**EXCO MEETING OF 30 OCTOBER 2012**

Today we met to consider three papers that required a decision and one information paper.

For our first paper we were joined by Janet Lawrence, Airport Director. The paper sought our approval to grant development permission to allow electricity to be provided to the airport site by a combination of overhead and underground cables. It was originally planned that electricity for the airport project would be provided by on-site generators. However, it later became apparent that there would be advantages to having electricity provided from the mains supply with backup provided by an on-site generator.  This would add revenue to the Energy Division and reduce the frequency of journeys by fuel tankers to replenish fuel for on-site generators.  The mix of underground and overhead cables is the best, lowest cost option while construction work is underway. Once the major works are complete this could be adjusted.  Council approved the proposal, noting that full details would be made public once Council had indicated agreement.

Our next paper related to the project to address the aircraft bird strike risk connected with the Horse Point landfill. A Solid Waste management Strategy, approved by EXCO and the Natural Resources Development and Environment Committee, went to public consultation on 15 August 2012.  There were no adverse responses to the proposal during the public consultation. On the contrary, members of the public welcomed the prospect of recycling and improved waste management.  Council agreed that the strategy should now move forward to implementation.  Full details of the implementation programme will be made available in due course. It was envisaged that prior to introduction of the new arrangements information to households would be provided via radio and print media and through house to house visits/maildrops as necessary.

Moving on to our next paper, listeners may recall that in a recent meeting of EXCO it was agreed that the Airport Development Area should be expanded, as a safety measure, to include a 500 meter radius of the inshore waters between Gill Point and Bay Point.  That decision was Gazetted on 27 September 2012. No objections were received and accordingly Council today confirmed the decision to include the specified area between Gill Point and Bay Point in the Airport Development Area.

The final paper presented today was an information paper, duly noted, covering the Public Accounts Committee report to LEGCO on the formal session of the Committee held on 27 April 2012.  The report is a public document and is available on the SHG website.

Under ‘Any Other Business’ I mentioned the forthcoming familiarisation visit from 13 to 21 November of Ms Hannah Chadwick, the new Desk Officer in the  Overseas Territories Directorate of the Foreign Office, with responsibility for St Helena. Hannah works closely with Deputy Director Martin Longden who recently visited St Helena. She will have a full programme of meetings but also sufficient time to see as much as possible of the island.

And with that we ended our meeting today at almost exactly 12 noon. Thank you for listening on this most welcome sunny afternoon in Jamestown.  I have to hope that it will still be sunny when I get back to Plantation so that I can grab a bit of sunshine.  Dear old Jonathan the tortoise needs some sunshine as well. I think he’s a bit fed up of the damp and needs to warm up his old bones too.

Good afternoon to you all.

**Mark Capes**

**Governor**

**30 October 2012**