

**Minutes of the Open Social and Community Development Committee Meeting held on  
Wednesday, 11 July 2018 at 9 am in the Council Chamber**

<b><u>Present:</u></b>	<b>Chairman:</b>	Hon Anthony Green (Hon TG)
	<b>Deputy Chairman:</b>	Hon Cyril Leo (Hon CL)
	<b>Members:</b>	Hon Derek Thomas (Hon DT) Hon Gavin Ellick (Hon GE)
	<b>Non-Voting Members:</b>	Mrs Stephanie Jones, Director of Safeguarding (SJ)
	<b>Secretary:</b>	Miss Nicole Plato, Executive Assistant (Corporate Services) (NP)
	<b>Invited:</b>	Mrs Catherine Turner, CEO/Commissioner Equality & Human Rights Commission – <i>for item 1 only</i> Mr Jeremy Harris, Director of the St Helena National Trust (JH) – <i>for item 2 only</i> Mrs Ethel Yon, President of the St Helena National Trust Council (EY) – <i>for item 2 only</i>
	<b>Apologies:</b>	Hon Kylie Hercules (Hon KH) Mrs Nicole Shamier, Government Economist (NS)

Hon TG welcomed all to the meeting with a special welcome extended to NF, JJ and NY.

## **1. Equality & Human Rights Report**

CT reviewed the headlines from the Equality & Human Rights Report that has now been published:

- Started looking at risks, something that has not really been done in the past. It would be helpful to quantify and pin down risks whether they are high costs etc. the same risk analysis SHG directorates do.
- The Prison Inquiry report is complete and is being reviewed by Commissioners and will be sent to officers two weeks' time for them to comment.
- Government Landlord Housing (GLH), under article 3 that speaks about the right to life and private family life.
- One of the things that the Equality & Human Rights commission is pushing for is a framework for how they work with SHG or an SLA to show how they fit in with SHG.
- Another issue is the lack of complete self-determination – rights to advocate for self and island; the level of self-governance we are able to exercise. If Members don't have all of the information and only have redacted documents then they are not able to make thought out decisions. CT said that this concern came from several key people. From a Human Rights perspective, the demonstration on the water increases was a great show of avocation of rights; people said what they thought whereby most times people are afraid to speak up for fear of reprisal.
- Equality of arms i.e. representation for people in Courts. An imbalance of staff in the AG's and Public Solicitors office need to be addressed. A criminal lawyer is needed to deal with the criminal cases. *Hon Green noted this and agreed that the options to address this need to be explored as there is no or little flexibility in the budget to accommodate this but this is something where perhaps HE could request FCO to help.*

**(Action: Hon TG)**

- Legislation need to be implemented to protect the private sector because potentially SHG face legal action for its failure to protect employees in the private sector from discrimination. *Members expressed concern over this issue which need to be addressed but also recognised that the AG is best placed to advise on how to take this forward e.g. Equality Legislation etc. CT to highlight the key areas that she feel need attention and is not covered by legislation in the private sector and advise the Committee accordingly. NP to place this item on the next meeting agenda with CT and the AG present.*

**(Action: CT/NP)**

CT to let Hon TG know of anyone who has been punished because of speaking out, to take it forward; established facts is needed as well.

**(Action: CT)**

The Human Rights shopping basket – CT to ensure that the new basket is checked by the Statistician and the Dietician.

**(Action: CT)**

## **2. Method for Public Consultation on the SHNT Amendment Ordinance**

Hon TG reported that an amendment ordinance is being drafted and has been through many processes with all questions and issues on the bill being answered and dealt with. The committee has approved Amendment ordinance as well and is currently with the AG's Chambers. Meanwhile, preparation for the public consultation can be done now.

The Committee agreed on the following Public consultation method:

- Radio discussions/phone ins. JH and EY is happy to be present at the radio discussions/public meeting etc.
- One public meeting, perhaps in Jamestown to give people an opportunity to comment.
- Give people two weeks to feed in comments to the Secretary on the changes to the legislation.

NP to check with the AG the status of the ordinance. When the ordinance is ready, a timetable will need to be produced by NP and Hon TG and circulated to Committee, JH, and EY to ensure everyone is on happy with it.

**(Action: NP/Hon TG)**

## **3. Confirmation of Open Minutes from the meeting held on 13 June 2018**

The minutes from the open session of the meeting held on 13 June was confirmed.

## **4. Matters Arising**

### **4.1 UK Pension Issue**

It was noted that this issue had been resolved and a subsequent press release had been issued. Hon TG to follow up on an email from Hon GE on the above with SJ, following which a response is to be sent to Hon GE to be fed back to the constituent.

**(Action: Hon TG/SJ/Hon GE)**


4.2 Outline Proposal for an Information Bill - Timetable

The committee endorsed the outline timetable put forward by the AG's Chambers. The timetable need to be publicised by perhaps including it in the meeting summary with a link to the document on the website or a separate release. Hon TG to take this forward with NP.

**(Action: Hon TG/NP)**

4.3 Children's Champion

The Committee extended their congratulations to Hon DT for agreeing to take on the above role. His appointment will be gazetted.

Minutes Approved.....  
Chairman

Date: 8/8/18.....

