

ST. HELENA
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PRESIDENT

Her Excellency the Governor, Ms Lisa Phillips

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

The Honourable Chief Secretary	-	Mr Roy Burke
The Honourable Financial Secretary	-	Mr Dax Richards
The Honourable Attorney General	-	Mr Angelo Berbotto

ELECTED MEMBERS

The Honourable Clint Richard Beard
The Honourable Cruyff Gerard Buckley
The Honourable Gavin George Ellick
The Honourable Corinda Sebastiana Stuart Essex
The Honourable Anthony Arthur Green
The Honourable Lawson Arthur Henry
The Honourable Kylie Marie Hercules
The Honourable Brian William Isaac
The Honourable Cyril Kenneth Leo
The Honourable Christine Lilian Scipio O'Dean
The Honourable Derek Franklin Thomas
The Honourable Russell Keith Yon

CLERK OF COUNCILS

Ms Lydia Buchanan

**INAUGURAL MEETING
OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

Wednesday, 2nd August, 2017

The Council met at 10.00 am
in the Council Chamber, Jamestown

(The President in the Chair)

ORDER OF THE DAY

- 1. PRAYERS**
(The Right Reverend Bishop Richard Fenwick)

- 2. ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS AND AFFIRMATIONS**

Ex Officio Members

The Honourable Chief Secretary	-	Mr Roy Burke
The Honourable Financial Secretary	-	Mr Dax Richards
The Honourable Attorney General	-	Mr Angelo Berbotto

Elected Members

The Honourable Clint Richard Beard

The Honourable Cruyff Gerard Buckley

The Honourable Gavin George Ellick –
(Oath of Confidentiality) – I didn't want to do this one,but under protest anyway.

The Honourable Corinda Sebastiana Stuart Essex
(Oath of Confidentiality) – Madam President, I also have some difficulty with this Confidentiality Oath as it is currently worded, although I'm aware that in practice it is not quite as draconian as it appears on paper and therefore I'm willing to take the Oath.

The Honourable Anthony Arthur Green

The Honourable Lawson Arthur Henry

(Oath of Confidentiality) – Madam President, before I take the Oath of Confidentiality I would like to say by way of protest that having been duly elected by the electorate of St Helena to represent them in this Council, that the wording of this Oath is an affront to democracy and is inconsistent with the Nolan Principles which is enshrined in the Code of Conduct for members of the Legislative Council approved by the Council in May 2016. I was one of several members who opposed the wording of the Oath of Confidentiality in 2013. How can elected members be expected to comply with the Code of Conduct of openness and transparency, to be open and honest with constituents if they have to first seek the permission of the Governor to do so. Whilst I am aware that steps is being taken to change the wording, it should have been done long before today. For too long, this island is being governed under the rule of colonialism and I reject this in the strongest possible terms and urge you, Madam President, as our Governor of the Territory to take urgent steps to have the wording of the Oath of Confidentiality changed so that it is consistent with Principle E of our Code of Conduct. I will now take the Oath of Confidentiality.

The Honourable Kylie Marie HerculesThe Honourable Brian William Isaac

(Oath of Confidentiality) – Madam President, I support the comments made in respect of this Oath.

The Honourable Cyril Kenneth LeoThe Honourable Christine Lilian Scipio O’Dean

(Oath of Confidentiality) – Madam President, before taking the Oath of Confidentiality, I would like to say by the way of protest that having been duly elected by the people of St Helena to represent them the wording of this Oath is inconsistent with the Nolan Principles which is included in the Code of Conduct for members of the Legislative Council. I, too, Madam President, urge you as Governor of St Helena, to review this wording.

The Honourable Derek Franklin Thomas

(Oath of Confidentiality) –Madam President, I do have concerns about the wording of this Oath of Confidentiality, as alluded to by my fellow colleagues and I would urge that action be taken to address this, nevertheless, I will take the Oath of Confidentiality.

The Honourable Russell Keith Yon

3. ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT (Her Excellency the Governor, Ms Lisa Phillips)

Honourable Members and colleagues, I am pleased to be here today to deliver this speech at the beginning of the term of this new Legislative Council. My congratulations go to you as elected members as you start this new journey. My thanks go to Gilly Francis and her team for their excellent work in the lead-up and during the election, they are a credit to SHG.

Earlier this year, the people of St Helena agreed what they would like the island to look like in ten years time, they wanted a safer, healthier, better for children and young people, greener and wealthier St Helena. They wanted priority to be given to economic development, which is both long-lasting and ethical, help for adults who particularly need support, such as the elderly, disabled and those with mental health issues, better and cheaper internet, better health and education, more use of renewable energy, up-skilling of the workforce and encouragement for leaders from within the community. Honourable Members, there is therefore already a mandate; this is in the Ten-Year Plan and now St Helenians have chosen the twelve people they would like to achieve that vision for them and that's you. Your role will be critical, it will be to steer St Helena along the path of increased prosperity. What will be required from you will be to use prudent economic management, good government, policies and legislation which protect the rights and dignity of individuals, be accountable to the public and employ fair policies to achieve this ten-year vision. I encourage you to listen to advice from the Administration, listen to the public, listen to one another and make your decisions based on what is best for St Helena's future. How exciting would it be if St Helena could rely on its own resources more and less on aid from overseas? I encourage you to think of this as one of the ultimate goals. It would be a significant sign of success provided, of course, it is accompanied by prosperity for everyone. We will not get there just yet, but this must be in our sights as we move forward. The airport will offer the opportunity for the Ten-Year Plan to be achieved, but it will be up to you to ensure the benefits of the airport are realised during the four years you are in office. Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom will continue to work with you. Setting aside the Governor's special responsibilities, I am quite clear that under the terms of the Constitution it is you that drives this agenda on behalf of the people. I am ready to work with you in a relationship that is co-operative, open and effective.

In concluding, I am confident that the new policies, reforms and new legislation that will be brought before and discussed by the Executive and Legislative Committees will bring sustainable development to St Helena. In all of this, let us recognise that people are St Helena's principle resource and so we must continue to put people at the centre of policy making and plans. Thank you.

4.

ELECTIONS

Election of Speaker

The President –

I invite nominations for the Speaker. Honourable Derek Thomas?

The Hon. Derek Thomas –

Madam President, I nominate Mr Eric Benjamin of Jamestown as Speaker.

The President –

Thank you. Is there a seconder? Honourable Brian Isaac?

The Hon. Brian Isaac –

Thank you, Madam President, I second the proposal.

The President –

Thank you. Are there any other nominations? I put the question then that Mr Eric Benjamin should be elected as Speaker. Mr Eric Benjamin, are you happy to stand?

Mr Eric Benjamin –
Yes, I accept the nomination.

The President –
That's a relief. I put the question then that Mr Eric Benjamin should be elected as Speaker.

Question put and agreed to.

The President –
Mr Eric Benjamin is duly elected as Speaker. Congratulations. (Applause)

The Speaker takes the prescribed Oaths and Affirmations.

The President –
I will now leave the House in the capable hands of Mr Speaker.

The Speaker (The Hon. Eric Benjamin) –
Thank you very much indeed, thank you. Council remains standing while the Governor leaves the room, please. Thank you, will you please be seated.

