

**Minutes of the General Meeting of the CPF held at  
the SFB Golf Club on 14 June 2011 at 18H00.**

**1. Welcome:**

S Baartman thanked all for attending the meeting and welcomed the many new members to this being the first meeting after the elections.

Present: S Baartman T Petse P Ntshota P Leen B Rheeder C Blake W/O Du Plessis John Hammond Jill Hammond T Haring M Haring B Morsink R Van Vuuren

A van Rog J Brady W Dorfling L Bishop C Bishop E Pretorius S Spilkin D Love

N Pretorius P Heath V Jonsson C Butler C Stevens M Stark A Brady B Mortimer

S Edwards S Cowling C Errington D Masterton N Aitken L Aitken G Hardie

S Hardie K Sevenster K Roer I Van Heerden (Pandi Bernice Not signed in register)

**2. Apologies:** T Moore G Roos O Holmes J Stanley All Sea Vista residents (no transport)

**3. General:**

The chairman called for any additional items for discussion under the following:

7.1 Crime

7.2 Telephones

These additional items were proposed and adopted on the agenda.

**4. Confirmation of the Previous Minutes:**

Confirmation of the minutes proposed by D Masterton and seconded by C Errington.

**6. Matters Arising:**

None

**7. New Matters**

The additional general items will be discussed after the Crime Report.

**7.1 Crime Report:** W/O Du Plessis welcomed all the new members and understood their attendance after the incident to a resident last weekend. Unfortunately this matter is not open for discussion as the investigation on-going at present and cannot be compromised. He asked that this situation be respected by all present. He also explained the role between the SAPS and the community for the benefit of all the new members. A balance must be achieved between the statistical crime report from the SAPS and the outlook from residents as the SAPS report is from crimes reported and not one incident. He pointed out that the priority crimes in St Francis were House Break-ins and Theft and in Sea Vista it is assault – the previous priority crime of rape as well as murder in Sea Vista had decreased to nil in recent months. After a bad month in March when Crime Stats were very high, the SAPS strove to bring these figures down and reduced crime rate by 50% in May and to date in June are still under so the SAPS are happy they have crime under control at this stage. J Hammond asked if actual figures could be given and not just stats. W/O Du Plessis explained that this moratorium came from the top and no figures were

allowed to be reported. Pandi asked what the difference was between House Break-in and Theft. House Break-in is if entry into a home is forced and Theft is the secondary crime if any item is then removed. W/O Du Plessis also explained that opportunistic crime happens all the time – items taken are lap tops, I Pods, cell phone and cash – the former are easily converted into cash. After the arrest of a number of suspects for House Break-ins, the Saps were able to establish that most stolen items are out of St Francis in a very short time and taken to PE for sale. Problems with cell phone not being registered with RICA cause lack of identity of the owner. He asked that everyone register their phone and with lap tops ensure they have the serial number recorded in a safe place to assist the SAPS when these items are recovered.

Sea Vista is struggling with the high number of assaults which can all be attributed to the misuse of liquor. He pointed out that there was a Trauma Support Centre at the Police Station where victims are taken for investigation and counselling.

House Break-ins have recently identified a new trend and are referred to as House Robbery where entry is gained into a house with the occupants present who may be threatened or assaulted – this is a far more serious crime.

W/O Du Plessis appealed to everyone to be observant and report anything suspicious in the area both to the SAPS as well as a security company. He pointed out that without the involvement from all residents, crime will continue.

He explained the structure of the CPF to the new members – there are three Sector Forums – St Francis, Cape St Francis and Sea Vista. An exercise was done by S Edwards to have a CCTV camera system installed in St Francis eventually covering the greater St Francis area after the success experience in Cape St Francis who their sector purchased their own camera. The St Francis Links has CCTV at their entrance which can assist with identifying car makes and number plates especially since the erection of a strong light on the island. However a survey sent out via the Ratepayer association brought in a very poor response from apathetic residents who did not support this proposal. Recently success was experienced in a break-in and theft from a local bottle store where the intruders were identified by the CCTV camera.

Bernice thanked the W/O for his information but asked what the SAPS were doing to address crime, what action they were taking and what preventative measures were in place. He explained the long term aim was to have a crime free town and regular patrols were carried out by the SAPS as well as the various security companies but without the assistance of residents to act as “the eyes and ears” for the SAPS, this problem will be difficult to address. He also explained that the Sector Forums were the platform where projects were adopted to address the crime of the area – these include the NHW, Street Committees in Sea Vista and the Reward System.

S Edwards was asked to explain his proposed CCTV system. He had researched all avenues of security system and had a presentation by a company from PE using very hi-tech equipment. They envisaged 22 cameras were required to cover the entire area but funding was the main

stumbling block and despite offering to finance the first two cameras personally, after the poor response from the residents he had shelved his plans for the time being. W/O Du Plessis pointed out the importance of a CCTV system and urged residents to support the idea. A proposal was made to have a sub-committee for security. This was a good idea but would have to be addressed through the Police Sector Forum who are holding their AGM on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at Farol's Bistro at 11 am. And he asked all present to support this election of a new committee.

