

**Waenhuiskrans Arniston Ratepayers Association  
Waenhuiskrans Arniston Belastingbetalersvereniging**

**WARA 2021 AGM**

28<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Munus Hall, Arniston

**10:00 Alan Butler opened the meeting and welcomed all attending.**

1) AB introduced WO Koos Marthinus and the Overberg Patrol officers. WO Koos Marthinus thanked WARA for providing support for the OPO's in the form of uniforms and equipment and gave us an overview of what the OPO's activities and purpose is.

**Applause**

2. **Apologies** – Murray van Heerden, Hannes van Zyl, Peter Hofmeyr

3. AB informed the meeting that due to the last AGM being cancelled the Committee was not re-elected for the year and asked if there were any objections to last year's committee running this meeting until time for nominations and re-elections later in the meeting. No objections were received so the meeting continued.

4. **The Minutes of 2019 were tabled and confirmed.**

Proposer - Ian MacIntosh

Secunder - Eric Saayman

5. **Financials for 2021 were tabled and confirmed**

Proposer - Jo Penz

Secunder – Derek Corder

MR thanked the members for their generous contributions over the past 2 years, the most notable of which was the 2020 Feeding Scheme, when some R300,000 was raised and in 2021, when the OPO's appeal raised over R50,000 was raised, enough to provide equipment and uniforms for this year's intake and some funds for next year's intake.

6. **Waenhuiskrans Arniston Trust** - 2 reports were included in the papers sent out. In 2020, The Trust sponsored 36 students, and in 2021 30 students. Courses include engineering, medicine, teaching. In addition, The Trust sponsored an additional teacher for the local primary school.

Trustees are Colin Bird, Jean Craven, Andrew Marthinus, Ilse Baadjies, and Hannes van Zyl, the chair.

The Trust has also undertaken an extensive archiving exercise to ensure that the history of Arniston is preserved. AB appealed if any members had documents to submit them to The Trust.

**Applause**

7. **Chairman's Report** –

a) AB noted some considerable successes over the last 2 years – the Feeding Project in 2020 run by a small, dedicated team made a big difference in the community, and more recently the OPO initiative where 10 young volunteers have received training and are being paid a stipend. It is part of a bigger project throughout the Overberg region. OPO's have power of arrest, and can graduate to go to Police College, or to get other training such as a becoming a paramedic. The OPO's have had some notable successes including an arrest last night.

b) **Relationship with CAM:** AB outlined the work that had been done to build an ongoing relationship with CAM and their officials – including the new municipal manager, Eben Philips, and the re-elected mayor Paul Swart. WARA has liaised with CAM over several ongoing issues such as the maintenance of the

## **Waenhuiskrans Arniston Ratepayers Association Waenhuiskrans Arniston Belastingbetalersvereniging**

infrastructure, dealing with stormwater drains, maintenance of the roads and sidewalks, clearing of the Greenbelt. Projects such as the Arniston Node have basically been stalled due to the local elections. The next big project with CAM is the 5 Year Spatial Development Framework for 2022 – the last one was in 2017, and WARA and its members commented at length on the Arniston section of the Framework. We have a record of those comments/objections. WARA's objective is to be part of the process rather than commenting on a finished document at the end of the process.

c) **Ward Council** – Arniston falls under Ward 6 of the CAM and it is a split ward. WARA has applied to be on the Ward Council to try and represent our interests, but we are still awaiting the results of our application. When the ANC controlled the municipality, it changed the ward boundaries and split off Arniston from the other coastal resorts such as Struisbaai and combined it with the southern areas of Bredasdorp. Ward 6 is held by the ANC and our councilor does not reside in Arniston.

Suhail Suleman undertook to investigate what the process would be to change the ward boundaries before the next local elections.

Colin Bird asked what role a non-elected Ward Council member could play and AB replied that it would be to give input at Ward Council meetings in matters relating to Arniston.

### **8. General** Feedback from the floor was requested regarding any CAM issues.

a) Howard Radford raised the issue from December 2019, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown period, when an “officious lady” from CAM caused a raucous due to the disputed definition of where the swimming areas are and the restraining of dogs. AB identified the person in question as Myllison Saptou of the Law Enforcement arm at CAM.

b) Jo Penz raised the issue of unrestrained dogs on the beach – and requested that there if aggressive dogs are let off the lead they should be muzzled. There have been several unpleasant incidents where big dogs intimidate or attack other dogs. Alan undertook to take the matter up with Cliffie whose dogs have been identified as a problem. It is no good reporting the matter to SAPS, they are not interested. The correct channel is the CAM law enforcement team – there is an animal control officer reporting in to Mrs Saptou.

