

**Waenhuiskrans Arniston Ratepayers Association  
Waenhuiskrans Arniston Belastingbetalersvereniging**

**Minutes of WARA AGM 2018**

10.00am 27<sup>th</sup> December 2018      Venue : Munus Hall, Pratt Street.

1. Alan Butler welcomed everyone and introduced the committee members (Margot Rudolph, Cornel van der Westhuizen, Chris Jacobs, Adrian Penny and Murray van Heerden) and thanked them for their hard work during the year. Eleanor Butler was also thanked for her support.

Apologies were received from Murray van Heerden, Peter Gird, Gavin Hau, Mariaan from Suidpunt Security.

The following people were welcomed :

Les Richardson – ABI

Hannes van Zyl – Arniston Trust

Ilze Baadjies and Jean Craven from The Arniston Trust

Adrian Fortuin – Cape Nature

Robert Haarburger

Danny Europa – Ward councillor for Ward 6 (ward 6 is a fragmented ward – oddly demarcated in 2016 to include Arniston, the Selfbou, various Overberg farm areas, and parts of Bredasdorp.)

Chris Jacobs welcomed everyone to speak Afrikaans should they so wish to do so.

2. Alan Butler reported that the major focus of the committee over the past year has been on fighting crime. To this end a Waenhuiskrans Arniston Community Police Forum (WACPF) was established – thanks to Adrian Penny for all the work he put in to get this done.

Another major focus was on building relationships with other bodies and organisations. In particular, the relationship with CAM was developed - at the start of the year we were told informally that CAM viewed WARA as a “swear word”, but now that relationship has improved markedly. Meetings were held with Napier Residents Association and Suidpunt residents Association – Karin Donald and Heinrich Williams.

Alan admitted that one of the highlights of the year for him was the “letter in the bottle” episode where WARA members responded positively to the story and through some sleuthing we were able to re-unite the 2 women who had written and received the letter all those years ago.

3. It was noted that CAM has a clean audit for the year, the 3<sup>rd</sup> in a row and WARA sent its congratulations. This municipality is one of a few in the Western Cape that has a clean audit Danny Europa was asked to convey WARA’s thanks again to the council.

4. Memorial benches: this is an ongoing saga. There is a formal procedure, through our WARD Council – Danny Europa, for applications to CAM – however, these benches have proliferated and become a problem as they are not maintained. WARA asks its members to please find an alternative method of remembering their loved ones.

**Waenhuiskrans Arniston Ratepayers Association  
Waenhuiskrans Arniston Belastingbetalersvereniging**

5. A special thanks to AWIE (to applause) – Awie goes above and beyond his job and has been tireless in his efforts to combat crime. For those of you who feel inclined we suggest giving him a Christmas box to show your appreciation.
6. Alan Butler suggested the establishment of an Arniston Waenhuiskrans Life Saving club under the CPF, utilising the good swimmers in the community. (Adrian Penny). This is a project for 2019, which will benefit the youth in the community, and hopefully provide employment and training for the good swimmers.
7. Crime and social media – Brand Arniston has taken a knock as all the crimes and petty incidents are reported widely on social media/ WhatsApp group. This has led to cancellations of bookings as holiday makers would rather go elsewhere.  
Reports sent out with the AGM Agenda
8. **2018 Chairman’s report** – no questions were raised, and the report received applause.
9. **The Financial Reports for 2017/18** were adopted – Proposed - Adrian Penny, Seconded – Ian Wyness
10. **The Arniston Trust Update** – established in 2006 when 3 students were assisted in their studies, the work of the Trust has grown to the position of supporting 41 students in 2018. A considerable sum of money has been allocated to the development of Vishuis, a project for the benefit of the community, but this has been bogged down in various issues during the past year. It is hoped that these will be resolved this coming year. Later in the meeting there will be a further update on the Trust from Ilze Baadjies and Jean Craven.
11. **Erf 599 Update from Murray Van Heerden.** AB thanked Caroline Dichmont for her help in the legal issues of Erf 599 during the year. Various meetings and arbitration sessions were held to try and move toward resolution of the differences, and some progress was made, but not enough. Robert Haarburger (RH) wanted it minuted that in his opinion the report was not 100% factual. Alan invited RH to send in his comments on the report which could be circulated.
12. **2017 AGM Minutes:** RH requested that 5.2 of the minutes be corrected to reflect that it was Jo Pentz **AND** Jacoba Human who requested that it be recorded that he had called Rovina Europa a liar and a bloody bitch. He then asked if anyone else had heard this interchange and 4 people put up their hands – Tracey Burke, Hannes van Zyl, Sylvia Barnes and Jacoba Human. The 2017 minutes, with the addition of RH’s correction, was passed – Proposer Chris Jacobs, Secunder Ian Wyness.
13. **CPF and Crime:** The Arniston community has been held hostage by 12 or 14 repeat offenders. However, through the combined efforts of SAPS Bredasdorp, Awie, Etna’s security, and the Hotel

