

**MINUTES OF THE HANGKLIP-KLEINMOND COMMUNITY POLICE FORUM  
HELD IN THE CRASSULA HALL, BETTY'S BAY, ON  
THURSDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2013 AT 14H00**

**1. WELCOME**

The Chairman, Mr. Robert Crowther welcomed all present, in particular Councillors L. Krige and P. Appelgrein, A.M. Lucas, Law Enforcement and C.B. Bala and A.A. Nxele, Correctional Services. A special welcome was extended to Ms P. Anthony of the National Prosecuting Authority, Caledon. Ms M. Rossouw of Afriforum was also welcomed.

**2. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES**

**PRESENT:** 24 as per the Attendance Register.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from C. Jonkheid, Captain Marthinus (on Leave), S. du Plessis, C. & J. New, H. de Kock, H. Hanekom, Bernard Thiele, and D. Esterhuysen.

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 August 2013 were taken as read and approved.

**PROPOSED:** J. van Deventer

**SECONDED:** P. Scholtz

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

**4.1 National Prosecuting Authority.** The Chairman introduced Ms P. Anthony, from the NPA Caledon. P. Anthony went on to inform the meeting of exactly how cases were handled in court, how bail was set and stressed that of importance was the fact that many who had been released on bail failed to turn up on the next court date due to lack of transport. She said that in many cases the accused would arrive the following day.

M. Tannett said that he was involved in a poaching case which had stretched over a period of two years with 8 court dates set and yet nothing has been resolved due to failure of the appearance of either the accused or witnesses. He said that the accused was a repeat offender and that he had once again been arrested for a similar offence. P. Anthony advised that if there was no good reason to keep the accused behind bars the Criminal Procedures Act dictated to the court that the offender be released on bail. She said that it was unconstitutional to keep an alleged offender behind bars without the option of bail. D. Fick stressed that these were habitual criminals that had unfortunately learnt how to manipulate the system and delay court proceedings for indefinite periods. P. Anthony advised that she was quite happy that complainants/witnesses phone half an hour on the day of the court case to check whether the accused had arrived. It was stressed that the community was becoming reluctant to lay charges due to the continuous postponement of court cases.

R. Crowther enquired as to correct procedures to be followed to try and get a periodic Court established in Kleinmond once or twice a week for the Hangklip-Kleinmond area. The meeting was advised that application would have to be made to the Department of Justice and that pressure would have to be continuously applied. A periodic court had been established in Hermanus and Kleinmond would soon fall under their jurisdiction.

Axel Maier thanked P. Anthony for making it possible for a phone call to be made before travelling all the way to Caledon.

**4.2 Visible Policing - Notice Boards** J. van Deventer stressed that the meeting could not speak on behalf of the community or of how the visitors to the area felt as regards the proposed notice boards. P. Scholtz said that it was important that a definite decision be made. W/O van Wyk agreed and felt that it was necessary to get the project off the ground as soon as possible.

**4.3 Media Dispute.** The Chairman advised that the Executive of the CPF had held 2 meetings since the last CPF meeting in August to try and resolve the conflict between the Editor of the Overstrand Herald and SAPS. He said this had arisen from an article proclaiming Kleinmond to be a very unsafe town to live in and the misquoting the crime stats. Unfortunately this relationship has not been restored, but efforts would be made to talk to the Acting Editor, as the Editor was on leave. R. Crowther thanked J. van Deventer for his positive letter to the Hermanus Times. D. Fick said that crime was not unique to our area, as all towns in the entire Hermanus Cluster had their spate of crime. P. Scholtz said unfortunately the figures had not been correctly analyzed and said that in fact Kleinmond was actually in the green - there was no crises.

## 5. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence had been received.

## 6. CHAIRMANS'S REPORT

**6.1 Policing Needs and Priorities.** D. Fick advised that a meeting of the Hermanus Cluster had been held with the MEC on 6 September 2013 to identify Policing Needs and Priorities.

### **Salient points raised by the MEC were:**

- ✓ That Policing has been dominating the media headlines for some time but for the wrong reasons.
- ✓ Felt that the National Commissioner was not being kept well informed by her management.
- ✓ Increase in crime in the Western Cape and lack of arrests. Housebreakings and Theft out of Vehicles account for 84% of all property related crime over a 5 year period.
- ✓ The WC accounted for 47% of the national reported drug related crimes.

