



Inaugural Annual General Meeting

Minutes of Virtual Meeting held on 23 October 2025

Context and Purpose

The inaugural Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Overstrand Community Action Network (OCAN) marked a significant milestone in the organisation's evolution from a civic initiative to a formally constituted non-profit company.

The meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on OCAN's origins, progress, and early achievements, while setting a forward-looking agenda for its role in strengthening civic oversight and fostering constructive collaboration with the Overstrand Municipality.

Opening Remarks

The Chairperson, Mr Errol van Staden, opened the session by welcoming all attendees and expressing appreciation for their support in establishing OCAN as a credible and data-driven civil society organisation.

He reaffirmed OCAN's commitment to promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance within the Overstrand Municipality, noting that its legitimacy derives from the collective engagement and expertise of local citizens.

Chairperson's Presentation Highlights

In his presentation, the Chairperson traced OCAN's journey from its conceptual beginnings in early 2023 to its formal registration with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) in October 2024.

He explained that OCAN's formation had been catalysed by concern about municipal financial sustainability, governance practices, and the need for an informed citizen voice in local government affairs.

Key Highlights Included:

1. Origins and Rationale

OCAN emerged from informal civic conversations, which later evolved into a structured project team tasked with analysing the Municipality's financial sustainability and strategic risks.

2. Independent Review

A summary of the team's early findings and recommendations was presented (November 2023) to the Executive Mayor and two MayCo-members. Recommendations included calls for improved expenditure management, greater strategic foresight, and the establishment of an Office for Strategy and Innovation within the Municipality.

3. Response and Public Oversight

Following the rejection of the findings and recommendations by the DA-caucus, OCAN's founders recognised the need for formal civic oversight structures - a realisation that ultimately led to OCAN's establishment and registration as a non-profit oversight company.

4. Progress Since Inception

Mr van Staden outlined OCAN's ongoing activities, including submissions to the Auditor-General, analyses of municipal financial reports, publication of the OCAN Communiqué, and the development of a growing supporter base across the Overstrand region.

He emphasised that OCAN's work is guided by principles of professionalism, impartiality, and data-based evidence - distinguishing it from traditional ratepayer bodies by its municipal-wide scope and strategic policy focus.

Discussion and Reflections

The open discussion that followed focused on OCAN's strategic direction and opportunities for collaboration with both community organisations and municipal leadership. Attendees commended OCAN for establishing a credible platform for civic engagement and encouraged continued efforts to broaden participation across diverse communities within the Overstrand.

Key Themes Raised Included:

1. The importance of strengthening OCAN's communication channels and visibility across wards.
2. The potential for thematic working groups (e.g., finance, infrastructure, environmental stewardship) to harness citizen expertise more effectively.
3. The need for continuous dialogue with the Municipality to promote mutual accountability and constructive partnership.
4. The discussion reinforced the notion that civic oversight and municipal partnership are not opposing forces, but complementary mechanisms for achieving developmental progress and institutional integrity.

Closing Observations

In closing, Mr van Staden thanked all participants for their contributions and reaffirmed OCAN's purpose - to exercise oversight and coordinate civic effort in pursuit of meaningful change, transparency, and accountability across the Overstrand Municipality.

He noted that OCAN's strength lies in its collective legitimacy and professional conduct, both of which will be vital as it enters its next phase of consolidation and growth.

The AGM concluded with a call to action for continued citizen participation and the expansion of OCAN's supporter network, reinforcing its role as a catalyst for sustainable, accountable local governance.

Some Statistics

- 114 people viewed the Invitation Page
- 67 people registered
- 56 people attended the AGM (Jacques le Roux and Simon Koch tendered apologies)

The meeting lasted 45 minutes.

Appendix A: Decisions and Procedural Actions

1. Adoption of the Constitution

- The adoption of OCAN's founding Constitution, with minor revisions, received unanimous support. Multiple attendees explicitly indicated "supported," "accepted," or "agreed" in the meeting chat.
- Confirmations of support were recorded from: Hugo Potgieter, Vic Prins, Buks Pretorius, Corli Brits, Noel Stott, Yvette Retief, Zenobia Moolman, Jerry van Niekerk, Robbie Roberts, Allan Bishop, Marike Rodewald, Brenda Lombard, Michele Pickover, Jon Kark, Fanie Coetzee, Anton Hartman, Jeanine Vellema, Pat Redford, and several others.
- There was no recorded opposition or abstention. The Constitution was therefore adopted by consensus.

2. Adoption of Financial Statement

- OCAN's simple financial statement was unanimously adopted by the meeting.

3. Election of Advisory Board Members

- Continuity of the interim Advisory Board - Errol van Staden, Anton Hartman, Simon Koch and Jon Kark - was proposed and supported by multiple attendees. Expressions of "agreement" and "support for continuity" confirmed the motion's approval.

4. Approval of Procedural Matters

- The conduct of the AGM via Microsoft Teams and its recording for official record-keeping purposes was accepted without objection.

5. Engagement and Oversight Discussion

- Attendees raised constructive suggestions regarding gender balance on the Advisory Board, the governance implications of political affiliations, and the need for transparent supporter-registration and vetting processes.

6. Closing Remarks

- Multiple messages of appreciation were recorded for Mr Errol van Staden's leadership and the founding team's commitment, signifying broad endorsement of OCAN's direction and mandate.

Errol van Staden

Chairperson

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