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

security there has been a remarkable pushback and crime has stabilised. AB appealed to members to report all crimes so that convictions can be achieved.

As mentioned previously, the WACPF was established, with some difficulty as the CPF in Bredasdorp is quite dysfunctional. Adrian Penny and Cornel van der Westhuizen spent many hours liaising and travelling over the Overberg to attend meetings. The SAPS personnel attend these meeting in their spare time. The WACPF is necessary as there isn't a police station in Arniston and there are no plans for one.

The Camera project was started, unfortunately late in the year, and was further delayed by the fires. We need R200 000 and so far, have raised over R100 00 – but this has come from only 30% of the members. We need the other 70% to contribute and appeal to everyone to support this project. Suidpunt Security will be monitoring the cameras from their base in Struisbaai and on Awie's cameras here in Arniston.

**14. The Fire:** Arniston was extremely lucky to have survived, and indeed without the 2 helicopters and the dedicated Firefighting teams and farmers it would have been a different outcome. WARA sent letters to the following organisations and people to thank them for their help.

Overberg District Municipality Fire Services, Working on Fire, and the Fire Protection Association (the farmers who came to help), all reporting into Reynard Geldenhuys,

Denel Overberg Test Range: Mr Abrie van der Walt,

Air Force Base Overberg: Col De Castro,

Cape Nature – Mr Adrian Fortuin.

### 15. Questions from the Floor

David Lehr raised the issue of fighting fires in Kassiesbaai where there are no hoses and proposed a mobile communal tank trailer, similar to what the farmers use. WARA will work with CAM and Danny Europa on this suggestion

The issue of fire hydrants in Arniston was raised. Apparently, there are 3 of them, - Harbour Street corner, where bobs shop used to be and the shop at the hotel. Hoses are kept now at the Campsite.

RH raised the issue that it takes CAM at least 30 minutes to respond to a fire, so we need our own local system in Kassiesbaai and Arniston.. WARA to work with CAM on this issue.

Various people (Sylvia Barnes, Jean de Villiers) suggested the clearing of aliens, and the cutting back of the bushes and creating and maintaining firebreaks – especially along Harbour Road – and the need to create defendable spaces with fire retardant plants. Cape nature and CAM are to work on this with WARA.

Alistair Moodie suggested people check their insurance policies for exclusions of being close to fynbos.

Steve Leith asked if the water pressure could be increased in emergencies.

Chris Jacobs said that there is a formal report and that the fire was the result of a flare being fired. It is part of a bigger investigation and could not say more.

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

Jacoba Human thanks Cornel for keeping everyone so informed on the WhatsApp platform – to applause.

Lesley Richardson proposed we investigate becoming a Fire Wise Community, which is a Working on Fire Project. This provides guidelines and can help with insurance. She will send WARA the details. Alistair Moodie asked if dealing with the poaching matter was part of the mandate which AB said it was not.

Vincent Loubser reported incidents where children are being used to commit petty crimes – stealing things on the beach etc. AB said to report to Awie or the CAM officer stationed at Roman Beach.

