

**Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014 @ 09.00am 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 Derek Henry	-	Deputy Director, ENRD
	Mr Nicky Lawrence	-	Secretary
<b>Invited:</b>	Mr Paul Brough	-	Civil Engineer – Item 18.1
	Mr Ben Hathway	-	Roads Manager – Item 18.2

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

There was one member of the public in attendance.

**18.1 Introduction to Civil Engineer – Mr Paul Brough.**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Paul Brough, Civil Engineer and new Head of the Technical Section of the Environment and Natural Resources Directorate.

The Director of ENRD told members that it had been a challenging process in getting an Engineer to St Helena. He said that with regard to the many advanced projects that are being undertaken, ie. relocation of the Fire Station and Prison and a new Port Facility to name a few, he is happy to have Paul on the team.

Mr Brough told members that he graduated as a Civil Engineer in 1989 and worked for the local Authority in Swindon for 10 years and then relocated to Ireland working on Bridges, Highways and other structures. He then moved back to UK after 5 years and worked as a site representative, working with contractors on site developing design and quality control. He returned to Ireland where he worked on Highways, Bridges and Car Parks etc. and the last 4 years was spent working in Dover, Kent looking after their assets.

He stated that his role in St Helena combines all of the abovementioned skills with the main focus currently being on the Prison relocation and construction of the Fire Station.

He also told members that he will be mentoring a local Civil Engineer to reach Chartered Engineer status which could take 3 - 4 years. He said he has a very good team and commended their work.

Members thereafter introduced themselves and fielded a few questions, mainly concerning the construction of the new Fire Station to which the Civil Engineer gave reassuring answers.

The Chairman thanked Mr Brough for his informative introduction, after which he left the meeting.

## **18.2 Community & District Roads assessment paper for information.**

The Roads Manager told members that he had visited the various locations on the list of applications. The roads that matched the criteria was based on:-

- the number of homes serviced by the road
- the condition of the road
- the length of the road
- the score was based on the area of road and the Roads Managers knowledge of the cost to repair.

The decision was to deal with the backlog of applicants from last year. There was some confusion about a road in Upper Cow Path which had no score, but the issue was resolved when the original application was produced and showed that the road in question was an extension of an existing road which had qualified for funding.

Another road in Longwood needed to be clearly identified. A member suggested that the Roads Manager should be given a tour of the islands roads to familiarise himself with names and residents.

The Director of ENRD said the public should be informed that no further applications will be accepted until the next open call.

**Action: Roads Manager**

## **18.3 Tracked vehicles.**

The Chairman told Committee that on the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> September he noticed indentations from a tracked vehicle which had travelled across country to Deadwood. He asked members if as a Committee, there was anything that could be done to stop these vehicles from damaging the roads.

A member said that this matter had been discussed in Committee previously with the Inspector of Police. Another member said that he had written to the Attorney General for advice on the matter as this subject had been brought up in Executive Council and there should be correspondence concerning this regarding application to the Governor for permission to move tracked vehicles. It was noted that conditions are in place for movement of tracked vehicles which are not adhered to.

**Action: Chairman**

A member recalled that Government owned tracked vehicles used rubber mats when they were being moved, and these mats were available for hire by the private sector. However, it is not known what became of the mats.

The Director said that Committee should work closely with the Roads Manager to find a solution to the problem.

**Action: Roads Manager**

**18.4 Date for Special Meeting to discuss draft Environmental Protection Ordinance.**

The Head of the Environmental Management Division had requested a special meeting in early January so that the ENR Committee can formally review the draft Environmental Protection Ordinance. He would then like to start a consultation process on the Ordinance.

The Director of ENRD said that a draft proposal would be sent to members before Christmas for their perusal prior to an extraordinary meeting in January. He said that an appraised version is available which makes the content easier for the public to understand.

Members agreed to a special meeting to be held on the **8<sup>th</sup> January 2015 in the Council Chamber.**

**Action: Secretary**

**18.5 Matters arising from minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014.**

**Rupert's Development.**

The Deputy Director had circulated an email responding to members concerns.

**Rockfall protection.**

Work is ongoing by the Roads Manager and his team.

**Barracks Square.**

This matter is being addressed as part of the Roads Manager's programme of works.

