



ST. HELENA

GOVERNMENT OF SAINT HELENA
PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
FRIDAY, 24TH JULY, 2015
FIRST SITTING OF THE TENTH MEETING

ST. HELENA
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

THE SPEAKER

The Honourable Eric William Benjamin

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

The Honourable Chief Secretary	Mr Roy Burke
The Honourable Acting Financial Secretary	Mr Dax Richards
The Honourable Attorney General	Ms Nicola Moore

ELECTED MEMBERS

The Honourable Nigel Dollery
The Honourable Wilson Charles Duncan
The Honourable Gavin George Ellick
The Honourable Cyril Robert George
The Honourable Lawson Arthur Henry
The Honourable Brian William Isaac
The Honourable Bernice Alicia Olsson
The Honourable Christine Lilian Scipio O'Dean
The Honourable Dr Corinda Sebastiana Stuart Essex
The Honourable Derek Franklin Thomas
The Honourable Pamela Ward Pearce

The Honourable Leslie Paul Baldwin - on leave of absence

CLERK OF COUNCILS

Ms Gina Benjamin

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Friday, 24th July, 2015

The Council met at 10.00 am
in the Court House, Jamestown

(The Speaker in the Chair)

ORDER OF THE DAY

1. FORMAL ENTRY OF THE PRESIDENT

2. PRAYERS
The Rt. Rev. Bishop Richard Fenwick

3. ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

Please be seated. Honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to this tenth meeting of the Legislative Council. May I first congratulate the Honourable Acting Financial Secretary, the Honourable Dax Richards, on his appointment and welcome him to this Honourable Council. I am aware, Honourable Member, that you have already taken the appropriate Oaths of Office.

Honourable Members will, of course, be aware that this tenth meeting of Legislative Council, which is held so very soon after our recent ninth meeting, is called especially to enable this Council to fill the vacancies that currently exist on some of our Council Committees. This is necessary to do so that the work of these Committees may proceed effectively and efficiently. This meeting will therefore focus on electing a Chairman for the Environment and Natural Resources Committee and a member for the Public Accounts Committee. These vacant positions, as Honourable Members will know, are as a result of the resignation of the Honourable Wilson Duncan from the Chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee and the resignation of the Honourable Brian Isaac from the membership of the Public Accounts Committee, both of which followed changes in membership of the Executive Council through elections held earlier this month. Honourable Members will, I know, wish me to thank on their behalf the Honourable Wilson Duncan and the Honourable Brian Isaac for the valuable service they have given to their respective Committees in the past

and will, I am sure, join me in wishing them well in the new positions that they hold or may take in the future in helping to strengthen the work of this Council. Thank you, Honourable Members.

As Honourable Members have agreed that this meeting should confine its business to that of the elections, to which I happily concur, no other item, except that of the adjournment debate, to which Honourable Members can speak, has been placed on today's Order Paper. This might therefore go upon record, Honourable Members, as one of our shortest but nevertheless important meetings. I will now call on the Clerk to call the next item of business.

The Hon. Roy Burke (Chief Secretary) –

Mr Speaker, I beg to present Sessional Paper 22/2015, Government of St Helena, Council Committees 2015.

Ordered to lie on the table.

The Speaker –

Will you call that item again, please, Clerk?

4.

ELECTION

Chairman, Environment and Natural Resources Committee

The Speaker –

Is there any nomination for the Chairman of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee? Honourable Christine Scipio O'Dean?

The Hon. Christine Scipio O'Dean –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I'd like to nominate Honourable Pamela Ward Pearce.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Is there a seconder? Honourable Lawson Henry?

The Hon. Lawson Henry –

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Honourable Pamela Ward Pearce, do you accept the nomination?

The Hon. Pamela Ward Pearce –

I do, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much indeed. Is there any other nomination for the Chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee? No other nominations? Alright then, I will require the votes of the majority of the Council.

Question that the Honourable Pamela Ward Pearce be duly elected as Chairman of Environment and Natural Resources Committee, put and agreed to.

The Speaker –

I declare that the Honourable Pamela Ward Pearce has been duly elected to serve as Chairman of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. Thank you, Honourable Members. Clerk?

ELECTION Member of Public Accounts Committee

The Speaker –

Are there any nominations for a member of the Public Accounts Committee? The Honourable Lawson Henry?

The Hon. Lawson Henry –

Mr Speaker, I nominate the Honourable Wilson Duncan.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Is there a seconder? Honourable Christine Scipio O'Dean?

The Hon. Christine Scipio O'Dean –

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much, Honourable Member. The Honourable Wilson Duncan, do you accept nomination?

The Hon. Wilson Duncan –

I accept, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Good, thank you very much indeed. Are there any other nominations for member of the PAC? Honourable Brian Isaac?

