

**Minutes of the 36<sup>th</sup> Open Meeting of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020 @ 10:20am in the Council Chamber.**

<b>Present:</b>	Hon. Cruyff G Buckley	-	Chairman
	Hon. Dr. Corinda Essex	-	Deputy Chairperson
	Hon. Russell K Yon	-	Member
	Hon. Gavin G Ellick	-	Member
	Hon. Cyril K Leo	-	Member
	Mr Derek Henry	-	Director of I & T
	Mr Darren Duncan	-	Director of ENRP
	Mr Nicky Lawrence	-	Secretary
<b>Invited:</b>	Miss Isabel Peters	-	Chief Environmental Officer – Item 3
	Dr Rebecca Cairns-wicks	-	Co-Ordinator, St Helena Research Institute – Item 3
	Mrs Vanessa Thomas-Williams	-	Nursery Officer, Environmental Management Division – Item 3
	Miss Melissa Fowler	-	Tourism Manager, St Helena Tourism Item 3
	Miss Martina Peters	-	Head of Conservation, St Helena National Trust – Item 3
	Mr Stephen Coates	-	Science Advisory Teacher, Education Directorate – Item 3
	Mr Barry Hubbard	-	Chief Executive Officer, Connect St Helena Ltd – Item 3
	Mr Lawrence Maranganwa	-	Technical Manager, CSH – Item 3

**Welcome**

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

**36.1 Declarations of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

**36.2 Matters arising from minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020.**

**Dark Skies Legislation (Control of Artificial Light at Night Ordinance).**

The Director of ENRP told members this item was discussed at the last meeting of the Economic Development Committee. A draft Bill is awaited from Attorney General's Chambers which will be brought to the ENR Committee. This Bill when enacted will then become an amendment to the Environmental Protection Ordinance (EPO) which the Chief Environmental Officer (CEO) will enforce. This should also be included in the Building Regulations. The Chief Planning Officer (CPO) can now consult with the CEO on these matters.

A member expressed concern about some issues and does not support Dark Skies Legislation. Some issues could have serious implications especially where it says 'the source of light should not be seen within 9 metres'. Heritage lights will not conform to this legislation. It was suggested that the legislation should apply to 'new build' structures only.

**Action: Director of ENRP**

#### **Proposed Work Scheme.**

A member said he had investigated the available funding for CASH (Career Access St Helena) which is an SHG issue across the board.

#### **Proposal for a Cycling Proficiency Course.**

The Chairman reported that the document has been sent to the Chief Inspector who will address this issue with the Chief of Police.

This will be brought back for discussion at the next ENRC meeting.

**Action: Chairman**

#### **SHG & SHNT Marine Centre Collaboration.**

The Director of ENRP told members that he will be meeting with the Deputy Director of SHNT to discuss this issue.

**Action: Director of ENRP**

#### **Water Resources Strategy.**

As agreed at the last ENRC meeting this document is now out for public consultation.

### **36.3 Delivering the Peaks Management Plan to restore St Helena's internationally important Cloud Forest.**

The Peaks Implementation Plan was presented by the Chief Environmental Officer assisted by the Project Development Group. The Peaks National Park provides most of the fresh water on St Helena, via mist captured by the native Cloud Forest. This highly threatened Cloud Forest is the single most important site on British Soil from a species diversity and conservation perspective.

The Peaks Management Plan had previously been presented to ENRC and following detailed planning and budgeting, the Project Development Group (PDG), comprising of representatives of the key partners outlined in the plan:- Environmental Management Division, Education Directorate, St Helena Research Institute, St Helena National Trust, St Helena Tourism, Connect St Helena Ltd and the Royal Society for Protection of Birds have now completed the Implementation Plan and accompanying budget.

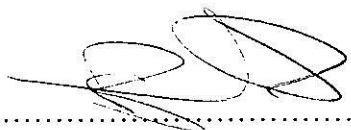
This has been a highly collaborative process which also involved off-island project partners, technical advisors both on and off-island and land owners. The PDG gave an overview of the Implementation Plan which includes a **Management** pillar in addition to the pillars of **Biodiversity**, **Water Security** and **Socio-Economics**.

The Project Development Group plans to package the Implementation Plan and Budget into a multi-million pound funding proposal to the United Kingdom Government.

The Committee acknowledged the dedication shown by all participants in this venture and gave their full support towards protecting our National Park and achieving our objective of becoming a Green and Blue exemplar on the world stage.

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

The next meeting of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee will be held on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020 @ 09:30am in the Council Chamber.**

Confirmed..........Date.....11/08/20.....