A Brady reported that since the erection of there one camera in Cape St Francis, there has been no crime in the area.

Pandi requested that the residents be informed when a successful operation has taken place.

One resident stated that crime has risen in the last 18 months and this is no longer a "Paradise" destination where doors and windows could be left open. W/O Du Plessis pointed out that he had been stationed at St Francis since 2001 and that House Break-ins have occurred in all this time but that previously it was usually one of the unoccupied holiday homes that were targeted. W/O Du Plessis stated that St Francis Bay, Cape St Francis and Oyster Bay were still regarded as privileged areas to reside in but without the involvement of all residents in the Sector Forums, success in bringing down crime will be difficult to attain.

E Pretorious asked if every suspicious person be reported. Yes, it is advisable to report every time as the criminal will hopefully realise that he is being watched.

7.2. **The police station telephones** were out of order despite being reported immediately. A week later the service provider had still not resolved the problem. W/O Du Plessis approached S Baartman who immediately had the problem sorted and phone lines working again. He was thanked for his assistance. This exercise had highlighted the importance of the availability of cell phone access as an alternative.

#### **8. Report back from the Executive Committee:**

A letter was written to the Minister of Police as well as other provincial offices to point out the problems being experienced by the SAPS in St Francis due to lack of manpower, vehicle and other resources since independence was given. There is a due process which unfortunately takes time but some areas have been addressed with extra manpower and vehicles. The full RAG requirements will eventually be met. No station has received their budget yet but should be in place by July.

The building of a new Police Station is not likely in the foreseeable future as there are many stations in SA that have higher priorities that need to be addressed first. There is a stand identified when building does commence.

The Department of Safety and Liaison will hold a mini Imbizo, an accountability workshop for all stakeholders in the area. Oyster Bay has been asked to send a representative as they do not

have a Sector Forum in place. All relevant departments will have representatives in attendance to address challenges and concerns in the area. Safety and Liaison will send the list of representatives to the Chairperson to assess that all needs are covered. S Baartman ran through the departments mentioned in his meeting earlier that day and asked if any other departments need to be invited. It was felt that all the needs had been covered. The Imbizo will take place in the Sea Vista Community Hall on Thursday 14 July 2011 at 10 am and all residents are invited to attend to address concerns and get answers to their queries. A number of mobile units should be in place for a period prior to the start of the Imbizo.

M Stark reported that the CPF fund raising golf day was booked in October and asked for volunteers to assist him and T Moore with getting sponsors and prizes for the day. Please offer your help to him as funds are needed by the CPF for various community projects run during the year.

#### **9. Sector Forum Reports:**

Cape St Francis – Has been covered with earlier discussions.

Sea Vista – A Youth Forum needs the guidance and assistance from a resident who has the time to get this forum off the ground. O Holmes suggested the success of his Sea Cadets be used as the platform for the Youth Forum but still requires a dedicated person prepared to drive the idea. The advertisement in the Daily Milkwood for this position needs more specific detail for residents to understand the requirements. John Hammond, who represents St Francis Sports Unlimited presently active with a number of programs in Sea Vista, made the offer to assist with the formation of a youth Forum. The Chairperson thanked him for his offer.

The Street Committee has been suspended temporarily due to management problems which will be addressed at the next Forum meeting.

There are 5 Taverns in Sea Vista and 3 in Oyster Bay.

Problems have arisen with Government child support grants where the money is not been used for the child – these will be reported to SASA and investigated.

St Francis Bay – C Blake was asked to explain the ID cards project. She reported that a number of companies had adopted the “Links ID system” but felt every business should have this system in place as without an ID card, loiterers/would be criminals “shopping” can be identified easily.

NHW – The whole approach to NHW is being revamped. It was decided that patrols were no longer effective after information gathered by the SAPS where criminals hide until a patrol has passed and then carry on to their target. Residents are asked to park in a strategic place for at least half an hour and observe and report odd movements immediately. C Blake reported the success of Paradise Beach NHW was due to their sophisticated equipment bought individually and we are not in the same league yet. She appealed to each and every one to become

observant whenever out and about – walking the dog, jogging, riding a bicycle or even having coffee with friends. Be observant and look for something unusual and report it. Remember no confrontation is required just a report to the SAPS or a security company.

**10. General Comments:**

Bernice asked why it took 4 weeks for a hobo to be removed from living in the bush. W/O Du Plessis said he had been removed as soon as reported but had kept returning. He reiterated that if a resident who had reported an incident at the station was not satisfied then he must be contacted himself. Should he not attend to the matter satisfactorily, this must be reported to the Station Commander.

An appeal was made that no job-seekers be picked up in the village. There is a dedicated area at the taxi rank in Tarragona Road. If all residents and builders/garden services abide by this, it will eventually be understood that this is where you stand if seeking temporary work.

S Cowling applauded the calibre and dedication of our CPO W/O Du Plessis and said we were very lucky to have him based in St Francis. There was a spontaneous round of applause as all agreed with her sentiment.

**11. Closure:**

S Baartman thanked everyone for their participation and reminded them that we as a community need to all stand together and get involved not be bystanders.

The meeting was declared closed at 19H20.