

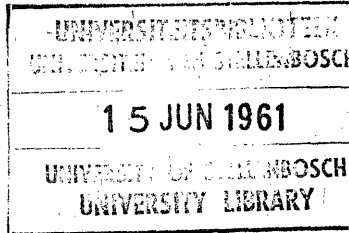
I.M.S.

Vol. 1, No. 18

MUNISIPALITEIT



STELLENBOSCH



MUNICIPALITY

Burgemeesterskantoor,

17 Februarie 1961.

JAN MARAIS-PARK: VERVREEMDING VAN GEDEELTE

By verskeie geleenthede, onder meer in die jaarverslae van die Burgemeester, is daar gewag gemaak van onderhandelinge oor 'n voorgestelde ruiling van 'n deel van Jan Marais-park vir die Bloemhof-eiendom agter die Stadhuis.

Die feite is kortliks dat die Bloemhof-Trustees 'n perseel van ongeveer 115,000 vk. voet agter die Stadhuis besit wat, met verbeterings daarop, teen ongeveer R86,000 gewaardeer is. Die Raad meen dat dit absoluut noodsaaklik is om hierdie terrein vir die gemeenskap te bekom. Almal is bewus van die nypende tekort aan parkeergebied in die middedorp, veral in die omgewing van die Stadhuis, en ek glo nie dat iemand sal twyfel oor die wenslikheid van hierdie aanwins nie.

Om egter in harde kontant vir so 'n eiendom te betaal is nagenoeg onmoontlik vir die Raad. Dis 'n onproduktiewe item wat geen inkomste lewer nie, net soos in die geval van strate. So het die vraag dan ontstaan of die eiendom miskien op 'n ander wyse bekom kan word, en dit het aanleiding gegee tot 'n voorstel dat die Raad 'n deel van die Jan Marais-park, ongeveer 14 tot 16 morg, in ruil gee sodat hierdie grond later deur die Universiteit ontwikkel kan word. Die Bloemhof-Trustees sal op hul beurt die terrein aan die Universiteit moet oordra.

Die bewuste stuk grond strek vanaf Maraisstraat/Cluwerweg tot teenaan die agterste draadheining van die huidige park, en lê tussen die wandelpad onder die dennelaan en

Merrimanlaan. Ek meen almal behoort op hoogte van die terrein te wees.

R86,000

Die voorstel om daardie stuk grond aan die Universiteit af te staan is een wat baie jare gelede al geopper en telkens oorweeg is. Vroeër was dit nog altyd as 'n gratis skenking gevra, iets waartoe die Raad nie sy weg vry gesien het nie. Nou is die vraag of dit geregverdig sou wees om wel die terrein af te staan in ruil vir die Bloemhof-eiendom wat teen R86,000 gewaardeer is.

Die Stadsraad wil aanvaar dat besware geopper sal word, en hy wil toegee dat hulle betreklik redelik mag wees. Maar nou moet hy oordeel of die besware opweeg teen die voordele van die skema. Oor so 'n twisvraag sou 'n mens weliswaar vir ure kan debatteer, en binne die bestek van hierdie oorsig sal ek vereers net die Raad se argumente kan stel, sonder om te probeer antwoord op teenargumente.

Eerstens voel die Raad dat die oopsetting van 'n redelik groot gebied in die sentrale dorp ten volle kompenseer vir die sluiting van die betrokke deel van die park. Dis waarskynlik dat die publiek 'n groter praktiese benutting van die oop ruimte agter die Stadhuis sal hê.

Tweedens is die Raad van plan om vir die verlies te vergoed deur 'n aansienlike terrein agter die restant van Jan Marais-park aan te las, sodat die toekomstige publieke oop ruimte daar baie groter sal wees as die huidige park. 'n Beplanning van die gebied met die Raad se voorstelle is beskikbaar in die Stadsklerk se kantoor en enigeen is welkom om dit te besigtig.

