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STELLENBOSCH

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19th June, 1964.

LABOUR POSITION

The Council has during the past few years experienced an ever-increasing shortage of labour, particularly of the unskilled type. In recent months the position has become acute with the result that all major construction works have been seriously slowed down. At the same time we have had to cope with the universal problem absenteeism, which further depletes our slender labour resources. Our officials have established that an average 25% of the unskilled labourers, absent themselves on one or more days of the week. That represents a loss of some 100 man-days per week, which in effect means that the labour of 20 men is lost every week. Thus apart from the fact that we have been unable to recruit our full complement of labourers, this other problem has made matters even worse.

At its most recent meeting the Council decided to offer a bonus payment of R1 per week to every unskilled labourer who works a full week of 45 hours. It is hoped that this will serve as an incentive to these people not to stay away from work for little or no reason. At the same time the Council is doing everything possible to bring the labour force up to full strength. If we do not succeed, our programme of work for 1964 will only be partially carried out.

REVISION COURT

The revision court for the voters' roll sat in the Council Chamber on Tuesday, 16th June, 1964, to consider objections to names which at present appear on the roll and to scrutinise new applications.

Altogether 228 names were taken off, chiefly of people who have died or left Stellenbosch, and 218 new names were added to the roll. The total number of registered voters now stands at 3,413, made up of 1,617 owners and 1,796 occupiers.

HOUSING

In a letter dated 12th June, 1964, the Regional Representative of the Department of Housing informed the Council that the Sub-economic Housing Scheme for Coloured people on Idas Valley Extension No. 3 has been approved and that a loan of R66,688 has been granted for the purpose.

The scheme comprises 90 semi-detached dwellings, consisting of a bed/livingroom and diningroom/kitchen. Each dwelling will have its own sanitary convenience and water connection. The plots will be fenced in and the costs of services as well as miscellaneous costs will be met from the abovementioned amount.

Certain amendments will however have to be made to our plans which were submitted. Apart from this, the necessary services such as water and sewerage will have to be laid on, before tenders can be called for.

EUROPEAN DISTRICT NURSES

Readers of Eikestadnuus will recall that the Council, some time ago, decided to lend its full support to a proposal made by a group of ladies that a district nurse be appointed. These ladies have acquired the right to speak with authority since they have been devoting a great deal of time to visiting and caring for sick people who are not considered suitable for accommodation at hospitals and yet require regular care and attention.

The Council's approach to the Provincial Administration has met with a negative reply, but it has been decided to make further representations.

A SWIMMING BATH FOR STELLENBOSCH

Arising from a recent public meeting an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of six members was appointed to investigate the possibility of providing such an amenity for Stellenbosch. This Committee met on the 11th June, 1964, and after some discussions, decided to appoint a small fact finding Sub-Com-

mittee consisting op Dr. C. Verburgh (Chairman), Dr. D. Bester, Mr. J. Bonthuys and Mr. F. W. Pohl.

This Sub-Committee will specifically deal with such matters as the size of the bath, suitable sites, costs and the ways and means of financing such an undertaking. The full Committee will receive the report of this Sub-Committee at the end of July.

10 Julie 1964.

VAKANSIETYD

Dit was die afgelope paar weke maar baie stil op Stellenbosch.

Dit is vakansietyd vir sowel ons skole asook ons Universiteit. Selfs die Eikestadnuus het twee verskynings oorgegaan en ons gun die bekwame redaktrise en almal wat haar in die samestelling van ons plaaslike koerant bystaan van harte die verposing.

Die Raad het besluit om gedurende Julie slegs een vergadering te hou, te wete op Dinsdag 28 Julie 1964.

Intussen is daar egter gesorg dat belangrike en dringende sake deur 'n Aksiekomitee afgehandel word sodat geen verdragings hoof plaas te vind nie. Die vakansietyd gee die kantoor ook 'n geleentheid om aandag aan allerlei sake te gee wat ondersoek vereis en moeilik inpas in die tye wanneer alles in volle swang is.

