

Annexure 'A'

2016 P.A.R.R.A. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

Towards the end of the AGM last year it was agreed that this association would continue to exist, and that is about all it has done over the past year. Our Municipality continues to be run I believe satisfactorily. There are and always will be thorny issues, complaints and problems, but that can be expected anywhere. It is my opinion that municipal staff are usually ready and willing to be of assistance when they can. During what was generally an uneventful year we attended a meeting with the Municipal Manager in October 15 where we discussed some queries and asked some questions. As usual Mr Mettler was frank and ready with his answers. We attended a council meeting at which the budget was discussed, and that was in April. We showed a presence at a police forum meeting, also in April. Three articles for the prince Albert Friend appeared under our flag. At the request of a local resident we wrote to the Municipal Manager regarding the sad and untidy state of the municipal yard in Mark Street. We have since been informed that some improvement has taken place and that there is ongoing work being done to clean the yard, sell the scrap metal and take away the rubbish. We sincerely hope that the yard in question takes on a new look soon, because for some time it has been little more than an unsightly mess. We have also attended some Ward Two committee meetings, in fact all of them that took place. It has stuck me that ward committee meetings were part of a cumbersome and slow system that produced few real results, but there is now a new system. Wards have been divided into blocks, and this is as a result of National Legislation. The system has been created in order to improve communication between residents and Council and the Municipality has urged us all to co-operate with this new block method of representation, nominate people, so that it will work well for everybody's benefit. We all have until the 23rd of this month to participate.

There have been some changes and there will be more. After the August Municipal elections we have a new Council with a few new faces and a shift in political influence. We hope that means well for the next five years. The contract for the Municipal Manager ends at the close of October; there may or may not be a change there. Mrs Anneleen Vorster, manager of committee and corporate affairs, sees her contract expire at the end of January 2017, there may or may not

be a change there. We are pleased that we have a building inspector, Mr Marshal April. The expensive and long burried swimming pool in the North End may yet come to useful life; tenders are out to finish it. Why it was not built to completion in the first place we will never know. Perhaps it is all about the money supply. The rubbish dump, there was a municipal site inspection there recently and there are plans to improve the management of that site, although with the participation of youth for waste there has not been a fire on the dump for some time.

For many months we have not had a technical manager, Mr. Mettler having done double duty. The process of appointing a new technical manager is under way. As a Community Safety project nine young people are being trained as law enforcement officers, three in Prince Albert and six in Leeugamka. Their job will be to keep a close watch on the bylaws. There are two new by-laws in the pipeline, one concerning zoneing and the other credit control, a never-ending problem - so many people can not or will not pay their municipal accounts, and millions are written off every year, to the detriment of this municipality and residents.

Even after an admittedly inactive year we are grateful to Municipal Officials who readily answer our questions and give us information about what is happening in the municipality. My thanks to Richard and Eric for their support, and to Mrs Meyer for her computer.

We would like your ideas, questions and suggestions, particularly with regard to this association and what role it should play. Should we keep it alive or allow it to go dormant?, or any other issues you would like to raise. Thank you for listening to this report. It's over to you.