c) Graham Siebritz asked what progress had been made on Erf 599. AB responded by saying that little progress had been made although several meetings had been held and CAM, the owner, was keen to settle the issue as it is highlighted on their balance sheet on an ongoing basis. The zoning had lapsed, and then CAM rezoned it General business, which has again lapsed. CAM hopes to dispose of it via a public auction, and has to involve WARA, because of the WARA interdict over the disposal of the property. Hopefully, in 2022, the matter might be brought to an end.

d) Andre Kruger raised the issue of illegal quad bikes being driven dangerously around Arniston. Chris Jacobs responded advising the best way to deal with this was to take photographs and collect evidence, which can be used to impound the bikes.

e) Andre Kruger also raised the issue of driving on the dunes and what can be done to stop that. Again, the advice given by Chris Jacobs was to take pics and collect the evidence and this can be sent to Cape Nature. Unfortunately, Cape Nature has budget constraints so doesn't have the manpower to respond adequately or timeously, but with enough pressure they may be forced to take action.

f) Colin Bird made the point that enforcement of the law is lacking – there should be an ongoing presence and random check points so quad bikes could be confiscated in action. It's too easy for the perpetrators to get wind of a police presence and disappear. Again, lack of manpower is an ongoing problem.

## **Waenhuiskrans Arniston Ratepayers Association Waenhuiskrans Arniston Belastingbetalersvereniging**

- g) Colin Bird raised the issue of recycling and refuse removal all going to the same landfill, despite being separated and said he had spoken to CAM officials who had confirmed this. Adrian Penny asked when this had been, as he had been reassured by CAM recently that the recycling process was being followed. MR concurred that she had spoken to CAM Waste removal department in November, and that recycling was sorted and processed by a contractor near the silos in Bredasdorp.
- h) Shani Diemont asked if there was any connection between SpillTech and the local authorities and was answered that it was part of a national 3-year project paid for by insurance.
- i) Colin Bird quoted from the WARA constitution and said it was the committee's responsibility to "devote itself to the preservation and enhancement of the natural assets of Arniston" and he was saddened to see 20 years of gradual degradation. Arniston has a nature reserve on our doorstep, and he appealed to the audience that this needs careful preservation and laws being enforced. AB responded by saying there is a tricky balance between education, enforcement and maintenance. MR said that WARA had been involved in several environmental conservation projects through Les Richardson and ABI – (Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative), the main one being the Arniston Coastal Preservation Project with Cape Nature. Les Richardson then said that WARA could offer to help Mark Johns, the head of the under-resourced Cape Nature at De Mond, for example by putting up poles, erecting signage and she will feedback to us on this.

### **9. Crime and Security**

The WACPF has not been functioning well during the past few months largely because it falls under the umbrella of Bredasdorp CPF, which is dysfunctional. Cornel and subsequently Chris Jacobs have worked very hard to keep it going but with mixed results. The seasonal release of parolees because our prisons are overcrowded, is a major problem – the offenders often serving a fraction of their jail sentence. A new crime of copper theft is emerging, and the question was asked about why the purchaser of this copper in Bredasdorp shouldn't be fined.

The Camera at the entrance to Bredasdorp is a License Plate recognition camera which feeds into the SAPS computer algorithm combining data from all over the country. It was suggested that this footage somehow be used to track criminal activities such as movement of drugs, stolen goods etc.

Although the crime is still a concern, the situation is much better than 3 years ago, before the cameras and the monitoring system.

Chris Jacobs gave some feedback on the crime situation, welcoming the OPO's who have to work long hours, mostly at night, and who have been a great help. He also thanked Brendon and Edwin, and Etna's guards, for their help.

Awie was also thanked for his great contribution.

Cornel suggested that, where people have alarms, the external beams should be put on while at home.

**10. Harbour:** AB commented that the Harbour is in the best state it has been for many years, and that WARA had sent a letter to Zodwa (DAFF) and Avhatendhi (Harbourmaster) to thank them. This was well received, with the comment being that mostly they get letters of complaint, so it was good to get a compliment.

**11. Re-election of the committee.** In the absence of any nominations from the floor or from members, it was proposed that the existing committee be re-elected for the 2022 year.

Proposer: Shani Diemont

Secunder: Eric Saayman

**Waenhuiskrans Arniston Ratepayers Association  
Waenhuiskrans Arniston Belastingbetalersvereniging**

**Applause**

Committee for 2022 is Alan Butler - Chairman, Margot Rudolph, Les Richardson, Chris Jacobs, Adrian Penny, Cornel van der Westhuizen.

Alan Butler mentioned that it was unfortunate that there is not much interest in WARA by the younger property owners, and it was suggested that the reach of the WARA newsletter could be broadened and sent to people who rent regularly in Arniston.

**Meeting was adjourned at 11.20am**