Right, before I call the Elections, perhaps, I would just like to address you for a minute or so. First of all, I want to say that I am deeply touched by the trust that you Honourable Members have placed in me by electing me as your Speaker once again. Your unanimous vote shows the depth of confidence that you have in me to manage the affairs of this Honourable Council. I want you, Honourable Members, to know that I sincerely value the respect that you have given to me and that I will strive to perform to the best of my ability the task that you entrusted to me. Honourable Members, I propose to carry out my duties in a similar way to that which I have done previously, assisting you with my limited legal knowledge when requested and sharing with you some ideas from my long-term political experiences, subject, of course, to being able at the same time to maintain my impartiality as is expected of this honourable office. Honourable Members will know that the main work of this Council is to pass legislation that will benefit the island. I know that Honourable Members have considered and will consider and will continue to consider and find ways in which they can improve the consultation process before bringing legislation to this House. I applaud and encourage this process as it is important to know what impact, if any, proposed legislation might have on the various members of this community.

As a new Council we should not forget the work of past Councillors in laying the foundations on which we can now build and on your behalf I openly thank them. In moving forward I know we will all value and adhere to the guidance of our Code of Conduct, our Standing Orders and our Constitution for it is these tools that will unite us in helping to build a peaceful, safe and prosperous St Helena. I now wish all Honourable Members well in their work together and call on our Clerk of Councils, who I warmly welcome to this Council, to call the next item of business. Clerk of Councils?

Election of Deputy Speaker.

The Speaker –

Election of the Deputy Speaker. I now call for nominations. The Honourable Corinda Essex?

The Hon. Dr Corinda Essex –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I wish to nominate Mr Cyril Keith Gunnell for the post of Deputy Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Is there a seconder?

The Hon. Lawson Henry –

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Mr Gunnell, do you accept the nomination?

Mr Cyril Gunnell –

I accept, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much. Are there any other nominations, please? Honourable Brian Isaac?

The Hon. Brian Isaac –

Mr Speaker, I wish to nominate John Cranfield as Deputy Speaker.

The Speaker –

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

The Hon. Derek Thomas –

Mr Speaker, I second the nomination.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Mr John Cranfield, do you accept the nomination?

Mr John Cranfield –

I wholeheartedly accept the nomination. Thank you.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Is there any further nominations for the post of Deputy Speaker? No further nominations. So, Honourable Members, we have two members up for election and I have to give them an opportunity to speak to you. They will have five minutes only to speak to you and they will be called in alphabetical order, so Mr John Cranfield, you'll come to the table please and speak to the Members?

Mr John Cranfield –

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, and dare I say future colleagues? Many thanks indeed for giving me another opportunity to address you on the matter of my nomination for the election to the post of Deputy Speaker of this House. Like the principal Speaker's office, the office of Deputy Speaker is a high profile position and undoubtedly requires substantial leadership skills, all of which I have achieved throughout my professional career in the Public Service. I

started my career in 1972 as a Customs Clerk and in 1979 was promoted to Senior Customs Officer and Harbour Master within the then Treasury Department. In 1989 I was further promoted to the post of Information Officer in the Office of the Chief Secretary, being responsible for the editing and distribution of the island's weekly newspaper and the efficient and effective operations of the St Helena radio station at Pounceys. In 1992 I moved to the Economic and Development Department in the capacity as Building Inspector. I was responsible for ensuring the safe erection of all construction work in accordance with the Building Regulations. In 2000 the opportunity arose for me to move into the Public Works and Services Department as Senior Transport Manager responsible for providing and maintaining an efficient and effective transport service to all Departments throughout the Public Service. I held this position until April 2009 when I retired from the Public Service having served in senior management positions which enabled me to gain a wealth of leadership skills and qualities. In November 2009 I was elected to the prestigious House of elected members of Legislative Council during which time I was appointed Chairman of the Access and Transport Committee. I was also appointed a member of the Finance Committee, Public Works and Services Committee and the Home and International Committee. It was, indeed, an honour and a pleasure to serve on all these important Committees. For the last ten plus years I served as a Justice of the Peace. However, in accordance with the Constitution, it was necessary for me to resign from this position to enable me to run for the office of Deputy Speaker. Without jeopardizing its integrity and credibility, I now wish to continue to pursue my political career with fervency and zeal by once again becoming an integral part of the administration and operations of the long-standing protocols of this Honourable House and its members. I do understand the importance of having the Legislative House conduct itself in a professional manner, benefiting for all who have a say. I care passionately for this island of ours as undoubtedly you all do, otherwise you would not be seated here as Honourable Members. I have a happy disposition, I am approachable, I enjoy interacting with my fellow islanders and I am honest and steadfast in all tasks I undertake. In brief, being a good listener, responding to what I hear and giving guidance and to support the principal Speaker once again will be my mainstay as Deputy Speaker when called upon. Honourable Members, last year we saw the sad passing of the then Deputy Speaker, Mrs Cathy Hopkins. This resulted in the office being vacant. In the latter part of last year, following due process, I was appointed Deputy Speaker. At first it was a steep learning curve, but by giving total commitment and dedication I soon became conversant with the inner workings of the Constitution and Standing Orders. I must say that I thoroughly enjoyed my short term of office before the dissolution of Council in May of this year, hence the reason I gave my assent to run again for another term. Honourable Members, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you all on being elected to the Legislative Council. You should all be honoured as you have joined the Council at a very exciting time in the history of our island. We have just signed a contract with the air service provider and hopefully the service will commence in early October. It goes without saying that we desperately need this to work. We need to improve our economy to the benefit of our island and its people. There aren't many other ventures at our disposal to achieve this and I wish you all every success in all your deliberations in taking the island forward. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, should you choose me as your Deputy Speaker, we can achieve all as a team together for the future prosperity of our island. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, thank you very much indeed for giving me the opportunity to address you all. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Mr Cranfield. The Honourable Cyril Gunnell?

Mr Cyril Gunnell –

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, thank you for this opportunity. Firstly, may I congratulate you on your successful election or re-election. I wish you the very best in your work on behalf of the people of St Helena.

The role of Deputy Speaker is to assist the Speaker with discharging his or her functions. The Deputy Speaker may attend any sitting of the Legislative Council at which the Speaker presides but must not take part in that sitting. In the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker must be ready to take on that responsibility and be impartial in his or her judgement. I see the Deputy Speaker role as natural progression from a Councillor, if one wants to continue in that career. As a former Councillor I am an associate member of the CPA, St Helena Branch and I attend the annual general meetings to hear about progress that was made. My political experiences spans many years. I was first elected to Legislative Council in 1991 in the Half Tree Hollow by-election when there were eight electoral districts. I came off Council in 2013 following the dissolution. Between 1991 and 2013 there were short periods working at Radio St Helena, Social Services and Development and Economic Planning Department. I am conversant with the procedures at formal Legislative meetings, Standing Orders and Councillors Code of Conduct. If there is a complaint where a member is in breach of the Code this is made in writing and addressed to the Speaker. The Speaker has to refer the complaint to the Deputy Speaker and two other members of the panel of investigators whose availability the Clerk of Councils will ascertain in advance. I am also conversant with the Constitution and played a significant part in a complete review. In 2004 the FCO sponsored the late Cathy Hopkins and I to the British Virgin Islands to observe how ministerial government works in that British Overseas Territory. From there we went to London to meet with the Under Secretary of State and senior officials, including constitutional lawyer, Ian Hendry, who was assisting our review. Cathy and I were members of the Working Group preparing for change away from the Committee system which didn't happen then; perhaps the timing wasn't right and so the committee system of government still operates. Whilst in the BVI we attended meetings with the Executive Council, Ministers, Chamber of Commerce and Legislative Council. The Speaker was Honourable Inez Hartleball and I recall very clearly some of her words, her wise words. "If you have an incompetent Speaker's office you will have a failed government". I also met the Social Security Board and brought away a copy of their Social Security law, which I presented to our Financial Secretary. It was at a time when we were considering a national insurance scheme for St Helena. I do know my way around the legislation and familiar with the inner workings of government and keep abreast of reported changes. To keep in touch with Council matters, I listen to formal meetings, attend consultation and constituency meetings and also open agenda and committee and executive meetings whenever that is convenient. I was a member of the Executive Council for two terms, Chairman of Employment and Social Services and Chairman of Health and Social Welfare. As Chair, I led public consultations in preparation for Bills before presenting those at formal Legislative meetings. Examples are the Tobacco (Control) Bill and Social Security Bill. Approval of the latter in 2011 meant that for the very first time in St Helena a basic pension was paid and also benefits entitlement paid by law with regulations for review as circumstances changed. As Chair of Health and Social Welfare, I visited the Devon Health Trust in the UK for high level discussions with officials for forging a link between Public Health in St Helena and Devon Health Trust. Over the years, I've served on various committees, Education, Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Eliza Mary Lloyd Trust, Tourism, Finance, Fisheries Development, to name some, and also some ad hoc committees, such as Housing. My representation at CPA Conferences overseas includes Overseas Territories Consultative Council, Small Countries Conference and British Islands and Mediterranean Region, BIMR, at which I chaired a session in Jersey. With

