

Waenhuiskrans Arniston Ratepayers Association Waenhuiskrans Arniston Belastingbetalersvereniging

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THE YEAR 2005 : CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Member

The large amount of correspondence accompanying this report is evidence of a very busy year. Please take some time to read through the papers and please attend the AGM. Remember, in order to have your say and to vote you must be present at the meeting. Note also that if you are a proxy member you may hold only one such proxy. As jy nie voldoen aan hierdie vereistes sal jy ongelukkig nie voorsien word met 'n stem brief en sal ook nie die vergadering kan toespreek nie.

For convenience I have addressed in the main body of my report what I believe to be the issues of most interest to members. In addition, in order to give members a measure of the extent of the Committee's activities during the year, I have attached a further schedule of matters taken up with the Cape Agulhas Municipality (CAM).

1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

As you will know from correspondence during the year, Robert Haarburger and some colleagues have, since the last AGM, questioned the independent audit of the committee elections at the 2004 AGM which resulted in an incorrect announcement at the AGM. The vote was found to have been entirely influenced by Robert Haarburger voting for himself and his colleagues using 46 proxies most of which were from members who joined at the meeting and were not entitled to vote.

The matter culminated in a Special General Meeting called by Robert Haarburger. The meeting, held on 1 October 2005, confirmed the legitimacy of your present Committee for the rest of its term and postponed discussion of Robert Haarburger's complaint to the upcoming AGM on the 27th December 2005.

2. ADMINISTRATION

Administration of your Association during the past year has presented many challenges. Robert Haarburger, appointed as treasurer of your association by my predecessor, Dawie Maritz has refused to hand over to your Committee the Association's chequebook and other records. As a consequence it has not been possible to have the financial affairs of the Association audited and I will therefore be asking for your guidance at the AGM on how to resolve the matter.

Notwithstanding these difficulties I am pleased to report that, with considerable effort, the membership list has been reinstated with a fully reconciled payment schedule. Membership, I am delighted to say, now stands at 216. I believe this to be the highest membership level in the history of the Association. All minutes and items of correspondence are filed in good order and other records arising during the tenure of your present Committee are in excellent shape. Whilst all revenues in the form of donations and membership fees have been banked in the Association's bank account, without access to the chequebook it has not been possible to use your Association's funds for running expenses. All costs incurred by your Association this past year have had to be privately funded.

3. CONSTITUTION

One of the dubious benefits of the events of the past has been to test the robustness of the Association's Constitution. This has resulted in a call to amend the constitution to ensure broader, face to face, participation in the affairs of the Association.

Amendments have had a major impact on how your Association operates. Of particular note are the following:

- A minimum of two places on the committee are guaranteed to Previously Disadvantaged Individuals who live in Kassiesbaai and Selfbou.
- Members have to be physically present at a meeting to vote.

Hopefully this will result in more personal, face to face, debate of the affairs of Amiston. A further refinement, to be considered on 27 December, will provide that only individuals – natural persons – may be members of the Association. Please consider the merits of this amendment when being called upon to vote for its adoption.

4. PLANNING

We have pointed out to the Cape Agulhas Municipality (CAM) that, in our view, there should have been more publicity about the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) process. We have expressed the view that by not having made the IDP proposals more accessible and, in particular, by having omitted to advise interested and affected parties from the previous TV3 exercise, the current process will suffer a lack of credibility. Whilst the proposal does contain some commendable ideas, such as differential planning conditions for different sectors of Waenhuiskrans (as, incidentally, proposed by the Waenhuiskrans Amiston Conservation Association) it proposes development outside the present village footprint. That concept elicited much opposition previously and I am sure it would do so again if the proposals were made more widely known.

I must also bring to your notice that the CAM have gone out to tender for a consultant to develop a new town planning scheme for Waenhuiskrans Amiston. The previous, incomplete, exercise provided for, for example, buildings of four stories high!

Clearly we need to be alert to potential changes to our village.

I should like to remind members of the resolution taken by your Association on the 26th December 1996, which was communicated to the CAM on 3 January 1996:

“...it was unanimously agreed that the village of Waenhuiskrans/Amiston should remain simple and unspoilt. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of this decision and to request that any matter or proposal that is in conflict with these wishes be communicated in writing, marked for the attention of the undersigned.

Sensitive issues which are of concern to the ratepayers include;

- 1) Expansion beyond the existing boundaries.
- 2) Application for formal business rights.
- 3) Maintaining our limited beaches in their natural state.
- 4) Applications for sub-division and relaxation of existing building regulations which could adversely affect the adjacent area.

We look forward to your assistance in our attempts to preserve what is generally considered to be a unique village.”

5. **DOLLAS DOWNS**

The owners of Dollas Downs, in addition to having illegally started building on the two years ago, have now built a wall on their boundary without permission from the CAM planning department. The fact that the CAM appears unable to prevent this disregard of the law is most disturbing. We have failed in our attempts to get the CAM to act quickly and effectively in this matter.

We requested the CAM to take legal action to have the illegal structures removed. We have been informed that the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) have laid a formal charge against the owner and the CAM will probably be doing the same.

5. **AESTHETICS COMMITTEE**

The matter of establishing an aesthetics committee, as proposed at the 2004 AGM, is being progressed correctly, I believe, between the Conservation Association and the CAM.

6. **WATER SUPPLY**

Other than appointing consultants to assist in the matter, the CAM has made no progress this past year. They anticipate that supply will exceed demand over the holiday period but shortages may occur during peak demand. The CAM has given us the assurance that everything in their power will be done to prohibit an interruption in the supply.