The Hon. Brian Isaac –

Mr Speaker, I propose the Honourable Cyril George to be a member of the Public Accounts Committee.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Is there a seconder to the proposal?

The Hon. Bernice Olsson –

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Honourable Cyril George, do you accept the nomination?

The Hon. Cyril George –

Mr Speaker, I accept the nomination.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Are there any other nominations for the Public Accounts Committee? No other nominations. Alright, so we have to have a ballot. So the ballot is between the Honourable Wilson Duncan and the Honourable Cyril George. Clerk?

The Hon. Christine Scipio O’Dean –

Mr Speaker, may I raise on a point of information? Mr Speaker, as we have two nominees I was expecting to have the opportunity to hear a speech from the both nominees.

The Speaker –

Yes, that will be done now. So I call on the Honourable Wilson Duncan, in alphabetical order of surname, to deliver any speech you wish to.

The Hon. Wilson Duncan –

Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Honourable Lawson Henry for nominating me and the Honourable Christine Scipio O’Dean for seconding me for the vacant position of the Public Accounts Committee. Over the years, and they are many, I have gained many varied experiences and whilst I have not been trained as an Accountant I have gained experience in bookkeeping and accounting. However, I understand that you don’t only need accounting experience to serve on the Public Accounts Committee as the main thrust is to scrutinise and hold St Helena Government to account and ask pointed questions where necessary. If I am selected by my fellow Honourable Members to serve on this Committee, I will endeavour to do so to the best of my ability. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. The Honourable Cyril George?

The Hon. Cyril George –

Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Councillor Brian Isaac for nominating me as a member of the PAC Committee and for Councillor Bernice Olsson for supporting me as a member of the PAC. This is going to be a learning curve for me, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, but it’s something that I am very keen to undertake and will be prepared to put my experience into this nomination. I therefore support the nomination. Thank you.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Right, the Clerk will now issue ballot papers, please? Don’t forget to fold your ballot paper before you pass it back in to the Clerk, please. If you’re ready, the Clerk will collect. Would the Clerk call them out verbally, please?

Ballot Results Called.

The Honourable Cyril George
 The Honourable Wilson Duncan
 The Honourable Cyril George
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The Speaker –

Right, the number of the votes, 8 for Cyril George and 4 for Wilson Duncan. I therefore declare that the Honourable Cyril George stands duly elected as a member of the Public Accounts Committee. Thank you, Honourable Members. Clerk?

5.

ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

The Speaker –

Yes, Chief Secretary?

The Hon. Roy Burke -

Mr Speaker, thank you, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn sine die.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Is there a seconder?

I beg to second, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. The Motion is that this Council do now adjourn sine die. Honourable Lawson Henry?

The Hon. Lawson Henry –

Mr Speaker, I rise in support of this adjournment debate and would ask the Chief Secretary to update listeners and this House on what is the current position on discussions with regard to access for those St Helenians living on Ascension Island and the Falkland Islands post airport operations in February 2016 and the RMS being taken out of service. I also take this opportunity to again acknowledge the significant financial contribution that those Saints living on these islands have made and still do to our economy here on St Helena over many years by remittances and have been able to invest in building their own homes, thus saving this Government hundreds of thousands of pounds in social housing. As constituents of St Helena with the right to vote, SHG has a responsibility towards these Saints. I would like to remind the House too that it was only by the votes cast by Saints that live on these islands at the time of the referendum that put air access in favour of continued sea access. Mr Speaker, I beg to move and support this adjournment debate.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Any other Honourable Member wishes to speak to the adjournment debate? Honourable Corinda Essex?

The Hon. Dr Corinda Essex –

Mr Speaker, I was not anticipating speaking in the adjournment debate today as it is so quick after the last formal session. However, I have been approached by a number of constituents who have requested me to do so. I was even flagged down in the street a few minutes before entering the Honourable House today. The topic that is causing grave concern is aspects of delivery within the Public Health Sector and this is of an order that justifies it being brought to the attention of this Honourable House. In particular, this relates to the availability of Doctors out of normal working hours, I will be providing details of specific cases to the Honourable Chief Secretary. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Any other Honourable Member wish to speak to the adjournment debate? No other Honourable Member wishes to speak, the Honourable Chief Secretary?

The Hon. Roy Burke –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. The two issues that have been raised this morning, as far as the Ascension Island link is concerned, members will be aware that this is a matter which is being taken forward by the Ascension Island Government. It is in the process of a commercially confidential tender at the moment, it would be inappropriate to comment further on the current discussions that are going in so far as to say that we should have more news before the end of this month on the direction that that's going.

As far as the issue in respect of the Public Health Department, I look forward to the Honourable Member's discussions or documentation so that we can take that forward and I'll take them up with the Health Directorate.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member.

Question that the Council adjourn sine die, put and agreed to.

The Speaker =

Council is now adjourned.

Council adjourned sine die.



