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STELLENBOSCH

Burgemeesterskantoor,
Vrydag, 25 September 1959.

Beheer oor Boukonstruksie

Daar is munisipale bouregulasies en provinsiale wetgewing wat sekere minimum-vereistes vir die oprigting van geboue voorskryf, en in die reël is dit eenvoudig genoeg om die bepaalde standaarde toe te pas. Nou het dit egter telkens in die verlede gebeur dat daar in die stigtingsvoorwaardes van 'n besondere aanleg, soos in die geval van Onder-Papegaaiberg, 'n bepaling voorkom wat vereis dat enige bouskema aan die Raad se beleid met betrekking tot die ontwerp, konstruksie en aansig moet voldoen — voorts dat geen gebou in so 'n gebied opgerig mag word nie tensy dit by die ander geboue in die omgewing aanpas. 'n Gebou mag ook nie, na die mening van die Raad, van 'n minderwaardiger gehalte wees as ander in die omgewing wat vertoning en materiaal betref nie.

Ons moet aanvaar dat die opstellers van hierdie reëls baie goeie bedoelinge gehad het. Terloops wil ek opmerk dat dit op een stadium die mode in al die provinsies was om sulke beperkings toe te pas, maar die ervaring het baie gou getoon dat dit net onmoontlik is om daaraan uitvoering te gee.

beperkinge moet wees, noem dit dan spesifiek. Maar om voor of riet vir dakke gebruik mag word, dan is dit goed. As daar

Die probleem lê hoofsaaklik hierin dat die pas aanvanklik aangegee is deur 'n klompie baanbrekers wat die ontwikkelingswerk waarskynlik teen groot koste en opoffering begin het. Ek wil beweer dat ons almal hul ywer en toewyding bewonder. Algaande het boukoste egter gestyg, en afgesien hiervan, het dit eenvoudig gebeur dat daar ander mense gekom het met ander gedagtes oor wat mooi, aantreklik en paslik is. Die Stadsraad het indertyd sy eie oordeel gehad en het nie geskroom om leiding te gee nie, maar die vraag is of die Stadsraad vandag, na vyftien jaar, nog dieselfde sienswyse het. Ons staan byvoorbeeld voor die feit dat die stigtingsvoorwaardes van hierdie aanleg onder andere toelaat dat 'n woning van seshonderd pond opgerig kan word, en streng gesproke is daar niks wat dit op die oomblik belet nie. Die Raad het verlede maand besluit om by die Provinsiale Administrasie aansoek te doen om hierdie minimum-waarde tot tweeduisend pond te verhoog, maar selfs dan sou dit onmoontlik wees om wondere te verwag. Dan is daar nog ook die feit dat die Raad vir baie jare geen kopers vir erwe in hierdie aanleg kon vind nie, ten spyte van die redelike lae pryse. Ek stel myself die vraag of die algemeen bekende boubeperkinge in die gebied miskien hiervoor verantwoordelik was. 'n Half-ontwikkelde aanleg is vir die Raad 'n aansienlike geldelike las, en as die te hoë standaarde wat aanvanklik gestel is, belet dat die erwe verkoop word, dan sal die Raad noodwendig sy beleid in hersiening moet neem.

Ek wil onmiddellik hier byvoeg dat die Raad nog nooit besluit het om die standaarde te verlaag nie. Af en toe is individuele bouskemas goedgekeur wat heelwat verwyte van die kant van ander eienaars in die aanleg uitgelok het, maar ek het nog nooit 'n geval raakgeloop waar almal dit oor die meriete van 'n gebou eens was nie. Met groot belangstelling het ek vandeesweek 'n artikel in die pers van die bekende kunstenaar Jean Welz gelees. Ek weet te min van argitektuur af om te kan oordeel of hy reg of verkeerd is, maar vir sover dit 'n plaaslike owerheid betref, wil ek beweer dat dit nie sy taak is om allerlei idealistiese oogmerke in sy regulasies op te neem nie. As dit geregverdig is om te bepaal dat in 'n besondere gebied daar slegs sierstene vir mure en panne

te skryf dat 'n gebou nie minderwaardig as 'n ander een moet wees nie, of dat dit nie lelik moet wees nie, dan soek ons moeilikheid. Dis 'n voorskrif wat nie toegepas kan word nie.

W. C. DEMPSEY.

Mayor's Parlour,
Friday, 2nd October, 1959.

Café Cat

We are making good progress in this matter in as much as a design has been received from Miss Nerine Desmond. Some time ago the Rotary Club suggested that a wishing well be constructed at a suitable spot, and possibly the cat could be incorporated in the design for the well.

Group Areas

The Chairman of the Group Areas Board paid a visit to Stellenbosch in the course of this week, and although he was unable to disclose any specific information, I was given to understand that the proclamation of the areas for the various racial groups could be expected within a few months. We shall, therefore, have to ensure that our town planning organisation is geared to meet the heavy demands that will be imposed on it as soon as new residential subdivisions for Coloureds have to be provided.

Municipal Flag

The Council has thought it fit to celebrate the birthday of Simon van der Stel on the 14th October next, and that the occasion would be opportune for hoisting the new municipal flag. A fitting programme is being worked out and details will be released as soon as possible. We hope to be honoured by the presence of the Administrator.

