

Minutes of the 24th Meeting of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee held on 16th April 2015 @ 09.45am in the Council Chamber.

Present:	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
Invited:	Mr Martin Hannah	-	Head of Planning & Building Item 2
	Mr Ben Sansom	-	Head of EMD
	Mr Mike Durnford	-	Environmental Risk Manager Item 3
	Constable Jonathon Clark	-	Police Representative Item 5
Apologies:	Mr Derek Henry	-	Deputy Director, Overseas
	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.

24.1 Matters arising from minutes of 19th March, 2015.

Tracked Vehicles.

The Roads Manager said that he will be circulating a report to members soon.

Action: Roads Manager

23.3 Safety Rails near Larry Johnson's House.

A letter has been sent to Mr Johnson advising him of the Committees decision. A similar letter was sent to Mr Doug Wolstenholme of Seaview who had also requested a Safety Barrier be erected near his residence.

23.5 Any Other Urgent Business.

The Director told members that a meeting of the Road Traffic Ordinance Review Working Group will be held this afternoon.

Councillor Scipio-O'Dean wished it to be recorded that she was not present for the above two Agenda items.

24.2

Update on Rupert's Final Draft Development Plan.

The Head of Planning and Building Control, Mr Martin Hannah told members that the Rupert's Final Draft Development Plan had been circulated to the Rupert's Steering Group and the Environment and Natural Resources Committee with adjustments made to take account of comments received. It is anticipated that the plan should go the Governor-in-Council for approval and then to ENRC and the Chairman's Assembly Group for adoption.

He said that the subject plan is a replacement of his predecessors plan and was compiled based on a number of assumptions and facts. Once the plan is adopted by Governor-in-Council it will be used as a development tool with the recommendations contained therein. This is a statutory development plan containing existing and some new policies. He took members through the document and answered the many queries that were raised.

Questions were asked concerning the R2 Project (Upgrade of Side Path and Field Roads). Members were told that tenders had been received for the works.

Other concerns raised were rockfall protection within the area of the new Wharf, public access to the beach and relocation of businesses currently using facilities in Rupert's. The Director said that the ENRD is in dialogue with businesses which is constructive but also difficult.

Mr Hannah told members that there is need for lots more space in Rupert's especially for container handling, a new area for the Sea Rescue facility and the BFI. He said more land had been taken up than anticipated due to changes in the fuel infrastructure. He invited members to visit him or send an email if they required further information.

Mr Hannah was thanked for his constructive update and he left the meeting at 10.20am.

24.3

Sanitary Services Update.

At this point Councillors Scipio-O'Dean and Ellick departed to attend another meeting.

The Head of the Environmental Management Division, Mr Ben Sansom together with the Environmental Risk Manager, Mr Mike Durnford were in attendance to give an update on Sanitary Services since the move from Health and Social Services Directorate to the Environment and Natural Resources Directorate.

Ben said they are currently getting to know the team and the service they operate mainly refuse collection and managing the landfill site.

Mike told members he had been visiting shops in Jamestown suggesting to proprietors ways on how to manage their own waste. All waste should be bagged before binning and bulk waste could be wrapped or baled for collection. All wheelie bins used must be compatible for use by the Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCV's).

A member asked if it was possible for an earlier collection time in Jamestown to alleviate traffic congestion during the morning rush hour. The reply was that two RCV's would be used twice a week to speed up collections.

It was disappointing to learn that public toilets have been vandalised, especially as this is the peak of the Cruise Ship season. The Environmental Management Division (EMD) is working with ENRD and the Police to resolve this problem. Some suggestions to overcome the problem would be to:-

- Eliminate use of paper towels and use electric hand dryers
- Employ efficient toilet paper dispensers.
- Lock toilets and open from 8 – 4 only

Members were not in favour of the last option.

Ben went on to update members on the operation of the waste collection cells at Horse Point. He explained how waste cells are filling up much more quickly than expected and spoke of the possibility of using one of the RCV's for recycling waste material. The Director suggested that the ENR Committee should visit the site and see the operations. Members agreed and a date is to be set.

