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STELLENBOSCH

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24th April, 1964.

HOUSING SCHEMES AT IDAS VALLEY

The Council has pledged itself, by all the means in its power, to provide the housing which is so sorely needed at Stellenbosch. It has followed up its planning and replanning, when the need was occasioned by decisions of the higher authorities, with the greatest tenacity and yet it is faced with the position that the approval of the National Housing Commission has not been forthcoming as yet.

One comes to the conclusion that unless the higher authorities are prepared to devise a vastly simplified procedure the position will remain most unsatisfactory and those who realise the needs of the day, as the Council fully does, will continue to face disappointment and frustration.

The Council's preparations for the housing schemes for the Coloured community at Idas Valley date back as far as December, 1961, when the sub-divisions of available land were prepared. The list of delays for which the Council cannot accept any responsibility is a long one.

Whilst negotiations with regard to the approval of the townships concerned, were still going on, the Council prepared its application for approval of the necessary housing loans, even at the risk of having to adapt them to possible amendments of the layout.

In December, 1963, the Council was informed that the Provincial Administration had formally approved of the subdivision submitted and had laid down the township conditions. At this stage only, the surveyor was able to prepare the general plan and proceed to put in the necessary pegs on the site.

The correspondence and interviews in regard to the layouts, the unexpected demand for a further school site and actual housing schemes continued throughout the year 1963

and the final application in its amended form, designed to satisfy all requirements, could not be submitted earlier than the 27th February, 1964.

The Council is, however, persisting in its efforts to get final approval for the loans for the housing schemes and thus be in a position to call for tenders.

In conclusion, to get as far as the formal approval of the townships concerned has thus taken two years and it is not generally realised by the public that the Council cannot undertake anything without a loan from the Department of Housing and that before a loan is granted fullest details and estimates have to be submitted for approval.

A WARNING

The Electrical Engineer, always on the alert where it concerns the safety of the public, has pointed out that on installations there is a point, usually on the roof or against an outer wall of a house where the overhead service mains of the Council end and are joined up to the consumers' conductors. A junction is made which is taped with insulating material to cover the bare copper wire. During the course of years the rubber insulation, because of the exposure to wind and weather, can deteriorate and in many cases drop off. Some of these connections may date as far back as 1914.

The Electrical Engineer strongly advises, in all cases of doubt, to call in a wiring contractor in order to make sure whether any person — and one always thinks of children — could inadvertently come into contact with bare wires and either receive a shock or, in the worst case, be electrocuted.

If the wiring contractor considers it necessary to replace the consumer's conductors from the roof terminal to the meterboard in the building, the Electrical Engineer should be notified so that, as long as necessary, the supply of electricity can be disconnected at the nearest pole.

The same applies to overhead conductors from a main building to outbuildings on the property for which the owner is also responsible.

SIGNAL CANNON

Architect Reg. de Smidt of Captain Elsworth's office has written a letter to the Council in which he draws attention to the fact that the Historical Monuments Commission has mounted two very old signal cannon at the top of the Gantouw Pass (the old name for Sir Lowry's Pass) on carriages made of enduring material so that the cannon may be preserved.

As Mr. de Smidt states, these signal cannon were placed at vantage points all over the Cape in the 17th century. On

the approach of hostile shipping, 2 cannon were fired from Signal Hill above Cape Town. When reports were heard the two on Gantouw Pass would be fired, followed by two from Houwhoek Pass and so on into the eastern districts. Similarly the Signal Hill shots would be followed by two from Kanonkop in the Stellenbosch district, two more from Piketberg and more further afield, until the whole country was aroused.

Mr. de Smidt has looked up the actual instructions to Burghers and found that in some places, in addition to signaling by gun fire, red flags were to be hoisted and bonfires lit.

The Museums Committee and the Council have studied the drawings which Mr. de Smidt has prepared and they feel that it would be interesting to find out what is known of similar guns in the district either on Kanonkop or on farms. It would be a pity if these relics were to disappear because of neglect or lack of interest.

Any information on this subject would be greatly appreciated.

