

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

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD ON FRIDAY, 27 DECEMBER 2013  
IN THE CRASSULA HALL AT 10H00**

**1. OPENING AND WELCOME**

The Chairman extended a special word of welcome to all especially those visiting from far and wide over this festive period. 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. He said that the attendance register was circulating and requested everyone to complete with all their details so that we can update our data base. The meeting was advised that the quorum requirement of 30 members was exceeded thus the meeting could take place.

40 members attended the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Rob Johnson, Hugo Truter, Dr. and Mrs. Heydorn, Mike Orren, Lydia Bruwer, Richard Starke, Cheryl Broom, Hazel de Kock, Petra Swart, Caroline Silberbauer, Wilna Rademeyer and P Harwood.

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

The Chairman advised that the AGM Minutes would 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 will be emailed to all on our data base, posted to those who do not have emails and will also be posted on the web site at the end of November 2014.

The Minutes of the AGM held on 28 December 2012 was taken as read and approved.

**APPROVED: BRIAN EDWARDS**

**SECONDED: JOHAN VAN VUUREN**

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

**4.1 Coastal Setback Lines**

Brian Edwards enquired what further developments had taken place regarding the Coastal Setback Lines. The Chairman advised that the process had been suspended. Gotlieb van der Merwe informed the meeting that he had contacted the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for further information. He said that the project had been put on hold indefinitely and that an entire new study was being undertaken. He advised that the Municipality had submitted a number of changes as 50% of Betty's Bay properties would be affected. He said that the DEA were busy undertaking a study of the West Coast and that it would take a number of years before they would be able to begin with the Overstrand area. G. van der Merwe advised that Integrated Zoning Law of 2008 was being amended.

## 5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It had once again been quite a hectic year. The Association had been faced with many challenges throughout the year dealing with many issues either about deteriorating roads, blocked storm water channels, flooding of roads and properties, wash aways, deteriorating infrastructure, ongoing water pipe breakages, delays in the pumping of sewerage tanks, drifting sand dunes, problems with waste disposal, contract meter readers, nuisance dogs, baboon infestation and last but not least the fluctuating incidents of crime in the area. Never a dull moment.

He said it would be most remiss in not acknowledging the support we had received from Councillor Krige. She needed to be commended for her untiring efforts in representing our Ward. Also a special word of thanks to Allan Heydorn, Richard Starke and Mike Orren for their continued support throughout the year on environmental matters. He thanked the Committee and members for their generous support and in particular members of our Neighbourhood Watch and Volunteer Fire Fighters, many of whom are not even members of the Association, for all their hard work and dedication. Often we are quick to criticize the SAPS but they have under the circumstances been tremendous in their responses.

We dealt with a number of disputes involving the municipal administration which he felt needed mentioning.

**Municipal Budget.** We actively engaged the Overstrand Municipality on several occasions on certain aspects of sharp increases in rates and tariffs without much joy. Of concern is the extraordinary high salary bill amounting to 30% of the budget. The cost of the Municipal Manager and his six Directors amounts to R16mil per year something we believe we can ill afford. Whilst we are continuously being reminded that the Overstrand Municipality is one of the better municipalities in the country it does not give them Carte Blanche to level increased taxes and levies especially for services we have not and do not receive. We are constantly being faced with complaints by the community about the impact this is having on retired folk who are already feeling the pinch.

Despite our objections, an unreasonably high rate increase of 63.4% has been levied against undeveloped land which the municipality insists it is entitled to do. The municipality conveniently appears not to have taken cognizance of the fact that undeveloped properties are already being charged 'availability' tariffs for water (incl. infrastructure), sewage (incl. infrastructure) and refuse removal and now face a further 63.4% increase in rates. It remains our contention that it is unfair for the municipality to arbitrarily impose a different rate against undeveloped property. We requested the methodology used to determine such a high rates increase as we believe that they arrived at this unrealistic figure so as to generate additional revenue to balance the budget. The reasons given by the municipality for the introduction of a new category of ratable property of '*vacant land*' which will be rated more highly than the category '*residential property*' is inter alia, the following:

- To encourage property development.
- To encourage densification in line with the integrated development plan.
- It is preferable to the municipality to have properties within its jurisdiction which are developed and occupied.