regards to BIMR, St Helena and the Falklands joined that region following a recommendation from a Falkland Islands representative and myself. Previously, both territories were part of the Latin America and Caribbean region of the CPA. Whenever opportunity presented it, I met with the St Helena All Party Group in London. I also had a delegation to the EU Conference in Bon Aire, Netherlands and Antilles for discussions on an EU funding tranche. In 2011, I represented St Helena in London at the Millennium Development Goals Conference to report how St Helena was meeting its MDGs responsibilities leading up to the 2015 target date. A report of my visit can be read on the SHG website. I would suppose my more satisfying successes at formal Legislative Council meetings were – causing a complete review of the Constitution, a review of the benefits system and changing policy so that the SHG unestablished workforce became established with pension rights, a National Insurance Scheme for St Helena was another of my approved Motions. In some society and non-government organisations, I was part of the Citizenship Commission campaigning for restoration of British citizenship, Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce for one year, assisting businesses, I am still a member, and was a member of the Making Ends Meet Charity, assisting vulnerable people. On behalf of Legislative Council, I have chaired the Public Accounts Committee; this was also at formal sessions. During my tenure of office, all public accounts were brought up to date. This was down to teamwork between the PAC, St Helena Audit Service. Finance Directorate and Accounting Officers. This significant achievement by St Helena was congratulated at a PAC meeting that I chaired in Miami in February this year. It was noted that only one other Overseas Territory had their public accounts up to date. On behalf of the Governor, I am Chairman of the Prison Visitors Committee with responsibility for overseeing the welfare of prisoners. Currently I am a freelance journalist. My previous record of work includes Fire Inspector and Medical Assistant for Pan American World Airways on Ascension, in the UK it was an Accounts Clerk for B H Blackwell Limited and Flight Operations and then Progress Control Manager for CSE Aviation Limited based at Oxford. This was for ten years. In St Helena I have been Income Tax Officer, Social Worker, Home Help Supervisor, Investigations Officer, Environmental Assistant, Radio News Editor and Journalist/Presenter, some of these were leadership positions. Honourable Members, I would consider it a great honour to be your Deputy Speaker and to assist the Honourable Speaker with discharging his functions. My fate rests in your hands. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you Mr Gunnell. Well, Honourable Members, there we have it, two members are up for election and as you know we have to have seven votes to be able to declare the nominee elected as the Speaker. I will ask the Clerk now to issue out the ballot papers, it's done in secret, you may vote for one person only. Once you've made your mark in the box, then you fold your paper, as we normally do, and the Clerk will then come round and collect from you again.

Will you shuffle the papers around on the table before you start sorting them and counting them, please? Would you do it audibly?

Clerk - John Cranfield
John Cranfield

Cyril Gunnell
Cyril Gunnell
Cyril Gunnell

John Cranfield
John Cranfield

Cyril Gunnell

John Cranfield
John Cranfield
John Cranfield
John Cranfield

I make that 8 votes to John Cranfield and 4 to Cyril Gunnell.

The Speaker –

Okay. The result, Honourable Members, 8 votes for John Cranfield and 4 for Cyril Gunnell. I then declare that Mr John Cranfield has been elected to be your Deputy Speaker of this Council. Congratulations. (applause)

Right, do you have the Governor's authority to administer the Oath? Okay. John, you will need to take the Oath, please. Can we stand to do the Oath?

The Deputy Speaker takes the prescribed Oaths and Affirmations

The Speaker –

Please be seated, Honourable Members. Thank you. Clerk?

Election of Committee Chairpersons.

The Speaker –

Right, Honourable Members, we have a number of Chairpersons and the first one, yes, and the first one we'll have to do will be, elections will be taken in alphabetical order but before then we have to have the list on the table. Honourable Chief Secretary?

The Hon. Roy Burke (Chief Secretary) –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to present Sessional Paper 31/2017, Council Committees 2017, which contains the names of the five Council Committees which the Governor has constituted – Economic Development Committee, Education Committee, Environment and Natural Resources Committee, Public Health Committee, Social and Community Development Committee. The Chairmanships of all five Committees are vacant.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Chief Secretary.

Ordered to lie on the table.

The Speaker –

These have to be done in alphabetical order of the committees, so the first one is Economic Development Committee. Is there a proposal for a Chair of the Economic Development Committee, please? Honourable Christine Scipio O'Dean?

The Hon. Christine Scipio O'Dean –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I propose Honourable Lawson Henry.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Is there a seconder to that proposal? Honourable Corinda Essex?

The Hon. Dr Corinda Essex –
Mr Speaker, I wish to second.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much, Honourable Member. Honourable Lawson Henry, do you accept the nomination?

The Hon. Lawson Henry –
Yes, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much indeed. Is there any other proposal for the Economic Development Committee? Any other proposal? No other proposals. Alright, I have to put it then to the vote because you need seven members to be able to get you in.

The proposal is that the Honourable Lawson Henry do serve as Chairman of the Economic Development Committee.

Question put and agreed to.

The Speaker –

The Ayes have it. Honourable Member, congratulations, you are elected for nomination.

The Hon. Lawson Henry –
Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Are there any nominations for the Chair of Education Committee? The Honourable Lawson Henry?

The Hon. Lawson Henry –
Mr Speaker, I propose the Honourable Christine Scipio O'Dean.

The Speaker –

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

The Hon. Derek Thomas –
Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Derek Thomas. Honourable Christine Scipio O'Dean, do you accept the nomination?

The Hon. Christine Scipio O'Dean –
Mr Speaker, I accept the nomination.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much, Honourable Member. Is there any other proposal for Education? Honourable Kylie Hercules?

The Hon. Kylie Hercules –

Thank you, Mr Speaker, I'd like to propose Honourable Cruyff Buckley.

The Speaker –

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

The Hon. Brian Isaac –

Thank you, Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much for that. Honourable Cruyff Buckley, do you accept the nomination?

The Hon. Cruyff Buckley –

I accept the nomination, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much indeed. Is there any other proposal for the Chair of Education Committee? Any other proposal? No, so we have two nominations. Then we have to have a ballot. Are you prepared? You'll have to get somebody to print it. Yes?

The Hon. Derek Thomas –

Mr Speaker, do the candidates have an opportunity to address?

The Speaker –

They will have an opportunity to address, yes. So, sorry, just to get the Clerk available for ballot papers, that's all. Christine Scipio O'Dean and Cruyff Buckley. The Honourable Cruyff Buckley is to speak first. Please, the Honourable Cruyff Buckley, would you like to address?

