

MINUTES OF THE 10th MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON THURSDAY 10TH APRIL, 2014 @ 09.00am.

Present:	Hon. Wilson Duncan	-	Chairman
	Hon. Gavin Ellick	-	Member
	Hon. Cyril George	-	Member
	Hon. Mrs Christine Scipio-O'Dean	-	Member
	Mr Trevor Graham	-	Director, ENRD
	Mr Derek Henry	-	Deputy Director, ENRD
Invited:	Dr Corinda Essex	-	Elected Member
	Mr Leon de Wet	-	Connect St Helena Ltd (Item 10.1)
	Mr Nicky Lawrence	-	Secretary

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

Open Agenda.

10.1 Update by Mr Leon de Wet of Connect St Helena Ltd on HTH sewage upgrade.

Mr de Wet told members that Connect St Helena Ltd has an approved budget for an island wide sewage upgrades and work had started last year with a feasibility study. One area of focus is the rationalisation and upgrading of the Half Tree Hollow sewage network. This will include installing an anaerobic bioreactor treatment plant underground at Ladder Hill in the vicinity of the tennis courts. He said this plant uses the latest technology and can be assembled very quickly and simply and the effluent would be treated before discharge. If all goes according to plan the plant will be commissioned and operational by the end of the current financial year.

Consideration was given to having one plant in Jamestown to treat the sewage from both HTH and Jamestown. Mr de Wet said this would be a very effective way of managing the sewage but it would be a problem to lay all the pipework along Ladder Hill Road into Jamestown.

Another member expressed his concern about the location of the existing sewage collection tank due to its proximity to a heritage site and tourist attraction. Mr de Wet assured him that the new facility would be installed underground, the effluent would be treated and therefore there would be minimum odour. This plant will be adequate for present and future populations up to 50 years.

A member asked about the feasibility study and is there a timescale for the island wide works to begin. The report is comprehensive and covers all

systems and information for these is readily available. He explained how complicated the process is and gave detailed explanations of the work planned.

A member asked when will the physical work take place and was told that some work had started at Half Way and Connect is in the process of seeking tenders for the works.

The Chairman thanked Mr De Wet for his update and he left the meeting

10.2 Confirmation of Minutes.

Minutes of the 9th meeting of the ENRC were confirmed.

10.3 Matters arising.

Parking layout in Jamestown.

The former Chairman told Committee that he had sought advice from the Attorney General about this issue and suggested that the new Chairman follow this up with AG to determine the process.

Action: Chairman

Affordable Housing.

The Chairman was asked to follow this up.

Action: Chairman

Estates Strategy Group.

A member stated that no information paper was brought to Committee regarding whether tenders were out for various buildings. Originally Properties Division came to this Committee with information on properties that were to be sold. The member was concerned that people had submitted tender and no other communication had taken place. The Deputy Director explained that tenders were submitted to ESG which had met in February and recommendations were to be forwarded to ExCo for a final decision. Clarification needs to be made if the matter comes back to ENRC or go directly to ExCo. Director said this will be followed up to determine the process.

The member also informed Committee members of the new composition of the Estates Strategy Group.

Action: Deputy Director

Erection of Scaffolding.

The Director said that it is a part of his workload to determine decision making thresholds for these types of requests and to follow them through.

Action: Director

Marine Conservation Proposal.

A member asked about the ownership of the 'Papanui' and would it be protected under the above proposal. Director said he would confirm the consultation process.

Action: Director

Strategic Parking.

Director said he raised the issue at the Planning Development and Control Authority (PDCA) meeting a week ago regarding land use issues in Jamestown which includes car parking, amenity areas, housing etc. The new Head of Planning and Development Control will be tasked with putting together a long term development plan for Jamestown

Action: Director

Update on recruitment of Roads Manager.

Director is awaiting details of arrival date.

A member stated that local knowledge is being ignored about road construction and maintenance and there is a negative perception from the public.

10.4 Clearing of Verges along Sandy Bay and Levelwood roads.

The Chairman informed Committee that concerns have been raised about the state of the verges on the Sandy Bay and Levelwood roads where excessive amounts of Elephant grass is growing. The Deputy Director stated that ten verge cleaning contracts had been awarded and verge cleaning started a few weeks ago. The Roads Maintenance teams have also been employed in verge cleaning to complement the contract work. To date two kilometres of roads have been cleaned. A member asked if it was possible to engage more contractors and was told that there is limited funding and it is also difficult to engage contractors. Most contractors employed now are over retirement age. A member asked what were the start and completion times for these contracts. The Deputy Director said he would check these dates.

Another member expressed his concern about tree felling along the roadsides of Levelwood to Rock Rose. He said there are no safety railings in place and

there was risk of embankments collapsing which is a safety hazard to all road users.

Deputy Director stated that a roads maintenance programme is in place, but staff are currently engaged in other important road works.

10.5 Community and District Roads.

Unity Cottage Road.

A member informed Committee that work had progressed well on this road and money granted had been spent wisely, however there was a shortfall of £550.00 to complete the works. Residents had asked Committee if they would consider allocating this sum of money from the 2014/2015 budget for Community and District roads. Committee gave approval to this request.

There was much discussion on the condition of roads in general and other issues associated with them. The Director gave a detailed response on ways to improve the upkeep of roads and said an option would be to bring in the Change Manager to analyse the works being done on roads and give feedback to the new Roads Manager when he is in post.

A member suggested examining the existing Roads Policy and then seek assistance from the Change Manager.

Action: Director

10.6 Street light at Briars Bus Stop.

The Chairman told members that the residents of the Briars had informed him that the previous Committee had given approval for a street light to be installed at the Bus Stop in the Briars but nothing has happened. No record of this decision had been found in the minutes of meetings held to date.

Further discussion took place regarding the condition of street lighting island wide especially solar lights. The Deputy Director informed Committee that the matter of faulty solar lights is being followed up.

The Chairman asked for the Briars street light matter to be placed on record until such time that the problems with solar street lights are resolved.

Action: Deputy Director

10. 7 Budget Update.

The Deputy Director presented the profit and loss up to February 2014 and stated that there were some variances which will change significantly in the next report, however members did not wish to go through it in detail until the final figures ending at 31 March were available.

Director suggested that a more detailed analysis be presented on a quarterly basis with the Support Services Finance Manager present.

A member asked how the Directorate showed a surplus of £27,000.00 and the Director explained that the end of year report would illustrate what the actual surplus is and why.

Action: Deputy Director

10. 8 Cross cutting issues.

There were no issues raised at this meeting.

10. 9 Any other urgent business.

Bus Shelters, Solar Lights, Community Roads.

A member is still concerned about the lack of a bus shelter at lower Ladder Hill. The condition of solar lights throughout the island was also raised and also the condition of roads in Rosemary Plain, Princes Lodge and other areas. Members were reminded by the Chairman that regular business should be put on the agenda.

Manhole at three tanks.

A member raised concern about the management of storm water at Ladder Hill due to the lack of proper drainage. Director said that he would check with the Senior Engineer (Works) to see if there can be any temporary remedial action taken at this time.

Action: Director

10. 10 Next meeting to be held on Thursday 08th May, 2014 at 09.00am in the Council Chamber.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 11.30hrs.

Confirmed.....

Date.....