

PENNINGTON COMMUNITY WATCH



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COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM

28th March 2022 6:00 PM – PENNINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- **Welcome & Apologies**

Steve welcomed all, an excellent turn-out to the 2022 AGM.

Apologies Received via Facebook, street groups, and attending community members.

- **Minutes Previous AGM**

Minutes were put onto Facebook and onto Website.

Minutes were accepted by Roy Spooner and seconded by Juan Du Toit.

- **Matters Arising**

1. SAP's have limited vehicle available resulting in the SAP's reservist's inability to get to Pennington to help us keep the crime down. This risk was identified a couple of years ago and with that the need to purchase a vehicle for the SAP's reservists to use in Pennington.
2. SAP's Legal team advised on the use of the PCW Vehicle. Thank you to Silvano Borea for liaising with the SAP's Legal team regarding this issue.
3. Donations received from Pennington residents for the purchase of the vehicle as well as Fund Raising and the sale of the Cameras to Gladiator security.
4. PCW Committee has other solutions if the SAP's reservists are not allowed to use the PCW vehicle.
5. Response Team – dedicated 10 members respond to incidents. – Steven Leech; Roy Spooner; Riaan Leipoldt; Silvano Borea; Dawid Calitz; Juan Du Toit; Andy Young. These are all volunteers who give of their time to respond.
6. PCW is functioning like a business from bringing in about R200 000.00 per annum to approximately R900 000.00 per annum now.
7. With the growth of PCW, it calls to employing a Treasurer part-time. This position will receive a small remuneration. The PCW Committee is looking for an experienced bookkeeper who has experience on SAGE Pastel, Link-serv.

- **SAP's Members Introductions**

Lieutenant Colonel Govender; Warrant Officer Deena Govender.

- **Response Team Introductions**

Steve Leech, Roy Spooner, Riaan Leipoldt; Silvano Borea; Andy Young, Dawid Calitz; Ruan Lotter; Juan Du Toit; Gladiator.

- **Address by W/O Deena Govender SAP's liaison**

W/O Deena Govender addressed the attendees, thanking the community of Pennington for keeping the PCW initiative it going so strongly. Really appreciate what PCW does as if PCW were not available then everything would collapse. 7 years now and the PCW has gone from strength to strength.

Criminals have now shifted their focus because of the patrols of both the SAP's reservists and the PCW Patrol volunteers and are now targeting the Gated Estates.

The SAP's reservists are always available in Pennington. Pennington had major problems with crime, but this has decreased tremendously in Pennington as a direct result of the PCW and patrolling SAP's members. SAP's the community's help on the ground, being the "eyes and ears" of SAP's The Pennington Community Watch Concept is helping SAP's and it is working and if everyone could do what Pennington was doing, we would be able to bring crime down all over.

Report suspicious vehicles and SAP's and / or PCW will respond.

They have dedicated detectives to solves crimes. It is everyone's responsibility to protect our communities.

W/O Deena Govender thanks the Committee and the Volunteer Patrol Members for the support and the countless hours and time spent on the PCW, be it at meetings or patrolling the streets of Pennington. Especially the SAP's Reservists who leave their family's and look after other families while they are patrolling and all SAP's.

members and reservists for their dedication and support, they are always at everyone's call at a moment's notice..

To Pennington PCW, the Committee, the volunteers, and the SAP's Reservists thanks to all of you, and hope the PCW goes from strength to strength.

Well done to Pennington Residents, the Security Companies, PCW if you do not do what you are doing then nobody will do it.

This is a partnership between SAP's and residents.

- **Statistics**

- Steve Leech presented a slide of Amanzimtoti crime stats
- Crime has decreased substantially due to the visible policing and Police reservists 24/7. It is a huge crime deterrent.

- **Financials**

- The chairman Steven Leech presented the audited financials.
- Audited Income and Expenditure Report for PCW March 2021 - Feb 2022
- Cash on Hand as of 28 March 2022 - R243 243.74
- The PCW Secretary is a volunteer and does not receive any remuneration at this time.