DIE ARBEIDSTEKORT

In die vorige uitgawe het ek melding gemaak van die probleem waarmee die Raad te kampe het as gevolg van 'n tekort aan arbeiders en die neiging by party arbeiders wat alreeds in die diens is om sonder meer van die werk weg te bly en nie hul volle week te werk nie.

Die nadeel hiervan en die uitwerking wat dit op die spanne het wat voltalig behoort te wees as werke binne bepaalde beplande tye voltooi moet word, hoof nie beklemtoon te word nie. Ons het 'n geweldige ontwikkelingsprogram op hande en daar is reeds aanduiding dat ons nie al die beoogde werke vir 1964 sal kan uitvoer nie. Halwe werkspanne beteken vertraging en hoë koste. Ek is tevrede dat ons loonskale gunstig vergelyk met dié van enige ander werkgewer in Stellenbosch, en dis vir my onverklaarbaar dat daar klagtes van werkloosheid is, terwyl ons sukkel om arbeiders te kry.

DIE LANGENHOVEN-GEDENKSAAL

In aansluiting by wat daar al voorheen hieroor gesê en geskryf is, kan ek net meld dat die voorgestelde uitruiling van eiendomme tussen die Stadsraad en die Universiteit nou geadverteer word. Die sluitingsdatum is 27 Julie 1964.

Kaarte wat die betrokke persele aandui, is beskikbaar in die kantoor van die Stadsklerk in geval iemand homself beter op hoogte van sake wil stel. Daar word verwag dat die Administrateur met sy hele Uitvoerende Komitee 'n besoek aan Stellenbosch sal bring om hulself op hoogte van alle aspekte van die skema te stel, voordat 'n finale besluit geneem word.

DIE HALDENWANG-ONTWIKKELINGSKEMA

Sedert die middel van 1963 is ons besig om met die Provinsiale Administrasie oor die uitvoerbaarheid van hierdie skema te onderhandel, maar tot my spyt kan ek geen noemenswaardige vordering aanmeld nie. Die Administrasie is blykbaar ongeneë om by wyse van uitsondering af te wyk van die bestaande stadsbeplanningskema vir sover dit gebruiksregte en ontwikkelingsbeperkings betref en stel as hul standpunt dat die Raad liewers daardie regte en beperkings vir 'n hele gebied in hersiening moet neem. Die Raad andersyds is bang om sonder meer groter regte en minder beperkings vir 'n hele gebied te verklaar voordat die volle implikasies nie by wyse van progressiewe proefnemings uitgetoets is nie. Ons argumenteer dat dit veiliger is om 'n skema as 'n uitsondering in sy gebied maar onderworpe aan strenge voorwaardes goed te keur, voorwaardes wat nie afgedwing sou kan word as stadsbeplanningvereistes met eens gewysig word nie. Na gelang van die ondervinding wat daar uit enkele dergelike skemas opgedoen word, kan die Raad dan met verloop van tyd sy algemene gebruiksreëls vir bepaalde gebiede wysig. Ons glo dat ontwikkeling onvermydelik en wenslik is, maar ons moet versigtig wees hoe en waar dit toegelaat word. Die onvoorwaardelike verandering van gebruiksregte vir 'n groter area kan lei tot die vernietiging van veel wat ons graag wil bewaar. Ek hoop nog dat ons die Provinsiale Administrasie sal kan oortuig dat ons standpunt geregverdig is.

VEILIGHEIDSMATREELS VIR ELEKTRISITEITS- TOEVOER NA GEBOUE

Graag wil ek 'n dringende beroep doen op almal wat elektrisiteit van die Raad ontvang, om toe te sien dat die isolering van hul bedrading in orde is waar dit uit die gebou kom. Die

Raad se geleiers loop normaalweg vanaf die straatpaal tot by die porseleinpotjie wat aan die muur of dak van die gebou geheg is. Die verbruiker se eie bedradingstelsel word op hierdie punt aan die Raad se geleiers gekoppel en verdwyn dan in die gebou deur middel van 'n ysterpyp.

