

Harbour View Citizens Association
Minutes of General Meeting Held June 05, 2022
via Google Meet

***** Call to Order & Welcome *****

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 pm by President Hall. Fifteen (15) persons were present at the start and warm welcome was extended to all.

***** Prayer *****

Prayer was offered by Lorna Harris.

***** Apologies *****

The following are the apologies that were tendered:

For absence:

- Garth Daniels
- Ethel Peat-Smith

***** Family Matters *****

Birthdays

There were no announced birthdays for June.

Wedding Anniversary

There were no announced wedding anniversaries.

Passing

- Wilfred Mumby – Dorado Drive

***** Reading, Correction and Confirmation of Minutes *****

There were no noted corrections for the minutes of the meeting of April 03, 2022. As such the minutes were confirmed on a motion moved by Maxine Solay and seconded by Carol Jumpp-Graham.

The minutes of the meeting of May 01, 2022 were read and the following are the noted corrections:

- *Page 2:*
 - Under ‘Invited guests’, ***‘promise’*** should read ***‘promised’***
- *Page 4:*
 - Under ‘MoSSaiC Project’, the sentence which begins ***‘The protest was staged...’*** should read ***‘The protest was to be staged at Gordon House as planned’***.

The minutes of the meeting of May 01, 2022 were confirmed on a motion moved by Dr. R. Peat and seconded by Beverlyn Wong, subject to the noted corrections being made.

***** Updates *****

President Hall provided the following as updates:

➤ **MoSSaiC Project:**

An Advocacy committee was formed to assist with issues relating to the MoSSaiC project. The group members are Sandra Hall, Beverlyn Wong and Novlet Ralph. So far, the committee has engaged Jamaica Environmental Trust (JET). The CEO, Mrs. Theresa Rodriguez -Moodie and a geologist from JET has been assessing the damages and have been making recommendations on possible actions that may be taken. Mrs. Rodriguez-Moodie has been assisting with writing letters to the NWA and other entities that are involved to try and find out where the situation stands and what needs to be done.

Mrs. Holness, Member of Parliament for the area, has also been engaged. She wants to help with not only the MoSSaiC problem but also the other issues in the community such as damaged roads and blocked drains.

At this juncture, President Hall craved the indulgence of the membership to facilitate a change in the order of the agenda so that Mr. Andrew Foster, Shelter Manager for Harbour View, could make his presentation as he had another meeting to attend.

***** Invited Guests *****

Mr Foster began his presentation at 3:36pm

Mr. Andrew Foster, Shelter Manager in charge of the Harbour View division and acting president of the ******** Disaster Risk Management (DRM) group, highlighted he following as preparatory activities for the 2022 hurricane season:

- An executive committee has been formed that be in charge of this year disaster. The committee includes two shelter managers and a secretary.
- The first two classrooms at the Harbour View Primary school which have been used for the past 20 years are no longer suitable because the roofs are leaking and water blows inside when it rains. A request has been made of the Principal for the use of classrooms at the rear of the building. A response is yet to be had.
- So far this year, only 3 persons have been facilitated in the shelter
- The Citizens' Association, the police, Food for the Poor and the Members of Parliament (MPs) are all a part of the communication during any disaster.
- This year, there has been an increase in the number of cases of fire so efforts are being made to increase the assistance to those persons.
- Emergency numbers will soon be made available.

President Hall thanked Mr. Foster for his time and the information that he presented.

Mrs. Juliet Holness, Member of Parliament whose attendance was initially unsure joined the meeting and was allowed to have discussions with the membership.

Mrs. Holness engaged the membership at 3:47pm

The following represents a summary of the salient points of the discussions with the Honorable Juliet Holness, MP:

- With regards to the MoSSaiC project Mrs Holness indicated that as promised, she visited the area with an engineer and Mr. McKenzie, Minister of Local Government, to take a look and from her layman perspective, the problem is extremely serious. It is also a very expensive problem because Mr. McKenzie estimates it to be in the billions of dollars and he has no funding or sees any way of getting that level of funding. She finds this concerning, as we are moving into the hurricane season. She pointed out that the persons who have built on the hill are actually the ones causing the problems and that she has had a meeting with the Mayor and the Town Clerk to deal with the issue of additional buildings going up, because the more they build, the worse the problem is getting, literally.

Mrs. Holness explained that for every single house that goes up on the hill, it removes the space that would be saturated by the rain and as such that water is running down the hill between the homes right down to Southern Cross Drive. She suggested that anything that is built there will hold for some time but it not will hold forever because it just cannot and will never in the long term. She also suggested that we get those persons on the hill to go to their homes and put the water into tanks that they use instead of having all of that water coming down into Harbour View.