The Hon. Cruyff Buckley –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would just like to propose myself for the Education Committee. I realise that Education is a cornerstone of any society and I believe it is the most important Committee. Having come through the system myself I can have a real time experience of what knowledge I've gained and insight into how the system operates and although I believe it's of a really good standard, as I wouldn't be sitting here today, I believe I could make a better connection with the youth by being on that Committee and help to break down the barriers we've been suffering over the years in terms of election and democracy in actually getting on the register to be able to vote. With access on the horizon, Education will have to take the lead role again to take advantage of the opportunities. We have a marine fibre cable which is pretty imminent now, hopefully, which will give unlimited potential and unlimited access to just about anything somebody wishes to learn or develop on. We've already seen seeds being sown within the Community College and I would like to be there to see those seeds blossom into flowers. I hope that the Education Committee can cooperate with other Committees in the coming years as it's going to be really crucial and they have a really vital part to play. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. The Honourable Christine Scipio O'Dean?

The Hon. Christine Scipio O’Dean –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I have accepted nomination as Chairperson of the Education Council Committee. Mr Speaker, Chairpersons are expected to behave according to the highest standards of Constitutional and personal conduct in the performance of their duties. Whilst carrying out the role as Chairperson of the Education Council Committee for the last four years, I have gained knowledge and experience of how the Directorate operates. Being an effective Chairperson requires hard work and it is hoped that I have demonstrated that I do work hard, that I am not afraid to make tough decisions, that I do challenge my colleagues and officials and that I do have the appropriate leadership skills. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Now I’m waiting on the Clerk to come back with some ballot papers. We can adjourn, but I’m not sure how long she’ll be. Any idea? No.

The Hon. Lawson Henry –

Could we go on to the next?

The Speaker –

Yeah, it’s pretty difficult without theCouncillor, perhaps we could have somebody standing in so that.....to help, to assist. Are you able to stand in and assist?

That’s quite unexpected, maybe. Okay, Environmental and Natural Resources Committee, Environmental and Natural Resources Committee. Oh, I think the Clerk is right back here. Well done. Yes, I’m ready, can you issue the papers?

You will note that it’s only the elected members who are balloting and not the officials, sorry about that.

Can you count them audibly, please?

Clerk –

Christine Scipio O’Dean
Christine Scipio O’Dean
Christine Scipio O’Dean

Cruyff Buckley

Christine Scipio O’Dean

Cruyff Buckley
Cruyff Buckley
Cruyff Buckley

Christine Scipio O’Dean
Christine Scipio O’Dean

Cruyff Buckley

Christine Scipio O’Dean

That’s seven votes for Christine Scipio O’Dean and five for Cruyff Buckley.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Members. The result is Christine Scipio O’Dean 7, Cruyff Buckley 5. Congratulations Christine Scipio O’Dean.

The Hon. Christine Scipio O'Dean –

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you. I then declare, because the 7 votes are adequate here, I declare that Christine Scipio O'Dean has been duly elected as Chairman of Education. Thank you very much indeed.

Next election, the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. Is there a proposal for the Chairman of the Environment and Natural Resources? Honourable Corinda Essex?

The Hon. Dr Corinda Essex –

I wish to propose the Honourable Russell Keith Yon.

The Speaker –

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

The Hon. Lawson Henry –

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Lawson Henry. The Honourable Russell Yon, do you accept nomination?

The Hon. Russell Yon –

Mr Speaker, I accept.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much indeed. Are there any other proposals for Chairman of Environment and Natural Resources Committee? Any other proposals? There are no other proposals. Right, Honourable Member, you will need seven votes, if you can get that, so I put that to the Council that the Honourable Russell Yon be elected as Chairman of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

Question put and agreed to.

The Speaker –

The Ayes have it. I declare that the Honourable Russell Yon has been duly elected as Chairman of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. Thank you. Congratulations.

The Hon. Russell Yon –

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Nominations for the post of Chairman of Public Health Committee. Can I have any nomination for the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and there's the Honourable Corinda Essex?

The Hon. Dr Corinda Essex –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I wish to propose the Honourable Derek Franklin Thomas.

The Speaker –

The Honourable Derek Franklin Thomas has been proposed, is there a seconder?

The Hon. Lawson Henry –

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much, Honourable Lawson Henry. Honourable Derek Thomas, do you accept nomination?

The Hon. Derek Thomas –

Mr Speaker, I accept the nomination.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Is there any other nomination for the Public Health Committee? Any other nomination for the Public Health Committee? No other nomination, then I put the question that the Honourable Derek Thomas be elected as Chairman for the Public Health Committee.

Question put and agreed to.

The Speaker –

The Ayes have it. Congratulations, Honourable Derek Thomas.

The Hon. Derek Thomas –

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much indeed. So I declare that the Honourable Derek Thomas has been elected as Chair of the Public Health Committee. Social and Community Development Committee, are there any nominations for the Social and Community Development Committee? The Honourable Christine Scipio O'Dean?

The Hon. Christine Scipio O'Dean –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I propose Honourable Anthony Green.

The Speaker –

The proposal is for Honourable Anthony Green, proposed by Honourable Christine Scipio O'Dean. Is there a seconder to the proposal?

The Hon. Derek Thomas –

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much, Honourable Derek Thomas. Honourable Anthony Green, do you accept the nomination?

The Hon. Anthony Green –

Mr Speaker, I accept.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Are there any other proposals for the Social and Community Development Committee? Honourable Kylie Hercules?

The Hon. Kylie Hercules –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I propose Honourable Cruyff Buckley.

The Speaker –

Honourable Cruyff Buckley has been proposed, is there a seconder to that proposal? Is there a seconder?

The Hon. Brian Isaac –

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

The Speaker –

Honourable Brian Isaac is the seconder. Honourable Cruyff Buckley, do you accept nomination?

The Hon. Cruyff Buckley –

I accept the nomination, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much, Honourable Cruyff Buckley. Are there any other proposals? Have you got a record of that for me, I'm just trying to think of the record, I'm going too fast for my own self here. The proposals were the Anthony Green and Cruyff Buckley. Any other proposals? No. Okay, so we have contested votes here again I think. I have accepted yourokay, thank you very much indeed. Okay, so we'll have to do ballot papers again, that's coming to the end of the Chairmanship of the Committees, so we'll just have to hang fire for a little while.

The Hon. Lawson Henry –

Mr Speaker,address the Council?

The Speaker –

They can address me, yes, just a moment. So it's Cruyff Buckley, Anthony Green, B's. Cruyff Buckley, please, you may address us on this issue, you're into another election now.

The Hon. Cruyff Buckley –

Mr Speaker, I try again, this time with Social. Being a social person, being in the public eye all the time, I find this Committee is well suited and if I'm honest with you this was the Committee the public wanted me to be on, but we all know it's down to the twelve members here. I'm under no illusion; I know how much workload this Committee processes, as shown last year has been the Committee with the most legislation passing through and I commend the Honourable Brian Isaac for carrying this Committee this far. Need I say anymore, Mr Speaker. Thank you.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much, Honourable Cruyff Buckley. Honourable Anthony Green, it's your chance to address the Council?

