

**Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> Open Meeting of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee held on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018 @ 10:00am in the Council Chamber.**

<b>Present:</b>	Hon. Russell K Yon	-	Chairman
	Hon. Cyril K Leo	-	Member
	Hon. Cruyff G Buckley	-	Member
	Mr Derek Henry	-	Director of ENRD
	Mr Nicky Lawrence	-	Secretary
<b>Invited:</b>	Ms Isabel Peters	-	Chief Environmental Officer - Item 2
	Mrs Vanessa Thomas-Williams	-	Nurseries Officer - Item 2
	Mr Derek Pedley	-	Head of Property - Item 4
	Professor Helen Roy	-	CEH - Item on Biosecurity
	Dr Niall Moore	-	NNSS - Item on Biosecurity
	Mr Darren Duncan	-	Head of ANRD - Item on Biosecurity
<b>Apology:</b>	Hon. Gavin G Ellick	-	Member
	Hon. Dr. Corinda Essex	-	Deputy Chairperson (Overseas Leave)

**Welcome.**

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

**Open Agenda.**

**Presentation by Professor Helen Roy of CEH, Dr Niall Moore from NNSS and the Head of ANRD.**

Professor Helen Roy of the Centre of Ecology and Hydrology (CEH), UK and Dr Niall Moore, Head of the Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat, (NNSS) and the Head of ANRD provided an update to the Committee on the mid-Atlantic biosecurity horizon scanning visit/workshops that was being undertaken on the Island from 12-16 November 2018 for St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha under the Overseas Territories Horizon Scanning Project. The visiting taxonomic team consisted of experts in plants, vertebrates, in-vertebrates and marine specialists to support St Helena's Government and NGO teams. For St Helena the workshop focused on establishing a list of key species that could arrive on St Helena over the next 10 years and cause harm to St Helena's environment, economy and the health of its people.

Overall workshop participants found the exercises during the week to be particularly useful in support of their environmental and biosecurity roles. A list of 50 species was established across the taxonomic groups with potential to arrive on Island, with a list of 20 priority species established within this list. Through discussions on species pathway action planning, the workshop also provided further management measures and actions that can be considered and implemented by St Helena to reduce the risk of the listed species arriving on Island. Our biosecurity stakeholders will use this list and the additional expert

advice and support systems generated from the workshop to continue to work together to reduce the biosecurity risks for St Helena.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their interesting and valuable presentation and wished them well.

## **16.1 Matters arising from minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2018.**

### **Safety concerns about Jamestown 'Run'.**

Some safety issues have been addressed such as replacing inadequate fencing over bridges. It was asked if there is a Risk Register for the 'Run'. The Chair of the Working Group said he will address this at their next meeting. The Chairman suggested to check if there is interest from the St Helena National Trust (SHNT) to take ownership of the 'Run' and possibly Jacob's Ladder. Chairman will raise this with the SHNT.

**Action: Chairmen ENRC & Working Group.**

### **Heritage Report.**

This report is still to be progressed by the Chartered Engineer.

### **Road Traffic Regulations.**

The Chairman reported that HE the Governor and Chief of Police would like to incorporate the use of Seat Belts into the Road Traffic Regulations in December and to bring into force in January 2019.

**Action: Chairman**

### **Environmental Protection Ordinance.**

The Ordinance is still to be progressed with the Attorney General's Chambers.

**Action: Chairman.**

### **Presentation by Joachim Naulaerts and Ralf Bublitz.**

The Chairman reported that a presentation by Ralf on the *Darwin Plus Project (DPLUS077): Sustainable fishery management for St Helena's Lobster populations* and another by Joachim on *CSSF OT Blue Belt Programme - Evaluating the sustainability of the grouper fishery* was made to Elected Members last week.

### **Update on draft Building Regulations and responses addressed.**

Planning staff are preparing the relevant documents for presentation to Executive Council.

**Request for approval of Government Landlord House designs.**

Approval was granted for various house designs and tenders are now being sought for the construction of a pilot house in Half Tree Hollow.

**Action: Head of Property**

**16.2 Request for approval of Plant Propagation Policy.**

Following discussion in September's ENRC meeting an amended version of the *Policy for the collection, propagation and distribution of endemic/native plants* (Plant Propagation Policy) was circulated to members. The Chief Environmental Officer (CEO) accompanied by the Nursery Officer (NO) are now seeking Committee approval to progress the Policy. Several queries were raised by members which the CEO and NO responded to.

The NO explained how some plant species hybridise which is why they can only be grown in specific areas.

The issue of Officer discretion in implementing the Policy was raised and the CEO questioned the legal status of the Policy as it will be used to implement the Environmental Protection Ordinance. The Chairman will raise this with the Attorney General's Chambers.

**Action: Chairman**

Amendments had been made to fees and these were accepted. Committee gave their approval to the Policy.

The CEO also noted that there were additional documents that were being prepared to aid implementation of the Policy, this included leaflets, application forms, etc. Chairman asked that these documents when available be circulated to members.

**Action: CEO**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:10am.

The next meeting of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee will be held **@ 10:00am on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 in the Council Chamber.**

Confirmed.....*Ben*.....Date.....*05 Dec 2018*.....