

Minutes of the 15th Open Meeting of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee held on Thursday, 18th October 2018 @ 10:00am in the Council Chamber.

Present:	Hon. Russell K Yon	-	Chairman
	Hon. Dr. Corinda Essex	-	Deputy Chairperson
	Hon. Cyril K Leo	-	Member
	Hon. Cruyff G Buckley	-	Member
	Mr Derek Henry	-	Director of ENRD
	Mr Nicky Lawrence	-	Secretary
Invited:	Mrs Samantha Cherrett	-	Ag Marine Conservation Officer - Item 2
	Mr Jo Naulaerts	-	CSSF OT Blue Belt Programme - Item 2
	Mr Ralf Bublitz	-	Darwin Plus Project (DPLUS077) - Item 2
	Mr David Goodrick	-	Chartered Engineer - Item 3
	Mr Nico Ellick	-	Building Inspector - Item 3
	Mr Cliff Richards	-	Deputy Building Inspector - Item 3
	Mr Derek Pedley	-	Head of Property - Item 4
Apology:	Hon. Gavin G Ellick	-	Member

Welcome.

The Chairman welcomed everyone present and proceeded with the Open Agenda of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee.

Open Agenda.

15.1 Matters arising from minutes of 20th September, 2018.

Safety concerns about Jamestown 'Run'.

The Chairman reported that a meeting of the Working Group will be held soon to address safety issues with the 'Run'. Following an incident with a child he asked that these issues be fixed and to lift the ban on public use of the 'Run'.

Action: Director/Councillor Buckley

Heritage Report.

The Chartered Engineer has agreed to progress this report although funding is still required.

Action: Chartered Engineer

Road Traffic Regulations.

The Chairman reported that the revised licence fees are with the Attorney General's Chambers for approval.

Action: Chairman.

Environmental Protection Ordinance.

The Chairman still has to progress the EPO with the Attorney General's Chambers.

Action: Chairman

Update of the Plant Propagation Policy.

Members have still to feedback to the Chief Environmental Officer on the changes made.

Action: All

Breakneck Valley.

The Chairman reported that an application has been submitted to the Planning Section with a screening and scoping report included.

Action: Chairman

15.2

Presentation by Joachim Naulaerts and Ralf Bublitz.

The Acting Marine Conservation Officer introduced Mr Joachim Naulaerts and Mr Ralf Bublitz who in turn gave a brief presentation to members on the work they are doing on island.

Ralf gave a presentation on the *Darwin Plus Project (DPLUS077): Sustainable fishery management for St Helena's Lobster populations.*

Ralf will be supporting the Marine Section in gaining knowledge of St Helena's Lobster population. The project will assist in providing knowledge of key commercial lobster species ecology, review existing data, legislation and current management practices and he will make recommendations to ensure long-term sustainability of the populations.

A member told of his experience fishing for lobster in the 60's and suggested that Ralf speak to the families of the boats Skippers at that time; who might have valuable information about lobster fishing.

Joachim gave a presentation on the *CSSF OT Blue Belt Programme - Evaluating the sustainability of the grouper fishery.*

Jo is supporting the Marine Section through the Blue Belt Programme, evaluating the sustainability of the grouper fishery. Jo will be undertaking a study in understanding the status, growth, reproductive biology, movement and habitat of the grouper. This will help in the development and management to ensure long-term sustainability of the grouper population.

Jo would be interested to hear from anyone on Island who fishes for grouper from the coastline.

Members thanked Ralf and Jo for their input and arrangements will be made for them to give a presentation to all Elected Members soon.

Action: Chairman

15.3 Update on Draft Building Regulations and responses addressed.

The Building Inspector (BI) presented the new draft Building Regulations and comments from the LDCA and asked Committee for their feedback.

The Chairman said the document was welcomed by all and the only concern he had was on Page 68 regarding the height of the consumer unit. The BI said this height was advised by Connect St Helena Ltd. (CSH).

Several explanations were offered for this height and it was questioned how can this be child safe and also accessible to wheelchair users.

The Inspectors were asked to look into this and inform members of their findings.

Action: Building Inspectors

15.4 Request for approval of Government Landlord House designs.

The Committee approved Government Landlord House (GLH) designs and gave the go ahead to initiate the procurement process for construction to commence. This will expedite the construction of GLH where there are now approximately 80 applications for housing.

Action: Head of Property

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:35am.

The next meeting of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee will be held **@ 10:00am on Thursday 15th November 2018 in the Council Chamber.**

Confirmed... *Ben* Date *08 NOVEMBER 2018*