Based on her dialogue with Minister McKenzie, he has indicated that he will allow his engineer to go through her recommendations for the gully. She spoke of using one option of using a massive retaining wall that would be required at the back of those houses to collect the water; almost like a retaining wall with a channel to take it out to sea. Mrs. Holness said has told the Minister that since the amount to repair the problem has been moving from 80 million, which was the last assessment, and no work has begun then we need to look at what it would cost for an intermediary fix. The second option is to use the drain pipes to lead the water out to sea.

Mrs. Holness indicated that she has gotten a commitment from the Minister that they will do that engineering estimate so that she can come back to the committee and the residence with a solution. She also indicated that a big part of why the problem exists is that the original funds were not enough to finish the project. She further stated that if we don't get the water totally out the gully and to sea, anywhere the project stops it will deteriorate.

- As it relates to the issue of some of the roads, Mrs. Holness advised that NWC has already come in and started to patch areas of road that they dug up. She asked President Sandra to inform her of any roads they may have missed so she can follow up.

- On the issue of drains, Mrs. Holness pointed out that she was aware that the Association had asked NWA to do a costing for all the drains. She promised to look specifically at Reel Avenue the one between Orion and Mars Drive. She indicated that she has gotten an allocation for the entire constituency for drain cleaning and advised that Councillors are to do some of these works because they are also allocated funds for use in their divisions. Mrs. Holness commended Mr. Clue for the work he has already done with the drains, as she was reliably informed, and promised to have dialogue with him to determine those yet to be serviced. She also asked President Hall to provide her with a copy of the costing once it is completed.
- As it relates to the market, Mrs. Holness advised that she has been in discussion with Minister McKenzie again, and with the Mayor to try to find a solution for both the market and the vendors at the roundabout but will need to get back to us on that.
- Mrs. Holness emphasized that it does not make sense for her to keep speaking without solution. So she will provide updated as soon as she has something solid and some figures that can help to see a way through.

The following are comments/questions raised in response to an invitation from the President for question for Mrs. Holness:

- Carol Jumpp-Graham stated that her concern is six years long. She spoke about the big hole in her yard and her mother being 76 years old and wanted to know what will be urgently done to address the problem in light of the upcoming hurricane season.

Mrs. Holness responded that there is nothing that is going to happen anytime soon because there is no funding. She expressed that it is challenging especially for each individual but the situation is across Jamaica and the possibility of having the infinite revenue required to fix the problems just does not exist in Jamaica and despite all her efforts, she has not found any way to get the resources to fix it as yet. So, there is nothing that she can commit.

- Mrs. Holness asked how long has it been since the drain at the back was determined to be an issue and when was the drain built.

President Hall indicated that it was in 2015.

- Lorna Harris wanted to know why, since we didn't have the *have the resources in Jamaica, would the World Bank commit to such a project.*

Mrs. Holness said she was excited about it and sort of happy and felt she had made some headway in getting an international funded project from Japan through disaster recovery. That is actually what had her approaching the Minister of Local Government, because she thought the additional money could be obtained through grant funding. She however could not speak definitively on details of the arrangement with the World Bank but promised to investigate. She said she will in fact approach this and see if there is any funding anywhere; any grant funding that could be pursued.

- Winnifred Jackson indicated that she is living at 53 Harbour Drive, at the head of where the water is coming down from the gully. She stated that she is really tired

because it is her mango tree that is preventing her house from collapsing and at 79 years old she does not know where she could get a house at her age, because no bank is going to lend her money. Ms. Samuels said she is really, really worried because she has nowhere else to live. So, she is please asking if she could even get some stones to prevent her home from collapsing.

Mrs. Holness requested a contact for Ms. Jackson and promised that she would personally visit her and assess her situation to see if any solution can be implemented which will not make it worse for anyone as a result.

Mrs. Holness further informed that she did not see all of the drain during her walk but would love to do so because in discussing the solution with the engineer, she told him that they would have to make some adjustments to the mouth to make sure all the water at the mouth is getting into the pipes.

- Beverlyn Wong, who identified herself as being from Harbour Drive, informed Mrs. Holness that there was a misunderstanding as the pipes she mentioned are not in use any more are old asbestos pipes that we used by NWC to supply water but have been discontinued and should be discarded. She further advised that there was no drain.

A picture was displayed on screen for Mrs. Holiness to see and clarity was provided on the construction of the gully with contributions from several members.

Mrs. Holness remarked that it is much crazier than what she thought and both she and the engineer misunderstood what they saw. She indicated that with the new perspective, she will go to Ms. Winnifred Jackson's home on Tues and see where it starts and how to come up with another solution that takes the water out instead of down behind the homes. She expressed surprise that something like that was built in a way that is eminent threat to the life and property of residents and said a solution needed to be found to correct it without it being very expensive.

A discussion ensued with suggestions of rebuilding a drain (Mrs. Holness) and diverting the water unto the street (Dr. Peat). However, no concrete solution was decided.

