

# OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY

## FERNKLOOF ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

DATE : **Friday, 10 February 2017**

TIME : **09h00**

VENUE : **Electrical Boardroom (Top end Molteno Road – below R43), Onrus River**

Gwen Daniels  
**Acting Secretary**

Duncan Heard  
**Chairperson**

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### MINUTES

(Items in brackets refer to Item no. in previous Minutes)

- | <b>1.</b> | <b>Welcome, Attendance and Apologies</b>  | <b>Person</b>      |
|-----------|---|--------------------|
| 1.1       | DH opened the meeting and welcomed all present. DH apologised for meeting not taking place in November, due to some members that were unable to attend.   |                    |
| 1.2       | Apologies were made for Heloise Fortune and Glynis van Rooyen. There was no apology from Edward Fisher.   |                    |
| 1.3       | Estelle Spaarwater has resigned. Ms Spaarwater has recommended a replacement. On the 15 <sup>th</sup> of December, Duncan Heard wrote an e-mail regarding the replacement letter to both Heloise and Liezl.<br><b>Action:</b> Follow up on the replacement letter.                                    | <b>G Daniels</b>   |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>Confirmation of Minutes of meeting of the Fernkloof Advisory Board, held on 19 Aug 2016.</b>   |                    |
| 2.1       | Confirmation of Minutes and Public Availability.<br>The minutes of the FAB Meeting, held on 19 August 2016, are available on the Overstrand Website.<br><b>Action:</b> Copy the minutes to the Library.   | <b>G. Daniels</b>  |
| 2.2       | Comments from Council on FAB Minutes dated 19 August 2016.<br>Kari Brice has tendered apologies for the meeting. No comments from the Council.  | <b>K. Brice</b>    |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>Matters Arising</b>  |                    |
| 3.1       | Re-declaration of FNR / Amendment of Bylaws relating to FNR and FAB (Item 4.1)  |                    |
| 3.1.1     | The “Re-declaration of the Fernkloof Nature Reserve” incorporating new portions of land, is dependent upon the approval of the Integrated Management Plan for the Fernkloof Nature Reserve.   | <b>Dir. Muller</b> |
| 3.1.2     | Fernkloof Bylaws<br>Neville Green to convene a date with Duncan Heard before the end of March for the discussion on the Fernkloof Bylaws. The outcome of the meeting will be forwarded to Lionel Wallace. If there are any issues, they will be forwarded to FAB for discussion and a recommendation. | <b>N. Green</b>    |
| 3.2       | Provincial By-pass Road & Stanford Trunk Road Upgrade (Item 4.2)<br>(NG) A meeting has been convened by SRK Consulting with Overstrand Officials on   | <b>N. Green</b>    |

28 February 2017 to provide feedback on the Hermanus Bypass Road. There has been no feedback on the Stanford Trunk Road Upgrade. To be reported on at the next meeting.

DH has contacted the Department concerning the upgrading of the SRK has been instructed to expand the motivation and the rationale and that the comments in the last communication did not cover all of the issues raised. Pressure is being placed on the consultant from the Department's side. **(AVH)** According to David Dicey: Municipality has approved 12 building plans in the wetland on the Golf Course in the direct path of the Bypass Development. The developments do not make any sense.

<b>Action</b>	AVH and DB to please address the issue with KB as an external discussion.	<b>AVH &amp; DB</b>
<b>Action</b>	Remove the Stanford Trunk Road Upgrade from the Agenda.	<b>D Heard</b>
3.3	Duncan Heard thanked L Griffiths for Minutes received from the Botanical Society.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Administration</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	<b>FNR Integrated Management Plan (IMP) Progress (Item 5.1)</b>	
	(NG) The FNR IMP is presently being reviewed by the Director Infrastructure and Planning. The Director will indicate whether the document will be submitted to Council in the present format or whether the document will be published once again for public comment.	Dir. Muller
	(DH) On Town Planning Applications, there is no commitment from the Municipality to give participants feedback. All other Authorities have to follow the NEMA Chapter 5 process in their management planning process. FAB commented on the PPP comments. These are FAB's recommended responses. Chair Person recommends that feedback must be given to the Registered I & AP's. This is good practice.	
<b>Action</b>	<b>Give feedback to registered I &amp; AP's on town planning applications such as the HAC.</b>	Town Planning
<b>Action</b>	Director to give feedback on the status quo and to indicate when responses will be sent to registered stakeholders on their comments. It must be noted that FAB has already seen the comments and made response recommendations.	Dir. Muller
<b>4.1.1</b>	Hermanus Astronomy Centre (Item 5.1.1)	
	(DH) On the 10 <sup>th</sup> of November a letter was forwarded to the Mayor's Office by Di Marais, concerning Astronomy Centre. There has been no response from the Mayor to date. Parking – Must put in proposal; as it is omitted in the plans. Some members voiced their concerns regarding the safety, upgrading, protection, etc. of the area. Suggestions (like in the past) on closing Rotary Way at night, should really be addressed. The Town Planning Consultants are presently consulting with Cape Nature (Scientific Services Concerning the comments submitted by Cape Nature).	NG, DH, LG, LB
<b>Action</b>	Follow up on the reply from the Mayor's Office to Dr. Marais.	N. Green
<b>Action</b>	FAB recommends that once the Director has reviewed the plan that is to be submitted to Council, a response must be issued to FAB on the direction that Council intends to take on the HAC application.	Dir Muller
<b>4.2</b>	<b>FNR 2015 / 2016 Budget (Item 5.2)</b>	
i.	The specifications for the Fernkloof Store have been redrafted and submitted to Finance. Feedback is being awaited. Value R100 000.00	

