



## **Minutes of the Community Meeting of the Richmond Hill Special Rates Area held on Thursday 16 February 2023 at 18:00 at The Anchor of Hope Church, corner of Edward and Campbell Street, Richmond Hill**

### **1 Welcome**

The Chairman, Scott Rollo, welcomed all present.

### **2 Present**

Anthony Adams, Trevorlym Adams, Amtha Arvind, Sandra Barber, Richard Barker, K Barnard, Brigadier Bentley (SAPS Humewood), Megan Bradfield, John Bryce, Kosie de Klerk, Mike du Preez, Mike Eddy, Terry Eddy, Claerwen Hart, Jacques Hugo, Malcolm MacLean, Margaret Matthews, Mike McCormick, B Momoti, Yve Nicholson, Sergeant Njokweni (SAPS Humewood), Sharon Pretorius, Ed Richardson, Danie Roos, Debbie Soper, Marianne Terblanche, Alan Waite, Claire Warneke, Colonel Weirners (SAPS Humewood)

### **3 Apologies**

Robert Falkner, Trudie Falkner, Gareth Foster, Colonel Frank, Craig Holmes, Nina Holmes, Mathilda Hornsveld, Rochelle Jordaan, Rory Norton, Chris Parkin, Frances Richardson, Mariska Spoomaker, Ward 5 Councillor Terri Stander, Clinton Swart (HRG Security), Trudie Wegner

### **4 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2022 were accepted as a true record of proceedings. This was proposed by Ed Richardson and seconded by Claerwen Hart.

### **5 Reports**

#### **5.1 SAPS**

##### **Brigadier Bentley**

The Chairperson wished Brigadier Bentley well on her retirement after 40 years plus.

Colonel Miranda Weirners was introduced and been assigned to Sector 1,2 and 3.

Colonel Weirners reported that from the analysis findings, the following trends were observed:

- Theft of cellphones
- Theft of wheels off vehicles
- Copper pipes

Incidences lowest in Richmond Hill sector. There has been no increase in robberies in the area. Progress is being made in identifying perpetrators.

Imperative that residents report all incidents or suspicious activities.

The Community is encouraged to give correct information with regards to any crime. Sergeant Njokweni is the Crime Sector Manager of the area and can be contacted if any assistance is needed. Comprehensive information is needed.

Weekly crime stats will be provided only pointing out any increase or decrease in certain crimes.

Brigadier Bentley thanked the Richmond Hill SRA for working close with SAPS as well as the Security Companies.

## 5.2 Metro SAPS

No member of the Metro Police attended the meeting. Apology was received.

## 5.3 HRG Security

No member of HRG Security attended the meeting. Apology was received.

## 5.4 Ward Councillor

Ward Councillor did not attend the meeting. Apology was received.

# 6 RHSRA Matters

## 6.1 Problem Buildings Malcolm McLean

Scott mentioned that a letter had been received from a resident saying that they have a distinct worry with regard to the neighbours who are getting very old. What would happen if they passed on or move out of their property and it is left unoccupied. The possibility of vagrants, without a doubt will waste no time in occupying the property. So there's a very genuine sort of worry in the neighbourhood about people moving in and occupying the properties.

Malcolm addressed the issue of 22 Smith Street. The owner had left the property approximately four years ago. People had moved in gradually. It got to a situation where there was a lot of crime supposedly coming out of that house, people moving around the area and helping themselves. The intervention was that the SRA and CPF were given a Power of Attorney, to act on the owner's behalf. Instead of going the eviction route, it was an intervention from the SRA side. It was a collaboration between the SRA, the CPF, SAPs.

The people in the house were requested to leave, which they initially refused. There were further interventions, but it was a slow process. They have moved out, of the property has now been bricked up. The SRA covered the costs of that intervention. The owner has an agreement to settle all costs involved after the proceed of the sale of the property.

