areas were quite chaotic during the last December festive season mainly due to services being deployed at Blue Flag beaches in Kleinmond and Hermanus. There was a distinct lack of Law Enforcement and Traffic Control in Betty's Bay mainly due to budgetary constraints and deployment of skeleton staff. Clearly insufficient capacity and resources had an impact on the outlying Hangklip areas and this compromised on safety and security issues. Members of our Community Volunteer Fire Fighters were kept busy throughout the festive season, without compensation, dealing with the extinguishing of bush fires, incidents of illegal drinking on the beaches, the illegal setting off of fireworks on beaches, setting of braai fires on beaches, complaints about nuisance dogs and undertaking traffic and parking control and emergency services. Consequently, we held several meetings during this year with the Directorate of Law Enforcement to ensure that we did not have a recurrence this year.

Violent delivery service protests in Grabouw caused the N2 to be closed off for three days. This resulted in traffic to and from the Cape being diverted along the R44 through Betty's Bay and



Kleinmond. This caused major disruption along Clarence Drive (R44). There were also several accidents along the mountain side.

The diversion of traffic has clearly revealed that in the event of the proposed N2 toll road going ahead, we will be faced with worsening traffic conditions, such as,

- Increased heavy and articulated vehicles. This continued throughout the day and night;
- Speeding through villages to overtake slow moving heavy traffic;
- Noise pollution;
- Slowing down and build up of traffic behind heavy duty vehicles on the mountain side.

**STONY POINT PROJECT.** The project made progress in the last few months. As you will be aware this project has been on the table for some 10 years. The programme consists of the upgrading and renovation of existing facilities in the form of a coffee shop, eco-centre, upgraded ablutions, disability friendly parking areas, the construction of a boathouse for the Cape Nature patrol boat and the provision of clubhouse facilities for the Betty's Bay Boat Club. The construction phase has been completed and the restaurant is due to come into operation in December. Management of the project has been transferred to Cape Nature. The Association has transferred R38, 000 for the development of the eco-Centre.

**CRIME.** We have once again been faced with a significant increase in property related crime. In one month we had as many as 40 incidents of housebreakings and this was probably much higher if unreported incidents were also to be taken into account. Although not unique to the Overstrand, Betty's Bay tops the list for housebreakings. Unemployment, poverty and substance abuse are being given as major contributing factors. Also, by far the majority of our houses remain vacant and unprotected throughout the year. Indications are that syndicates may be involved since stolen items are being moved very quickly out of the area to the Cape.

Way back in 2010 because of the high rates of crime in our village it had then become imperative that we establish a community based organization (Neighbourhood Watch) to assist SAPS in striving for a safe and secure environment. We created six zones across Betty's Bay which initially had a measure of success in reducing crime, however, over time enthusiasm has dwindled and only one of the zones is still effectively carrying out patrols. Some of the other zones have become inactive or operate on an 'ears and eyes' basis. We urgently need to revive what was once a very active operation.

Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility not only that of Law Enforcement. Unfortunately, we are constantly being reminded by SAPS that far too many of our residents do not adhere to basic security precautionary measures. Far too many houses do not even have adequate intruder alarm systems. Systems that were installed many years ago seriously need to be checked and upgraded. Far too many residents rely upon security providers to prevent crime, this will not happen. The mandate of Private Security is to react to alarm activations but only for their respective clients. They DO NOT carry out patrols of the village.

Through the Community Police Forum representations were made to the Overstrand Cluster Board for increased visible policing. This did not have the desired affect so we made direct representations to the Provincial Commissioner and the Cluster Commander. We did not even have the courtesy of acknowledgements.

The CPF took the initiative of meeting with an alternative private security group to explore the feasibility of utilizing their services. They are based in Somerset West where they have had a good success rate in reducing crime. They operate where an entire estate/village is their responsibility and where all residents are signed up. However, their service has enormous cost implications. They in fact question the effectiveness and viability of any private security company charging R250 per month per household. No additional resources can be put in at this cost. They talk in the region of R1000 pm which will provide for proper visibility and not just for one vehicle responding/reacting to an alarm. They question the sustainability and viability of three security companies operating in our villages as currently is the case. Profit margins are minimal when clients are spread across three companies. Already we have seen another security company close down. They maintain that to add an additional vehicle to an area with one officer 24/7 will cost in the region of an additional R60, 000 per month. We doubt if pensioners (clients) can afford this. To establish a proper and functional Control Room will cost in the region of R3mil.

We continue to work on increasing our database of email addresses of our residents, where possible, so that regular communication can be made possible. Residents need to assist by spreading the message and getting all residents/homeowners onto the network. We have to reduce the many unnecessary hours spent attempting to make contact with owners of vacant houses where crime has been committed.

**FIRE/EMERGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES.** As you are no doubt aware we had a large fire during July resulting in the loss of two houses and damage to a number of others. Numerous houses were under threat and some houses had to be evacuated. Considerable damage was caused to vegetation. We are particularly thankful to our Volunteer Firefighters for the tremendous job they did in support of the Fire Services.

