

Minutes of the Meeting of Executive Council held on Tuesday, 11th December 2018 at 8:30am in the Council Chamber

- Present: Her Excellency the Acting Governor (Ms L J MacMorran)
Hon Chief Secretary (Mrs S O’Bey)
The Hon Financial Secretary (Mr D L Richards)
The Hon Acting Attorney General (Mr A R Radley)
The Hon A A Green
The Hon D F Thomas
The Hon K M Hercules
The Hon L A Henry
The Hon R K Yon
- In Attendance: Clerk of Councils (Miss Anthea Moyce)
Head of Corporate Support (Mrs C A George)
- Apologies: Her Excellency the Governor (Mrs L Honan) – on overseas business
The Hon Ms C L Scipio – on overseas business

OPEN SESSION

38.1 Welcome

The Governor welcomed all to the meeting, including those members of the public that were present.

38.2 Report from the Liberated African Advisory Committee (ExCo Memo No. 56/2018)

The Airport Project Director (Miss Janet Lawrence), Chief Environmental Officer (Miss Isabel Peters) and members of the Liberated African Committee (Mrs Annina Van-Neel Hayes and Mr Adam Sizeland) were in attendance.

The Chief Secretary introduced the Memorandum and highlighted that the discussions had been ongoing since 2008 when skeletal human remains of the Liberated Africans were excavated from their original location in Ruperts Valley during initial works of the Airport Project. The Remains were currently stored in the former Pipe Store in Jamestown and St Helena Government was responsible for the reinterment. The Liberated African Advisory Committee (LAAC) was established by Executive Council in October 2017, with the primary objective to explore options to provide a peaceful and respectful final resting place for the disturbed Liberated African Remains.

The Airport Project Director gave an overview of the Report and explained the recommendations. All Members were very pleased with the report and congratulated the LAAC for their input in completing the report alongside their work commitments. Annina Van-Neel Hayes, said she had recently return from a 10 week trip overseas and met with Peggy King-Jorde who was the Community Leader of the New York African Burial Ground. Peggy had arranged for Annina to meet with several organisations, including the United Nations, where she visited the UN Plaza and The Arc of Return. She also visited the United Nations Educational Scientific & Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the United Nations Association in the UK where she met with the Kimberley Mann who is the Director of the Remember Slavery Project. Annina commented that she had received good advice and positive feedback. She also had discussions with the World Monument Fund and the Ambassador’s Fund who are keen to provide funding and were actually expecting funding

applications from St Helena. The Honourable Derek Thomas made mention that he had spoken with the FCO Minister for the Overseas Territories, Lord Ahmad at the Joint Ministerial Conference about this project and he was very supportive. **The Hon Derek Thomas suggested that SHG should write to the FCO and let them know next steps;** Lord Ahmad was aware that Executive Council was discussing the report.

There was some discussion about other existing burial sites in the Rupert's area and plans for their protection. It was explained that the Committee was working with the Rupert's Development Group on ways in which these could be taken into account as part of the longer term planning for Rupert's' development. It was also suggested that in future, development work in areas where burial sites were thought to be present should avoid excavation as part of any construction to mitigate against disturbance of further remains.

Following discussion, Council advised and the Acting Governor agreed, that the report should be endorsed the recommendations adopted, being that the reinterment should take place within Rupert's Valley, that a memorial should be created at the site and that an interpretation centre should be developed in Rupert's Valley. The LAAC would proceed with a competition to design the Memorial and a tendering exercise would be undertaken to produce concept detail designs. Funding options would also be pursued. **Written thanks should also be conveyed to the Committee for the sterling work it had undertaken.**

With regard to the design of a memorial, the Hon Russell Yon asked whether those individuals who had previously submitted designs through a competition would need to re-submit those. He was advised that they could do so, or expand upon them if they so wished. **It was also suggested that the Education Directorate should be asked to incorporate into its local curriculum, teaching about this aspect of the Island's history.**

(Action: Chief Secretary)

At this point the Chief Environmental Officer and Members of the Liberated African Committee left the meeting.

38.3 Medical, Dentistry, and Pharmacy (Amendment) Bill (ExCo Memo No. 58/2018)

The Director of Health, Dr Akeem Ali, was in attendance for this item.

The Chairman of the Public Health Committee presented the Memorandum and reported that the Public Health Committee, with support of the Attorney General's Chamber and the Health Directorate, had carried out a review on the current Ordinances. The purpose of the review was to ensure that health practitioners, namely doctors, pharmacists, dental nurses and dentists employed to work on St Helena were suitably qualified for such positions. The current process for recruiting practitioners was solely dependent on the Director of Health's recommendation and Members supported that more robust legislation should be in place to reduce potential liability and risks from registering unsuitably qualified practitioners.

Some concerns had been raised about the proposal that the Director of Health alone would recommend to the Governor that these professionals were suitably qualified to practice on St Helena, especially in the event of a future Director not being medically trained and qualified. The Chief Secretary reassured Members that it had been agreed that the post of Director of Health would always be required to be medically qualified in the future. Members appreciated this reassurance. Dr Ali also assured Members that the Directorate would have strong internal processes for the registration of practitioners in place which would underpin this Ordinance; these would be shared with Executive Council in due course if the Bill was approved.

Following discussion, Council advised and the Acting Governor agreed that the Medical, Dentistry and Pharmacy (Amendment) Bill, should be printed and published and tabled as Government Business at the next formal meeting of the Legislative Council. Documentation of the process for the registration of Health Practitioners would also be presented.

(Action: Clerk of Councils/Hon Chairman, Public Health Committee)

At this point, the Director of Health left the meeting.

38.4 Confirmation of the Open Session Minutes of 27th November 2018.

The open session minutes of the Executive Council meeting held on 27th November 2018 were confirmed.

38.5 Matters Arising from the Open Session Minutes of 27th November 2018

38.5.1 (37.5.1) Matters Arising from the 2016/17 SHG Financial Statements Audit

The Financial Secretary advised that work relating to the definition of ‘close of accounts’ was still pending. The Acting Governor asked that this should be given some priority attention so that this could be concluded before the next Executive Council.

(Action: Hon Acting Attorney General)

38.5.2 (37.5.3) Guidelines for Executive Council

The Acting Chief Secretary advised that she anticipated that the revised guidelines would be presented at the next Executive Council meeting.

(Action: Hon Chief Secretary)

38.5.3 (37.5.4) Social Impact Assessment (SIA) of the MOU

The Acting Chief Secretary stated that the decision had been made for the SHG Economist to finalise the SIA, hopefully by the end of the calendar year.

(Action: Hon Chief Secretary)

38.5.4 (37.6.1) UK’s Tentative List of World Heritage Sites

The Acting Governor reported that the Governor met with the Director of the Tourism and it was agreed that the Tourist Office would progress St Helena’s position on the UK’s Tentative List of World Heritage Sites. The Governor would provide Members with a more in depth update on her return.

(Action: Governor)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.40 am.



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Clerk of Councils

Lisa Honan

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Governor

11th February 2019

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Date