- The need to encourage residential occupation of properties, as this is a municipality where many people seek to retire.
- The category of vacant land will be in line with the actual use and not just the permitted use.

The municipality however fails to address the important issue of whether our ailing infrastructure has capacity to sufficiently maintain and efficiently cope with such additional development that it now encourages and the fact that it will place a further burden on the financial constraints of the budget, which is likely to attract additional taxes. The perception is that the relationship between Council and Ratepayer Associations in general has become somewhat strained because of the fact that we are continuously highlighting shortcomings in their administration. Letters of complaint are either not being acknowledged or are simply being ignored.

**Municipal Accounts.** Attention was given to reported discrepancies in municipal accounts after the appointment of new Contract Meter Readers. Readings were not being taken on a regular monthly basis. Accounts consequently fluctuated from month to month.

We continue to receive complaints from residents about discrepancies in their monthly accounts. We suggest they approach the Accounts Department to deal with their individual problems.

**Dispute regarding Penalties and Increase in water Deposit.** We supported a member in an on-going dispute relating to the imposition of penalties and an increase in water deposit on an account that had not been paid in full after an account had not been received by the owner. This dispute was initially referred to an Ombudsman Committee which turned out to comprise of officials of the municipality. This committee subsequently became an Advisory Committee.

**Property, Planning and Development.** Colin Chaplin reported that of particular concern is the increasing number of applications for building line and land use restrictions to be relaxed. These are often to legalize encroachments of existing dwellings or to circumvent terms of Title Deeds. Of concern is that this trend is likely to increase as it has been mentioned that Province intended passing legislation early in the New Year permitting second dwellings on properties. The municipality is also encouraging densification. No doubt this will raise additional revenue for the municipality. This will certainly change the face of the village as we currently know it.

Other areas of concern include:

- The increased number of applications for the erection of second dwellings on plots
- The proposed development of small holdings that surround Betty's Bay
- Correct procedure not being followed by applicants for departures from Title Deeds
- The general lack of architectural uniformity in both existing and new buildings in Betty's Bay.

The BBRA tries to work hand in hand with the relevant authorities, applicants and its members when dealing with any new proposed developments. We are not in the habit of objecting merely for the sake of objecting and try to engage with all parties while acting in the best interests of the community that we represent.

Revised Scheme Regulations, applicable to Residential Zone I (single residential) properties, was published in the Provincial Government Gazette on 29 November which will become applicable as from 1 January 2014. The definitions of the primary uses and most of the consent uses as well as regulations in respect of building line encroachments and parking have been revised. Primary use now provides for second dwellings, guest rooms, day care centres and house shops.

It is going to make any opposition to any undesirable development very difficult in the future.

We have received prior notification of a developer exploring the possibility of a development on a Portion 229 of Farm 559, which is a large property of 22ha zoned for agricultural development on the far side of Clarence Drive. It falls within an identified critical biodiversity area. We have received conflicting reports regarding the intentions of the owner. We have stressed to the owner that we would await the developer's formal application and respond accordingly.

Some 5 years ago there was an application to develop Erf 4013, Crassula Close. This is a 17,000sqm Erf which has graves on it and which the owner wished to subdivide into several stands. The BBRA opposed it at the time. The owner was trying to do it again. We have told him we will continue to oppose it.

**Closure of Beach Boulevard.** This emerged once again after some 3 years. The municipality is now seeking to amend conditions set down by the Provincial Minister in 2010 but never adhered to by the municipality. Deep concern was expressed by affected parties about the latest developments. We had several meetings with affected parties and municipal officials. Several letters of objection to the amendments were submitted to Council. Affected parties also questioned the reason for wanting to rezone the affected area. There have been no further developments.

**Management of Dunes and Sand Drift.** We previously reported on the case brought by a group of homeowners of Nerine Crescent against the Overstrand Municipality applying for an order for the OM to keep clear the road and verges of any beach sand. Judgment was handed down in March and the court ruled in favour of the Municipality. At a subsequent Ward Committee meeting at which the Mayor and the Municipal Manager were present we requested them to clarify the position especially in light of the judgment. The Municipal Manager emphasized that the municipality would not be insensitive to the problem and was committed to assisting home owners where necessary but would confine itself to budgetary constraints.

