

Meeting Notes – 17 September 2025, 12:00 – Napier Municipal Offices

Attendance:

Cape Agulhas Municipality: Myllison Saptou, Denver Braaf, Esau Everts

Napier Residents Association: Kevin Poulter, Johanna Fillies

Summary of Key Points Raised

1. **Public Notice:** CAM confirmed that Tracy Stone had been tasked to issue a press release and social media alert regarding ASF quarantine. To date, no public communication has been released.
2. **Quarantine Enforcement:** Myllison Saptou reported she was awaiting HR approval to appoint EPWP workers to enforce biosecurity and operate the kiosk as a shelter. Contracts were to be finalised “today.” Procurement of lime, F10 disinfectant, gloves, and PPE was still in progress.
3. **Biosecurity Protection for Clean Sites:** NRA requested that CAM staff avoid Sites 1 and 5, which currently show no signs of contamination. NRA will appoint trusted persons to monitor these sites and will not engage with other areas, in order to protect the health of unaffected pigs and avoid future claims for losses.
4. **Road Access:** CAM informed the NRA that they plan to establish a road access to access site 3 and to be able to secure the area.
5. **Safe Water Supply:** Request was made for potable water to be delivered to Site 1, as river water is now contaminated due to pigs drinking and dying upstream. CAM was reminded to warn all farms along the river course about possible contamination.
6. **Breach of Quarantine:** Evidence was presented that pigs have been moved into and out of Site 3 since the quarantine notice was issued, in direct contravention of the Animal Diseases Act. This is due to lack of action from CAM.
7. **Pig Farmer Contacts:** NRA provided CAM with contact details of all known pig farmers and the last recorded pig counts per site and pen.
8. **Authorisation of Pig Farming:** NRA requested CAM to disclose who authorised pig farming on Sites 2, 3, 4, and 5, which are municipal lands not formally rented out.
9. **Dumping of Dead Pigs:** Request was made for CAM to investigate reports of municipal employees moving dead pigs to the municipal dump and digging holes after hours for disposal, without State Vet authorisation.
10. **Pig Farming:** The NRA requested investigation into all CAM staff involved in illegal pig farming on Municipal land.
11. **Investigation into CAM Staff:** NRA requested a full investigation CAM employees authorised or facilitated or involved in illegal pig farming, and disciplinary action (including laying of charges) against any staff implicated.
12. **Illegal Activities Beyond Farming:** NRA requested that CAM act to stop further illegal pig farming and address other unlawful activities

13. **Transparency & Reporting:** NRA requested CAM to provide a written report on all questions raised and disclose what actions have been taken regarding staff involvement, illegal farming, and compliance with the quarantine.
14. **Community Engagement:** CAM confirmed that a community meeting will be arranged with affected farmers to explain the situation and the required biosecurity measures.
15. **Future Farming:** The NRA have requested that CAM enforce the current animal bylaw and specifically regarding pigs.

The NRA would like to remind CAM

Background & Legal Framework

- The State Veterinarian (Dr. Christi Kloppers) issued an official Veterinary Quarantine Notice on 12 September 2025 under the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act 35 of 1984).
- This notice declared all pigs on the Napier commonage infected or suspected of being infected with African Swine Fever (ASF).
- The notice explicitly prohibits:
 - Any movement of pigs or other animals to/from/through the property without a written permit from the State Vet.
 - Removal of dead or sick animals without notifying the State Vet.
 - Lack of biosecurity — CAM was required to fence off the area and restrict human/animal movement.
- The notice remains legally binding until repealed in writing by a State Veterinarian.

Issue

Despite receiving the notice and an internal instruction from the Acting Municipal Manager on 16 September, CAM has:

- Failed to establish a quarantine area and erect physical signage and barriers.
- Not deployed EPWP workers to enforce biosecurity or operate the kiosk as a shelter.
- Not issued a public notice on social media to alert residents and prevent spread.
- Not procured supplies (lime, disinfectants, PPE) as instructed.

This inaction means the outbreak remains uncontrolled, and infected animals may still move freely or contaminate water sources — risking a larger regional outbreak.

The Acting Municipal Manager failed to act from the 12 September until the 16 September.

Legal Breaches

a) Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act 35 of 1984)

- Section 11 – Requires any person or authority to immediately comply with quarantine directives from the State Vet.
- Section 17 – Failure to comply is a criminal offence (punishable by fine or imprisonment up to 12 months).
- Section 18 – The responsible authority (CAM in this case) can be held civilly liable for any resulting damage or loss.

b) Municipal Systems Act, 2000

- Section 4(2)(i) – Requires municipalities to ensure a safe and healthy environment for their communities.
- Failure to act on a zoonotic disease outbreak breaches this duty.

Consequences of Non-Compliance

Legal

- Criminal charges could be brought against CAM officials for contravening the Animal Diseases Act.
- The Provincial Department of Agriculture may intervene, bypassing CAM, and recover costs from CAM for containment measures.

Economic

- Risk of ASF spreading to other farms, causing:
 - Mass pig deaths
 - Loss of income for small-scale farmers
 - Severe knock-on effects on local food security

Public Health & Reputational

- Loss of public trust in CAM's ability to manage disease outbreaks.
- Potential civil claims from farmers and businesses affected by CAM's delay.