



Economic Development Committee (EDC) Minutes

Date: 27 February 2020

Venue: Council Chamber

Time: 10.00 am

Present: **Chairman** Hon Lawson Henry
 Members: Hon Cruyff Buckley
 Hon Clint Beard
 Hon Gavin Ellick
 Deputy Financial Secretary, Mr Nicholas Yon
 Director of Enterprise, Mr Robert Midwinter
 Acting Director ENRPD, Mr Darren Duncan
 Chief Economist, Mrs Nicole Shamier

Secretary Miss Anita Legg

In Attendance: Senior Economist, Mrs Amanda Curry Brown
 Karan Garcha, Economic Development and Prosperity Advisor
 Hon Elected Members, E&NR Committee (Item 35.3)
 Deputy Chief Secretary, Mrs Gillian Francis (Item 35.3)
 Legal Drafter, Mrs Catherine Williams (Item 35.3)
 Director of Tourism, Mrs Helena Bennett (Item 35.3)
 Tourism Manager, Miss Melissa Fowler (Item 35.3)
 Director of Resources, Mrs Michielle Yon (Item 35.4)
 Head of Corporate Support, Mrs Carol George (Item 35.6)

Apologies **Members:** Hon Miss Christine Scipio
 Hon Financial Secretary, Mr Dax Richards

OPEN SESSION

35.1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, including a member of the public. A special welcome was extended to the new Economic Development and Prosperity Advisor, who had been given an invitation to attend EDC (open) meetings. Apologies were received from Cllr Scipio, attending an overseas conference and the Financial Secretary, attending another meeting.

35.2 Declaration of Personal Interest

Cllr Ellick declared an interest in any business relating to fisheries and Cllr Beard in relation to importing seeds. No other personal interests were declared. The ESH interest in pension entitlements was also noted.

35.3 Dark Skies (Joint Meeting with ENRC) Memo No 7/2020 – Deputy Chief Secretary

The Chairman welcomed all to a joint meeting with the E&NR Committee and invited the DCS to present the memorandum, in which Members were asked to consider and advise if they were content with the draft Environmental Protection (Amendment) Bill 2020, (EPO) following which supporting Regulations would be drafted, along with amendments to the Land Planning and Development Control legislation. The following key points arose from discussion:

- All members accepted the overall principle of the EPO.
- S19G – Whilst it was agreed planning restrictions need to be in place for large powerful lights, concern was raised with the proposed 10pm curfew for lighting to be turned off or dimmed, as this was deemed too early and too restrictive. Following debate it was agreed this matter could be given further consideration.

Action: Deputy Chief Secretary

- S19G – It was assumed lights did not need to be dimmed and could remain on after the curfew, if they were already compliant – the Legal Drafter confirmed this interpretation was correct.
- S19B – Concern was raised on the implications of what was expected of existing businesses in relation to prohibition on importation and sale, whilst acknowledging the elongated timeframes. Change of lighting already in situ was not deemed easy, with cost implications. There was no evidence whether the benefits of dark skies status would outweigh the effort and cost of achieving this.
- It was felt St Helena does not have a real problem with dark skies, as stars can still be seen from all over the island, plus there was no fully functional observatory for stargazing at this point, albeit there was some equipment available and a small place at Halley's Mount.
- The Chairman raised a note that EDC had attended public consultation with good debates; James Paterson had advised the majority of lights around the island were in compliance therefore only a few would need to change with little cost implication, as lighting would mainly need to be directed downwards. Three places of no compliance was Sure, Jamestown Wharf and Ruperts Wharf.
- It was noted James Paterson had also met with importers and businesses who agreed to import fittings and become compliant over a period of 10 years.
- Public sector lighting – concern raised whether 5 years is sufficient, as SHG needs to lead in becoming compliant.
- Although some felt this could be over-legislating, the DCS advised this was about future proofing, also promoting tourist numbers and engaging the community.
- The Legal Drafter explained why it was best to amend the EPO rather than bringing in a new piece of legislation.
- It was noted the majority of the street lights in Jamestown outside of the historical/conservation area together with approximately 32 lights island-wide will be replaced with solar lights; within the Jamestown historical/conservation area they will be replaced with LED lights. Savings within the Roads budget for street lighting has enabled the section to purchase 8 additional solar lights.
- 19L Offences – it was felt guidance should be sought from James Paterson on the level of penalties.

Action: Deputy Chief Secretary/ Legislative Drafter

- The Tourism Manager advised legislation was needed to support the application for accreditation and the next upcoming date for submission was 21st March.
- If lighting zoning was intended to be in place, it was agreed it should be in the substantive Ordinance, rather than in Regulations.

Action: Deputy Chief Secretary

EDC and ENRC endorsed the draft bill, subject to the above actions being taken into consideration.

The Chairman thanked the Deputy Chief Secretary and all attendees and they left the meeting.

35.4 ESH Management Accounts 2019/20, Period ending December 2019 – Director of Enterprise/Director of Resources

The Director of Resources (DoR) presented the accounts and the following key points arose from discussion:

- Out of 22 actions in the SEDP, ESH are undertaking 7 projects; more work needs to be carried out on the remainder of the actions, which will be then reported back to the EDC. EDC agreed regular updates would be beneficial.
- Various projects would not continue such as the High Knoll Fort toilets, as priority would focus on completing the work in Main Street.
- The DoR confirmed £77k projected deficit would be taken from the retained surplus.
- In terms of going forward, ESH would need a one year budget settlement, keeping in view the DFID project ends in March 2021, as there was no indication beyond this.