The Manager also drew attention to the Integrated Development Plan of the municipality where mention is made of certain areas in Betty's Bay that are affected by Driftsand which is threatening the existence of residences and that the municipality is in the process of drafting an appropriate management plan for the dunes. They have also delivered inputs with respect to the placement of setback lines in order to promote the ecological management of the dunes and to protect private property from coastal processes. Area management teams will be clearing road surfaces of dune sediment as an interim management measure.

Affected homeowners are in the process of establishing an interest working group of affected property owners in the Nerine and Morea Roads so as to speak with a combined voice to the municipality.

Judy Kirby and I together with some of the affected residents attended a meeting on Thursday (12 Dec) in Stellenbosch with provincial DA MP, Mike Walters to seek resolution. A further aggravating situation is that truck loads of sand have and still are being moved from Nerine Crescent and dumped in the main beach car park. There have been several complaints from arriving residents/visitors that parking in the car park had as a result been considerably reduced and access to the beach made very difficult. The proposal put forward to Mike Walters was that the sand blown towards Nerine and Morea Roads should be moved back to the high water mark. This proposal was previously dismissed by Province. Mike Walters undertook to investigate the possibility of the municipality obtaining a mining permit which would hopefully enable them to move the sand back to the high water mark instead of removing the sand off site which is currently happening. On Wednesday 18 December we had a further meeting on site with officials from the Provincial Dept. of Environmental Affairs and Neville Green to discuss the legal restrictions on the removal of sand from the road to the beach and to discuss a proposal from Province that would allow the Municipality to implement a **short term management plan** to remove sand from the roads onto the beach.

Generally the plan of action is well motivated as an interim contingency measure which will cause the least disturbance and minimise further impact on the environment. It will hopefully avoid any further removal of sediment off site as this has been the cause of considerable beach erosion and possible flooding in the future. However, in unique circumstances like this, one solution invariably is the cause of other problems. Some Morea Road residents have expressed concern that hold the view that by moving the sand through the corner of Morea Road to the high level mark will create a sediment pathway. As a consequence during a strong South Easter the sand is likely to blow back into Morea Road making it once again impassable.

Another reservation that has been expressed is the economic impact this plan will have on all the ratepayers of Betty's Bay as it is likely to result in an increase in taxes across the board. It is stipulated in the management plan that the cost of moving sediment is high and this will impact on Municipal budgets and ultimately ratepayer's accounts. The submission by many ratepayers that an overall increase in rates and taxes should not be considered is quite understandable. This is another issue that will also need clarification.

Gottlieb van der Merwe who has been initiating this effort requested that he address the meeting and elaborate on the Morea/Nerine mandate. He said that a number of residents together with the support of the Ratepayers' Association were trying to reach a solution to the problem by involving Province and the Municipality. He said that he had had a telephonic conversation with the Municipal Manager who stressed that the Municipality was not responsible for the removal of the sand but confirmed that they would continue to assist wherever possible. G. van der Merwe advised that Province had agreed to the removal of the sand to the Parking Area at Main Beach (which was causing huge congestion as far as parking was concerned) and said that they were once again back where they had started. He said that Province were reluctant to move the sand back to the beach saying that there was the possibility of causing a sediment trail. He stressed that the situation was serious and appealed to all to please give their support and thanked the BBRA for their continued support.

**Roads and Stormwater Infrastructure.** Representation was made to Ward Councillor Krige after the recent heavy down pours which caused flooding of many roads and properties some of which became impassable. Most of the roads no longer have storm water drains, either they are over grown or have filled up with sand over the years. Consequently, roads become streams or turn into storm water drains. Many houses were also flooded. The Councillor was prompt in arranging a high profile municipal delegation from Hermanus to carry out an inspection. Consequently, an inspection report was tabled in Council emphasizing short to long term solutions. This matter was also raised at a Ward Committee meeting in October. Consensus is that our roads which are predominantly gravel are in desperate need of upgrading and that there is a lack of proper storm water infrastructure and maintenance. As one can appreciate no provision has been made in the current financial year to undertake these enormous tasks.