What is disturbing is that whilst we were fighting the fire no less than five houses were broken into. There were also other incidents during the year where fires were started as decoys whilst houses were broken into.

Notice was received from the Overstrand Municipality stating that as from 1 July property owners would be charged for Fire Brigade call-outs. We are concerned that people will be reluctant to use this service or even consider not alerting them of a fire at the risk of being charged.

**CRASSULA HALL.** It will be noted from the Treasurer's report that the hall is run at a loss. Notwithstanding this, there are local organisations and individuals, some of which may be members and some not, who are critical for having to pay for the use of the hall and the use of our facilities. They expect to have the use of the hall free of charge. The Association, which leases the hall from the municipality, is faced with the cost of electricity, water usage, pumping of sewerage tank, cleaning of the hall, cutlery and crockery after events. We also provide toilet paper and refuse bags. On numerous occasions we have had difficulty in having people vacate the hall by 2am despite the fact that they are required to be out by midnight.

**MEMBERSHIP** currently stands at 369 which include 9 Life Members. A few members have still to adjust their fees to the new amount. 11 Members have been removed from the list due mainly to non-payment of subscriptions.

## **6. DISCUSSION OF CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman said that before discussing his report, he needed to elaborate on a number of recent developments since sending out of the AGM Booklet.

### **SAND DUNES**

Another meeting had been held on 8 December with the municipality regarding an updated Management Maintenance Plan. It was proposed by the Overstrand Municipality that the sediment (sand) collected from the roads be discharged in the Main Beach car park as there was no alternative site. It was further proposed that this sediment then be moved by bulldozer to the high water mark but this is only likely to happen towards the end of next year. This will have a financial burden on the Overstrand Municipality and the affected parties will have to consider becoming part of a 'special rates area'.

### **STONY POINT**

Stony Point has for some time been the focus of a tourism upgrade and development for the establishment of an eco-centre, coffee shop, the upgrading of ablutions, clubhouse and boat launching facilities for the Betty's Bay Boat Club as well as parking areas. Throughout all our discussions during the planning stages of this development only mention was ever made of Wine and Malt being allowed to be served by the Coffee Shop which will be managed by the Mooiuitsig Community Trust. Our understanding has always been that only light meals would be served during the day and the Coffee Shop would close once gates to the penguin colony closed in the early evening. The Municipality has now handed over management of Stony Point to Cape Nature. Notification has since been displayed at the Coffee Shop that an application has been made for an "All Kinds of Liquor Licence". D. Fick has spoken to the Project Manager (Casidra) who confirms that the Coffee Shop will now be functioning as a Restaurant and not a Coffee Shop.

We are not satisfied that the establishment warrants an 'all liquor' licence especially when it only serves light meals and is only open during the day. The Boat Club has a liquor licence but the Club is restricted to a membership.

The BBRA did not officially receive any application even though we were a member of the Advisory Committee. The Ward Committee only meets again in February.

### **SET-BACK LINES**

Notification was received and forwarded by email to all our members advising that open forums are to be held during February and March 2015 regarding refinement of the coastal management lines for the Overberg district. All directly affected stakeholders or interested parties and representative groups are encouraged to register on the project stakeholder database. Stakeholders will be contacted directly and offered insight into the demarcation process as well as the opportunity to participate in the final delineation of the coastal management lines.

## **TRIATHLON**

We have received notification that a triathlon event is being planned to take place over three days of the long weekend, 1 to 3 May 2015 starting and finishing in Gordon's Bay. This will become an annual event. The main event which will be on Sunday 3 May is a triathlon cycle race. The cycle leg comprises an outward and return leg along Clarence Drive through Betty's Bay with a turn-around at Palmiet Bridge. This will require the closure of the entire Clarence Drive to traffic to and from Gordon's Bay for a period of up to 7 hours. The Ratepayers' Associations of Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooi Els have met with our Councillor and expressed opposition to the closure as it will have a major impact on businesses in the three villages not to mention the inconvenience to residents. There will be no financial benefit to any of our villages. It is our submission that only Gordon's Bay will benefit from such an event.

- M. Roux expressed concern that the Municipality did not seem to be taking cognizance of issues being raised by the various Ratepayers' Associations. He said that it was gratifying to hear that an umbrella body had now been formed to address issues on behalf of the entire Ratepayers' Associations of the Overstrand and be able to speak with one voice.
- The question was raised whether a Data Base existed for Betty's Bay. D. Fick said that a Data Base in excess of 400 homeowners had been established. A. de Kock advised that a membership Data Base of 373 had been created and stressed that non-members should approach the Municipality to try and solve their problems and not the Association. He stressed that the committee operated on a voluntary basis and were there to serve our members.
- It was generally felt that the Municipality was not keeping the ratepayers informed as to what was happening. Councillor Krige informed the meeting that the News Bulletin which accompanied the monthly accounts gave details of happenings within the Municipality and stressed that each and every issue raised was thoroughly worked through. The Chairman stressed that there were monetary constraints and unfortunately felt that Hermanus was being given preferential treatment. He also advised that the Councillor has a Discretionary Budget for Ward 10 which has been cut from R500, 000 to R400, 000 despite the fact that Proteadorp and the Informal Settlement also falls within our Ward.

