

Minutes of the 7th Meeting of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee held on Thursday, 15th March 2018 @ 10:05am in the Council Chamber.

Present:	Hon. Russell K Yon	-	Chairman
	Hon. Dr. Corinda Essex	-	Deputy Chairman
	Hon. Cyril K Leo	-	Member
	Hon. Cruyff G Buckley	-	Member
	Mr David Goodrick	-	Acting Director of ENRD
	Mr Nicky Lawrence	-	Secretary
Invited:	Mr Derek Pedley	-	Head of Property – Item 2
	Mr Deon Robbertse	-	Roads Manager – Item 9
	Mr Darren Francis	-	Roads Inspector – Item 9
	Miss Isabel Peters	-	Chief Environmental Officer – Item 3
	Mrs Vanessa Thomas-Williams-	-	Nurseries Officer – Item 3
	Mr Mike Durnford	-	Environmental Risk Manager – Item 4
	Mrs Riana de Wet	-	Chief Planning Officer – Item 6
	Mr Nico Ellick	-	Building Inspector – Item 6
	Mr Cliff Richards	-	Deputy Building Inspector – Item 6
Apology:	Mr Derek Henry	-	Director of ENRD (Leave)
	Hon. Gavin Ellick	-	Member (Leave)

Welcome.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and proceeded with the Open Agenda of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee. Mr Derek Henry, Director of ENRD and the Hon. Gavin Ellick are currently on leave.

Open Agenda.

7.1 Matters arising from minutes of 15th February 2018.

Safety concerns about the Jamestown ‘Run’.

Funding is urgently needed to repair and upgrade the Jamestown ‘Run’ in the interests of public health and safety and for the overall enhancement of this valuable asset. Following a discussion by the Environment & Natural Resources Committee, members felt this is too big a project for one entity to undertake and suggested approaching other organisations for assistance.

Letters have been sent to the St Helena National Trust, the Tourism Sector, Enterprise St Helena and the Environment & Natural Resources Directorate outlining proposals for the future management of the Jamestown ‘Run’ and seeking financial support to undertake the necessary works.

The Chairman suggested a portfolio be created incorporating photographs etc to emphasise the importance of the ‘Run’ and to attract support for its maintenance and upkeep.

Action: Cllr Buckley

Rabbit Cull legislation.

The Chairman reported that due to concerns from the general public, the proposal to introduce legislation to allow for the poisoning of rabbits to control their numbers, has been withdrawn.

Heritage Report.

The Chairman reported that he is composing a letter to be circulated to all Elected Members by the middle of March. A member told that him that there is cause for concern as there will be financial implications.

Action: Chairman.

Update on the Road Traffic Regulations.

The draft Road Traffic Regulations are being progressed and it is expected that a copy will be circulated shortly when all schedules have been incorporated into the document. Also driver licence and vehicle licence application forms need to be finalised.

Action: Chairman

7.2 Introduction to Head of Property.

The Chairman welcomed the new Head of Property, Mr Derek Pedley who has been appointed on a three year contract. He gave members a brief overview of his academic background and past work assignments. Although Derek has vast experience in other fields, it will be his legal experience that will be essential in addressing current issues within the Directorate. He said he is ready to take on his new role and see if and what needs to change.

7.3 Presentation of a Policy for the Collection, Propagation and Distribution of Endemic/Native Plants.

Isabel Peters and Vanessa Thomas-Williams gave a presentation on the Policy for the Collection, Propagation and Distribution of Endemic/Native Plants. This policy provides the basis for a licensing system as required under Section 21 of the Environmental Protection Ordinance (EPO). The Policy covers the collection, growing and distribution (including sale) of St Helena's endemic and native plants that are protected under the EPO. The Policy gives provision for protected plants to be exported under licence for scientific and non-commercial purposes only. Exporting for commercial purposes will not be allowed.

7.4 Waste Management Services Discussion.

The Environmental Risk Manager (ERM) updated members on the trial 24/7 opening of the Horse Point Landfill Site (HPLS). With the positive feedback from the public on the opening hours, members agreed the HPLS will continue to open 24/7 including Sundays and Public Holidays. However, should there be concern for public safety or any negative impact from the public this decision will be revoked and opening and closing times re-instated.

Also discussed was litter management following concerns raised by tourists. It was suggested to have a competition for students highlighting litter management across the island. The Environmental Protection Ordinance has provision for penalties to be imposed for anyone caught littering which, if enforced, members felt could be a deterrent.

The Waste Management Strategy was discussed and members agreed a new Policy should be implemented as this provides guidance to Elected Members to allow them to make decisions on the current Strategy. Having a Policy will assist in the quest to obtain funding from other sources. The Policy drives the work of politicians whilst the Strategy which is a comprehensive document should indicate how Committee delivers the Policy.

The ERM was asked to extract the key issues from the Strategy and place into a smaller document to be circulated to all Elected Members. The ERM told members that due to lack of resources he will have to reprioritise his work.

Action: Environmental Risk Manager

7.5 Commercial Vehicle Parking Survey in Jamestown.

The Deputy Chairman explained to members that in order to complete the Policy for Jamestown Parking, there must be a review of all commercial vehicles operating in Jamestown. This is to enable the Directorate and the Highway Authority to obtain numbers in order to identify potential areas where commercial vehicles may be parked; and to inform decisions regarding a paid parking scheme for such vehicles.

The necessary documents and questionnaires are currently being prepared. These will be circulated to all commercial vehicle operators in Jamestown soon.

Action: Secretary