Mid November we experienced a down pour even greater than the one experienced in 2005. Considerable damage was caused to the Botanical Gardens, Waterfall Road was washed away, the bridge at Otter Close was once again washed away, the banks of the river were considerably eroded making the river much wider than before and several roads and properties throughout the village were flooded.

The municipality pulled out all stops to repair as many roads as possible and restore access across Dawidskraal River for the Otter Close residents. A meeting was held on 17 December which also included SANBI.

**Water Working Group.** With the retirement of Avril Nunn, Richard Starke has kindly agreed to take over the Chairmanship of the Water Working Group on which Prof. Orren, Kevin Winter and Stephen Muller (Overstrand Director for Infrastructure) and the BBRA also serve. The Group has since held its first meeting. There were as many as 19 water pipe breaks during the month of December. This underlines the state of our infrastructure.

**Crime** has continued to fluctuate throughout the year with incidents of Housebreakings and Theft out of Vehicles being quite prominent. Only some units of the Neighbourhood Watch system have been active in patrols. More Wardens are however desperately needed to be recruited if we are ever to reduce crime in the area. A few Wardens simply cannot win this battle alone. Many areas remain unprotected simply because they consist mainly of unoccupied holiday homes.

Unfortunately, many residents are oblivious to the fact that crime exists in the village. It has to be recognized that in most cases it may be possible to minimize and control crime but it will never be removed altogether. This is where property owners need to take responsibility to minimize their risk and look after their possessions. If everyone takes due care it minimizes opportunity and temptation. For example, do not leave items of value exposed in the car, lock doors and install adequate alarm systems.

Due to continued suggestions that Betty's Bay seriously consider a CCTV system we established a steering committee to test the market and came up with alarming results. We are looking at anything in excess of R1mil per year to equip, administer and monitor the whole area not to mention monthly levies. We would have to get the entire community to buy into it to make it affordable to each household but this would by no means be an easy task especially because we have many absent homeowners who are not particularly

interested in even taking simple precautions like installing burglar proofing or intruder alarm systems. To achieve this we would also have to involve the municipality who would also charge an admin fee to deduct monthly levies. There are certain reservations about the effectiveness of CCTV in a township like BB which has numerous entrances and exits. We also have other organisations whose prime objective is to protect the marine resources but do not invest in any measures of their own. A public participation process would in any case have to be undertaken and we would have to get a 50+1 support before we can even contemplate such a move. Pringle Bay spent in excess of R350,000 on their installation of 4 cameras and software which came from donations. Also they are faced with a monthly administration fee of R1000. Despite their installation they still experience housebreakings which are gradually increasing. Accesses by perpetrators are now on foot and not by vehicle. Perpetrators easily find ways to circumvent security measures.

I attended a briefing by the National Commissioner of Police to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament which dealt mainly with staffing levels at stations and the crime situation. I also attended a meeting in Gansbaai of all stakeholders with the MEC for Community Safety and officials from the Department of Community Safety to discuss preliminary findings on Policing Needs and Priorities and crime trends for the Overstrand area.

**Chamber of Business.** At a recent meeting of the Association at which the Councillor was also present, it was felt that there is a need for the business sector in Betty's Bay to seriously give consideration to establishing a Chamber of Business in line with those that already exist in other villages. It is felt that it is important for the business sector to forge stronger links so as to collectively deal with wide ranging changes that are taking place. A representative of the Chamber could also serve on the Executive of the BBRA. Councillor Krige would have been glad to meet with all business owners to discuss matters of concern. Unfortunately, we only had one response.

**Stony Point Project.** We attended several meetings on the progress of the development of the project. Of great concern is that inadequate provision has been made for visitors' parking and that tour busses are known to have left without tourists being dropped off because of the lack of parking. We foresee that during peak periods adjacent roads will become congested. This will cause great disruption to neighbouring properties as the roads in question are too narrow to allow for both parking and passing traffic. It is also likely that tourists will be forced to park on the verges of neighbouring properties.