The Hon. Anthony Green –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I've had my first twenty-five years actually working with the St Helena Government and I then progressed through the Civil Service. I started in the Information Office of the Secretariat and then gained various promotions over the years. I spent time at the Post Office and Public Health before returning to the Secretariat. A few years after starting work, I realised that I wasn't going anywhere and so I embarked on studying 'O' levels not available during my school term. Eventually I achieved GCE 'O' levels in English Language, Mathematics, History, Geography and Art, however, I remained with the St Helena Government. Positions held over the years with SHG included Assistant Postmaster and Chief Clerk to the Public Health. On returning to the Secretariat in 1976 I progressed from Principal Clerk to Executive Officer to Assistant Secretary and ultimately to Assistant Government Secretary in 1983. Since those days, Assistant Government Secretary has become Assistant Chief Secretary. I spent six years as the Assistant Government Secretary. For approximately half that time, three years, I acted as Government Secretary to cover the leave of absences of the Government Secretary and for the Government Secretary when he was acting as Governor. During acting appointments, I was leader of Government business in Executive Council and Legislative Council. Other key tasks during those years were Clerk of Councils, Registration Officer and Returning Officer for elections. In 1986, I was sent by the Governor to Ascension Island to be Acting Administrator for four months. Having spent about three years as a Justice of the Peace, I did that on Ascension Island and in St Helena. In 1989 I was seconded to Ascension Island as Administration Officer for Ascension Island Services. After four years secondment, completed in 1994, I resigned from St Helena Government to work as a permanent employee of AIS. AIS was a company funded by the London User Organisations on Ascension Island. AIS was responsible for repair and maintenance of bungalows belong to London Organisations, maintenance of roads, except those on the American Base, the Hospital, the Dental Clinic, shops, school and all the shipping activities of the Pierhead, including offloading ships. AIS staff in my early days numbered around 200 members. In late 1990s I obtained a professional Certificate in Management from the Open University. In 1998, I was promoted to Senior Manager *de facto* CEO of Ascension Island Services. I immediately embarked with my Managers for the Company to seek ISO 9000 accreditation. ISO is an abbreviation for International Standards Organisation. ISO 9000 is an internationally recognised management system. This accreditation was achieved within eighteen months. The Company went on to achieve ISO 9001 during my tenure. The key successes in achieving ISO accreditation was not only getting staff to follow processes and procedures, but also changing the culture of the Organisation, changing the hearts and minds. In 2001, when AIS was divided into three separate companies, I became the CEO of the part that became Ascension Island Works and Services Agency. In 2004, when AIG took over the role of managing the infrastructure I took redundancy and returned home. In 2005, I was recruited by SHG to be the Constitutional Change Co-ordinator for six months. At the end of that time, I was Managing Director of the St Helena Development Agency. In 2006 to 2008 I was the Chief Executive Officer of Solomon's. On reaching retiring age in 2008, instead of retiring I was elected to Legislative Council. During my years on Council, I served on Executive Council and then the various Committees, including Chairman of the Education and Employment Committee, Chairman of the Economy and Finance Committee. In addition, I sat on the Public Health and Social Services Committee and the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. I left Legislative Council in 2013 for personal and family reasons. Since returning in 2014, I spent the last two and a half years as a Lay Advocate. Mr Speaker, I trust this will assist Honourable Members.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Well, Honourable Members, you have heard the expositions from the Members concerned. The Clerk will now issue ballot papers to you and this is for the election of the Chairman for the Social and Community Development Committee. The Clerk will now return and collect your ballot papers.

Clerk –

Cruyff Buckley

Anthony Green

Cruyff Buckley

Anthony Green

Cruyff Buckley

Anthony Green

Anthony Green

Anthony Green

Anthony Green

Anthony Green

Anthony Green

Cruyff Buckley

I make that 8 to Anthony Green and 4 to Cruyff Buckley.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Clerk of Councils. The result of that ballot was 8 votes for Anthony Green and 4 votes for Cruyff Buckley. I declare that Anthony Green has been duly elected Chairman of the Social and Community Development Committee. Congratulations, Councillor Green.

The Hon. Anthony Green –

Thank you.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Members. So could I ask the five Chairmen to stand, please, let's see you and we can applaud you. (Applause).

The Speaker –

Thank you, be seated. Honourable Members, the next item we have is the Election of Executive Council Members? Yes, Election of Members to the Executive Council.

Election of Executive Council.

The Speaker –

Are there nominations for members of the Executive Council? Honourable Members may be aware that you can propose up to five in this case, no more than five. You can second up to five in this case. Honourable Corinda Essex?

The Hon. Dr Corinda Essex –

Mr Speaker, is it possible to nominate the Committee Chairmen en bloc?

The Speaker –

You can propose up to five.

The Hon. Dr Corinda Essex –

So I would like to propose that the five Committee Chairs should form the Executive Council.

The Speaker –

Would you like to name them out for public purposes now?

The Hon. Dr Corinda Essex –

Those are the Honourable Russell Yon, the Honourable Derek Thomas, the Honourable Lawson Henry, the Honourable Anthony Green and the Honourable Christine Scipio O’Dean.

The Speaker –

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

The Hon. Gavin Ellick –

I beg to second.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Gavin Ellick. Are there any further nominations? No further nominations. Thank you, Honourable Members. So the proposal is that the Honourable Russell Yon, the Honourable Derek Thomas, the Honourable Lawson Henry, the Honourable Christine Scipio O’Dean and the Honourable Anthony Green be elected as members of the Executive Council. You will still require the seven votes of the Council to get there, so I put the proposal to you that these members will be elected as members of the Executive Council.

Question put and agreed to.

The Speaker –

The Ayes have it, the Ayes have it. Congratulations, Honourable Members. Our next duty is to elect members of the Public Accounts Committee; I understand there’s a need for three members to be elected.

Election of Members to the Public Accounts Committee.

The Speaker –

The Public Accounts Committee. As you all know, a Chairman of the Public Accounts is appointed by the Governor, so what we’re electing now is for three persons to be members of the Public Accounts Committee. The other thing which you will have to understand at the same time, these members cannot be members of the Executive Council. Alright, any proposals for Public Accounts Committee, please? Honourable Lawson Henry?

The Hon. Lawson Henry –

Mr Speaker, I propose the Honourable Corinda Essex.

The Speaker –

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

The Hon. Gavin Ellick –

I beg to second, Sir.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member, thank you very much for that, Honourable Gavin Ellick. Honourable Corinda Essex, do you accept the nomination?

The Hon. Dr Corinda Essex –

Mr Speaker, I accept the nomination. Thank you.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Corinda Essex. Is there any other proposal? The Honourable Russell Yon?

The Hon. Russell Yon –

Mr Speaker, I'd like to propose the Honourable Cruyff Buckley.

The Speaker –

The proposal is that the Honourable Cruyff Buckley be elected, is there a seconder? Honourable Derek Thomas?

The Hon. Derek Thomas –

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member for seconding. Honourable Cruyff Buckley, do you accept the nomination?

The Hon. Cruyff Buckley –

Thank you, Mr Speaker, I accept the nomination.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much, Honourable Member. Honourable Derek Thomas?

The Hon. Derek Thomas –

Mr Speaker, I propose the Honourable Brian Isaac.

The Speaker –

The Honourable Brian Isaac is proposed, is there a seconder? Honourable Christine Scipio O'Dean?

The Hon. Christine Scipio O'Dean –

Thank you, Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member for that. Honourable Brian Isaac, do you accept the nomination?

The Hon. Brian Isaac –

Mr Speaker, I accept the nomination.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much, Honourable Member. Any other proposals for PAC, Public Accounts Committee? No other proposals?

The Hon. Lawson Henry –

I'd like to propose the Honourable Kylie Hercules.

The Speaker –

Honourable Kylie Hercules, is there a seconder?

