



Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement Western Cape Provincial Parliament IPalamente yePhondo leNtshona Koloni

11/4/1/2/9

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY, CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT

(COMMUNITY SAFETY)

Tuesday, 18 February 2020 (08h00), West End Primary School Hall, Mitchells Plain

Mitchells Plain NHWs

Democratic Alliance

Allen, RI (Chairperson)

Botha, LJ

African Christian Democratic Party

Christians, FC

African National Congress

Kama, M

Additional

Windvogel, R (ANC)

Apology

An apology was rendered on behalf of Members A Bans and G Bosman.

See the attached list for persons in attendance.

1. Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed all and allowed for brief introductions. Students of the West End Primary School also welcomed all present, in all three provincial languages. The Chairperson set the context of the meeting which was to constructively engage with the Department of Community Safety as well as the Mitchells Plain based Neighbourhood Watches (NHWs) and the Mitchells Plain based Community Police Forums (CPFs).

2. Briefing by the Department on NHWs accreditation

Ms A Fortune, Deputy Director for the NHW Project, presented on the accreditation process. She was supported by Mr G Morris, the Head of the Department of Community Safety (the Department).

3. Key points from the engagement

The presentation focused on the process of accreditation, the requirements needed when applying for accreditation, the resources and training afforded to NHWs, and funding.

The Department is reviewing its funding mechanism for accredited NHWs. Through the review, a revised funding structure will seek to use a resource capacity based approach so that NHWs are equipped to deal with matters of safety and combatting crime as per the challenges of their communities. A project funding option is also being considered to assist NHWs with facilitating initiatives to enhance their functionality and support within their communities.

Currently there is no life insurance support available for NHW members in the event of fatalities during NHW related patrols. The Department indicated that it will request a legal opinion on whether life insurance for NHW members is legal.

The Walking Bus Project no longer resides with the Department but with the CoCT. The monthly stipend has attracted many NHW members and thus NHW membership has decreased significantly. Delays in the accreditation process has also affected membership.

The Department reported that all NHWs are offered basic first aid and fire prevention training.

The Department offers a template for a constitution to all NHWs, although some choose to formulate their own constitution.

All NHWs are audited annually due to capacity constraints within the Department to audit more regularly.

Some NHWs are not able to submit incident reports due to a lack of email connectivity.

4. Public input

Members of the Mitchells Plain based NHWs provided input and/or posed questions to the Department. There was one representative of the Lentegeur CPF who also provided input. The general themes of the input related to the need for functional CCTV installations, the impact of the reported disagreements between the Mitchells Plain based NHWs and CPFs and other across community driven safety structures, the proposed amendments to the funding module for NHWs, life insurance for on duty NHW members, clarity on zone demarcations to avoid more than one NHW operating in the same zones whilst on patrol, and education initiatives to improve the role of CPFs and NHWs.

Allegations were raised against the Station Commander of the Mitchells Plain South African Police Service (SAPS) that he told NHWs that they will not be allowed to patrol if there is no cooperation with the local CPFs. The context for this allegation is the strained relationship between CPFs and NHWs in Mitchells Plain. According to the Department, NHWs only have one vote for CPF Board elections, as part of the Mitchells Plain Cluster, despite having several NHWs in the vast area that is Mitchells Plain. The Department also reported the CPFs are only allowed to not support the accreditation of an NHW with valid reasons.

The Chairperson thanked all attendees for their participation and allowed them to leave. The meeting was briefly adjourned from 11:00 to 11:15 to allow Committee to discuss resolutions.

5. Resolutions

The Committee resolved to

- 5.1. Request clarity from the Station Commander of the Mitchells Plain South African Police Service on allegations by Neighbourhood Watches against him that NHWs were warned not to patrol unless there is cooperation between themselves and the Community Police Forums in Mitchells Plain.
- 5.2. Invite the Provincial Community Police Forum Board to brief the Committee on its role in the accreditation process of Neighbourhood Watches.
- 5.3. Invite the Department of Community Safety to brief the Committee on the funding model for Neighbourhood Watches, including the project funding mechanisms to retain NHW membership.
- 5.4. Invite the Department of Community Safety to brief the Committee on
- 5.5. Invite the Western Cape Provincial Parliament's to brief the Committee on the Western Cape Community Safety Act 2013, (3 of 2013), on the role of the Community Police Forums in the accreditation and functioning of Neighbourhood Watches.
- 5.6. To have a multi-stakeholder engagement in Mitchells Plain on community safety.

6. Requests for information

The Committee requests that

- 6.1. The Western Cape Provincial Parliament's Research Unit to provide a comparison between the expenditure by the Bitou Municipality on School Resource Officers for Plettenberg High School, versus, the cost it would be for Neighbourhood Watches to do the same work carried out by School Resource Officers.
- 6.2. A copy of the Department of Community Safety's legal opinion on the insurance of Neighbourhood Watch members.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 For the docs to engage NHWs in terms of zone demarcation and the impact it will have on NHWs.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20am.



MR RI ALLEN, MPP

CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY, CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT