**EXCO meeting of 8 May 2012**

Good afternoon.

EXCO sat yesterday morning to consider a relatively light agenda, but I should first report on the previous morning meeting of EXCO two weeks ago on 24 April.  The substantive Governor left the lsland that afternoon on the RMS to attend a conference in the UK so did not have time to report the ExCo proceedings.

On 24 April, we commenced with an interesting presentation from Mr Steve Owen, the visiting Astronomer.   We then proceeded to consider a paper on the Immigration Ordinance, approving the regulations and policy guidance on Immigrant landholding.  We finally considered and approved an amendment to the Medical Practitioners Regulations to include Pakistan on the list of places approved by the regulations, as one of St Helena’s new Doctors is registered there.

Moving back to yesterday’s meeting; we started off with a discussion about a letter from the Land Planning and Development Board on Solid Waste Management.  A letter of response was agreed, which details the work that is being undertaken, including a visit from an expert to the island to assess future solid waste management needs in relation to the new requirements relating to the bird strike risk and the airport.

We then looked at a paper which sought approval to reduce some fees for Planning Development Applications, to take into account the small amount of work in dealing with specific types of applications.  The majority of fees will be fixed at last year’s rates.  However, a lower rate will be applied to small agricultural buildings such as stock shelters and small agricultural storage buildings up to 45 sq. m. (though not for permanent livestock housing) and structures such as car-ports.  The reduction in the fees will take effect from 1st June 2012.

Having started at 09.30 we were able to conclude our business at 11.30.

This is my first and last ExCo of this period as Acting Governor.  The substantive Governor returns Saturday week and normal service will be resumed.

Thank you for very much for listening and a good afternoon to you all.

**Owen O’Sullivan**

**Acting Governor**

**9 May 2012**