GEEN SERVITUUT

Derdens wil die Raad beweer dat die Jan Marais-park nog nooit as sulks in enige onderverdeling ten gunste van die publiek gereserveer is nie. Die park beslaan 'n stuk grond wat jare gelede deur die Raad aangekoop is, aanvanklik nie vir 'n park nie. Wyle mnr. Jannie Marais het toe 'n skenking van £10,000 aan die Raad bewillig, maar hierdie geld is nie op die sogenaamde Jan Marais-park bestee nie. Gevolglik beskou die Raad dit nie so dat daar 'n servituut op die grond is nie.

In die vierde plek wil die Raad aanvoer dat hy geregverdig is om sulke oop ruimtes vir ontwikkeling in te trek mits daar behoorlike kompensasie is. Dis nie moontlik om te waarborg

dat 'n bepaalde stuk grond vir altyd oop sal bly nie. 'n Toekomstige Stellenbosch mag selfs besluit om die Braak op die een of ander wyse te benut, hoeseer ons op hierdie stadium soiets as heiligskennis mag beskou.

Die Raad het op hierdie stadium geen aanduiding van wat die Universiteit met die grond wil maak nie, en hy voel nie enigsins hieroor bekommerd nie. Al waarborg wat die Raad vra is dat enige ontwikkelingskema van die Universiteit vooraf in oorleg met die Raad en met sy toestemming moet geskied. Om vooraf norme en beperkings te stel het geen betekenis nie en mag later selfs gevaarlik wees. Dit sou van meer belang wees as die Universiteit eers aandui wat en hoe hy dit wil doen en om dan sy skema na verdienste te oorweeg. Ons glo dat die Universiteit net so begerig sou wees om iets verdiensteliks daar te stel.

Ek sou graag nog verdere aspekte wou noem, maar miskien sal dit beter wees om te wag totdat die publiek sy standpunt gestel het. Almal is welkom om my op 'n Dinsdag op kantoor te kom spreek of om hul saak in hierdie blad te stel. Dis 'n belangrike aangeleentheid vir Stellenbosch, en ek vertrou dat elkeen dit met die nodige erns sal oorweeg.

24th February, 1961

THE "NEW" MILL

We are used to thinking of the mill off Mill Square as the old mill but Mr. van der Byl with his knowledge of the past of Stellenbosch in a very able report refers to it as the "New" Mill, although parts of the existing buildings are shown on a diagram dating from the year 1750.

Mr. van der Byl makes it quite clear that there have been older mills at Stellenbosch. Possibly the Eikestadnuus might like to make use of the many facts that have been revealed and publish a separate article which no doubt would interest its readers.

The diagram shows the corner of Mill Street and what is now Dorp Street, at that time simply called "Wagenpad". Be that as it may, the sale of the property for a new purpose arouses the keenest interest in the problem of finding a harmonious solution in the conflict which the desire for development and growth and the preservation of what is old and unique so easily provokes.

I am very happy to be able to state that the new owners whom the Council has met this week, have given every assurance of their keen desire to cooperate in every possible way. They are deeply impressed by the particular beauty of Stellenbosch and the impression has been gained that, keen and capable businessmen as they must be, they are not insensitive to matters of culture and sentiment. The possibility of not losing the Mill altogether is being given the fullest consideration and the Council has unhesitatingly been given the assurance that it may select for its purposes any materials that may become available as a result of demolition work which appears to be unavoidable. There has even been an offer of a financial contribution towards the good work and undoubtedly the undertaking will lead to the tidying up and deliberate planning of the southern part of the Braak between the Rhenish Church and Mill Square.

A visit from the architects on the staff of the new owners may be expected within a very short time and the Council is looking forward to a very interesting phase of the planning of the central part of the town.

It is also gratifying to notice with what interest the present owner, Mr. Harry Gelb, follows the new development and he also has expressed his willingness to make a donation towards the costs of preserving something of the mill should this be found to be at all possible. Many have known and will still remember Mr. Gelb's father, the late Mr. Abraham Gelb, who owned the Mill before his son, and was also greatly attached to Stellenbosch.

THE "OLDEST" HOUSE IN STELLENBOSCH

At the most recent meeting of the Council the results of the investigations which have been carried out were submitted by the Chairman of the Museums Committee, Councillor G. C. Osler. Mr. Osler acknowledges the very valuable contributions made by Dr. Mary Cook, the authority on Cape Dutch architecture, Mr. J. R. Mayes, the builder and restorer of old buildings who supervised the restoration of the Burgerhuis, Mr. J. van der Byl, Councillor Dr. Frans Smuts, Dr. A. M. Hugo and municipal officials.