'n Ernstige gevaar ontstaan indien die isoleringsband wat om die lasplekke gedraai is, asook die omhulsel van die verbruiker se bedrading waar dit uit die pyp kom tot by die lasplek, verweer en selfs afval sodat die werklike drade blootgestel word. Menige lewens is al ingeboet as gevolg hiervan, en ek wil in alle erns die versoek aan alle huurders en eienaars rig om seker te maak dat die aansluitingspunt veilig is. Die verpligting rus op die verbruiker, en ongelukkig het die Raad nie die nodige personeel om 'n inspeksie van huis tot huis te maak nie. Gewoonlik kan 'n mens sonder moeite sien of die omhulsel verweer is, maar om dubbel seker te maak, sal dit die moeite loon om 'n bevoegde bedradingskontraakteur vir 'n inspeksie te kry. Dit mag uitgawe bring, maar die veiligheid van u en u gesin of werknemers is op die spel.

Dieselfde waarskuwing geld ten opsigte van verbruikers se eie geleiers vanaf die hoofgebou na buite- of ander geboue op dieselfde perseel.

Die gevaar is veral pertinent in die geval van bedradings wat voor 1945 geïnstalleer is.

17th July, 1964.

CONTROL OF DOGS

Residents mainly from the Mostertsdrift area have from time to time complained to me about the nuisance created by dogs which are not properly controlled by their owners. These complainants feel that too many people keep dogs which they allow to roam about at will and in the process become uninvited guests on the lawns and in the gardens of others to the utter disgust of the latter. Some have pointed out to me that in other countries dogs are not allowed outside the premises of their owners unless they are on a lead and the question has been asked whether we should not follow suit.

The Municipality has regulations relating to the keeping of dogs, but these refer mainly to stray and ferocious dogs and dogs suffering from infectious diseases.

I would welcome expressions of opinion as to whether we should tighten up our regulations and follow the overseas example.

Apart from this, the Municipality has its own problem relating to dogs about which we have adopted an uncompromising attitude. The fact is that stray dogs have been roaming the commonage hunting and killing what is left of the small herd of buck which are still to be found in the mountains surrounding Stellenbosch. Officials of the Council have been instructed to shoot these dogs at sight when found on our property.

THE IDA'S VALLEY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Council some time ago decided to proceed with the proposed establishment of a Management Committee for Ida's Valley, as suggested by the Provincial Administration. The Committee will consist of five members, one of whom is to be nominated by the Municipality. Naturally the Council would like to acknowledge the Ida's Valley community in this matter and has accordingly asked the two Ratepayers Associations to put names forward for the purpose. The Council hopes to make its choice in the near future.

100 YEARS AGO

In the issue of the 5th June, 1964, I quoted a passage from the Minutes of a Council Meeting held in May, 1864, regarding an election of "Commissioners" as Councillors were then called.

At the Council Meeting of June, 1864, the Secretary produced the records of the Meeting held at which new Commissioners for the ensuing three years were elected. The following were the successful candidates:

1. Pieter Jacobus Bosman
2. Jacobus Wege
3. Jacobus Christiaan Faure, Abraham Son
4. Johannes van der Byl
5. Johan Heinrich Wilhelm Rausch.

Mr. P. J. Bosman was elected Chairman.

Some of these names are well-known to this day. Would Mr. Johannes van der Byl not be prepared to write something about them?

The following details of revenue and expenditure of the Council for the period 25th May — 11th June, 1864, are of interest:

Revenue

Market and pound dues	-	-	-	-	£0	13	11½
Fines for 6 breaches of regulations @ 3/4 each	-	-	-	-	£1	0	0
For registering 20 shop licences	-	-	-	-	£2	0	0
For 2 dog licences	-	-	-	-	£0	2	0
Total	-	-	-	-	£3	15	11½

Expenditure

Paid out for labourers	-	-	-	-	£1	12	6
For waterworks sundries	-	-	-	-	£0	2	6
Total	-	-	-	-	£1	15	0

W. C. DEMPSEY.