- **Nominations - Elections**

Election of New Committee Members

- Rob Golden
- Eugene Dabner
- Gerhard van Staden
- Ruan Lotter

- **Chairman's report**

- **The Chairman reported on the following statistics: -**

- Street Groups - 10
 - Street Group members - 1346
 - Facebook members - 557
 - Patrol volunteers - 58
 - Initial signups - 2015/2016 - 177; 2016/2017 - 158; 2017/2018 - 265; 2018/2019 - 331; 2019/220 - 360; 2020/2021 - 375; 2021/2022 - 450.
 - PCW Contributors (paid up members) - 450
 - We need upwards of 500 members.

- **SAP's vehicle**

- SAP's have limited vehicles available (Risk)
 - We have purchased a vehicle (Nissan MP200) which has been branded and is parked outside.
 - A big thank you to everyone that donated funds towards this
 - SAP's legal department needed to give us the go ahead to allow SAP's to drive the vehicle which was denied and they needed us to donate the vehicle to the state.
 - For obvious reason we decided against that route.

- **PCW / Gladiator Vehicle**

- Joint venture
 - We have an MOU between gladiator and **PCW**.

- **Cameras**

- Outdated
 - Cost to upgrade R100 000
 - Insurance and license R3 500 per Month
 - Did not pickup no number plate
 - Can't see number at night
 - If a car stolen with plate 12345 and 1 came in with 234 it would flag us
 - Gladiator putting up new ones on R102 plus ours
 - We will still have access
 - We bought bush cameras with some of the money to put up in hot spots

- **The Chairman thanked the following:-**

- W/O Deena Govender who always there 24/7, always gives support.
 - The SAP's, The Detectives, The Constables, and the SAP's Reservists who respond to calls within 3 minutes.
 - Committee members without whom the PCW would not be possible. The stalwarts - Jayne Leech, Roy Spooner, Silvano Borea, Riaan Leipoldt, Juan du Toit. The PCW has a very good committee who will keep the PCW initiative going strong.
 - Patrol Members (Residents) thank you for the daily patrols, everyone appreciates the dedication.
 - Gladiator Security Hennie and Pieter who attended the meeting.
 - To The Methodist Church for allowing the use of their Hall.
 - To all the PCW members whatever your contribution, these stats would not be possible without your contributions.

- **Future Plans**

- The plan is to piggyback on the fibre that has been installed by south coast fibre to install PTZ cameras.
- A brief discussion has been had with SCF and they are happy to support PCW in this project
- We will identify key areas to install the cameras and will open discussions with Gladiator with regards to monitoring.
- PCW has grown to appoint where we must register as a npo (non profit organisation)
- The implications of this is that we must nominate 3 directors to run the organisation.
 - **Other PCW Services**
 - Food drives; ill residents; cars in ditches; tree felling; road repairs; traffic control; responding to MVA's; sea rescue; ambulance services.
 - PCW cell to call if an emergency, will then relay by Radio to Response team including SAP's reservists who will respond immediately.
 - Report other incidents on the WhatsApp groups.
 - Whatsapp protocol – The chairman once again went over the whatsapp protocol for the whatsapp groups.
 - **Interesting Facts**
 - **Burglary at Residential Properties** - is South Africa's most committed crime **39 477** occurrences in the second quarter of 2021.
 - **Common Assault**
 - is the second most perpetrated crime with **39 406** instances reported between April and June.