THE FIRE ENGINE

Arrangements have been made for a demonstration of the new municipal fire engine in operation on the Braak near the Kruithuis at 5 p.m. on Thursday, the 30th April, 1964. The public is cordially invited to attend.

THE OLD MILL STREAM

The building operations on the Old Mill site, now the O.K. Bazaars site, have brought with them some levelling work which will with the permission of the National Monuments Commission extend on to that part of the Braak which is opposite to the eastern entrance to the Mission Church.

The floor level of the O.K. Bazaar premises will be about 6" lower than that of the Rhenish Church. It is interesting to see at this stage from the side where the building operations are proceeding to what height the Mill Stream was raised, probably at the time when the bigger wheel was put in.

Once the Mill Stream, between Bird Street and the O.K. Bazaar site has been lowered, and the levelling has been completed, it will be difficult to imagine what the place looked like before.

The Rhenish Church, it is anticipated, will gain greatly by this alteration and gain more of the prominence which it deserves.

J. C. DE WET,
Acting Mayor.

1 Mei 1964.

VERGADERING INSAKE LANGENHOVENSAAL

Die nodige kennisgewings in verband met bogenoemde vergadering het reeds etlike kere in die pers verskyn, maar ek herinner die publiek maar weer daaraan dat 'n vergadering van kiesers vir Dinsdag, 5 Mei 1964 om 8 nm. in die Banketsaal belê is.

Die doel van die byeenkoms is om die voorgestelde ruiltransaksie met die Universiteit te bespreek waardeur 'n gedeelte van die Jan Maraispark vir die bou van die genoemde Saal afgestaan word.

DIE 57STE KONGRES VAN KAAPLANDSE MUNISIPALITEITE

Dit sal die publiek bes moontlik interesseer as ek na die verrigtinge van bogenoemde Kongres wat verlede week op Port Elizabeth gehou is, hier verwys, veral in soverre hulle ook vir Stellenbosch van belang is.

Die Kongres is deur die Administrateur, mnr. Nico Malan, geopen terwyl mnr. A. P. Venter, L.U.K. wat met die sake van plaaslike bestuur belas is, tydens die duur van die Kongres teenwoordig was. Mnr. Malan het in sy openingsrede o.a. verwys na die instelling van Bestuurskomitees vir Kleurlinge en 'n beroep op Stadsrade gedoen om behulpsaam te wees met die nodige voorbereidende werk, o.a. die opleiding van personeel. Verder het die Administrateur klem gelê op die noodsaaklikheid van stads- en streeksbeplanning en aangekondig dat die Provinsiale Administrasie besig is om sy personeel wat met hierdie take belas is, uit te brei met die oog op die veel groter klem wat daar in die toekoms op die behoorlike beplanning van dorps- en streeksontwikkeling gelê sal word.

Aangeleenthede waaroor die Kongres besluite geneem het, is o.a. die volgende:

KRUIK:

Daar is besluit dat 'n beroep op alle Stadsrade gemaak sal word om die Kaaplandse Raad vir Uitvoerende Kunste (KRUIK) heelhartig te steun. Van Munisipaliteite word verwag om vanjaar altesaam R60,000 by te dra, op die grondslag van 8c per kop van die blanke bevolking.

GERAAS VAN VOERTUIE:

Etlike afgevaardigdes het hulle besorgheid uitgespreek oor die toenemende lawaai wat in dorpe ondervind word as gevolg van die onbeheerde geraas wat deur voertuie veroorsaak word. Daar is besluit om die saak met die Owerhede op te neem.

BURO VIR KLEIN WONINGS:

Omdat baie lede van die publiek, veral in die laer inkomstegroepe, nie die dienste van argitekte kan bekostig nie, is daar besluit om die Provinsiale Administrasie se toestemming te vra dat plaaslike owerhede toegelaat mag word om 'n Buro vir Klein Wonings in te stel. Persone sal dan van so 'n Buro bouplanne teen 'n nominale bedrag kan kry vir huise tot 'n maksimum van R4,000.

KWALIFIKASIES VIR RAADSLEDE:

'n Voorstel het voor die Kongres gedien dat slegs eenaars as raadslede verkies mag word, maar dit is met 'n groot meerderheid afgestem.