Whereas it was the chief aim of the committee to identify the building in question with one shown on an old painting from the year 1757 illustrating the original Dutch Reformed Church in the foreground and a similarly placed attractive long and narrow house in the background, it has not been possible to prove that the existing building and the one shown on the painting are the same. It was proved, however, that even the

present building is a very old one, in existence before Utopia was built, and clearly shown on the Hertzog map of 1817.

All in all, the committee was unanimous in recommending that the building should be saved and restored, possibly at a later date. The reasons mentioned were that the building represents a long simple type of outbuilding typical of the 18th century and it forms portion of a complex of buildings which, together with Utopia, the Church, the Phillimore Ives Gallery, the old Outspan (which the Municipality is trying to save) and the Voortrekker Headquarters, will eventually make Drostdy Street unique.

As I have mentioned previously, financial problems immediately present themselves and to overcome these will require some thought. The Council has gained courage from the way in which the affairs of the Burgerhuis have developed and from the fact that thus far a new use has been found for the buildings that have been restored. There is every possibility that the same may soon be said of the old thatched roof cottage in Alexander Street opposite the new Government offices.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge with sincere gratitude the cooperation which has been extended by the Dutch Reformed Church to whom the property belongs and without whose permission it would have been impossible to carry out investigations at all. The decision of the Kerkraad not to demolish the building, which has been conveyed to the Council, I appreciate very much as it shows that the Council can rely on the widest cooperation in its efforts to preserve what is unique in old Stellenbosch.

3 Maart 1961.

VERGADERING VAN VERENIGDE MUNISIPALE BESTUUR

Verlede week het ek en die Stadsklerk die geleentheid gehad om die Jaarlikse Algemene Vergadering van hierdie liggaam in Kaapstad by te woon. Elke Provinsie word daarop verteenwoordig deur die president en drie lede van sy Munisipale Vereniging. Op die oomblik is mnr. Salmon Senekal, L.U.K. van die Vrystaat, die voorsitter. Ons het so pas verneem dat hy ook tot senator verkies is.

As geleentheidspreker het opgetree Sir John Maud, Britse Hoëkommissaris, 'n man wat self eerstehandse kennis van

munisipale administrasie het. Hy het die oortuiging uitgespreek dat plaaslike bestuur in Suid-Afrika nog 'n redelike suiwer demokratiese regeringsvorm uitmaak, in teenstelling met die aansienlike mate van afwatering elders in die wêreld. Van belang is om steeds te waak teen enige pogings om die outonomie van munisipaliteite in te kort. Sir John het ook gepleit vir die meer verbeelding en inisiatief aan die kant van owerhede by die verskaffing van dienste aan hul onderskeie gemeenskappe. Die tye toe die daarstelling van paaie, water, saniteit en krag die enigste funksies van 'n raad was, is verby, aangesien die beskaafde gemeenskappe deesdae baie meer op die gebied van kulturele dienste verlang. In hierdie verband behoort die Provinsiale en Uniale owerhede hul deel by te dra.

Die belangrikheid van plaaslike bestuur as universele instelling word blykbaar al hoe meer besef, aangesien daar enige jare gelede 'n internasionale vereniging gestig is. Enige munisipaliteit kan lid daarvan word en afgevaardigdes na die jaarlikse kongresse stuur. Verlede jaar het etlike sentra in die Unie dan ook van die geleentheid gebruik gemaak. Die Kaaplandse Munisipale Vereniging is deur die alombekende mnr. A. Schauder van Port Elizabeth verteenwoordig by die kongres wat in Tel Aviv gehou is en waarskynlik sal hy weer op sy eie koste vanjaar na die kongres in Washington gaan. Die president van die Verenigde Munisipale Bestuur sal dit moontlik ook bywoon. Vir sover dit die Kaaplandse Vereniging betref, is daar nog geen besluit geneem nie, maar dit is 'n aangeleentheid wat ernstige oorweging verg en seker bespreking sal uitlok op die kongres wat gedurende April op George gehou staan te word. In hierdie tye van wêreldspanning en onkunde oor toestande in Suid-Afrika is dit van belang dat daar meer kontak met die massas oorsee op die nie-amptelike vlak gemaak word, en dit sal miskien die moeite werd wees vir die regering as hy die bywoning van sulke kongresse kan aanmoedig en moontlik die vervoerkoste subsidieer.