35.5 ESH Updates to EDC – January 2019 – Director of Enterprise

The DoE highlighted the activities in the January progress and performance report and invited comments:

- It was noted that in recent weeks a noticeable increase in divers had been visiting the Island, and it was considered this was at least partially as a result of local attendance at dive shows, an example of a niche market;
- In relation to the Dan Snow visit, it was proven that adverts can go a long way. It was suggested ESH use the half hour slot available to SHG to broadcast this on Sure TV;

Action: Director of Enterprise

- 3 investors have approved status i.e. eco-lodges, covered production and a Scipioni fun park – it was hoped to see them up and running in the new financial year;
- It was agreed a paper on support to farmers would be brought to next meeting;

Action: Director of Enterprise

- A concern was raised from a farmer regarding issues around water exemption and meters;

Cllr Ellick excused himself from the meeting at this point to attend a funeral.

- The DoE later forwarded an update on the Grand Ideas competition:

Island Aquaponics – Anthony Caswell & Derek Richards

To date all items have been bought and received on island. Pumps have been installed and a part barrel system and growing media currently in place. The system is currently working in a restricted condition and the trial crops of green beans, parsley and strawberries have been marginally successful. The system is currently running with 4 barrels, additional barrels will not be added until there is some clarity on the use of water.

Kingshurst Community Centre Association – C/o Tracey Williams

A problem was encountered when ordering from ESPO who supplies Soft Play Equipment; As ESPO is part of the public sector they only supply goods and provide services to a “public body”, as defined in the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970, they are not allowed to supply any organisation that has not received public body designation, the private sector or individuals. Safe Guarding Directorate have now procured the soft play equipment on behalf of Kingsghurst Community Centre in February 2020 and ETA of goods is estimated on V28 – 12th May 2020.

One recipient decided not to venture into new ideas and the next person has taken his business idea forward;

- It was noted protocols had been set in terms of Cruise Ship visits and Covid-19;
- The DoE later forwarded an update on the photo frame site - whilst no specific date was publicised, the trial itself will be lasting for 6 months and all feedback should therefore be made by the End of August 2020. This would be further publicised closer to the time;
- Members felt 0.2% increase in Facebook following, under marketing seemed weak;
- It was noted internal recruitment had been put on hold until ESH knows the direction they are taking;
- FADS: If funding was available, ESH could consider this matter however the SHCFA would need to put forward a proposal which meets the criteria specified in the draft fisheries licensing policy if they wanted to take up this opportunity;

The Chairman thanked the Director of Resources and she left the meeting.

35.6 Review of Fees and Charges 2020/21, Memo No 4/2020 – Head of Corporate Support

The Head of Corporate Support presented the memo on proposed increases in fees and charges on Trade Marks and Companies. Following discussion, it was agreed an increase of 2.9% would be taken forward to Executive Council.

Action: Head of Corporate Support

The Chairman thanked the Head of Corporate Support and she left the meeting.

35.7 Endorsement of Recommendations Regarding Small Island Developing State Status, Memo 5/2020 – Senior Economist

The Senior Economist gave a brief overview on the above memo. Following discussion EDC were pleased with the work carried out and endorsed the recommendations in the paper for consideration by Executive Council.

Action: Senior Economist

35.8 Pension Entitlements for Divested Officers – Deputy Financial Secretary

Following the previous meeting where the Committee had endorsed the proposed changes to the Pensions Ordinance 2010, regarding the pension entitlement of divested officers, EDC considered and endorsed the amendment Bill drafted by the Attorney General's Chambers, to be presented to Executive Council.

Action: Deputy Financial Secretary

35.9 Confirmation of Open Minutes held on 13 and 23 January 2020

The minutes of the open meetings held on 13th and 23rd January 2020 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

35.10 Matters Arising

35.10.1 Estates Strategy Panel Policy (ESP)

The Deputy Financial Secretary was still to circulate the Estates Strategy Panel Policy.

Action: Deputy Financial Secretary

Post Meeting Note

The Deputy Financial Secretary later advised the ESP uses the Land Disposal Policy which contain the parameters under which the ESP makes decision on land. There is no separate policy.

35.10.2 Farmers Association

This matter to be followed-up with the Acting Director of ENRP, as it had been agreed previously he should contact Mr Trevor Furniss or Mark Coleman to check whether they needed assistance in taking the Farmer's Association forward, also to visit farmers on a one to one basis to assist with any issues such as water leakages.

Action: Acting Director of ENRP

35.10.3 Port Regulations

Action: Deputy Financial Secretary – Ongoing

35.10.4 Maps

The new maps had been endorsed by ExCo – Item closed

35.10.5 Meeting with Chief Statistician

It was agreed the Chief Statistician would be invited to the March meeting, along with the Director of Tourism to discuss tourist numbers.

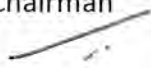
Action: Chief Economist

35.10.6 Consultation on the Licensing Process for Permanent Earth Stations (pes) and Receive Only Earth Stations (roes) in St Helena

An update would be provided shortly on feedback from consultation, also on the TORs being drawn up for a consultant to develop a telecommunications policy.

Action: Chief Economist

There being no further business, this session of the Agenda was concluded and the Committee moved to closed session.

Minutes Approved: *L. Amy*
Chairman


Date: *26-03-20*