**Protest Actions.** I thought I should draw attention to the change in mood of residents over the last year. The municipal budget received quite a lot of adverse publicity in the media and also lead to unprecedented protest action in front of the municipal offices in Kleinmond by predominantly white pensioners where a petition was handed over to the municipality. There was also a protest march by Xhosa speaking residents from the informal settlement demanding improved service delivery. A petition was also handed over to the municipality. A third protest action by Proteadorp residents took place on Youth Day when they marched on houses identified by the community as houses allegedly involved in the sale of drugs. Ward 10 has also been faced by some very irate residents protesting about the condition of roads and storm water drains especially after the recent heavy rains. These actions are a clear indication of the discontent that currently prevails in the Hangklip-Kleinmond area.

Based on what we have experienced this year we do not foresee things improving, certainly not in the short term. In fact we believe things will get far worse. Some officials concede that Betty's Bays infrastructure is in a huge mess. Council simply does not have the resources to rectify what has been allowed to deteriorate over the decades. Of concern is that for the last three years we have been paying water and sewage infrastructure levies but have not seen any improvement. What is happening to this revenue? What we have seen is a great deal of development in Hermanus. Many promises made but very little action. Betty's Bay does not make an attractive destination. We are receiving increased enquiries from prospective property buyers enquiring about the crime and services in the area. It places us in an unenviable position as there are frequent adverse reports in the media which are difficult to challenge.

**Membership.** As Adrian de Kock has informed in the past it is not our practice to send out invoices annually in respect of membership fees. The reason for this is to save unnecessary costs to your organization. Our year begins on 1 November annually and the constitution states that you have until the end of April to pay your subs. To our mind this is too long a period and we wish to propose an amendment to our constitution at to make membership fees payable by the end of January annually. This will enable us to begin sending out reminders to members at an earlier stage. From a cost perspective we would prefer to utilize E-mails for this purpose and therefore appeal to members to ensure that we have your E-mail addresses on record if you have not already supplied them. Additionally please advise us of any change in your E-mail addresses as many of our notices are often returned undelivered.

Come on guys we need to have as many members as possible to give us clout in dealing with the authorities. At the moment Betty's Bay Ratepayers Association has the largest membership of any such association in the entire Overstrand area.

**Fire and Emergency Support Services.** Wendy Tawse reports that the Betty's Bay Volunteer Community Fire Fighters were kept busy during the first half of 2013. In total they responded to no less than 8 fire call outs, 1 motor vehicle accident and 1 sea rescue.

During January, February, March and April, the Betty's Bay Volunteer Community Fire Fighters were very busy (when not fighting fires) at the Fire Station, giving it a face lift. They are very proud to announce that the station has been painted out, tiles laid, ceiling boards put in and we now even have shower and toilette facilities, although not 100% complete yet due to lack of funding. We still need to give attention to the paving outside the station, which needs to be filled up with gravel and leveled out, but due to a lack of funding, this too is still outstanding.

During May and June the Overstrand Fire and Rescue Services as well as the Betty's Bay Volunteer Community Fire Fighters embarked on their annual hydrant mechanical checks. Our Volunteer Community Fire Fighters wish to make an appeal to all members of the community to note the nearest hydrant to their homes and assess its visibility.



We had another veld fire which threatened neighbouring properties in Disa Road. The fire was caused by the occupants throwing braai coals into the bush. Our Volunteer Firefighters were quick on the scene to extinguish the fire. Once again they need to be congratulated.

**Public Participation Process regarding a Proposed Controlled Burn.** A group of concerned homeowners resident in the Sunny Seas area of Betty's Bay have made representations to the Municipality requesting a controlled burn of the area on the mountain side bordering onto their properties.

Motivation for their request is:

- For ecological reasons; Fynbos needs to burn every 12 to 15 years to allow for regeneration before species are lost;
- The area last burnt some 21 years ago. The burn in June 2010 was extinguished before the entire area could be burnt and as a result the area has become very dry and has the potential to turn into a disaster should a fire occur in the area;
- If this is not attended to then the area burnt in 2010 could be totally destroyed should another fire occur;
- This area has limited fire hydrant capacity and residents are concerned that protection of the infrastructure would not be possible should a fire occur.