No. 24 Smith Street - The owner who took transfer of the property in 2020, has had issues with people moving in. He went the legal route and obtained a Court Order. The eviction has taken

place and all persons have moved out. Property has been bricked up. Another problem property is 85 Mackay Street. Claerwen has been involved and there has been progress.

The question is where do these people get moved to? This should be handled by Social Development.

Claerwen raised a question to Sergeant Njokweni with regards to the threats that had come from the people who were removed, if any incidents were reported.

Sergeant Njokweni mentioned that no incidents resulting from this.

Mike McCormick mentioned that the owner can have the illegal occupants removed within 72 hours after he has become aware of this according to the Pie Act.

## **6.2 Little Library Claerwen Hart**

Information has been posted out on our Facebook and social media pages. Libraries have been put up in some areas in Port Elizabeth. A cupboard has been donated to the SRA. This is a pilot project and no money has been spent on this. The cupboard will be placed outside the SRA office, before you go up the steps. This will be open Monday to Friday, 10:00 to 16:00 and Saturdays between 09:00 and 13:00.

Book donations can be delivered to the SRA Office. Frances Richardson has kindly agreed to assist with the project.

## **6.3 Keeping your pavement clean Ed Richardson**

The Teams are cleaning up in the area. Weeding and picking up papers.

A request that all residents take pride and keep their section of the pavement clean.

## **6.4 Cameras and Block Watch John Bryce**

John has provided an update on the camera/block watch situation.

It has been established that cameras can be monitored by a security companies control room for +- R200.00 per month. This would require no involvement from the community other than installing and maintaining a suitable camera on their property.

ADT, Citywide and Atlas have agreed to carry out a trial.

A month long trial with ADT live monitoring has been completed with 2 cameras in Irvine Street. No incidents were reported in the area during this period.

A further trial with Citywide will commence with 3 cameras in Callington Street until the end of March.

## **6.5 Recycling**

Packa Ching Waste Project has been ongoing and doing well.

Every Wednesday on the corner of Stanley and Mackay Street between 11:00 and 15:30.

## **6.6 Wild Park**

The Project Team is currently doing a clean up in the Park and huge improvement has been seen.

## **6.7 Homeless – MES (Mould Empower Serve)**

Has been discussed under Problem Buildings.

## **8. Matters arising**

### **8.1 Safety of the pavements**

Mike McCormick has raised the safety of the pavements in Stanley Street h  
SRA Office: This has been addressed with the relevant departments and is currently under investigation.

### **8.2 Car Guards**

Resident raised a question about the car guard situation in Stanley Street.  
Scott mentioned that all car guards should be PSIRA Registered and trained. This falls under Metro and SAPS. We cannot appoint any car guards.

### **8.3 Building Plans and Heritage Approval of 44 Mackay Street**

The owner of 44 Mackay Street, Mr Bill Anderson has addressed the meeting due to concerns that has come to his attention of which the residents have. He advised that he will be operating a Restaurant from the premises.

Scott asked whether any Building Plans were approved and if any Heritage Permit has been obtained?

Mr Anderson mentioned that the Building Plans were not approved but were re-submitted. No approval or permit has been obtained from the Heritage Authorities.

Residents raised the concern of what type of business which would be operating from these premises, noise complaints which may arise. Why the residents in the surrounding area were not informed.

A section of the wall in Stanley Street had been broken down and sliding doors put in. How would this effect the residents using the alley.

This would need an approved building plan.

## **9. Conservation Stats:**

December 2022 :           2523 bags taken to the tip – plus boxes, branches and other  
Kilometres travelled – 1679  
Trips to the tips – 3559

January 2023 :           3559 bags taken to the tip – plus boxes, branches and other  
Kilometres travelled – 1825  
Trips to the tips – 43

## **10. Next Meeting**

13 April 2023

**10 Close**

The Chairman thanked all present for attending. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 19:00.

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**Approval of Minutes**

Chairman

Secretary

Date