- ✓ Some 82% of households in the Province hold the view that property crime is motivated by a drug related need.
- ✓ DOCS had no control over the SAPS but rather a monitoring and oversight role and responsibility.
- ✓ There was a need for all to understand each other's role.
- ✓ Working together was absolutely essential.
- ✓ For all CPF's to participate in the Expanded Partnership Program.

**Issues identified by DOCS during inspection of the Kleinmond Sector:**

- ✓ Some 20% shortage in staff which is the highest in the Cluster.
- ✓ More police officers and vehicles needed to improve response time.
- ✓ Kleinmond Sector has the highest incidents of Housebreaking and Theft out of Vehicles of which Betty's Bay is a major contributor.
- ✓ Satellite station needed in Betty's Bay.
- ✓ Upgrading of the holding cells never materialized.
- ✓ One cell being used as a SAP 13 Store as no other facility is available.
- ✓ No public transport available so SAPS has to ensure the transport of witnesses to the Caledon Court on a daily basis.
- ✓ No uniform female Officer on duty. Female has been transferred to Grabouw.
- ✓ No secure camp for vehicles and boats seized by SAPS.
- ✓ No facility available at the station for the taking down of statements by complainants so as to ensure privacy.
- ✓ No dedicated Sector teams. (Due to manpower constraints).
- ✓ No funding to CPF's to affectively sustain projects.
- ✓ SAPS relationship with the community needs to be improved.
- ✓ Need to attend Parole Board meetings.
- ✓ No CPF Sub-Forum established.

**Crime Situation in the Hermanus Cluster:**

- ✓ Property related crime (housebreakings) constitutes more than one-third of all crimes reported in the Cluster.
- ✓ Housebreakings, Theft out of vehicles, Substance abuse and Common assault were identified as the priority crimes.
- ✓ The crime landscape of the Cluster is predominantly characterized by contact crime and property related crime.

**Causes of Crime:**

- ✓ Unemployment, Poverty, Substance abuse, Poor parenting and Domestic violence.

**Motivators of Crime:**

- ✓ Substance abuse, unemployment, poverty, need for money and light sentences.

### **Opportunities of Crime:**

- ✓ Negligence, unoccupied houses, poorly lit areas, dense vegetation and lack of police visibility.

Generally there was concern expressed by all about the issue of resource allocation, improved utilization and improved police visibility. The community also had a responsibility to enhance security levels for residential properties.

### **6.2 Registration of Neighbourhood Watches**

W/O van Wyk requested that all information regarding all active Neighbourhood Watch members be forwarded to him so that screening can be done. The meeting was once again reminded that screening needed to be done on an annual basis. He stressed that only the names of active members who patrolled needed to be forwarded and not those who were "eyes and ears" only.

### **6.3 EPP Training, Gansbaai**

Wendy Tawse reported as follows:

The Community Safety Expanded Partnership Programme (EPP) is a flagship of the Western Cape Government, Department of Community Safety.

The EPP is aimed at:

- Increasing the efficiency and sustainability of CPF's in the Western Cape Province;
  - Promote civilian oversight over the local police;
  - Providing a funding model to sustain CPF's with regards to implementing crime prevention awareness, campaigns, projects;
  - Strengthening the CPF to focus on its core business;
  - The setting of minimum standards of service delivery;
  - Providing an early alert system that will identify problem solving matters; and
  - Keeping the police accountable to the local safety needs.
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- ✓ The EPP intends to promote the activities and functions of the CPF's, building strong civil society structures which is critical to the success of safer communities.
  - ✓ The EPP is there to provide CPF's with a TOOL to assist them to perform their mandate with a financial model linked to successful performance of each of the service standards.
  - ✓ The CPF can elect someone to complete this report (e-report) and perhaps pay them a stipend. This is entirely up to the CPF, as long as it is discussed at an executive meeting and minuted.

The question was raised whether the report was going to be open to all. W. Tawse said she would make enquiries but was sure that it would be an open document. The Chairman of the

CPF would be required to sign off the report. W. Tawse advised that Lucille Mangiagalli had requested that she take over the position of Victim Empowerment Co-ordinator (VEP).

## **7. CRIME SITUATION**

W/O van Wyk informed the meeting that the crime situation was very erratic. He said that as far as housebreakings were concerned, Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooi Els had experienced an increase. He said that theft general during the day was proving a problem in Kleinmond. He thanked all those concerned who assisted the SAPS and stressed that the relationship was good.