7. **NATURE RESERVE**

Cape Nature recently completed a second round public consultation process on the proposals for the Nature Reserve and all members of your Association have been sent a copy of the current proposal. The next step is that the working group will discuss implementing the proposal with CAM next year.

8. **WAENHUISKRANS ARNISTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST (WACDT)**

The Trust, the establishment of which was announced at the 2004 AGM, is now firmly established. It has been an honour to serve as a trustee under founder Chairman, Hannes van Zyl. Hannes will personally report to the AGM on wonderful achievements this past year. The trust is committed to playing a meaningful role in breaking the cycle of poverty in our community through inspirational and sustainable projects and it is deserving of your generous support. Please contact me or Hannes for further details.

9. **MUNICIPAL MANAGER**

As you may know the Municipal Manager was suspended pending an investigation. A disciplinary inquiry is now to be held. The uncertainty arising from this unfortunate situation makes it all the more difficult to establish and develop a good working relationship with the Municipality, upon whom we must rely for the efficient implementation and operation of services. Our relationship with the CAM has not been as good as it should have been but hopefully the incoming Committee can look forward to an improved situation in the year ahead.

11. **OTHER MATTERS**

I wish to thank the 2005 Committee for their support during a difficult year. It has been a pleasure working with Vice Chairman - Vivian Lourens, Secretary - Murray van Heerden, Owen Lourens, Jeanne Grobbelaar, Ebbe Dommissie, Dennis Toens, Arthur McWilliam Smith and Ian McIntosh. I wish to especially thank Arthur for his selfless dedication, support and guidance over the past years. He is leaving Arniston public life as he has sold his house in Arniston in order to focus on his B&B business in Franchhoek. As you know he has

been a stalwart of the Conservation and Ratepayers Associations and a great supporter of the objects of your Association for many years. Arthur, we will miss you. Remember that the people of Waenhuiskrans owe you!

In terms of the constitution I, Murray van Heerden, Arthur McWilliam Smith and Jeanne Grobbelaar retire from the Committee in rotation. There are therefore 4 vacancies for which nominations are to be called and voted upon at the AGM.

To the incoming committee. I wish you well and the ability to remain committed to those very special objects of your association which includes the following:

- To devote itself to the enhancement and preservation of the untouched and unique character and natural beauty of the township;
- To bring the attention of the local authorities the needs and ideas of the land owners and others and any lack of services;
- To do all such things which, in the opinion of the Association, ought to be done to protect and further the interests of Waenhuiskrans/Arniston and its inhabitants;
- To periodically consider and evaluate the policy and general activities in respect of the local township of Waenhuiskrans/Arniston and, if necessary, to advise in this regard and make representations to the Cape Agulhas Municipality and/or the applicable department of the offices of the Premier of the Western Cape.

I wish you all a happy, peaceful and fulfilling 2006.

Yours sincerely

WAENHUISKRANS ARNISTON RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION



COLIN BIRD

SCHEDULE OF MATTERS TAKEN UP WITH CAPE AGULHAS MUNICIPALITY (CAM) IN 2005

In addition to the items referred to in the Chairman's report, the following matters have been taken up with the CAM this past year:

- MTM MAST
The booster pump station is to be repainted green to match the generator containers in order to be less conspicuous. The tar pole carrying the dipole antennae is to be removed.
- BEACH TOILETS
Both the Kassiesbaai and Roman Beach toilets are to be renovated.
- ALIEN VEGETATION
CAM have stated that they have not budgeted to clear more than a 10m strip next to residential buildings. Dit sal opgelet word dat 'n goeie poging in hierdie verband gemaak is om op die Noordelike kant van Kassiesbaai.
- Erf 599
Ons verneem van KAM dat die suksesvolle tenderaar nog nie sy ondernemings bygekom het nie en dat die saak na prokureurs verwys word vir arbitrasie.
- ACCESS TO ROMAN BEACH
CAM says that they have not budgeted to upgrade access to Roman Beach.
- STORMWATER DREINERINING
KAM het ondemeem om aandag te gee aan stormwater dreinering in geskeie plekke in Waenhuiskrans, insluitend die lae liggende gedeelte van Selfbou.
- REFUSE BINS
New refuse bin structures should be in place this year. The advertising bins will hopefully be removed when rental contracts expire.
- POLICE STATION
The issue of a site for a police station remains unresolved. Your committee has two representatives on the Community Policing Forum, namely Vivian Lourens and Owen Lourens. They have been advised that the Municipality is to make land available next to the Community Hall in Camp Street.
- KASSIESBAAI ROADWAYS
The roadways being built in Kassiesbaai are funded by the Provincial Administration. We understand that the CAM are unwilling to assist financially to complete the project as Kassiesbaai is on one erf. We believe that the preservation and enhancement of services of Kassiesbaai is not only essential to the well being of its residents but also to the whole of Arniston and, by implication, the whole Overberg region. For this reason we had hoped to encourage the CAM to assist and we trust that the incoming committee will do the same.
- GRAVEYARD
The response from the CAM to our appeal that the graveyard be tidied up was that it gets done every four to five weeks. We note that this has recently been done but we are told, by Coastcare and not CAM!
- REFUSE COLLECTION
The CAM was asked to collect garden refuse in lieu of domestic refuse in Arniston, especially during off peak periods. CAM have refused to deviate from the system of garden refuse stickers.

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