A member asked about plans for collection of rubbish in Jamestown on weekend and also would it be possible to have an earlier start time to alleviate congestion at peak hours. This matter will be addressed by the Environmental Risk Manager.

Another member asked about instructions to staff regarding working periods and tea breaks etc. The ERM explained that in the interests of Health and Safety staff were advised to have adequate breaks throughout the working day, especially for drivers.

A member asked the reason for the closure of the Duke of Edinburgh Playground toilets. It was explained that this was an emergency closure which came about after an inspection revealed that the roof was unsafe and it is possible that the building may have to be demolished.

Messrs Sansom and Durnford were thanked for their interesting update.

24.4

Director's Update.

The Director told members that a Financial Report together with an Operational Report will be brought to Committee in May. Late payments etc had made it difficult to have a quarterly report ready for this meeting. A

review of the Procurement Regulations , Financial Regulations and any end of year changes will be discussed in a strategic meeting next week.

Environmental Incident

The Director reported that due to a damaged container there was a spillage of Bitumen during unloading at the Wharf. The spillage was successfully contained and cleaned up. However, this incident highlighted the need for equipment and resources to deal with situations such as this. The Director said he will meet with the new operator of the Bulk Fuel Installation to discuss these issues.

Updated Map.

Members were informed that the Map of St Helena had been updated by the Environmental Data and GIS Manager and they were invited to view the final draft.

St Helena National Trust.

The Director told members that High Knoll Fort will be re-opening at the end of April after some much needed repairs. This will be a public function with the usual entertainment and refreshments available.

24.5

Update of Jamestown Parking Review.

At the last meeting the Roads Manager discussed a proposed Jamestown Parking Review. Options chosen at this meeting were:-

1. Develop the Duke of Edinburgh Playground. Change the use of the land from play area to a car park.
2. Introduce paid parking to Jamestown.
3. Introduce resident parking schemes in key areas of Jamestown.

1. Change the use of the Duke of Edinburgh Playground to a Car Park.

The Roads Manager gave a brief overview of what would be involved to change the use of the DoE Playground to a Car Park.

The site was originally a Cemetery and it is uncertain if the remains were removed. The Roads Manager is to meet with a member of the Clergy to discuss this. Investigatory work is being undertaken by the Technical Staff to ascertain the strength of the retaining walls and the effect of point loading on tree roots.

2. Introducing paid parking in Jamestown.

Another option of the recommendation is for the introduction of fees for paid parking in the area of the Grand Parade and Main Street. A member suggested

that this should be applied throughout Jamestown and not restricted to certain areas. It is proposed to employ a traffic warden who will make randomised but structured patrols to ensure compliance with the pay and display system.

The Roads Manager took members through a paper showing the costing for this venture and also the revenue expected to be collected. A member suggested a variation in parking fees such as 50p for two hours in built up areas and 10p in outlying areas.

A facility for allowing free patients parking at the hospital was discussed.

3. Residents parking in key areas of Jamestown.

This scheme will be set up especially for residents who physically live in Jamestown. This will allow parking for two vehicles per household excluding trucks and busses. A member asked that exemptions or allowances be made for commercial vehicles.

The Roads Manager was asked to liaise with Dr Essex and to work in more detail. The outcome of this will then be brought to the next meeting.

Action: Roads Manager.

24.6 Request from resident of Horse Pasture for road improvement.

This has been dealt with by the Roads Manager as an operational matter.

24.7 Any other urgent business.

Spraying of Verges.

A member asked will spraying of roadside verges continue and was told that this is the remit of the roads section and the Roads Manager should be contacted for clarification.

TOR's for Council Committees.

The Director said he would be following up this issue.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.20pm.

24.8 Date for next meeting is set for 27th May 2015 at 09.45am in the Council Chamber. This is due to the regular scheduled meeting date falling on 21st May (St. Helena's Day).

The Chairman informed members that he will be off island from the 25th May until the 17th June 2015. During this time meetings will be chaired by the Deputy Chairman, the Hon. Gavin Ellick.

Confirmed..........Date.....07/05/2015.....