An initial meeting was held in June 2013 with affected residents and various stakeholders such as Cape Nature, Nature Conservation, Overstrand Fire Services, Ratepayers' Association and Volunteer Firefighters to discuss the matter and establish a plan of action. A sub-committee was established which have met on several occasions and it was proposed that a controlled burn take place early next year at an appropriate time along the mountain side eastward from the Botanical Gardens through to the western entrance of Seaview Road in Sunny Seas.

It is essential that the Municipality, property owners and voluntary firefighters work together to reduce the fire risk. A public meeting was held in August.

**Baboon Matters - The Present Situation.** Adrian de Kock reports that following on from our previous communications in this matter we have had a meeting on 19 June 2013 with the Overstrand Municipality to establish the present position with regard to our various concerns.

Here are the matters which were discussed and the outcome:

#### **Municipal Dump Site**

- The "dump site" at the Betty's Bay Municipal offices is manned seven days a week from 08H00 to 16H00 by a dedicated official but this service is sometimes interrupted through absences due to sick and annual leave. This service has definitely improved the situation and we appeal to residents/visitors to use this site responsibly when it is not manned and not to just dump their refuse outside the bins.
- We have discussed the ineffective locking system on the cages and the fact that the trailer has no wheels which poses a health risk and is counterproductive when emptying the trailer. The Municipality has undertaken to examine the possible solution of replacing the trailer with "industrial bins" such as used in Pringle Bay.

### **Refuse Collection**

- Bags removed from bins are now collected without delay.
- Bins are closed after collection preventing egress by rain water.
- The order of collection of refuse at egress points into the village has to be constantly changed as the baboons change their points of entry in line with these movements.

### **Baboon Proof Bins**

- All households are required to utilize such bins in terms of Municipal by-laws. Letters were sent out to transgressors and subsequently Law Enforcement has issued some official warnings. The next step for those that do not comply will be the issue of fines.
- The locking system on "baboon proof bins" is ineffective. The Municipality no longer supplies such bins but property owners may obtain them from "Bou Handel" or "Buildit". These bins do not come with locking systems and it is up to purchasers to have suitable systems installed. Those property owners who already have bins would have to see that suitable locks are installed.
- It is up to property owners to ensure that those renting or occupying their properties comply with the regulations.

### **Signage**

- We are negotiating with the Municipality for suitable signage to be erected at the entrances to Betty's Bay re the prohibition of feeding baboons.

All these matters will be kept on the forefront of Ward Committee meetings and progress will be monitored.

**Farewell.** After many years of loyal service, more than one can care to recall, we bid farewell to **Avril Nunn**, a long standing executive committee member. Her enthusiasm and energetic service to the community of Betty's Bay was greatly admired and we are very sorry to have bid her goodbye. She has relocated to a retirement village in Somerset West.

Cecile Jonkheid (Area Manager) and Chris Harding (Operations Manager) retire at the end of this year (2013). We have over the years built up a good working relationship with both of them and they have been a tremendous help to us. We wish them a long and healthy retirement.

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

- 6.1** Brian Edwards enquired whether it was not possible that a red line be painted along Access Road with No Parking signs and that Municipal Law Enforcement is on hand to ticket and control offenders. Both the Chairman and W. Tawse stressed that it was a huge problem and that Emergency Vehicles could not access the area due to illegal parking. D. Fick thanked W. Tawse and the Volunteer Firefighters for their tireless effort trying to control traffic over the festive period.
- 6.2** Peter Joubert enquired which address he was to use when corresponding with the Municipality. He said that he now had two - an Erf No. and a Street Address. D. Fick said that it was his decision and advised that a number of people even had three different numbers especially if they were located on a corner. Each owner had to deal with the municipality.

**6.3** Johan Fourie enquired what the results of discussions held between the Municipality and members of the community regarding the Baboon problems were. He stressed that it was really becoming a very serious issue in the Sunny Seas area.