STELLENBOSCH SE MOSIES:

Twee mosies wat deur Stellenbosch se afgevaardigdes voorgestel is, is albei aangeneem. Raadslid Anna Eksteen het voorgestel dat 'n Stadsraad toegelaat word om foenie te hef vir dié verskaffing van dokumentêre inligting aan die publiek, terwyl Raadslid J. F. Uys voorgestel het dat die Regering gevra word om dit duidelik te stel of hy enige voorneme het om Bantoe-administrasie van die Munisipaliteite oor te neem.

8th May, 1964.

MUNICIPAL WORKSHOP AND STORES AT BELTANA

It has become urgently necessary to provide adequate workshops, depots and stores for various municipal departments. Some time ago large sheds were put up for the Forestry Department and the Health Department where their valuable vehicles and machinery are kept and protected against wind and weather.

Facilities for other activities such as carpentry, joinery, plumbing and repairs will now have to be provided for at the Beltana site. The necessary plans have been approved and the tender of Mr. J. Roos of Paarl for R29,400 has been accepted.

INDUSTRIAL SITES

- From time to time enquiries are made regarding industrial sites. At the moment the only land available is that situated between General Box Co. and the Devon Valley Road.

A subdivision of this area has been prepared providing for some 9 industrial sites; approximately 20,000 square feet in extent — some larger, some smaller.

This plan will in due course be submitted to the Townships Board.

The area between Bell Street and the future Cloetesdal Coloured Township has been mentioned as suitable for light industrial use. As soon as full clarity has been arrived at, as to the final Main Road Scheme in that area, the Council can take further steps.

In case the railway line has to be relayed because of the building of a large dam in the Plankenbrug Valley, it will be possible to decide whether a new spot has to be determined where the overhead bridge which is to replace the present du Toitville level crossing must be built.

TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR COLOURED WORKMEN

Employers of labour on a large scale i.e. building contractors, find it extremely difficult to find accommodation for coloured workmen. The Council is examining whether, pending the completion of its housing schemes, a scheme could be devised where contractors could erect their own temporary structures.

ADDITIONAL POOR RELIEF

Council has been notified by the Chief Welfare Officer of the Department of Welfare and Pensions, that all local authorities in the area which is served by the regional office at Cape Town, will no longer have the right to issue what has been known as additional Poor Relief and to recover one quarter of the expenditure from the department.

Previously local authorities were permitted to grant such additional relief in cases where they felt that the relief granted by the State was insufficient to meet the requirements of the people concerned.

Since the responsibility for relief was transferred to the State a substantial improvement regarding the provision of aid to needy persons has taken place. The Chief Welfare Officer mentions examples of the relief provided i.e. the Provision of Food; of domestic requirements such as fuel, soap blankets, clothes and the like; tools and implements in cases where this was a condition of employment of needy persons; the payment of rent and lodging; railway transport in order to place needy persons in position to proceed to an institution or home for the aged where they could be cared for without further State aid or to place a person that had become totally destitute to proceed to relatives where he or she could be cared for without further State aid; bus tickets, where it is absolutely necessary that a beneficiary must travel to the place of work locally, and does not have the means to do so.

The notification concludes that as the state makes adequate provision for all needy cases, it is thus no longer necessary for local authorities to provide additional poor relief.

The advantage of the old system may be seen in the fact that local authorities with their staff of inspectors were comparatively well informed and could act quickly in providing at least the necessary food in cases where the wolf was at the door.

Application now has to be made to the local Magistrate and it is hoped that the necessary machinery will be made available which will enable the Magistrate to issue relief without loss of time.