- ii. An assessment has been received of the disability friendliness of the Fernkloof ablutions. The facility is non-compliant with the building guidelines concerning disability friendly facilities and N. Green is following up with building control with respect to technical drawings to have the facility revamped.
  - iii. Trails have been trimmed and bridges have been maintained.
  - iv. Approximately R470 000.00 has been spent to date. The target for the financial year is R800 000.00
  - v. **(DH)** Consideration should be given to reinstate the rope border along the Waterfall trail to curb erosion.
- Action** N. Green to provide a budget update at the next meeting **N. Green**
- 4.3 FNR Management Reports (Item 5.3)**
- i. Daily patrols are implemented. During the December January period, the staff component was reduced to one person, to manage the reserve. Continual dumping was experienced during the December-January period.
  - ii. The two Fernkloof Rangers will be studying this year to complete their Matric Certificates. This will require their absence every Wednesday for 2017.
  - iii. The gate motors gave problems and were eventually repaired in January. The system is on a day night switch at the moment, but a timer mechanism will be purchased in the next financial year.
  - iv. Incidences of unauthorised parasailing have been noted.
  - v. Considerable work has been invested in the risk assessment for the reserve. Waiting for feedback from the risk management consultants.
  - vi. Firebreaks have all been cut and the management units at Hemel en Aarde. Lemoenkop and Voelklip are ready for burning. Fire applications are being prepared and the advertisement will take place in February. Burning operations will take place late February / early March. There are also 5 blocks in Kleinmond that have to be burned before mid-March.
  - vii. **(LB).** Rotary Drive should be closed. Is it possible to trace a record of comments concerning the proclamation status of the H&A servitude?
- Action** A status report on the closure of Rotary Way to be provided at next security forum meeting. R Fraser
- viii. LG.** A great deal of litter has been observed around the sports ground.
- Action** **Inspect the degree of littering around the sports grounds.** D Heard
- FAB Recommendation on the informal use of the Nature Reserve for cultural activities :**
- Formulate database of cultural groups that are currently using the nature reserve.
  - Through the community services component, convene meetings with the groups to apply environmental education.
  - Possibly consider future designated areas on / off the Nature Reserve which could be used for such activities (Management Plan?)
  - Municipal operational input required.
  - Evaluate the need for signs in specific areas.
- 4.3.1 Alien Vegetation Management**
- Approximately R110 000.00 has been spent on Fernkloof this year. Accounts are being reconciled and the data entered into the GIS for next year's budget. N Green
- 4.4 World Heritage Expansion (Item 5.4)**
- In August 2016, DH indicated that Cape Nature was optimistic concerning the establishment of the World Heritage Site. The situation has changed, as the key persons have moved out of the structure. There is a large scale support for this initiative, but no person to drive the process. The Advisory Board is requested for recommendations.

D Heard

## 5 Standing Items

### 5.1 Enforcement (Item 6.1)

N Green, D Gardiner and M Henn assisted a Risk Consulting Company with a risk profile of the FNR, upon the instruction of Director Michaels. A map of risk points was provided as well as a description of the possible risks at each point. Problems are surfacing with scramblers again. Law Enforcement have promised to respond. Continual problems are experienced with church and other groups that move beyond trails. Dumping of branches in the coastal reserve was addressed.