Die funksie van hierdie bestuur is om provinsiale aangeleenthede van munisipale belang te oorweeg en om aanbevelings daarvoor te doen. Telkens word belangrike wetsontwerpe deur die Staat na die bestuur vir kommentaar verwys en dit ly geen twyfel dat 'n baie belangrike diens aan plaaslike owerhede in die algemeen bewys word nie. Die prosedure mag op die oomblik 'n bietjie omslagtig wees, maar oorweging word geskenk aan die daarstelling van vereenvoudigde masjinerie. Die verrigtinge was baie interessant en by 'n latere geleentheid sal ek waarskynlik meer te sê hê oor spesifieke onderwerpe wat behandel is.

10th March, 1961.

THE COACHMAN'S HOUSE IN ALEXANDER STREET

I have previously stressed the fact that in connection with the preservation of old buildings, it is a most important factor that a new use can be found for them which will guarantee a new lease of life. In the case of the so-called Coachman's House or "Rietdakhuisie", the Council has been informed by St. Mary's Church (diocese Cape Town) that it desires to purchase it as it requires accommodation for activities connected with the Church. The Council has resolved to sell the property to St. Mary's Church, subject to the condition that the work of restoration will be completed and that the building will be preserved in its present form as an example of early Cape architecture.

It is interesting to note that according to a painting by Terence McCaw from the year 1930, the vault or arch, the spring of which still shows on the eastern gable, was complete and joined up with the rectory of St. Mary's Church which, unfortunately, has since been demolished. The whole group must have presented a very interesting entity, the rectory being a double-storied house.

According to Mr. J. van der Bijl's records, in the year 1772 Christiaan Krynauw owned all the land from Bird Street (then also called Wagenpad) up to and including the Rietdakhuis site. He acquired the property during the years 1770/1772 by grant and purchase together with a small part of the farm De Oude Molen. The total area was approximately 1½ morgen in extent.

Krynauw had a dispute with his western neighbour, Fred Heyneman, which probably caused him to sell his whole property to the Landdros Hendrik Bletterman, who had the property re-surveyed and obtained a new grant.

In 1787 Marthinus Beyleveldt bought the whole erf which included a "pakhuis".

Bletterman sub-divided the property into five erven. The westernmost portion on which the Rietdakhuis stands was sold in 1792 to Jan Georg Lanksoff for 900 gulden but no building is mentioned in the Deed.

Five years later he sold to Roelof Davel who paid 5,000 gulden for it, so probably Lanksoff had built on the erf.

In 1830 Davel's widow sold to William Henry Watkins and in this case mention is made of the house and premises. Subsequently the property came into the hands of the Rhenish

missionaries. Mention of the subsequent owners does not appear necessary at this stage.

It will be recalled how the once so attractive property gradually fell into decay without any possibility of carrying out an effective restoration. As the position grew worse public interest grew and a more definite attitude in favour of preservation developed. Again, nothing was done until the roof practically collapsed and there was a body of opinion that it was too late to undertake anything.

I would like to pay a tribute to the interest and enthusiasm of the then Mayor, Professor Erika Theron, who managed to raise sufficient funds to restore the roof, doors and windows so that the outer shell at least was preserved. The property was then still in private hands and it is only now that it has been transferred to the Council.

There is still a great deal of work to be done and considerable expenditure will have to be incurred but this St. Mary's Church is prepared to face.

For Stellenbosch the preservation of the building means a great deal. The cottage has been much admired but it is time that all the good work that has been done is followed up lest decay once more sets in. As Dr. Mary Cook, who also took a keen and active interest in the matter, has stated, the work of restoration was most interesting and of particular importance because of the fact that the cottage well restored is a small but necessary part of the plan for the restoration of that corner of the Braak. The whole of the picture group would have been spoilt if there had been a gap where the cottage stands.

W. C. DEMPSEY,