



CONSTITUTION

As at 25th April 2023

1. Name:

The name of the Neighbourhood Watch shall be STRANDVELD PLAASWAG/BUURTWAG (Strandveld Plaaswag).

2. Objectives and Powers:

The objectives of the STRANDVELD PLAASWAG shall be in respect of the whole area of Strandveld (being that part of the Overstrand and Overberg Municipal areas stretching along the coast of the Overberg, from the eastern edge of Gansbaai to Agulhas, and inland from Franskraal through Lomond and Baardskeedersbos to Elim and their surrounds). to:

- 2.1. Comply at all times with the provisions contained in the Western Cape Provincial Constitution and Code of Conduct for Neighbourhood Watch Structures (WCNWS) and in the event of there being any conflict between WCNWS and this Constitution the provisions of WCNWS shall prevail;
- 2.2. Collect and disseminate information on all matters affecting the above purposes and exchange such information with other bodies having similar purposes in the country;
- 2.3. Accept gifts in such a manner as STRANDVELD PLAASWAG shall think fit, subject to such consents as required by law;
- 2.4. Procure contributions to STRANDVELD PLAASWAG by personal or written appeals, public meetings or otherwise, subject to such consents as required by law;
- 2.5. Appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the Executive Committee may think fit;
- 2.6. Appoint a security company to do the patrols and react to incidents; and
- 2.6.1 Do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of the said purposes.

3. Membership:

- 3.1. Membership of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG shall be open to any person living, working or owning property in Strandveld & surrounds with approval of the management committee.

- 3.1.1. Membership shall be for those persons who wish to participate in the objectives of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG and shall be by registration on the STRANDVELD PLAASWAG data base.
- 3.2. Only those who have registered as members and are paid up members in accordance with 3.1.1 hereof shall be entitled to vote at General Meetings of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG.
- 3.3. The Committee may request reasonable information from an applicant before granting membership.
- 3.4. The Committee may reject an applicant without reason given after consultation among them.
- 3.5. Members are expected to hold certain responsibilities that include:
 - 3.5.1 Attending meetings.
 - 3.5.2 Pay all membership fees on time.
 - 3.5.3 Notify management if they want to resign or suspend their membership for either travel or financial reasons - this needs to be done by filling out an Suspension or Termination of Fees Application which is available on the website and from the committee.
 - 3.5.4 Notify management if their contact details change.
- 3.6. Members are expected to sign a 'Terms and Conditions of Membership Approval' form on joining.
- 3.7. Membership will be automatically terminated should a members fees be in arrears for more than two (2) calendar months.
4. Termination of Membership:
 - 4.1. A member may resign by written letter or email notice to the STRANDVELD PLAASWAG data base email address.
 - 4.2. The Committee may in their absolute discretion terminate membership of any member provided that notice is given to any member of the Committee's intentions and that such notice contains full reasons for the Committee's intended action. Any written reply shall be considered by the Committee. Fees paid may be withheld at discretion of the management committee.
5. Security Officers:
 - 5.1. Strandveld Plaaswag shall appoint a Spokesperson as the only person entitled under (WCNWS) to make or issue any statement to the media of any matters or issues concerning STRANDVELD PLAASWAG.

- 5.2. The Chairperson of the Committee shall be the Chairperson of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG and shall hold office until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG next after election but shall be eligible for re-election.
- 5.3. STRANDVELD PLAASWAG shall appoint a security company to act as security officers for them.
- 5.4. STRANDVELD PLAASWAG may appoint one or more qualified auditors and may determine their remuneration (if any).
6. Executive Committee:
 - 6.1. Subject as hereinafter mentioned the policy and general management of the affairs of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG, including the powers above mentioned, shall be directed by an Executive Committee (herein called "the Committee") which shall meet not less than four times a year and which shall consist of a chairman, vice chairman, secretary, treasurer and at least 2 additional members.
 - 6.1.1. Each member of the Committee shall be entitled to one vote at meetings of the Committee.
 - 6.1.2. Each Committee member may vote by proxy duly authorised in writing on not more than three occasions in any one year commencing with the inaugural meeting.
 - 6.2. The members of the Committee have to sign the Constitution of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG and they shall continue in office until the next Annual General Meeting of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG. Unless the Annual General Meeting votes that any member or members should cease to be on the Committee they shall continue in office until the next following Annual General Meeting.
 - 6.3. In addition the Committee may co-opt up to one third of the total number of appointed and/or elected members of the Committee, who shall be representative of members of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG who shall serve until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting after individual co-option. Co-opted members shall be entitled to vote.
 - 6.4. Any casual vacancy in the Committee may be filled up by the Committee and any person appointed to fill such a casual vacancy shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG and shall be eligible for election at the meeting.
 - 6.5. The proceedings of the Committee shall not be invalidated by any accidental failure to elect or any accidental defect in the election, appointment, co-option or qualification of any member.
 - 6.6. The Committee may appoint such special or standing committees as may be

deemed necessary by the Committee and shall determine their terms of reference, powers, duration and composition. All acts and proceedings of such special or standing committees shall be reported back to the Committee fully and promptly.