Action Environmental Section to ensure that Biodiversity Conservation Manager attends all security forum meetings. N Green

Action David Beattie – Erf 1331 Eastcliff. Inspection required with David Beattie, Andrae Marais and Neville Green. D Beattie

### 5.1.1 FNR Encroachments

The Protected Areas Act Regulations must trump all other legislation in the management of Fernkloof Nature Reserve. All encroachments must be prosecuted. (DH)

### 5.2 Hoy's Koppie (Item 6.2)

Hoy's Koppie Saunter and Sing-Along Wednesday 21 December 2016 20h00 – 21h00

LG mentioned the ongoing problem regarding the poo bags. L Griffiths

## 6.3 Ecological Issues

### 6.3.1 Baboon Management Strategy (Item 6.3.1)

6.3.1.1 4 Relays and 2 gateways are being installed in Fernkloof on poles. This will be coupled to the sound boxes and a response system. System to be tested when complete. N Green

More baboons are spotted in the Onrust area, lately, is and that definitely due to the many fires. D Heard

### 6.3.2 Burning of Coastal Corridors (Item 6.3.1)

6.3.2.1 Has been relegated to the 2018 – 2019 financial year due to commitments in Fernkloof mountain reserve during the current year. N. Green

### 6.3.3 Event Applications (Item 6.3.3)

Cape Epic Event is scheduled for March. Application by Breunis Roelofsen to use the area surrounding the three dams. For discussion with FAB. Negative comments already received from BOTSOC. Cannot contact Mr Roelofsen due to no phone number on correspondence. The Annual Atlantic Flying Club event took place in December as usual. N Green

Action Unsolicited bid. Follow the stipulated financial procedures. FAB cannot comment on the desirability of the activity at present. The applicant must conduct studies and present the activity to the Fernkloof Advisory Board. At present there is no capacity to monitor the activity and any proposal must address the self regulatory aspect of this activity. N Green

## 6.4 Research

- 6.4.1** Research applications (Item 6.4.1)  
 Neil Broomhead – I am a PhD student at UKZN and would like to know the procedure and relevant documents required to obtain a permit to collect samples from the Fernkloof Nature Reserve.  
 Anina Coetzee – Erica Research – Follow up on the application...No Feedback  
 Drewe's Moss Frog Survey – Approve of the publication thereof.  
 Aleksie Oskoloski – Follow up on sampling. No Feedback  
 Action : Revisit the permit conditions concerning the submission of feedback to the Municipality after sampling or research has been done. N. Green
- 6.5** Klein River Estuary Management (Item 6.5)
- 6.5.1** The Klein River Estuary Forum meets as usual. Contact Pierre de Villiers concerning Minutes. Overstrand no longer provides administrative support to the Forum. Fernkloof Rangers take water quality samples on a fortnightly basis. N Green
- 6.6** Report from the Hermanus Botanical Society (Item 6.6)  
 The Botanical Society proposes that dogs should be banned from the Fernkloof Nature Reserve. Dr. V.Hamilton Attwell has compiled a research report which will be circulated amongst the Ward Committees for comment. L Griffiths
- 6.7** Report from Cliff Path Management Group (Item 6.7)  
 The Cliff Path Management Group has recently celebrated its' 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Objectives that were set 15 years ago have largely been accomplished. New sections of the Cliff Path have been identified for upgrading and budget has been assigned. D Beattie
- 6.8** Annual Hermanus Camp (AHC) – Lease Application  
 The AHC lease expires in November. An application was submitted for 9 years and 11 months.  
 FAB would like to recommend the application and to hear progress on this matter by the next Meeting. N Green  
 The Annual Hermanus camp would not want the Cliff Path to traverse the estuarine portion of the Annual Hermanus Camp.  
 A meeting will be convened between the CPMG and the AHC to discuss the extension of the Cliff Path across the estuarine frontage. DB, AVH
- 7** **General**
- 7.1** Summary Fire Report  
 Fire management operations are pending. The majority of the reserve, after the wildfires, is less than 15 years old. The mountain reserve, after the Lemoenkop, Hemel en Aarde en Voelklip fires, will be mostly safe and ecologically acceptable, barring the coastal strip. N. Green
- 7.2** Lease of Scout Camp  
 The Annual Hermanus Camp has submitted another application for a lease of the Scout Camp Site for another 9 years and 11 months. The AHC is awaiting feedback concerning the outcome of the lease application. AVH
- 7.2.1** Sale of municipal land adjacent to Scout Camp  
 The Municipality sold a single portion of property without any reference to the Fernkloof Advisory Board – This is not acceptable to this Board. FAB is constituted to provide the Municipality with management advice on the Nature Reserve and cannot do so if we remain uninformed on developments adjacent to the Nature Reserve.

- 7.3** Dogs in FNR  
As discussed in the HBS feedback.

L. Griffiths

**8. Dates of Next Meetings**

12 May 2017  
11 August 2017  
10 November 2017

**Meeting Adjourned – 13h00**