The Hon. Christine Scipio O'Dean –

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

The Speaker –

Honourable Christine Scipio O'Dean, thank you very much for that. Honourable Kylie Hercules, do you accept nomination?

The Hon. Kylie Hercules –

I accept, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much, Honourable Kylie Hercules. Is there any other nomination for the Public Accounts Committee? Honourable Corinda Essex?

The Hon. Dr Corinda Essex –

Mr Speaker, I would like to nominate the Honourable Clint Beard.

The Speaker –

The Honourable Clint Beard for nomination.

The Hon. Gavin Ellick –

I beg to second, Sir.

The Speaker –

Supported by the Honourable Gavin Ellick. Honourable Clint Beard, do you accept nomination?

The Hon. Clint Beard –

Mr Speaker, I accept the nomination.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much, Honourable Clint Beard for accepting nomination. Are there any other nominations for Public Accounts Committee? No further nominations. So here we have it, Honourable Members, we have more than is required, we need about three, so we have to have a ballot. The Honourable Corinda Essex, the Honourable Cruyff Buckley, the Honourable Brian Isaac, the Honourable Kylie Hercules, the Honourable Clint Beard. Now, in alphabetical order I have to take you, I'd like you to speak to convince us that you need to be elected to the Committee, so it's Beard first. Honourable Clint Beard, let's hear you, Sir.

The Hon. Clint Beard –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. Although being a newly-elected member, I feel that there's a room of confidence being bestowed upon myself and I think the role is a role that is bound to be a vital role in the future and sustenance of St Helena and as there will be three seats available it'll be a vital role that the Legislative and the three members that are chosen play a vital and political role together to perform these duties. Although it will be a steep learning curve for me I think I'm up to the task and leadership and ability to digest information is vital and I think that is something that I do have. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. The Honourable Cruyff Buckley?

The Hon. Cruyff Buckley –

Mr Speaker, I rise again, thanking Members for my nomination to the Public Accounts Committee. I've never sat on the Committee before, Mr Speaker, so it's a good learning experience for me to be able to now see the inner workings of this important Committee, which is oversight of public spending and plays a very important part in the accountability of government, Mr Speaker. I look forward to working with the members if I do get elected. Thank you.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. The Honourable Corinda Essex?

The Hon. Dr Corinda Essex –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I have served on the Public Accounts Committee for the last term of Council so I have direct experience of its workings and of the many demands that it places upon its members. I believe that two of the qualities that are essential for anyone on the Public Accounts Committee are those of fairness and objectivity and I think anyone who knows me will know that those are qualities that I do possess and that I can bring to that role. As I said, I have done so for the past term and I would be more than willing to do so for this term of office. I have over twenty years exposure to financial management and scrutiny at different levels and in different roles, indeed, I've acted as Financial Secretary, I was also the Territorial Authorizing Officer for the European Union for fourteen years, which provides very extensive coverage of financial matters. Therefore, I do have the background to enable me to draw upon past experience to assist me in discharging the duties as a member of the Public Accounts Committee. I am also a champion of good governance, of accountability and transparency and all those elements are very much required within the duties of someone sitting on the Public Accounts Committee, which, indeed, has to call government and other bodies to account for their financial management and the presentation of their accounts and needs to make recommendations regarding where improvements are necessary and how, indeed, these can be implemented. I thank my Honourable Colleagues for nominating me to continue in my role with Public Accounts Committee and I give an assurance that if I am elected I will continue to fulfil those duties to the best of my ability. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Corinda Essex. The Honourable Kylie Hercules?

The Hon. Kylie Hercules –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. As you're aware I'm really new to, I'm one of the new elected members, I don't have a full experience like, I would say, Honourable Essex does, however, I

am more than willing to learn and I do have a passion for understanding how our finances are running, I do believe that I can bring to the table something, as Mrs Essex has said about being open and fair, and I'd just like to take the opportunity to seek Members if they could please give me a chance to learn. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. The Honourable Brian Isaac?

The Hon. Brian Isaac –

Thank you, Mr Speaker and I also wish to thank my proposer and seconder in nominating me as a member of the Public Accounts Committee. Mr Speaker, my experience takes me back to the early days of Public Accounts when formal sessions were held in the Court House very much as they are here today where scrutiny by the legislator was very strong against the Chairs and you were also a member, Mr Speaker, at the time and I recall that the scrutiny by the Legislative Council went through line by line and the Chairs had to respond in response to the concerns raised. We then moved from that system, Mr Speaker, very much into the system that we have today, but in leading up to that, intensive training and support were given to the members of the Public Accounts Committee by Mrs Lynette Styles who was very professional in public accounts affairs, so training was given. I was also privileged to have training by the former Chief Auditor at the time, Mr Colin Owen. I maintained my seat on the Public Accounts Committee until it was removed by this Honourable House that members of the Executive Council should not have a seat on the Public Accounts Committee. I'm also aware of the backlog of work that the Public Accounts Committee held in respect of Government accounts, but I'm glad to say that following the proceedings of Public Accounts Committee the formal Public Accounts Committee has brought Government up to speed with everything being updated and I think that's a credit to the Committee, the outgoing Committee. During the time I was on the Public Accounts Committee it was leading up to Government moving away from cash accounting to accruals accounting and we're very pleased to see that proceedings are in place with the Public Accounts have been well equipped to deal with that proceedings. Mr Speaker, I beg to move. Thank you.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. So there we have it, Honourable Members, it's time for the ballot papers to be issued and you have to vote for three people, vote for three candidates or three nominees. Don't forget if you vote for four then your ballot paper is spoiled.

Clerk –

	Clint Beard	Corinda Essex	Kylie Hercules	
	Clint Beard	Corinda Essex	Kylie Hercules	
		Corinda Essex	Kylie Hercules	Brian Isaac
	Clint Beard	Corinda Essex		Brian Isaac
Cruyff Buckley		Corinda Essex		Brian Isaac
Cruyff Buckley		Corinda Essex	Kylie Hercules	
	Clint Beard	Corinda Essex		Brian Isaac
Cruyff Buckley		Corinda Essex		Brian Isaac
				Brian Isaac
	Clint Beard	Corinda Essex		Brian Isaac
	Clint Beard	Corinda Essex	Kylie Hercules	

So I make that 6 to Beard, 10 to Essex, 5 to Hercules, 7 to Isaac and 3 to Buckley.

The Speaker –

Could you give me those figures again, please?

Clerk –

Yes. 6 to Beard, 10 to Essex, 5 to Hercules, 7 to Isaac and 3 to Buckley.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much indeed. Alright, what I have here at the moment is Corinda Essex and Brian Isaac clearly in, it's over the seven votes. The rest are in order Clint Beard, Kylie Hercules and Cruyff Buckley. Alright, so just putting it clearly now, I declare that Corinda Essex has been duly nominated, I declare that Councillor Brian Isaac has been duly nominated, I also will declare that Clint Beard has a higher vote than any of the others, but before he can be nominated he has to get the vote of seven members. Alright, now the proposal is that Clint Beard be nominated as the next member of the PAC.

Question put and agreed to.

The Speaker –

I think it's only one, but I gonna declare a Division here, so that we know exactly who is. Will you issue some ballot papers so that you're doing it in private. Now, this will be a Yes and a No vote, it's for Clint Beard. Remember, he has to get seven votes. Just purely yes or no.

Clerk –

Yes	
Yes	
	No
Yes	
Yes	
	No
Yes	
	No

I make that 9 Yes's and 3 Noes.

The Speaker –

The results – 9 Yes and 3 Noes. So I declare that the Honourable Clint Beard has been duly elected as the third member of the Public Accounts Committee. Congratulations and congratulations to you all. (Applause).

Thank you, Honourable Members. That brings us to the end of this section and I really want to thank you all for being so kind to me, to help me through this session as well and I wish you well for the future. The next item on the list now, I'll ask the Clerk to call.

5.

ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

The Speaker –

The Adjournment Debate, the Honourable Chief Secretary?

The Hon. Roy Burke –

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

The Speaker –

Thank you. Is there a seconder?

The Hon. Dax Richards –

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

The Speaker –

Thank you very much indeed. The Motion is that this House do now adjourn sine die. Honourable Members may be able to speak up to ten minutes. This is your chance to speak about the business of the Government so far for the next ten minutes. Is there a question, Honourable Christine Scipio O’Dean? No, okay. So you may speak up to ten minutes in this Adjournment Debate. Any Honourable Member wish to speak? Honourable Christine Scipio O’Dean?

The Hon. Christine Scipio O’Dean –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I wish to congratulate you on your re-appointment as the Speaker and also Mr Cranfield as Deputy Speaker and I welcome your continued guidance to me.

Mr Speaker, once again I’d like to thank the electorate for participating in the General Election and for the support that was shown to me leading up to it. Mr Speaker, I endeavour to continue to work hard to ensure that the people of St Helena receives the services that the island deserves. I look forward to working with the new Council and wish them well with their new, challenging roles.

Mr Speaker, the next four years are not going to be easy as tougher decisions need to be made. I look forward to the landing of the first commercial flight, improved connectivity and sustainable energy. Mr Speaker, St Helena Government has been successful in launching the St Helena Community College that offers a wide range of opportunities, but it is in its infancy and will need continued support. Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Is there any other Honourable Member? The Honourable Lawson Henry?

The Hon. Lawson Henry –

Thank you, Mr Speaker, I rise in support of the Motion for this Adjournment Debate. Firstly, I, too, would like to congratulate you, Mr Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, on your re-election as Speaker and Deputy Speaker of this Honourable House. I would also like to thank the electorate of St Helena for having the confidence in me by voting me back on this new Council, I also wish to thank my Honourable Colleagues here today for their support in my nomination as the Chair of the Economic Development Committee. I would also like to congratulate the Council on their election. I would likewise wish to pay tribute to our Returning Officer and her team for the efficient manner in which the whole General Election process was managed. I look forward to working with the new Council and officers in taking the island forward over the next four years and making it a better place for our people to live

and to raise families. The next four years are going to be very challenging for the island and I look forward to the support of the electorate in understanding the constraints and restrictions placed on what any funding can be spent on. There is no doubt it is going to be a turbulent four years as we get to grips with the many issues facing the island, in particular, the much needed infrastructure development in support of the much anticipated air access.

I just wish to touch on an issue that in going forward I believe is a priority for the island if we have to make a case to the British Government for their continued support, in particular, during the transitional period. When this House, the former Council, unanimously supported the visit of a delegation of our All Party Group the significance of such a visit during the very early stages of air access cannot be overstated as only then will the state of our island and the critical enabling infrastructure that is needed will be fully understood by Her Majesty's Government as it is hoped that such a delegation would write a report and that this report will be debated in the UK Parliament thus enabling new policies to illuminate of what is needed for this territory. This is critical if St Helena has to get the full benefits of the investment in our airport. Please also remember too that the contract for air access recently signed by SHG with SA Airlink is the interim solution. We must fight our corner to ensure it does not become the long-term solution. HMG must honour their commitment to provide an air service that will give us the best possible opportunity to grow our economy so that all Saints get the best possible benefit of such growth. I would ask the Honourable Mover what, if any, progress has been made in approaching the CPA in the UK for such a visit.

I believe it is imperative too that the Minister responsible in DfID for those overseas territories that are still in receipt of grant in aid should likewise visit the island urgently and perhaps this could be done on the forthcoming implementation flight so that he too can better understand from firsthand knowledge the needs of the island.

The people of St Helena are grateful for the support we receive from SHG but during the transition from sea access to air access we need further support. In a letter written to the DfID Minister by the former Council and copied to our St Helena in the UK Parliament setting out the state of the island have borne some fruit as there is a debate scheduled in the House of Lords on 7th September about transport and major infrastructure needs for St Helena, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha and the Falkland Islands. Whilst this is significant, it should not replace the need for the Minister or, indeed, the visit of the delegation from our All Party Parliamentary Group.

I trust the Mover of this Motion will feel able to take this forward as a matter of priority.

I would also like to raise the issue of training for the new Council. Four years ago, we were given a week's training from a delegation of experienced parliamentarians from the United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. This was to good effect and was a very good start to our tenure at the time and would do likewise for this Council. The former Council raised this some time ago and I would ask the Mover to update the House what, if any action has been taken in this respect given the importance of training for all Councillors. If no action has been taken from the previous discussions then please would he take this forward as a matter of priority. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to move and support the Motion for this adjournment debate. Thank you.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. The Honourable Corinda Essex?

The Hon. Dr Corinda Essex –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. First, let me congratulate you on your re-election and I look forward to working with you once again.

Mr Speaker, the next four years will be critical for the future of this island and they are likely to present many challenges and threats as well as opportunities. I feel deeply honoured and privileged to have been re-elected to serve the people of St Helena and to represent them once more, but I'm also fully aware of the burden of responsibility that this places on my shoulders and those of my colleagues. It is our duty to stand united and to do all in our power to ensure that we achieve the best outcomes possible for St Helena. I am confident that this new Council has the potential to do just that. One of the greatest challenges is likely to be securing the level of support from the British Government that will be essential during the interim period until St Helena starts to reap the benefits of air access. Without such timely support St Helena will not be equipped to maximize the potential benefits flowing from the provision of a commercial air service, both within the Tourism Sector and elsewhere. This, Mr Speaker, could undermine the whole purpose of the massive investment that Her Majesty's Government has already made through the air access project. It could curtail the possibility of significant economic growth and ironically even move the eventual aim that increased self-sufficiency, to which we all aspire, even further from our grasp. Surely it should be obvious to all that that would be a tragedy and that this must be avoided as it would not be in the best interests either of St Helena or, indeed, the mother country. Sadly, Mr Speaker, there are indications that the Department for International Development does not fully understand or does not accept just how precarious the current situation is. Although it has been extremely supportive in some areas, such as providing additional funding for drought measures, it is currently falling short of even protecting its own substantial previous investment in other areas. A key example is the continued absence of an agreed capital programme beyond next month. This cannot have anything other than an extremely negative impact upon what can be achieved in terms of infrastructure development in this and the next fiscal year. Even if agreement were reached tomorrow little more than the completion of contractual arrangements and initial preparations would be realistically achievable before the 31st March 2018. Mr Speaker, the logic in instigating delays in implementation of projects which are clearly and indisputably essential totally escapes me. The lack of funding to enable the port facilities in Ruperts to become operational is a glaring case in point. The Department for International Development has already invested millions to top up the European Union funding allocated for construction of the jetty and to provide some ancillary works, but to date no real benefit has been seen as the jetty remains unoperational. Why? Because further funding to enable discharge of the planning conditions and construction of the basic requirements for safe and effective cargo handling is still not available and consequently the jetty is, at this point in time, little more than a white elephant. At the end of the tenure of the previous Council, we write to Lord Bates, Minister of State for International Development and sought his personal intervention on this matter and it is essential that we continue to press for a speedy resolution and I have confidence that the Minister for State, together with the relevant officials in DfID will start to give this the level of priority which it warrants.