16. Ilze Baadjies, a teacher in Maths and Computer Literacy in Bredasdorp, a recipient of Trust support and now a mentor to various students, gave an interesting update on the students being supported by the Trust, which is attached.

Jean Craven, a trustee of the Arniston Trust, then gave a brief talk on Mad Swimmers, and the raising of funds for various children’s organisations, one of which is the Arniston Trust. He appealed to members to give money and their time/skills (architects) to help the Trust in their work and various projects – for example the local school needs assistance. He thanked Fiona and Steve Baumann, Ugo Riveira and family for their contributions. He then discussed Vishuis, which is aimed at creating a place for the community to generate income from tourists - similar to a successful project of the same nature in Paternoster. He ended by saying “Together we can make Arniston Great again” .

17. Adrian Fortuin – Cape Nature Conservation manager at de Mond gave a short update on Cape nature activities.

- Thanked the WARA committee for building a relationship with Cape Nature
- the Roman Beach overhangs – the current situation is a short-term fix with a longer-term solution dependent on funding and EIA.
- Cave Clean up – application for funding is in process and he will keep us informed.
- A lot of the ground between Arniston and De Mond is Nature Reserve – please be aware that dogs should be on leads, because of breeding birds. Hikers to or from de Mond should check in at the de Mond Park Office as it is a reserve.
- Working on the Coast – this project to clean up the beaches has come to the end of a 3-year cycle and so they are currently without funding. His staff are trying to do beach clean ups but have asked all WARA members to assist where they can.
- Driving on the dunes, particularly when they are destabilised by fires should not be happening. Also – please do not deviate off the proclaimed roads.
- Poaching is a big issue – there is a DAFF office at the Harbour but only 1 person on duty and no after-hours work is allowed. Cape Nature has appointed officials to tackle poaching. Members of the public are asked not to engage with poacher but to call Cape Nature and the number to dial to report poaching is:

**82 499 9925.**

**Waenhuiskrans Arniston Ratepayers Association  
Waenhuiskrans Arniston Belastingbetalersvereniging**

-Dead birds on the beach – there have been instances of Avian flu in the past, which is not transferrable to humans, but please report dead birds to the above number rather than try and handle injured or dead birds.

**Questions from the floor:**

Keith Higgins asked if Cape Nature was planning to pursue the de-proclamation of the road to the Baken as it seems as if it this matter resurrects every 5 years and is due for discussion in 2019. AF asked if this matter could be discussed outside of this meeting and AB made the point that WARA would be against the deproclamation.

RH asked what Cape Nature was planning to do regarding removing the alien root system after the fires and what the view was on movement of sand - AF said it needs formal academic research and will keep us in touch.

**19. Re-election of WARA committee:**

MR and AB standing down by rotation.

Mr MacIntosh proposed that the existing committee be re-elected . This was met with applause and taken as unanimous.

20. Keith Higgins asked about the Harbour project and AB replied that WARA had objected to the proposal to close the Harbour, and the compromise had been reached by which the Harbour slipway would partially close from middle of February to October, but there would always be launching facilities.

21. Tom Robertson discussed Cowabunga and the informal night club that it has become. The young kids light fires and play music, but the problem is with the fires. The young people need to be discouraged for their own safety.

22. Loud music and unruly behaviour has been reported at the Badhuisies, with broken glass needing clearing up in the morning.

23. Anna Klooi from 6<sup>th</sup> ave also complained about noise and unruly behaviour – apparently there is a smokkel huis – there, known as Piet se Huis. WARA will take it up with CAM and SAPS.

24. Lesley Richardson gave a short address on ABI – Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative. Arniston is situated on a unique and very important Biodiversity zone. She outlined the role of ABI and encouraged members to visit their website: [www.agulhasbiodiversity.co.za](http://www.agulhasbiodiversity.co.za)

Projects include clearing of alien vegetation, water conservation, re-introduction of fauna such as hippo and buffalo, flower harvesting.

**Waenhuiskrans Arniston Ratepayers Association  
Waenhuiskrans Arniston Belastingbetalersvereniging**

AGM closed at 11.40