**Market Street – Residents' parking.**

A member told Committee that residents of Market Street have been living uncomfortably for years with the issue of not being able to park their vehicles near their homes and matters are getting worse. Aware that there is a plan for



the development of Jamestown, members were asked if a practical, pragmatic solution could be sought in the interim period.

The point was made that Elected Members had suggested to convert the Duke of Edinburgh playground into a car park.

Members were made aware that a Working Group has been formed to deal with matters such as parking, parking fees and identifying new parking areas and also linking with the public transport review.

With regards to lack of resources a member stressed that locals with knowledge on these matters should be consulted and work together with them to achieve results.

A Working Group meeting is to take place in 2 – 3 weeks and will report to ENR Committee in January.

**Action: Director**

**Street lighting.**

The Roads Manager told members that faults have been rectified and it was planned to replace all lights with low energy bulbs. He said that this measure will lower the energy bill but initially will require investment.

**Noise abatement.**

The Deputy Director has circulated an email regarding this issue to all members.

**Disabled parking behind Canister.**

A letter has been sent to the person concerned and the matter will be followed up with the Roads Manager.

**Action: Roads Manager**

**Footpath on Longwood Avenue.**

The Roads Manager will keep this on his programme of works until funding is available.

**Traffic lines in Napoleon Street.**

The Roads Manager informed members that the traffic lines had been repainted in the interest of public safety. Chairman to follow up with Police Directorate

**Action: Chairman**

### **Traffic lines Levelwood to St Matthew's Church.**

The Roads Manager said it would take a lot of resources to repaint these lines. The Road Manager informed the Committee that the road from Hutts Gate to Longwood Gate will be re-surfaced in January 2015. The Roads Manager agreed to provide adequate publicity and to inform the Longwood Community of the reasons as to why a re-surface is programmed.

**Action: Roads Manager**

### **Parking lines outside the Swimming Pool.**

The Roads Manager said that this work is in progress.

## **18.6 Update on Budget & Planning for 2015/2016. (Closed)**

Following the visit of the Budgetary Aid Mission (BAM) the Director indicated that he is awaiting a Directive from the Financial Secretary (FS) with the expectation that there will be an impact on service delivery.

## **18.7 Any other urgent business.**

### **Staff movements.**

A member asked for clarification on staff movements within ENRD. The Director explained that because of pressing concerns about service delivery and the expiration of some contracts there will be a reshuffle of certain staff, and some changes made to job roles.

### **Supplementary Appropriation.**

Members were concerned about a forecasted £129K overspend.

**Roads.** The Director explained that money was spent for emergency works to the Deadwood Road and told members of ways this money will be recovered. Another factor was the Pay Award which had not been taken into account.

**Works.** Plans to purchase scaffolding could be financed from a surplus in the Lands & Buildings budget, however, this is to be finalised.

**Technical.** The upgrade to the Engineer's post and pay award, and also electricity costs at Canarvon Court contributed to an overspend.

**Street lighting.**

The Director told members he has been in discussion with Enterprise St Helena (ESH) with regards to bearing the cost for Xmas lights. A member asked if the lights on Jacobs Ladder will be turned off at certain periods and was told that the Roads Manager is surveying lighting island wide with a view to reducing costs.

**Rockfall protection.** Overspend was due to pay award.

**GIS.** Deficit is a result of the pay award.

**Letter from resident of Market Street re Parking.**

A member said that this letter was submitted for information only and was intended to be discussed with the Working Group.

**Application for Access.**

The Chairman informed members that the matter had been dealt with by the Roads Manager.

**Arch road.**

A member commented on the condition of the road beneath the Arch. The Roads Manager agreed to visit the area.

**Action: Roads Manager**

**Mulberry Gut Road.**

A member asked why the surfacing of the roads did not continue in this area. It was explained that the Roads Manager has a set criteria and priorities to follow. It was agreed that the Roads Manager will visit the area with a member of Committee.

**Action: Roads Manager**

**Wharf landing steps.**

A member expressed concern about the Wharf landing steps. Members were told that in the mid-nineties the current land steps were built as a temporary measure with the view that a breakwater was going to be built. The Roads Manager assured the member that an inspection will be carried out.

**Action: Roads Manager**

18.8

**Confirmation of date for next meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014 @ 10.00am  
in Essex House.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.55hrs.

Confirmed..........Date.....09/12/2014.....