There being nothing further to discuss, the Chairman's report was accepted.

**PROPOSED: R. PERHOLD**

**SECONDED:**

**W. TAWSE**

## **7. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer advised that his report had also been included in the AGM Booklet. He went on to inform the meeting that the amount of R38 000 which had been paid out, was an amount which the Association held as custodians on behalf of a group of Ratepayers who had collected the money to set up an Eco Centre. He said that the money had been transferred to help with the setup of an Eco/Information Centre at Stony Point.

Adrian de Kock said that the Betty's Bay Ratepayers' Association was the largest in the entire Overstrand and welcomed all the new members who had signed up before the meeting. He also thanked all the members that had paid their subscription fees timeously.

The Treasurer informed the meeting that the Crassula Hall was rented from the Municipality and said that it was the Association's responsibility to look after the upkeep of the Hall. He said that

the Hall was rented out for functions and stressed that our rates were in keeping with those of other Halls in the area. A. de Kock said that the Buzz was largely covered by our faithful advertisers and the donations made at both Penguin Place and Centre Shop.

Mr. Cope enquired whether committee members were reimbursed for their expenses. A. de Kock said that any expenses were paid out of the committee members own pockets. He said that no claims were made for reimbursement with the exception of once or twice for a printing cartridge. He went on to say that it was important for the community to realise that the committee was not at their beck and call as they were all giving their services on a voluntary basis.

It was felt that a special account should be opened into which the community could make donations to help cover some of the committee's costs. A. de Kock said that this would be discussed at the first meeting of the committee in 2015.

Mike Roux proposed a motion to thank the committee for their dedication and hard work. The motion was unanimously passed.

The Treasurer's Report was approved and accepted.

**PROPOSED: H. FOOT**

**SECONDED: M. FOURIE**

## **8. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Adrian de Kock informed the meeting that D. Fick had been involved with the Association for the last 10 years and that he had indicated that he was no longer available for re election and would not be persuaded to stand again. He stressed that D. Fick had served for Chairman over most of this period and had also served on the Ward Committee, Federation, OMAF, CPF and now the WCDF. He had also been instrumental in the forming of the Volunteer Fire Fighters and the Neighbourhood Watch. He went on to say that L. Fick held the position of Secretary and had been in charge of the Crassula Hall and Advertising. A. de Kock stressed that if the Association was to carry on operating successfully it was important that members be prepared to serve on the committee.

The Chairman said that with the exception of him, L. Fick and N. Swart, all members of the committee were prepared to stand again. It was important that the position of Editor of the Buzz and Website be filled, as according to the Constitution the Buzz had to be made available to members on a monthly basis and we also owed it to our advertisers to have the Buzz in the shops early in the month. He also advised that it was important for the committee to be vigilant as since the Town Planning Department had been moved to Hermanus we were no longer receiving notifications of proposed developments, sub-divisions or rezoning. We were also no longer receiving applications for Liquor Licences nor were these being published in the papers.

The Chairman advised that two new nominations had been received, namely H. Foot and R. Perold. He enquired whether there were any nominations from the floor. There being no further nominations H. Foot and R. Perold were duly elected and welcomed to the committee. D. Fick said that at the first meeting in the New Year the executive would be elected.

D. Fick took the opportunity of thanking all the committee for their dedication, support and hard work. He said that each and every one of them had given 100% of their time and stressed that he had been very proud to work with them. He thanked A. de Kock for always being available when

called upon and said that the Association could not hope for a better Treasurer. He also thanked Councillor L. Krige for always being available to assist and give advice when problems arose.

## 9. GENERAL

- ✓ Tim McGavin informed the meeting that he together with Dougie of Centre Shop were hosting a 5km Fun Run/Walk on 31 December to raise funds for the Volunteer Fire Fighters. He said that tickets for a Raffle to be drawn after the race were on sale at Centre Shop. T. McGavin said that the funds were being raised to help buy new uniforms, as well as hoses which W. Tawse, Coordinator, had informed him were continually being damaged by the fires. He also thanked the Volunteers for their hard work and dedication in fighting the fires in the Hangklip-Kleinmond area. He especially thanked all involved in fighting the huge fire which raged in the area recently and burnt for more than 12 hours - 85 firefighters and 24 fire tenders were in attendance.
- ✓ E. Barnard enquired whether there was any further development regarding the Overstrand Municipality taking over the electricity in the Hangklip area. D. Fick said that the great news was that Eskom had advised that this would not take place in the near future.

## 10. CLOSURE

The outgoing Chairman said that he would be most remiss in not thanking the many people in the community who do function behind the scenes and thanked them for their advice and always being prepared to help when called upon. To all those who are actively involved in the Firefighting team our sincere thanks and appreciation for all your efforts in keeping our village safe.

D. Fick said that on behalf of the committee he would like to wish each and everyone a blessed and happy Christmas, enjoy being with your family over this special period. Also to all a healthy and prosperous New Year and those traveling back after the holiday period - drive carefully and keep safe.