6.7. The Committee may at any Committee meeting invite one representative from each of the Companies providing Security Services and SAPS in Strandveld & Surrounds to attend such Committee meeting Provided that all such Companies are given an equal opportunity to attend and an equal right to address the Committee in the absolute discretion of the Chairperson.

6.8. The Chairman should not be appointed for a period longer than two years but may serve in another capacity on the committee once the two years expired. The members of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG shall aim to vote in at least one new committee member per year.

6.9. The chairperson must be elected by secret ballot and the rest may be elected by show of hands. The election procedure must be followed at each AGM.

7. Rules of Procedures at all Meetings:

7.1 Quorum:

7.1.1. The quorum at an Annual General Meeting of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG shall be 80 percent of the management committee and 3 paid up members of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG;

7.1.2. The quorum at any meeting of the Committee or of any Sub Committee appointed under Clause 6.1 hereof shall be 50% Committee members plus one, subject to a minimum of three people in total, all of whom need to be paid up members.

7.2. Voting:

7.2.1. All questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote. No person shall exercise more than one vote but in the case of any equality of votes the chairperson of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote;

7.3. Minutes:

Minute books shall be kept by the Committee and all other committees, and the appropriate secretary shall enter therein a record of all attendances, proceedings and resolutions.

8. Standing Orders:

8.1. The Committee may make such rules for the conduct of its business and that of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG as it may deem necessary PROVIDED THAT they shall be consistent with the requirements of this constitution.

- 8.2. If any representative of the media attends any meeting of the Committee the Chairperson may in the Chairperson's absolute and unfettered discretion exclude the media or obtain written undertakings that no name of any Sector Leader or identifying information will be published.
- 8.3. The Committee shall have the power to make, repeal and amend such rules as they may from time to time consider necessary for the wellbeing of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG PROVIDED THAT they shall be consistent with the requirements of this constitution, which rules, repeals and amendments shall have effect until set aside by the Committee or at a general meeting.
9. Meetings of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG:
- 9.1. There shall be an annual general meeting of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG which shall be held in February or March of each year at such time and at such place as the Committee shall determine.
- 9.2. At such Annual General Meeting the business shall include:
- 9.2.1. The appointment of a security company or decision to keep existing company; and
- 9.2.2. The election of members to serve on the Committee.
- 9.3. The Chairperson of the Committee may at any time call a Special General Meeting of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG at his or her discretion and shall call such a meeting within fourteen days of receiving a written request to do so, signed by not less than 50% plus one members of the Committee and giving reasons for the request.
10. Nomination of Committee Members:
- 10.1. Nomination for members of the Committee must be made by full members of the Association. Should nominations exceed vacancies, elections shall be decided by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote.
- 10.2. No member shall exercise more than one vote but in case of an equality of votes the Chairperson shall have a second or casting vote.
- 10.3. Committee members are expected to hold certain responsibilities that include:
- 10.3.1 Chairperson responsibilities
- 10.3.2 Treasurer responsibilities
- 10.3.3 Secretary responsibilities
- 10.3.4 Special portfolio responsibilities which include
- 10.3.4.1 Member and Financial Services including invoicing, mapping and WhatsApp group management as well as newsletters and website management

10.3.4.2 Services including cameras, maps, panics and radios

10.3.4.3 Response including Reaction Unit, CTS, SAPS and Law Enforcement

10.3.5 General committee members responsibilities

11. Finance:

- 11.1. All monies raised by or on behalf of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG shall be applied to further the purposes of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG and not otherwise PROVIDED THAT nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper repayment of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses;
- 11.2. Nothing within this Constitution shall prevent any Committee member or member of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG from collecting or raising funds for the benefit of individuals or Sectors provided that STRANDVELD PLAASWAG is not to be used as the name behind any such collection. Any funds so raised and any expenditure, surplus or goods acquired shall be the sole responsibility of individuals or Sectors.
- 11.3. A budget must be drawn and adhered to after approval at the AGM. Amendments must be approved at a special full member`s meeting.

12. Alterations to the Constitution:

- 12.1. Any alteration to this Constitution shall require the assent of not less than 80 percent of the Committee and 3 paid up full members of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG for the time being present and voting at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting.
- 12.2. Notice of any such alteration shall have been received by the Committee in writing not less than 14 clear days before the meeting at which the alteration is to be proposed.

13. Dissolution:

- 13.1. If the Committee by a simple majority decides at any time that on the ground of expenses or otherwise it is necessary or advisable to dissolve STRANDVELD PLAASWAG it shall call a meeting of all members of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG who have the power to vote, of which meeting not less than 14 days' notice (stating the terms of the Resolution to be proposed) shall be given. Notice shall be by publication in the local press.
- 13.2. If such decisions shall be confirmed by a two thirds majority of those present and voting at such meeting, the Committee shall have the power to dispose of any assets held by or on behalf of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of

STRANDVELD PLAASWAG as the Committee may decide or failing that may be applied for some other charitable purpose.

