**CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT FOR 2019**

2020 did not get off to the good start that the management committee had anticipated. Newly elected member, Wilma Brent was unfortunately unable to take up her position on the committee and we were therefore obliged to co-opt relative newcomer to Pearly Beach, Reneé Viljoen as our Treasurer. Regrettably Reneé resigned from the committee in October.

Co-opting members onto the committee has proved most unsuccessful and disappointing. It is my suggestion that new members first familiarise themselves with the function of the Ratepayers’ Association, that they take time to understand the role of the ward councillor and the way a ward committee operates. I would encourage everyone to attend at least one public ward committee meeting. Establishing how the Integrated Development Plan works will also assist and it would be beneficial if use of these opportunities is made before members make themselves available to serve on the PBRPA committee.

At this point I would like to mention that none of the committee has the authority to issue instructions to the municipality. We do however pride ourselves on maintaining a cordial and respectful relationship with the authorities which has proved of great worth to both parties in the past.

Nelia has served this year in the role of Vice Chairperson and has held the Building monitoring portfolio.

Vivienne has served as Secretary this year and has once again represented the PBRPA at the ward committee. Here again Viv presents matters that have been raised by the committee and reports back to the community as required.

Peter has been responsible for infrastructure and maintenance for 2019 while Jason has served to advise the committee from a conservation perspective.

All have performed their duties conscientiously and I am grateful for the support, loyalty, commitment and sacrifice each one has shown.

During the course of the year the resurfacing of our roads took place. This is a project that has been on the backburner of the RPA for many years. There are still a few roads that need to be completed and we trust that this venture will be completed in the 2nd part of the new year.

The request from several residents for additional speed calming devices will also be implemented in the new financial year.

29 November 2019 was a red letter day on the RPA calendar when Castle Beach received full blue flag status. This is a wonderful achievement for our little village. We can be proud of the fact that sea water samples taken at Castle Beach confirm that we have the purest sea water in the Overstrand area.

We faced several challenges trying to ensure that Castle Beach would be ready for the deadline. After a severe storm, part of the deck of the boardwalk was washed away. There wasn’t sufficient time for the Environmental Department to replace it, so steps were constructed as a temporary measure. The deck lookout reconstruction is scheduled for after the holiday season.

The boardwalk at Rotunda is also in need of a make-over. This will also be completely reconstructed during the new financial year.

We are still experiencing illegal dumping outside the drop off zone. Suitable signage will be erected here prohibiting dumping. The sub contractor has also been requested to replace bins more regularly to avoid overflowing taking place, which makes the drop off zone unsightly and unattractive.

A heartfelt request to you all. Let’s work together for the benefit of our beautiful village. Great strides have been made since the days of only sour milk and stale bread being available at Afsaal.

Before you repeat something or place it on social media, ask the questions: Is it true, Is it fair? Is it kind?

If your neighbour’s cat is digging up your garden, speak to the owner of the cat first and try to resolve the issue. If someone in your neighbourhood is placing their refuse on the sidewalk on a day other than Monday (which is collection day), approach them. If they fail to observe the by-law then report them to the local authorities.

Let 2020 be the year we practice goodwill and good neighbourliness.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to extend our thanks to our ward councillor, Alderman Dudley Coetzee for his support and encouragement. To the municipality for responding swiftly to our requests for help and assistance and to the members of the Neighbourhood Watch who provide such a valuable service to us. We salute you all.

**SHIRLEY COETZEE**

**CHAIRPERSON**

19 December 2019