Mrs. Holness promised to have further discussions with the engineer and Minister McKenzie and also China Harbour and continue to explore solutions and return her findings to the membership. She also welcomed suggestion of where grant funding was available.

- Carol Harris suggested that, at the risk of incurring some displeasure, there is a political problem because the squatting was legitimized and it has attracted more and more people who are saying that they have bought the land. She further indicated that the whole thing was operationalized through Operation Pride and persons have it settled in their minds in this illegitimate spot. Carol stated that something needs to be done so that no more building takes place. She further indicated that development at Bayshore Park was stopped because it was deemed that the area was not suitable for building and the continued expansion is jeopardizing the people of Harbour View.

Mrs. Holness stated that they did not buy the land and indicated that she had already approached the KSAMC in that regard. She said you cannot stop building from taking place unless you declare the area a no-build area going forward, which also has implications. She indicated that she had messaged the CEO and asked for a meeting and for them to have a look at what was happening above Southern Cross because she did not want it to be left to the residents to ask anyone why they were building in that area. Mrs. Holness asked however, that persons report if they see new buildings being erected and advise her if they have any issues, since every additional houses literally exponentially makes the problem worse.

Mrs. Holness also indicated that she had shown Mr. Clue where they have the drain on Southern Cross Drive with a house above and to the right of the drain and then another one below. She has also observed a big house going up and the cut out beside the house coming down to Southern Cross Drive. All of that, she said, is a new water channel and the government will never be able to afford to put a channel beside each of the houses that are going up there. So, she will be back with KSAMC, and, if it is already declared and no-build zone, it makes it easier reiterate it and then reinforce.

With no more questions coming from the membership, President thanked Mrs. Holness for her time and promised to forward the pictures that were shown. Mrs. Holness in bidding the membership a good afternoon reiterated her commitment to giving all the support possible to help to resolve the issues in Harbour View.

At 4:29, with commendations for working closely with the community and responding to our calls, President Hall invited Inspector Pinnock to address the membership.

The following are the highlights of Inspector Pinnock's presentation:

- Harbour View Police station has been selected as a model station for the new digital station management recording system. So, anyone visiting the station will notice that the station is newly renovated. Because this system is new the officers are still familiarizing themselves with it so your visit may take a little more time as opposed to when we used to write in the diary.

Inspector Pinnock went at length to explain the processes involved in the reporting of a crime or misdemeanor and the police's response which is in keeping with policy which will hopefully provide better results and give better customer service

- Officers at the station now wear body cameras that must be turned on to record any interaction with the public.
- Break-ins are not investigated by the local police but by the CIB at Elletson Road
- As it relates to crime, it has been decreased drastically. However, the issue of stolen motor vehicles along the Palisados main road is an issue. Joggers are encourage to properly secure their vehicles or have someone drop them and pick them up afterwards. The increase could be a result of the number of new persons attracted by the upgrade of the plaza.
- There was an incident behind the police station in which shots were fired. The police have since gotten a tractor and cleared the area. Residents are being encouraged to keep foliage at minimum and properly secure premises.

- Be very careful of discussion in public because sometimes, even in meetings like these, criminal may attend to gain information.
- In Harbour View proper, for the year, we have had two murders which were unrelated.
- There are resource challenges, not vehicles, but man-power. The station has to manage Harbour View proper and Shooters Hill, Melbrook and Seven Miles.

Having presented, Inspector Pinnock then indicated that she was open to questions. The following questions/concerns were raised:

- Lorna Harris raised an issue regarding the police's response to an issue that was reported recently and asked on the best way forward for such.

With specific reference to the case, Inspector Pinnock highlighted that reporting can be done via the telephone or in person. She again explained what happens in such instances and again explained how the police responds based on the nature of the offence.

- Garth Daniels commended Inspector Pinnock for the work being done in a very professional manner and advised that there is a camera at the weigh-in station that may be able to help with the investigation of the incident raised by Lorna.
- Carol Harris asked for clarity on the differences between break-ins and robberies.
- *Inspector Pinnock pointed out that a break in is when somebody takes off the lock, break your window and enter your house and take what is not theirs. If it is a church it is a different name. Simple larceny for example is if you have left uor door open and someone enters abd steals something. Robbery constitutes when it is done with a firearm or an instrument that can bring harm to a person.*
- Brenda Smikle asked on the success rate on crime in the community and commended her for doing a fantastic job.

A very lengthy discussion then ensued regarding collaboration with the Bayshore Citizens Association. President Hall promised that the matter will be discussed at the next Executive Meeting and a decision communicated to the membership.

***** Any Other Business *****

***** Adjournment *****

With thanks and blessings from the President to all in attendance, the meeting was adjourned at 5:27 pm on a motion moved by Sharee Newman and seconded by Paulette Swaby.