



Annual General Meeting 2026

Minutes of Virtual Meeting held on 29 September 2026

Context and Purpose

The second Annual General Meeting of the Overstrand Community Action Network (OCAN) was held virtually via Microsoft Teams on 29 September 2026 at 15:30 SAST. The meeting reviewed OCAN's activities and finances for the year ending 30 June 2026 and considered its strategic priorities for 2026/27.

Opening Remarks

The Chairperson, Mr Errol van Staden, welcomed attendees and thanked them for their support. He noted that a power outage in the western Overstrand and another meeting in Onrus could affect attendance. Six apologies were recorded, and no motions had been submitted for debate.

He reaffirmed OCAN's role as an apolitical, solution-driven non-profit company that exercises oversight through data analysis and risk sensing, advocates meaningful change and influences municipal priorities through constructive engagement.

Chairperson's Presentation Highlights

The Chairperson's report had been circulated beforehand and was available on OCAN's website.

Key Highlights Included:

1. Municipal performance and emerging risks

The Overstrand remained one of South Africa's better-performing municipalities. Risks include executive leadership, ageing infrastructure, population growth, financial sustainability, water and energy security, institutional capacity and public participation. OCAN advocated protecting existing strengths, managing growth responsibly and investing for long-term sustainability.

2. OCAN progress and approach

OCAN continued to develop as a credible civic partner through scrutiny, verifiable analysis, constructive engagement and relationship building. The Chair advocated changes to the municipal operating model, organisational culture, public participation, proactive risk management and innovation.

3. Continuing concerns and accountability

Concerns included in-migration, bulk-service and employment costs, affordability, infrastructure investment and critical vacancies. OCAN would continue pursuing outstanding accountability matters, including the Milkwood Festival and fuel fraud, while promoting improved public participation, a clearer strategic vision and collaborative municipal governance.

Strategic Priorities for 2026 and 2027

The Chair presented the following priorities for the 2026/27 financial year:

- Establish formal engagement with the incoming municipal administration, anticipated after 4 November 2026.
- Complete a multi-year analysis of municipal performance against key metrics as a baseline for engagement.
- Pursue resolution of outstanding accountability matters, including the Milkwood Festival and fuel fraud.
- Engage early in the Integrated Development Plan and budgeting processes, and seek involvement in the Long-Term Financial Plan review.
- Develop an infrastructure monitoring framework covering condition, required investment and investment relative to demand.
- Build a coordinated civic voice through a proposed alliance of Overstrand ratepayer associations. Two meetings had already taken place.
- Move beyond reactive reporting to influence change, expand communication and reach, and position OCAN as a body with standing, evidence and constructive intent.

Discussion and Reflections

The discussion focused on public participation, municipal accountability and opportunities for OCAN and community expertise to contribute more effectively.

Key Themes Raised Included:

1. Ward committee rules and public participation

Gerard Nortier questioned the municipality's responsiveness to public input and the use of recently approved ward committee rules. The Chair understood that the rules would be reviewed after the new administration took office, with ward committees operational in early 2027 under the Speaker's oversight. Jeanine Vellema referred to assurances of fresh public participation and stressed that civic engagement should extend beyond ward committees. The Chair agreed that change was needed.

2. OCAN involvement in municipal decision making

Antoinette Bronkhorst asked how OCAN could secure meaningful involvement. The Chair referred to possible environmental and finance advisory panels, the need to press for inclusion and the importance of a coordinated civic voice.

3. Consumer debt write-offs

Antoinette Bronkhorst questioned how write-offs of approximately R50 million to R53 million could be prevented from recurring. She called for stronger controls and civic scrutiny. The Chair acknowledged the concern and the need to restore relations between municipal leadership and civil society.

4. District and local municipal roles

In response to Antoinette Bronkhorst, the Chair distinguished Overberg District Municipality from Overstrand Municipality, referring to district-level services such as firefighting. She also raised concern about slow responses from municipal officials.

5. Keeping OCAN informed

Martin Louw suggested other institutions (e.g. action groups) and individuals copying OCAN on substantive correspondence with the municipality. The Chair welcomed the suggestion and emphasised the value of understanding community action groups' work across the Overstrand.

6. Staffing and employment costs

Martin Louw asked about potential municipal overstaffing and OCAN's position. The Chair said a sound assessment required data; difficulty obtaining the organisational structure and headcount by level and directorate limited detailed analysis of staffing costs.

7. Strategic water supply and community expertise

Martin Louw emphasised water supply and offered his experience to support engagement. The Chair welcomed this offer, recognising water and energy security as critical issues and the value of pro bono expertise within civil society.

Closing Observations

The Chair said the Overstrand Municipality was not in crisis, but it was at a crossroad. Its future depended on effective leadership, accountability, maintained standards and continued community involvement.

He encouraged attendees to remain engaged and spread the word about OCAN, thanked them for their support and noted that the presentation was available on OCAN's website.

Some Statistics

- 188 registered supporters
- 31 donors | members
- 283 AGM-notice views through email and WhatsApp
- 3,806 Facebook views
- 60 registrations and 30 attendees, including 22 members
- The required quorum of 20 members was met.

The meeting lasted approximately 50 minutes and closed at approximately 16:20 SAST.

Appendix A: Decisions and Procedural Actions

1. Approval of the 2025 AGM minutes

The inaugural AGM minutes had been circulated beforehand and were available on OCAN's website. No matters arising were raised. The minutes were approved, with the Chair acknowledging a seconder as "Anita".

2. Approval of the finance report

The finance report had been circulated beforehand and was available on OCAN's website. It was approved and seconded. OCAN continued to rely on voluntary contributions, and the Chair thanked donors for their support.

3. Advisory Board

The Chair introduced Errol van Staden, Anton Hartman and Jon Kark as Directors and Rod MacLeod as a Board Member. Following his co-option, Rod MacLeod's appointment as a full Advisory Board Member was approved and seconded.

4. Meeting procedure and quorum

The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams and recorded for record-keeping and transparency. Participants were asked to mute microphones, keep cameras off and use the raise-hand function or chat for questions. The Chair explained that financial contributors become members for the year of their contribution. With 22 members attending, the 20-member quorum was met.

5. Further engagement

The Chair acknowledged additional chat contributions and indicated that questions not addressed during the meeting would be dealt with afterwards. He welcomed the suggestion to copy OCAN on substantive municipal correspondence and Martin Louw's offer of expertise on strategic water supply.

Errol van Staden

Chairperson

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