Composting Works

I am afraid that we shall be forced to discontinue the supply of compost to the public for some time. The present site is required for the extensions to the sewage purification works, and we might find it difficult to get another one near enough the town.

Creaking Floors in Town Hall

According to our consultant architect, it would appear that we would have to neutralise the springs under the floors of the main and banquet halls, if the creaking is to be eliminated. Whether this will be to the liking of the dancing community, I cannot say at this stage. We are proceeding with the investigations.

Building Construction Control

In my review last Friday I dealt with this matter in my personal capacity, and at the Council meeting on the 29th ultimo my colleagues generally agreed that it would be impossible to enforce a policy of prescribing a particular style or standard of construction for any part of the town. We are faced with the problem that building construction, especially as far as private dwellings are concerned, is subject to the whims and fancies of the owners. New styles develop with each generation, and in spite of the very laudable intentions of many a local authority in the past, we are forced to admit that it is impossible to guarantee that a particular area will not be prejudiced by structures of inferior quality or appearance. In the case of Dorp Street, the Council after years of consultation with experts of all description, had to abandon the idea of prescribing a specific style of construction, as no two architects seemed to agree on what was fitting and what not. Eventually we reached a compromise in as much as each building scheme would be subjected to a special scrutiny and also to wider restrictions as far as building lines and height are concerned. Elevational details will remain a problem. Basically this applies to any other area. The Council is always anxious to avoid construction work of inferior quality, and very

frequently architects and contractors are requested to co-operate by making such alterations to the design as are deemed necessary. I am afraid that more we cannot do.

W. C. DEMPSEY

Burgemeesterskantoor,
Vrydag, 9 Oktober 1959.

UITNODIGING NA VLAGHYSINGSEREMONIE

Namens die Stadsraad wil ek 'n hartlike uitnodiging aan die hele gemeenskap van Stellenbosch rig om die funksie in verband met die ingebruikneming van die dorpsvlag op Woensdag 14 deser, 4.30 nm. op die Braak by te woon.

Die datum is van besondere betekenis — eerstens is dit die geboortedag van Simon van der Stel, die stigter van die dorp, en tweedens is Stellenbosch dan ook 280 jaar oud. Die Raad het dit paslik geag dat die dorpsvlag by hierdie geleentheid amptelik in gebruik geneem word, en ek hoop dat ons 'n waardige program sal kan aanbied. Almal is welkom.

FLAG INAUGURATION CEREMONY

On behalf of the Council the whole community of Stellenbosch is cordially invited to the function in connection with the inauguration of the Town Flag, at 4.30 p.m. on Wednesday the 14th, on the Braak.

The date is of special significance — firstly it is the birthday of Simon van der Stel, the founder of Stellenbosch, and at the same time Stellenbosch will on that day be 280 years old. The Council thought it an appropriate occasion to inaugurate the flag of the town and we hope to be able to present a worthwhile programme. A hearty welcome to all.

Ons Oues van Dae

Op 5 deser het „uncle" J. J. Erlank van Murraystraat sy 94ste verjaardag gevier en het ek die voorreg gehad om hom persoonlik te gaan gelukwens. Ten spyte van sy hoë ouder-

dom geniet hy nog redelike gesondheid. Hy vertel my dat Stellenbosch nie 'n onaardige plek is nie, behalwe dat daar te veel belang aan sport geheg word! Uncle het in Graaff-Reinet groot geword, maar meeste van sy diensjare het hy as registrateur van geboortes, sterfgevalle en huwelike in die Transvaalse Republiek deurgebring. Hy het reeds in 1920 op pensioen afgetree en woon tans by 'n familielid, mev. P. H. de Villiers.

In die pers het ek ook gelees van mev. J. P. Roux van Vlottenberg se 98ste verjaardag op 29 September jl. Ongelukkig was ek nie in Stellenbosch en kon dus nie my gelukwense persoonlik oorbring nie.

Aan albei wil ek nog baie jare van goeie gesondheid en voorspoed toewens.

W. C. DEMPSEY,

Mayor's Parlour,
Friday, 16th October, 1959.

Acquisition of Bloemhof Property

For some time we have been negotiating with the Bloemhof Trustees in connection with the acquisition of their property behind the Town Hall. The matter is rather involved as both parties were anxious to avoid a cash transaction. The only alternative is an exchange of properties, but as yet we have not been able to reach an agreement.

Wireless Communication System

The Council is considering the introduction of a wireless communication system, mainly for the forestry department, which has to organise fire fighting gangs at short notice. The staff members concerned more often than not are not within reach by the ordinary methods of communication, and as the whole success of fire fighting depends on the speed of the operations, there seems to be no alternative but to introduce the wireless system. The initial costs are likely to be heavy, but I believe they will be justified.

Public Swimming Bath

Once more representations have been made to the Council for the provision of a public swimming bath. We have no doubt about the need for this service, but the interest and redemption charges on a substantial loan, together with the running costs, have thus far been beyond the means of the Council. We are, however, investigating the question of probable costs, and it would do no harm to proceed with the preparation of plans and specifications in the meantime.

W. C. DEMPSEY.

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