Adrian de Kock advised as follows:

The following issues in respect of the baboon problem were discussed:

- Baboon monitors - The BBRA applied through the "Greenest Town Award" to implement such a scheme but unfortunately it was unsuccessful.
- Baboon proof bins By-Laws - It is a requirement of all residents to comply with the By-Law. The Caledon Magistrates Court has now approved the issue of fines for failure to use baboon proof bins. The fines appear to be R500-00. Law Enforcement will act on complaints from residents and their officials on patrol. The issue of fines will quickly become known by residents resulting in adherence.
- Signage warning of the baboon problem will be erected at the entrances to Betty's Bay when funds become available.
- The trailer at the refuse drop off site will be replaced by industrial bins when funds become available.
- It is the responsibility of residents to obtain baboon proof bins. These are no longer available from the Municipality. Wheelie bins can be made baboon proofed by installing a simple locking device. The responsibility with regard to baboon control rests as follows:
  - a. Mountain side - Cape Nature
  - b. Roads & verges - Overstrand Municipality
  - c. Private property - Property owners
- Ultimately it is the property owners' responsibility to protect their own homes and ensure that they comply with refuse By-Laws.
- The feeding of birds and other small animals results in exacerbating the baboon problem.

Allan Clegg felt that it was the responsibility of every resident to ensure that their home was baboon proof - bars on windows, doors kept closed and windows closed when leaving the house.

Brian Edwards felt that it was important to circulate to all property owners where the bins were to be purchased, as well as what was the best baboon proof catches. He enquired whether it would not be possible to place an article in the Municipal Bulletin which accompanies the monthly accounts.

**6.4** The meeting was informed that 18 incidents of crime had been reported since 22 December from Kleinmond to Rooi Els. He said that many were due to negligence - laptops, cameras, cell phones being left in cars despite warnings. Mr. Eddy felt that this type of carelessness should not be condoned and said that Insurance Companies should have clauses in their policies dealing with this kind of negligence. It was again suggested that an article be placed in the Municipal Bulletin.

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

The Treasurer reported as follows:

- ✓ Membership stands at 317 which include 9 Life Members and 4 who have not paid or short paid their fees for the past year. Approximately 30 members were removed from the list due mainly to nonpayment of their subs. The Treasurer advised that we have the highest membership of Ratepayers in the Overstrand.
- ✓ Fire Fighters - there had been no need for fund raising to the extent of that undertaken in the past. R1 250 was spent on alterations and upgrading of the Fire Station.
- ✓ Crassula Hall hire showed a loss of R5 830.32 due to the need to purchase 6 tables at a cost of R2 944 as well as the reduction in income. We have bookings for R5 000 for the IEC for next year. Expenditure on the hall was kept to a very reasonable 2-7% increase year on year.
- ✓ Buzz showed a profit of R3 953.63 in current year. This was due to the increase in advertising revenue and a reduction in costs due to the new system of distribution. He said that the printing and postage costs had increased by R3 638.35 due to the AGM notification being posted, whereas in the previous year this had been incorporated with the distribution of the "Buzz".
- ✓ Neighbourhood Watch showed a surplus of R2 676 after the purchase of magnetic decals, radios, signs, luminous bibs and caps offset against generous donations from members.
- ✓ Under other expenses you will note two large items i.e. R1 000 and R2 937.95. These were due to a refund of a donation which was in expectation of advertising which never materialized where we are custodians of the relevant funds and expenditure on a farewell function for Avril Nunn in honour of her many years of dedicated service to the community respectively.
- ✓ We have received the 2012 assessment from SARS in terms of our tax free status and this shows no amount owing.

There was a suggestion from the floor that the fact that the Crassula Hall is available for hire should be advertised. L. Fick advised that there had been a number of enquiries as to the hire of the hall, but said that people were just not prepared to pay. She said that the rates varied for various functions, but felt that R1 000 for the hire of the hall for a wedding and R300 for the use of the kitchen, including crockery etc was not unreasonable. A. de Kock said that we tried to meet requests made from various organisations, but stressed that the hall could not be hired for free as we had costs to cover. He advised that we leased the hall from the Municipality and was responsible for the water, refuse and sewerage costs, electricity, cleaning, as well as providing toilet paper, etc.