W/O Mostert advised that SAPS had an area of some 180kms to cover and stressed that it was impossible to be everywhere at once. The meeting was informed that Gansbaai, which is a Colonel station, identifies the hot spots and concentrates on those areas.

### **VISIBLE POLICING**

The Chairman expressed concern that parolees were being released, but that their release conditions were not being monitored by Correctional Services. He said that the CPF were grateful that the Tuesday meeting was being provided with feedback regarding the release of parolees, their photographs and terms of release, but stressed that this meant nothing if they were not being monitored. C. Bala agreed but stressed that Correctional Services were also very understaffed and did not have the manpower to undertake visits twice a day to ensure that release conditions were being adhered to. He said that there were just too many to monitor over a vast area. D. Fick said that it was a serious situation, as known habitual offenders were released and within hours were committing the same crimes. It was agreed that it was important to pool our resources and work together at all times.

The Chairman informed the meeting that W/O van Wyk and Constable Barry together with various role players had undertaken a project to instil in learners the dangers of drugs as well as how to behave towards their elders and other learners. W/O van Wyk said that after being approached by the Principal of the school in Proteadorp, a programme was launched to create awareness amongst the pupils. He said that they were set a goal to be reached with the promise of an outing to Cape Town should such goal be achieved within a certain period of time. He said that the proposed outing was to take place on 8 November (visit Table Mountain, Two Oceans Aquarium, Castle, etc). He said SAPS would provide the transport and took the opportunity of thanking all concerned for their generous donations to make this outing possible. An article would be placed in the Overstrand Herald, but it was agreed that the article would have to be carefully worded so as not to have the other schools feeling left out.

## **8. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

### **Kleinmond**

P. Scholtz advised that their data base was growing and said that by December they envisaged having 1000 members, the majority of whom would be "eyes and ears". He said at the moment there were 70 active members.

### **Betty's Bay**

D. Fick once again stressed that the major problem in Betty's Bay was the fact that the majority of the houses were vacant holiday homes. Negligence by both permanent residents and visitors played a large part. The meeting was informed that Law Enforcement now had offices in Betty's Bay and thanked A. Lucas for their assistance.

M. Tanentt advised that 5 000 abalone had been seized over the last three months. He said that it was very difficult to make arrests, due to the wide open beaches and the fact that the poachers were very fit; they managed to run away when approached. G. Utton enquired whether the night vision camera was being used, this was confirmed.

### **Pringle Bay**

Axel Maier advised that the post boxes in Pringle Bay were being moved and that notice boards were being erected. He said that SAPS emergency numbers and notices could be posted there. The meeting was informed that the ER Ambulance was now stationed in Kleinmond and the service was excellent. He said that there had been a number of cases where windows had been removed at night, as well as windows being smashed and alarms activated. Axel Maier said that the ideal situation would be if a detective could be designated a certain area, thus making it easier for the complainants to deal with one person only and not every time someone new.

### **Rooi Els**

D. Esterhuyse was not present so there was nothing to report.

## **9. KLEINMOND HOMELESS**

R. Crowther said that the 'Bergie' problem was ongoing and advised that meetings were to once again be held with Pep Stores and Albertyn Pharmacy.

## **10. GOLF DAY**

Unfortunately due to Pat Devine having to undergo an eye operation, the Golf Day had to be cancelled.

## **11. FINANCE**

G. Utton advised that there were no changes to the Finances.

## **12. CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT REPORT**

To be attended to by the Captain and R. Crowther.

## **13. GENERAL**

**13.1** The Chairman introduced Marian Rossouw Acting Chairman of Overstrand Afriforum. She advised that they were in the process of endeavouring to enrol members and that a meeting was to be held in the Kleinmond Town Hall on 14 November 2013 between 18h00 and 20h00.

M. Rossouw said that they were very keen to become involved with SAPS and the CPF and assist wherever possible, she stressed they were not a Watch Dog. She said they had

60 000 members country wide and encouraged all present to attend the meeting. Notices would be placed in the Overstrand Herald.

**13.2** The Chairman advised that the CPF AGM was to be held on 14 November 2013 at 14h00 in the Crassula Hall in Betty's Bay. He undertook to enquire if a new CPF Exco was to be elected.

**13.3** W. Tawse informed the meeting that the proposed control burn (between Sea Drive and the Harold Porter Botanical Garden) would only take place early next year.

#### **14. CLOSURE**

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.