Questions from the Floor:

- Bobbies on the beat? Bikes? – Bicycles not conducive to Pennington.
- Bakkie – does it belong to Gladiator or PCW? – Bakkie belongs to PCW, an MOU has been signed by Gladiator and PCW for 3 Gladiator employees to drive the bakkie and respond to all calls in Pennington.
- Bobbies on the Beat, Salaries? – Paid by PCW entirely
- Members Income, % of Pennington? - 18% are paying members. About 2500 households in Pennington 2019 stats.
- How can people recruit more members? – approach your neighbours, your friends and family and sign them up.
- Approach SCF to piggyback of their fibre. Already been approached they are keen to help.
- Abrams Crest no numbers on individual homes. – PCW sign is at main gate.
- 1000 free loaders, why can we not take them off the groups? – It is a Community Watch and we cannot remove existing non-paying members. Newcomers wishing to sign up will have to join before being put onto a group.
- Lot of money going to reservists. Not being as visual as before. – SAP's Reservists are still doing their patrols daily, sometimes there are issues with vehicles, and they have been given permission to be picked up in Pennington if need be. Countrywide there is a problem with SAP's and vehicles which is being addressed in the new budget.
- If Shifts are missed – if they are off, they are not paid.

- From Lt Colonel Moodley – At any given time will have 2 vehicles in the area from April 2022. At the moment there is no budget and no money to fix problems. The SAP's vehicle is out of commission, have to use supplementary vehicle in the meantime.
- Cannot pick up SAP's members in the PCW vehicle.
- Bicycle Bobbies – what are they doing? – Stationed at OK Mall and Kiosk.
- Should they not be doing more foot patrols? – Good idea will talk to DG about it.
- Day and Night Shifts ask for new volunteers. Need more visible policing.
- Gladiator Van responds to all calls in Pennington, not just Gladiator client.
- Jenson / National, why are they not involved? – Gladiator has worked best and stepped up to the plate with regards to PCW and Pennington, and all Security companies are on the response group.
- Hold monthly meetings, feedback to residents? – will start again and have quarterly meetings. Or send an email – Only paying members on email.

Closing

- The PCW is committed to remain as a business but like all businesses the PCW needs cash to survive.
- We need more members.
- More Pennington Residents need to commit to become members.
- Thanks again to The Committee; To Gladiator; To the Patrol Members Day and Night; Pennington Methodist Church; SAP's for ongoing commitment; Volunteers and their spouses, Paying PCW Members

Meeting closed at – 19:00

Next meeting – to be announced.

WhatsApp PROTOCOL

Before posting ask yourself the following questions:

1. is THERE A CRIME CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS in Pennington?
2. Is it PERTINENT TO a crime or possible criminal activity?
3. Is someone in IMMEDIATE danger

If the answer is no to all the ABOVE do not post, SEND IT TO YOUR ADMIN ONE ON ONE and let them decide

- **These groups are NOT chat groups.** They are in place to report suspicious behavior, concerns, crime related information, important community notifications and road traffic situations Affecting THE SAFETY OF residents in our area
- They DO NOT replace SAP'S or your armed response company.
- **In an emergency you can call**
 - SAP'S Scottburgh Charge office **039 978 9916** they are in radio contact with the SAP'S reservists
 - Your security companies
 - The PCW cell number **063 474 5012 (PCW CELL)** and we can relay the message to our SAP'S reservists who patrol 24/7
- Over many years we have built and strengthened our relationships with SAP'S and other security service providers. We are extremely happy to have some members of SAP'S on our groups.
- Content shared on these groups is for group members ONLY. Content from these groups may NOT be shared with any third party unless otherwise specified.
- NO jokes, religious comment, hate speech, racism, politics, vulgar language or UNRELATED topics WILL BE TOLERATED
- Debates, Criticism or disagreements Must be DEALT WITH offline or one on one.
- Forwarded messages concerning events outside Pennington ARE OFTEN NOT ACCURATE WHICH ADDS "NOISE" AND DILUTES THE GROUP'S EFFECTIVENESS. WHEN IN DOUBT DISCUSS WITH ADMIN BEFORE POSTING.
- Please message Group admins privately WITH ANY FEEDBACK, CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS.
- Absolutely no advertising will be permitted on these groups. This includes, but is not limited to products, services, security, other Neighborhood Watches and NPOs
- PCW reserves the right to promote and share other activities and events in our area that impacts on crime. This includes community building events, as a strong community is the best deterrent for crime.

- Admins reserve the right to remove members who won't adhere to Admins' instructions or the above.