

**Minutes of the Open Social and Community Development Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday, 14 February 2018 at 9 am in the Council Chamber**

<u>Present:</u>	Chairman:	Hon Anthony Green (Hon TG)
	Deputy Chairman:	Hon Cyril Leo (Hon CL)
	Members:	Hon Gavin Ellick (Hon GE) Hon Derek Thomas (Hon DT) Hon Kylie Hercules (Hon KH)
	Non-Voting Members:	Mr Matthew Ansell, Director of Safeguarding (MA) Mrs Nicole Shamier, Government Economist (NS)
	Secretary:	Mrs Connie Johnson, Assistant Secretary (Admin) (CJ)
	Invited:	Mrs Gillian Francis, Asst. Chief Secretary (Support) (GF) – for item 1 only

Hon TG welcomed all to February's meeting and thanked CJ for standing in as Secretary in the absence of the substantive Secretary who is also covering another role at this time.

There were two members of the public in attendance.

1. Proposal - Review of Fees and Charges

GF advised that she had completed the paperwork that the Committee had requested and this had been sent to the Secretary with the proposed increases as discussed at the last SCDC on the 10 January 2018.

All members contributed to a lengthy discussion on the proposed increase for the Gaming Machines and gave detailed reasons why they felt they could not support an increase at this time.

Hon TG advised Committee of the need to look at the principle for increasing all fees and not to be led by opinions of interested parties.

Hon DT reiterated that one proprietor had made it very clear that they would be withdrawing their gaming machines if there were any more increases to the fees so he felt that SHG stood to lose more than gain at this point in time.

NS informed committee that it was difficult to ascertain when people would feel that enough is enough but on this occasion it appeared that for £90 it was not worth the risk but she stated that on the other side, there is the need to raise revenues.

Hon TG pointed out that if committee was not prepared to increase certain fees this would not look good.

However the Members were adamant that this risk was too high because it could mean that SHG lost £3k in revenue for the sake of this £90 increase.

All members agreed that they would not support an increase to the Gaming Machines license fees this year but they would review this in a year's time.

(Action: GF/NP)

The members supported the following:-

- for the transfer of license and increase in fees from £50 to £60

Hon TG asked members if there were any Declaration of Interest to declare.

The Hon DT declared his interest stating that he runs a Social Club

GF then proceeded with the next proposed increase which was the Occasional Liquor license. Committee advised that Mrs Christine Cooper in the AG's Chambers was looking at this with a view to reducing the admin and court work and the number of times people had to apply for a license so it was suggested that this would be addressed when the review was complete and this increase dealt with at a separate meeting.

(Action: GF/NP)

The Hon DT stated that he was unsure how far he could be involved in these related discussions and would need some guidance from the Chair because while he runs a social club he is speaking for all. Hon TG advised he was happy for Hon DT to contribute with his background but will decide what happens when the voting on this occurs.

All agreed the proposal could be left in but addressed at a later stage.

The next proposed increase was for the Community Centre license and members discussed various issues and changes to the figures proposed. GF advised that the proposal had been presented before but was not approved at a higher level but added that these increases were in line with the fees and charges policy.

The Hon DT pointed out that while the increases were not made as proposed in 2013 they needed to be careful that there were not any huge jumps because we need to encourage the Private Sector which has not seen any growth or development.

Hon GE said that we should not be seen as penalising people.

Hon GE declared his interest as he said he was involved with the Kingshurst and Guinea Grass Community Centres.

GF also declared her interest saying she is involved with the Blue Hill Community Centre.

The members supported the following:-

- for the issue of a Community Centre license an increase in fee from £40 to £45
- for issue of any other license, including tavern, hotel, restaurant, club and increase in fee from £100 to £125

The final item on increases was for the Archives research fee. GF distributed to members a brief paper and members discussed the issue and various options at length and some felt that they needed more data on what requests had been made to the Archives.

NS proposed a new fee of £40 for the first 2 hours and £20 per hour thereafter and all Members supported the new proposal.

GF advised that there is an archives charging policy so she would look at this and come back to Committee if necessary.

(Action: GF/NP)

GF asked if Committee would be willing to support a fee being charged for making a copy of any documents at the Archives and all members supported this.

(Action: GF/NP)

Hon TG thanked GF for her attendance.

2. Confirmation of open minutes from the meeting held on 10 January 2018

The minutes from the open session of the meeting held on 10 January 2018 was confirmed.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Proposal to amend the Welfare of Children's Regulations

This action point still needs to be followed up.

(Action: AB/NP)

3.2 Conviction - Chief Executive/Equality & Human Rights Commission

The Hon TG advised that an official complaint had been lodged against him for raising this with the CEO. The matter now rests with the Speaker.

3.3 Human Rights & Disabilities Update

These three action points still needs to be followed up.

(Action: CT/NP)

3.4 Liquor Ordinance – Mobile Bar Licence

This action point still needs to be KIV.

(Action: CC/NP)

3.5 Births & Death's Legislation

This action points still needs to be KIV.

(Action: CC/NP)

4. Any Other Business

- The Hon DT raised an issue about a Private Sector employee having their pay stopped when they needed to have a blood test at the Hospital and also someone still having to go to work when they felt sick for fear of having their pay stopped. The Hon TG said the law is there for this purpose but the Hon DT advised that the law is not working so a different approach is needed and suggested going on radio

and raising awareness, through Press releases or inviting the Private Sector in and telling them about the law.

The Hon CL added that sending a letter to the Private Sector could also be beneficial as well.

The Hon TG suggested that a Special Session was needed to brain storm the idea and asked the Hon KH if she would lead on identifying some background so that we could focus on the key issues and involve the AG's Office in the discussions.

There being no further business, the Committee moved on to the Closed Session.

Minutes Approved.....

Date:

Chairman

DRAFT