The Treasurer drew the meetings attention to the fact that the Municipality was busy with the waterproofing of the exterior of the hall and said that once complete we would start with the painting.

Alan Clegg requested that the committee consider purchasing a PA system, as he had attended various functions in the hall and found that people sitting at the back experienced difficulty in hearing what was being said. The Treasurer undertook to look into the matter.

The Financial Statement was then accepted and approved.

**PROPOSED: FRED BROOM**

**SECONDED: DAVID HOFMEYER**

## **8. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

The Treasurer advised that the under mentioned proposed amendments to the Constitution needed to be ratified at the AGM. He said that a two-thirds majority of members present are required for the amendments to be ratified.

Proposed **Amendment** Paragraph 7:

Amend paragraph 7 (b) by substituting the date 30 April with 31 January.  
Amend paragraph 7 (c) by substituting "six (6) months" with "three (3) months".

The reason for this amendment is that it is considered by the committee to be too long a time i.e. six months at present whereby members have to pay their annual membership fees before being considered to be in arrears.

Amend paragraph 7 (a) by substituting the word "minimum" with "maximum".  
The reason for this amendment is to correct a previous mistake.

The proposal was unanimously accepted.

**PROPOSED: BRIAN EDWARDS                      SECONDED: COLIN CHAPLIN**

**9. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The Chairman said that the majority of the current members of the Committee had served anything from 2 to 5 years and some have given notice that they felt that they needed a break; however they were prepared to stand if required to do so. He said that this provided the opportunity for new blood and new ideas including some younger folk which was so essential for our committee and community. Unfortunately only two nominations had been received.

The Chairman advised that the Committee shall at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting elect from its members a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and such other Officers that are necessary.

**Available for re-election:**

- |                    |   |                                   |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Dan Fick        | - | Chairman.                         |
| 2. Adrian de Kock  | - | Treasurer.                        |
| 3. Liz Fick        | - | Secretary.                        |
| 4. Colin Chaplin   | - | Property, Planning & Development. |
| 5. Wendy Tawse     | - | Fire, Emergency Support Services. |
| 6. Wilna Rademeyer | - | Roads & Stormwater.               |
| 7. Nic Swart       | - | Editor of Buzz                    |

New nominations received were;

- |                   |   |                             |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Richard Starke | - | Water, Waste and Sanitation |
| 2. Jorika Rabe    |   |                             |

The election of the committee was unanimously accepted.

**PROPOSED: FRED BROOM                      SECONDED: MR. BOLTON**

## 10. GENERAL

- 10.1 D. Fick once again thanked Wendy Tawse and the Volunteer Firefighters for their dedication and hard work throughout the year and particularly over the Festive season. He also thanked all members of the Neighbourhood Watch for their dedication and always being prepared to patrol whilst the rest of the community was spending time with their loved ones - he said he could assure them that their efforts did not go unnoticed. He also thanked Councillor L. Krige for all her support throughout the year.
- 10.2 Mr. Eddy passed a motion of thanks to the committee for their hard work over the year. He stressed that it was not an easy job and said that it was encouraging to note that the entire committee was prepared to stand again. He thank D. Fick for the way in which he dealt with matters and for always keeping the community informed of important matters concerning us all.
- 10.3 The question was raised as to what was happening at Stony Point. D. Fick advised that despite numerous meetings being held there was still no definite date as to when the project would be finalized. He said that the parking area was insufficient for the large number of visitors to the Colony, but said that despite the matter being raised on numerous occasions nothing had been done to improve the area. W. Tawse said that it was proposed to open the restaurant and eco centre beginning February. D. Fick informed the meeting that it was a condition of Casidra that the Mooiuitsig community be given the opportunity of running the restaurant.
- 10.4 Mr. van Hove enquired what could be done regarding dogs and cats being allowed to roam freely. D. Fick said that there were very clear By-Laws and that he should contact Law Enforcement in this regard.

## 11. CLOSURE

D. Fick once again thanked all present for attending the meeting and wished them all a safe journey back home at the end of the holidays. On behalf of the committee he wished all a very healthy and fruitful 2014. The meeting was then adjourned.