15 Mei 1964.

HOUTHUISE

Dit is nogal opvallend hoe die algemene houding teenoor houthuise die afgelope jare verander het. Daar was 'n tyd toe plaaslike owerhede hierdie tipe huise onder geen omstandighede in hulle gebiede sou toegelaat het nie. Tans vind ons dat al meer munisipaliteite bereid is om onder sekere voorwaardes die oprigting van houthuise goed te keur. Twee redes is veral vir hierdie verandering verantwoordelik: Eerstens is daar die besef dat dit vandag nie moontlik is om die geweldige agterstand in verband met behuising uit te wis deur die gebruik van konvensionele boumetodes en -materiaal nie; en tweedens is daar die ernstige pogings van die kant van die nywerheid om hul produkte, in dié geval houthuise, so te verbeter dat baie van die redes waarom hulle vroeër ongewild was, weggeval het.

Selfs die Nasionale Behuisingskommissie is nou gewillig om lenings te gee vir behoorlik goedgekeurde behuisingskemas waar van hout as boustof gebruik gemaak word.

Die General Box Co. stel reeds lank belang daarin om 'n goeie doelmatige wooneenheid wat uit hout en asbes vervaardig is, daar te stel om betreklik goedkoop behuising veral vir ons minder gegoedes daar te stel. In die afgelope week het ons die voorreg gehad om so 'n huis wat vir eksperimentele doeleindes vervaardig is, te besigtig. Die plan is om dit op groot skaal te vervaardig mits die koste daarvan binne sekere perke gehou kan word. Die maatskappy het reeds aansoek gedoen om 'n aantal van die huise in Idasvallei op te rig vir die gerief van sy eie werknemers.

Terwyl ons van houthuise praat, kan ons net hier noem dat daar pas van die Departement van Bantoe-administrasie goedkeuring verkry is om 'n aantal houthuise in Kaya Mandi

op te rig. Dit is bedoel om tydelike verligting in die woningnood aldaar te bring. Die Stadsraad is van plan om 'n paar van die huise vir sy eie werknemers aan te bring, en origens sal 'n aantal groot werkgewers ook dergelike huise vir hul arbeiders bou. Die huise is slegs bedoel om die toestand van oorbewoning te verlig en moenie gesien word as 'n poging om meer Bantoes in die gebied in te bring nie.

STOKERY-AFLOOP

Dit is 'n probleem wat reeds baie ongerief vir sekere van ons inwoners veroorsaak het en ek het dan ook by meer as een geleentheid belowe dat die Stadsraad alle pogings in die werk sal stel om 'n permanente oplossing vir die onaangenaamhede wat deur die wynafloop veroorsaak word, te vind.

In die afgelope maande is etlike samesprekings met verteenwoordigers van die K.W.V. gehou en so pas het ons ook besoek gehad van 'n senior personeellid van die W.N.N.R. wat reeds vir baie jare met proefnemings besig is om 'n bevredigende oplossing vir die probleem te vind.

Dit is vir my aangenaam om te kan meld dat die W.N.N.R. met sy navorsing sodanig gevorder het dat dit skyn of hy 'n metode ontwerp het wat met welslae by die behandeling van stokery-afloop toegepas kan word. Dit bestaan daarin dat die afloop met die gewone rioolslyk gemeng word en in die proses gesuiwer word op 'n wyse dat die onaangename reuk waaroor tans so baie gekla word, glad nie ontstaan nie.

Die W.N.N.R. is van plan om gedurende die volgende parsseisoen grootskaalse proefnemings in Stellenbosch uit te voer om hierdie proses behoorlik op die proef te stel. Ek weet by voorbaat dat nie net die Stadsraad nie, maar ook die inwoners van Onder-Papegaaiberg, die eksperimente met grōt belangstelling sal volg.

HERSIENING VAN DIE KIESERSLYS

Dit het weer tyd geword om ons munisipale kieserslys te hersien, om persone wat hulle in ons dorp gevestig het sedert die vorige lys opgestel is, 'n geleentheid te gee om hulle name op die lys geplaas te kry. 'n Kennisgewing in dier voege sal op 15 Mei 1964 verskyn en daar sal van 22 Mei tot 5 Junie 1964 'n geleentheid wees om nuwe name vir opname op die kieserslys aan te bied. Besware teen name wat tans op die kieserslys verskyn, moet ook tot 5 Junie ingedien word. Die Hersieningshof sal om 10 vm. op Dinsdag, 16 Junie 1964, vergader.

W. C. DEMPSEY.