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Aims and Objectives

- To nurture a sense of unity, dedication and good neighbourly relations among the residents of the Strandveld farms & Baardskeerdersbos.
- To assist the local police to safeguard the community against criminal activities and strive for a safe and secure environment.
- To provide a channel through which local communities can play a meaningful role in crime prevention in a manner that is ethical and non-violent.
- To create public awareness with regard to safety, crime prevention and protection of families and their property.
- To encourage the community to work in close co-operation with the South African Police Services (SAPS) and other structures such as local authorities who are involved in law enforcement.
- To unite a diverse residency in creating a stable and crime free environment.

2. Indemnity

- STRANDVELD PLAASWAG is not a legal person and functions within the guidelines provided by and set out in the Western Cape Provincial Constitution and Code of Conduct for Neighbourhood Watch Structures.
- An acknowledgement to this effect must be signed by all members of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG clearly indemnifying the Neighbourhood Watch Structure.
- The acknowledgement must clearly state that STRANDVELD PLAASWAG is a voluntary association.

3. Liability

- STRANDVELD PLAASWAG is not a legal person and as such does not have powers of whatever nature which might be in law to act or be acted upon.
- All individual members act in their own capacity as individuals and liability will be in that capacity.
- STRANDVELD PLAASWAG will not be responsible for civil and or criminal actions or omissions that are perpetrated by a member of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG nor responsible for civil and or criminal actions or omissions against its members.
- All and any criminal and civil actions that are instituted against a member of

STRANDVELD PLAASWAG will be against the member concerned and not STRANDVELD PLAASWAG.

- Any damage or injury to any member of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG or his or her property when such member is acting as a member of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG in whatsoever capacity shall, subject to claims against third parties, be the sole and absolute responsibility of the member.
 - STRANDVELD PLAASWAG carries no insurances whatsoever for members or their families or dependants.
 - Members of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG must take all such steps as they choose to establish their own legal position as to their personal/ accident/medical or vehicle insurances and assurances.
 - Patrols and reaction to incidents will be conducted by the appointed security company, who may request the assistance of members, in which case the member/s will be under the command of the security officer on duty.
4. Accountability
- STRANDVELD PLAASWAG will be accountable to SAPS in the first instance.
 - The security company will act under their own rules which may not be in conflict with the current laws regarding security and safety of the Republic of South.
5. Functions
- STRANDVELD PLAASWAG must assist SAPS in crime prevention in the Strandveld & surrounds area.
 - STRANDVELD PLAASWAG will adopt and support the social crime prevention policy of SAPS.
 - STRANDVELD PLAASWAG members will have powers similar to that of any other citizen to perform a citizen's arrest and the requirements set out in the Criminal Procedure Act No. 51 of 1977 will be adhered to and complied with at all times.
 - Members of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG have the same rights as any member of the public to arrest a perpetrator of an offence or of any person reasonably suspected of being about to commit an offence.
6. Conduct
- All members of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG must at all time act in a non-violent manner. No member may take the law into his or her own hands irrespective of circumstances.
 - No member of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG will display racism, sexism or any other

form of discrimination towards any other member and any other person.

- No member shall carry any weapon perceived to be dangerous that could inflict serious bodily harm or damage to property. Only weapons for the sole purpose of self-defence as approved by the Provincial Commissioner, SAPS – Western Cape may be used.
7. Working with SAPS
- SAPS shall be obliged whenever possible to provide members, reservists or assist to arrange for members from other law enforcement agencies to supervise STRANDVELD PLAASWAG when patrols are undertaken.
 - STRANDVELD PLAASWAG and SAPS must share information on matters pertaining to crime prevention and the apprehension of criminals.
 - SAPS, the appointed security company and member of STRANDVELD PLAASWAG must assist each other in the publicity campaign for STRANDVELD PLAASWAG.
8. Strandveld Farmwatch Reaction Unit (SFRU) Code Of Conduct
- The Strandveld Farmwatch Reaction Unit (SFRU) is a voluntary group representing the communities of the Strandveld and working closely with local SAPS, emergency and other community protection and support services. SFRU consists of committed individuals who undergo regular training in various areas from incident management, medical support, crime scene management, firefighting skills, community safety and incident response
 - SFRU is responsible for responding to emergency situations that may include vehicle accidents, supporting emergency services for any major incident, support for SAPS and armed response for any criminal attacks or incidents.
 - The SFRU has the following Code of Conduct:
 - SFRU will adhere to the SAPS and Dept. Community Safety code of conduct for accredited NHW's at all times.
 - Mutual respect for colleagues and SAPS members will always be upheld.
 - We will protect the reputation of colleagues, Farmwatch and the community at all times.
 - We will help and support each other, Farmwatch and the Police at all times.
 - Meetings and training sessions are compulsory for all members
 - Incident log books and call out forms must be kept up to date and shared with the appropriate stakeholders and authorities after any incident.
 - SFRU must be represented at all Farmwatch meetings

