

Minutes of the Meeting of Executive Council held on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2018 at 9:30am in the Council Chamber

Present: Her Excellency the Acting Governor (Ms L J MacMorran)  
The Hon Chief Secretary (Mrs S O’Bey)  
The Hon Financial Secretary (Mr D L Richards)  
The Hon Attorney General (Mrs S O’Donnell)  
The Hon A A Green  
The Hon L A Henry  
The Hon C L Scipio O’Dean  
The Hon D F Thomas  
The Hon R K Yon

In attendance: Acting Clerk of Councils (Miss A R Legg)  
Head of Corporate Support (Mrs C A George)

**OPEN SESSION**

32.1 Welcome

The Governor welcomed all to the meeting. One member of the public and one SHG officer was present.

32.2 Application for Full Development Permission HTH Solar Farm Phase 2 (ExCo Memo No 45/2018)

The Acting Chief Planning Officer (ACPO), Trainee Planning Officer and Project Manager for Connect Saint Helena Ltd were in attendance.

The Chief Secretary introduced the memorandum and highlighted the key reasons behind the recommendations from the Land Development Control Authority (LDCA). Concerns raised by members related to: a previous interest by a developer; the extent of the additional wing area requested; land resource; whether there was scope in phase 1 for additional solar panels; whether any objections had been received; and the location for storage capacity.

It was noted that outline planning permission had already been given by Executive Council in October 2016 and the application for full development permission was made in October 2017; it was also noted that applications for any approval that had lapsed, had been resubmitted by Connect before the due date. The ACPO confirmed the applicant was Connect Saint Helena Ltd and that the Chief Environmental Officer was content for the ecological survey to still stand.

Following a presentation by the ACPO and subsequent discussion, **Council advised and the Acting Governor agreed to defer a decision until a site visit could take place to view the area under consideration.** This was mainly due to new Members sitting on Executive Council since the outline development permission had been approved.

**(Action: Hon Chief Secretary / Acting Clerk of Councils)**

32.3 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) 2019/20 – 2021/22 Strategic Objectives (ExCo Memo No 46/2018)

The Acting Governor advised this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

32.4 Confirmation of Open Session Minutes of 7 August 2018

The open session minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018 were confirmed.

32.5 Matters Arising from the Open Session Minutes

32.5.1 (31.2) Increase in the Minimum Income Standard for the Up-rating of Income Related Benefits and Basic Island Pension 2018

**The Financial Secretary reported that the MIS price collection in August and the review were on-going.**

**(Action: Hon Financial Secretary)**

The Financial Secretary confirmed that MIS had been increased and Social Security Regulations amended.

32.5.2 (31.4.1) Matters Arising from the 2016/17 SHG Financial Statements Audit

**The Attorney General advised that work relating to the definition of ‘close of accounts’ was still pending.**

**(Action: Hon Attorney General)**

32.5.3 (31.4.2) Pharmacists (Qualifications) Regulations, 2018

**The Attorney General advised she had sent a draft to the Public Health Committee.**

**(Action: Hon Attorney General)**

32.5.4 (31.4.3) Protocols for the Recording Executive Council

**The Attorney General reported the protocol to outline rules and a procedure for the recording of Executive Council and Council Committee meetings had been drafted but was being finalised before it could be brought to Informal LegCo.**

**(Action: Hon Attorney General)**

32.5.5 (31.4.4) Guidelines for Executive Council

**The Chief Secretary advised the revised guide for the operations of Executive Council was currently work in progress.**

**(Action: Hon Chief Secretary)**

32.5.6 (31.4.5) Legislation Changes

**The Attorney General advised that the document outlining clear guidelines for fast tracking legislation was currently work in progress.**

**(Action: Hon Attorney General)**

32.5.7 (31.4.6) Telecommunications (Amendment) Regulations, 2018

**The Financial Secretary advised this matter was still pending i.e. checking whether or not the ECCC minutes recorded that SHG would expect to see a decrease in Internet charges, once the sub marine cable is laid and associated infrastructure in place.**

**(Action: Hon Financial Secretary)**

32.5.8 (31.4.7) St Helena Fisheries Corporation (SHFC) Investor Prospectus and Update from Fisheries Working Groups

**Members were advised that the paper on SHFC financial difficulties was still work in progress but would hopefully be presented to the Economic Development Committee in September and then to Executive Council.**

**(Action: Head of Governor's Office)**

32.5.9 (31.4.8) Medical Services Overseas

**The Chairman of the Public Health Committee advised that the review on medical services overseas was still pending and the report would be circulated to Members in due course.**

**(Action: Hon Derek Thomas)**

32.5.10 (31.4.9) Social Impact Assessment (SIA) of the MOU

**The Chief Secretary reported that she continued to follow-up the SIA, on the effects of the MOU, with Mr Tom Holvey and was hoping that it would be received that week. She would continue to press for this on a daily basis if necessary.**

**(Action: Hon Chief Secretary)**

32.5.11 (31.5.1) Draft Building Regulations 2018

**The Chairman of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee reported that different versions of the above Regulations had been published and the Director had asked for the incorrect version to be removed from the website. It was agreed **the Chairman and the Attorney General would sort this issue later and assess whether the public consultation period should be extended.****

**(Action: Hon Russell Yon / Hon Attorney General)**

32.6 St Helena Tourism Marketing Implementation Plan 2018/2019 (Information Paper No 4/2018)

The Chairman of the Economic Development Committee introduced this item and a presentation was given by the Director of Tourism (DoT). The Hon Derek Thomas declared his interest with regards to being a rental accommodation provider.

During discussion, the DoT explained why Tourism would not provide contact details on Tour Operator's to service providers and instead relevant information is given to Tour Operators however it was acknowledged that there is a shortfall in reporting back on Road Shows, which would be addressed in future. A suggestion on using UK based students to raise awareness of the island was agreed and it was confirmed that the branding is already focused towards the individual tourist.

The DoT advised that online bookings have been provided by Tourism to connect airlines to onward journeys however this is also something that Airlink needs to sort. Members were pleased to hear that Tourism had agreed to sponsor uniforms, insurance and the race entry for the Governor's Cup Yacht race; they would also use their promotional platforms to promote the island and Mr Herne's participating yacht. Members felt that it would be useful for Tourism to have targets in going forward however the DoT advised they would need support in this area.

The Acting Governor thanked the presenters and other officers present for the useful information.