

**Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015 @ 09.45am in the Council Chamber.**

<b>Present:</b>	Hon. Wilson Duncan	-	Chairman
	Hon. Gavin Ellick	-	Deputy Chairman
	Hon. Cyril George	-	Member
	Hon. Dr. Corinda Essex	-	Member
	Hon. Christine Scipio-O'Dean	-	Member
	Mr Trevor Graham	-	Director of ENRD
	Mr Nicky Lawrence	-	Secretary
<b>Invited:</b>	Mrs Elizabeth Clingham	-	Marine Conservation Officer Item 2.
	Mrs Morag Stevenson	-	Solicitor General Item 5
<b>Apologies:</b>	Mr Derek Henry	-	Deputy Director, Overseas
<b>Absent:</b>	Mrs Susan O'Bey	-	Deputy CEED, ESH

The Chairman welcomed everyone present and opened the meeting.

There was one member of the Media in attendance.

**Open Agenda.**

**23.1 Matters arising from minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.**

**Tracked Vehicles.**

A member asked if anyone monitors the movement of tracked vehicles on public roads and stated that the Police should be made aware when these vehicles are to be moved. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the contractors concerned and make them aware of their obligations.

**Action: Roads Manager**

**Attendance of ESH Representative.**

Members were told that this issue had been followed up and Committee is still awaiting the Terms of Reference to be finalised.

**Museum Car Park for Lay Down area.**

Further discussions have been had with ESH and it has come to light that Connect St Helena needs to do some work in the same area. However, Connect St Helena cannot give a definite start date for their works so further discussions will have to take place.

### **Bus Stop near Canister.**

The Roads Manager told members he had checked with the Police who support the proposal. A member questioned why the matter has taken so long and was told that the Roads Manager has many priorities to deal with. The matter was deferred for the next meeting.

### **Safety Rails.**

This matter was discussed in the Highway Authority meeting.

## **23.2**

### **Information on Turtle nesting at Sandy Bay Beach.**

The Marine Conservation Officer, Mrs Elizabeth Clingham thanked members for their rapid response in informing the public about turtle nesting at Sandy Bay and the necessary precautions put in place. Elizabeth told members that the site is visited every other day and there is no other obvious nesting activity. The incubation period for turtle eggs is usually 45-60 days but in some cases can take longer. Therefore an extended closure period was requested from the 18<sup>th</sup> April until 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

When asked if the public is co-operating the answer was no as footprints of humans and a dog had been discovered in the immediate area of the nests. The MCO was told to make a Radio announcement to advise the public that there are turtle nests in the area. MCO told Committee that sufficient signage had been placed in prominent areas but if the situation did not improve the area would have to be cordoned off.

MCO went on to describe to members how she would like the beach area to be reclaimed by removing old redundant walls and rocks etc to allow access for many more turtles to nest. Members were in support of this and asked MCO to keep Committee updated.

MCO was thanked for the informative update and left the meeting at 10.15am.

## **23.3**

### **Jamestown Parking Review Update.**

The Roads Manager told Committee he will be meeting with the Civil Engineer (CE) to look at some issues relating to the Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) Playground. A member asked when is residential parking going to be introduced. The Director replied that Committee will be developing two proposals, one for general parking on Main Street and the Grand Parade and specific residents parking. The second would be for the wide area of Jamestown. A proposal for charging for parking in Jamestown and residents permits will be brought to the next meeting.

A member asked about the timeframe for legislation etc and was told that discussions have taken place with the Attorney General's Chambers and a lot of work has been done on the proposals made two years ago.

The Director explained that some of the parking signs had provision for detailed text to be inscribed on them for the need it was best suited to, which should help with the resident's parking problem.

It was stated that the necessary paperwork will need to be presented to LegCo either in July or December.

#### **23.4**

#### **Director's Update.**

#### **Duke of Edinburgh Playground.**

With regards to the DoE the CE and RM are examining structural issues with regards to load bearing capabilities to enable parking of cars. There are also archaeological issues as this site was previously a graveyard with a known crypt and it is not known if bodies were exhumed before it was converted to a playground. There is also an issue with trees but members were assured that they will not be felled.

#### **Utilities.**

A member was unsure which Committee was responsible for Utilities and was informed that this came under the remit of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

This information can be found under the Council Committees (Constitution) (No. 2) Order entitled 'Committee Responsibilities'.

#### **Renewable Energy.**

The Director informed members of the visit of a Consultant from the Company responsible for the installation of the Solar Farm at the Rifle Range. He told members the consultant was pleased with what he has seen and is positive that St Helena is capable of achieving 100% renewable energy. The Consultant's report highlighting his recommendations is now awaited.

Members responded by asking why did the Consultant not meet with the ENR Committee or even Legislative Council. The Director replied that time was limited and the Consultant was being given exposure on the physical aspects of the Island. However, when the report is received it will be brought to the ENR Committee. Members said they are disappointed and the explanation was unacceptable.

#### **Rupert's.**

The biggest concern in Rupert's at this time is finding an area suitable for container handling. Also there are concerns if the new Port will be operational on time.



A member asked if consideration had been given to the amount of storm water that passes through Rupert's and if measures are in place to handle it. Assurance was given that this information has been passed on.

The Haul Road is still being dealt with by Basil Read and is due to be handed over to SHG in early 2016.

#### **Divestment of Government Garage.**

The Director told members that preparatory work is taking place for the proposed divestment of the Government Garage.

#### **Sanitary Services.**

It is planned that Sanitary Services currently under the Health and Social Welfare Directorate will move to the Environment & Natural Resources Directorate on the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015. The Environmental Risk Manager is currently undertaking courses in South Africa and the United Kingdom on Waste Collection and Management.

Financial issues will be reviewed on a quarterly basis as it is clear that the full costs for delivering the airport-adapted facility has not been budgeted for and it is expected that there will be a need for additional funding through appropriation.

#### **Bertrand's Cottage.**

Members were informed that due to '2OnMain' being required for the Hotel complex, Bertrand's Cottage in Longwood has been identified by Enterprise St Helena (ESH) as a suitable building to carry on the business of '2OnMain'. The process for transferring Bertrand's Cottage to ESH on a 25 year lease is taking place.

ESH will undertake extensive renovations to the building turning it into a restaurant and possible accommodation.

#### **Land Disposal Policy.**

The Director told members that a draft document will be ready for internal consultation in the near future.

### **23.5 Change to Road Traffic Ordinance.**

The Solicitor General explained to members the proposed amendments to the Road Traffic Ordinance:-

- Make provision for regulations to be issued related to mandatory wearing of helmets on bicycles and tricycles.
- To lift the restriction on cycling on certain roads and to make it compulsory to wear a helmet when cycling on a road. The Regulations also introduce new signs and road markings for parking and to warn motorists and cyclists of steep slopes on public roads.

A member asked when will the Road Traffic Ordinance (RTO) be reviewed in its entirety. The Solicitor General (SG) agreed that the RTO very much needs updating with many issues to address, however this cannot be achieved in 'one go'. A member mentioned that the Highways Ordinance also needs updating which the SG agreed to but stated that the Ordinance serves its purpose.

It was proposed to set up a Working Group to undertake updating of the RTO. It was agreed to form a group consisting of ENRC representative, ENRD Director and Roads Manager, a member of the Police Directorate and Solicitor General.

## 23.6

### **Roads Policy Update.**

The Roads Manager (RM) took members through a draft Roads Policy and discussed changes he had made. He also pointed out some of the important issues such as *storm water should not be discharged onto the public highway*.

### **15. Car parking.**

The section on car parking cannot be enforced at this time as it is to be amended in conjunction with the Jamestown Parking Review.

### **17. Safety Rails.**

The last line amended to read This will be brought to the attention of applicants at the *development* stage.

### **20. Road Closures**

This section is to be amended to include diversions and advanced warnings from applicants. The ENRC can also impose conditions.

## **Health & Safety – Appendix 1.**

The following amendments were made to this section:-

In advance of the road works commencing:-

- The Police will be *consulted* of any works on public roads....

- Scaffolding should not be erected on the highway without first seeking the *approval* of the ENRC....

#### **Appendix 4.**

When the Haul Road is adopted by SHG the relevant changes will be made to the Policy.

The Roads Policy is to be reviewed annually, however the current issue of November 2013 can be used until the new Policy is officially adopted.

The roads Manager asked for a Press Release to be issued in the first quarter of FY2015/16 regarding funding for Community and District Roads.

#### **23.6 Any other urgent business.**

There was no AOB to discuss at this meeting.

#### **\*23.3 Safety Rails near Larry Johnson's House.**

The Roads Manager had visited this site with a Police Representative and concluded that the erection of Safety Barriers would not stop accidents happening. Previous accidents had been caused by excessive speed on a loose gravel surface. The real solution would be to educate drivers about the dangers of excessive speed in this area.

It was felt that if SHG erected barriers this would set a precedent for other residents who would wish to have the same. Also if barriers were in place and an accident occurred the problem would be exacerbated by vehicles moving extra material from the barriers onto residents' premises.

Members felt that the residents should endeavour to safeguard their own properties. A letter to this effect will be sent to Messrs Johnson and Wolstenholme.

**Action: Chairman**

#### **\*23.5 Any other urgent business.**

The Roads Manager asked the Authority for a road closure from Gordon's Post to the Constitution Hill Road Junction on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March from 08.00 to 16.00hrs to enable repairs to be undertaken to the wall at Butternut Point. Members agreed to the closure.

#### **Botley's Ley Road.**

A member expressed concern about the condition of the Botley's Ley Road with consideration for the mobility of the elderly residents. It was noted that areas of this road are often used by ANRD and Tourism. The ANRD budget is insufficient to undertake major repairs to the road. The member had written



to ESH asking for a contribution for the repair of the road as this area is one of the main walking tours for tourists. The member asked that this be given priority when new funding becomes available.

The Roads Manager made the point that although this is not a community road application can be made for funding.

**Rosemary Plain to Blueman's Field road.**

The Roads Manager told members that the problem is with storm water and new infrastructure needs to be put in place, however, the matter will be addressed as and when funding is available.

**Roads maintenance in public domain.**

A member asked if the routine road repair and maintenance could be put into the public domain. This would allow the public to know when works are programmed for their areas. The Roads Manager was not in favour of this proposal.

**Main Street.**

A member asked when will Main Street in Jamestown be resurfaced. The Roads Manager replied that he is waiting for the hot weather to subside to undertake this work which will probably be in June or July of this year.


**Peak Farm Road.**

A member said that the residents of this area were very pleased with the works carried out to their road and wished to express their appreciation to the workforce for a job well done.

**Note:** Items \*23.3 and \*23.5 have been transferred from the HA Minutes as they pertained to the remit of ENRC.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.05pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015 @ 09.45am in the Council Chamber.

Confirmed..........Date 09/04/2015.....