An issue that certainly should be easier to resolve, because it is closer to home, is that of more efficient and effective follow-up and action pertaining to undertakings and resolutions made in this Honourable House. Issues raised here by elected members are those that are of the greatest concern and/or importance to our constituents and consequently need to be addressed in a prompt, thorough and proactive manner. I understand that the elected member tabling the successful Motion should do all that he or she can to see that its content does not get overlooked, but in most instances it is not elected members who can actually undertake the actions required to implement the resolution and this is where the process tends to lose impetus. It is important that a more robust mechanism is put in place early in the life of the Council which clearly states the respective roles and responsibilities of elected members and officials in this regard and includes a formal structure for provision of updates and progress

reports throughout the life of the issue. There is already a model that is used within the Public Accounts Committee system which could be modified and adapted to provide something that is far more robust, sustainable and meaningful than the current processes with regard to following up on resolutions and undertakings and I do trust that we as a new Council will be able to get that in place at a very early point in our life cycle. It was a hindrance to the previous Council which now needs to be addressed and overcome as a matter of urgency.

Mr Speaker, there are many issues in the pipeline that were not able to be progressed as fully as we should have and hoped to do within the life of the previous Council. There are a number of reasons for that, most of which I have elaborated on previously in this Honourable House. We must ensure that momentum is not lost on those key areas such as Freedom of Information, Immigration, Review of the Land Development Control Plan, Review of the Social Benefits Systems and I could name many more. We have a duty to the electorate who have put us here to ensure that those priorities remain on top of our agenda and that we see them through to a successful resolution.

In concluding, Mr Speaker, I wish to express my grateful thanks to my sponsors, supporters and helpers for their confidence in me and willingness to get involved in my election campaign and to the 732 persons who voted for me. I will do all I can to prove worthy of their trust and to represent them as effectively as possible. I also wish to pay tribute to the members of the last Legislative Council who are no longer serving, everyone made a valuable contribution and played an important role in the team and I enjoyed working with them. I am sure that the new Council will take its responsibilities equally seriously and am pleased that it contains a blend of former members at a time when there is a need for stability and continuity and also new members with a diverse range of life experiences and perspectives which will prove constructive and refreshing. I really look forward to working with you all and hope that together we will be able to achieve a lot for St Helena. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. The Honourable Brian Isaac?

The Hon. Brian Isaac –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. As said by other members, congratulations is in place to you, the Deputy Speaker and I would also like at this time to make a mention about the candidates who stand for the General Election, it shows that democracy is working and electorates were given an opportunity to choose the twelve who they felt would represent them fully.

Mr Speaker, I would also like to congratulate my successor to the Social and Community Development Committee as Chair and I understand from my previous work there's a lot of more work that needs to be processed to make St Helena a better place for everyone to live and it's not going to be an easy challenge, but I wish him well and I know he will receive the support of Council as I did previously and from the support of the Administration as well, I would like to say thank you to those officers who supported me as Chair of the Social and Community Development Committee.

Looking forward, Mr Speaker, the island is at a turning point where there's much concerns, much frustration in the community by the members of the public, but there have been a lot of good things happening during the time I've sat on Council, this is my fifth term in office and I've seen a lot of good things happen, but there are other issues where our hands are tied, we are not able to progress with a lot of the issues that comes to mind, issues that are brought to our minds, brought to our attention by the public, they all need finances and as we are all aware that we are struggling at the moment, we want to build an economy, all intentions are good, we have some setbacks, we've had some setbacks and I hope that the new Council will

be able to take these setbacks forward and make St Helena very proud of what we all stand for. Mr Speaker, the next four years are going to be very challenging and as I said in my manifesto all development and all going forward we need to take the public along with us and I might be a culprit here for the past that we haven't been really up to speed in making the public aware of all that is happening and there are reasons for that, but I'm sure that the new Council, we will be able to make the public more aware of what is happening. Comments were made to me following the General Election that the public welcome the support and the information given via the radio and via the newspaper of what the Council hopes to do and they were asking that we be more proactive in using the radio and the media more than what we have previously done, because there are some members of the public who doesn't know exactly what's going on because of other reasons for them not being able to assume all that is happening, but we as the leaders must make sure that we take the public along with us and I wish all new members all success for the next four years. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Honourable Cyril Leo?

The Hon. Cyril Leo –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. Two days ago, elected members were discussing who would be interested in standing for Executive Council. After the former Councillors who are re-elected voiced an interest of going back on ExCo, one of our newly-elected members told them that it is clear from listening to people of St Helena that there was deep dissatisfaction in this appointment in the performance of the last ExCo and therefore the new ExCo will be required to work harder towards satisfying people's expectations. That constructive criticism was a clear indication to me that this Council will have healthy debates and discussions on making decisions on behalf of the people of St Helena.

Honourable Speaker, none of us in this room will be able to please all the people all the time. Since her arrival, Governor Phillips has made a special effort to be inclusive and to reach out to the people of St Helena at a time when morale in our community has been very low as a result of major failures and setbacks with the airport. I would just like to publicly acknowledge this on behalf of all the St Helenians who agree with me.

And lastly, Honourable Speaker, all the representatives will be required to work on St Helena Government legislation and policies, today I want to reassure those people who are struggling to survive on the breadline and receiving little or no assistance from the St Helena Government that this Social Security Ordinance will be reviewed asap, as soon as possible. In particular, we will do our utmost to have the household income policy scrutinised and if possible scrapped. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Is there any other Honourable Member, Honourable Cruyff Buckley?

The Hon. Cruyff Buckley –

Thank you, Mr Speaker, I rise, hopefully for the last time today. Mr Speaker, we see today how good dynamics plays out in this political arena with myself being proposed for three separate entities, if you like, and falling short in most circumstances. I believe everyone should strive to progress in whatever career they choose to go, whatever route they choose to go down and likewise that's why I proposed myself for these positions. However, I can find reconciliation in the fact that it's not what happens to you but rather what you do with what happens to you, so I feel I will not be disheartened by that process, Mr Speaker.

I would like to thank the voting public, Mr Speaker, because they're listening on radio, because I feel we made an effort to vote this year as an island, although the figures suggested otherwise and I have reservations about that figure, Mr Speaker, for other reasons as I don't feel that those on the register, in most cases some of them not even on the island, so I feel a register should be updated, but we're heading in the right direction, Mr Speaker. Yeah, those who voted, Mr Speaker, it shows that they care and they recognise that it is a privilege to vote nowadays, Mr Speaker, it is not an option, it is a real privilege. Democracy and democratic legislators around the world fight for the right for every individual to have a vote and we try to promote that fact and to try hit it home this time round, Mr Speaker, but it never quite went according to plan, in terms of the seventeen year olds being on the register in time to vote.

With economic uncertainty on the horizon, Mr Speaker, with no real prediction in tourism numbers and also the issues of an ageing population, there's a lot of negativity surrounding these next four years. Huge issues such as immigration, which no doubt will come to the head of the Social and Community Development Committee, are issues that need to be sorted in real time and at a quick pace, Mr Speaker, because the airport and this airline is not gonna wait for us to get ourselves in gear. Isolation, Mr Speaker, is not our protection any more, it used to be, St Helena used to be protected, by the fact that we're isolated, that is simply not the case anymore and we need to address those issues as well going forward.

The legislative role is obviously an important one, how we manage our land and especially our people, because, I feel, Mr Speaker, there's a lot of Saints who want to return to transmit their expertise back into this island, but due to the lack of social housing, for example, in recent years, that hasn't always been an easy transition for most Saints who don't own their own houses. In light of the Brexit decision, Mr Speaker, the evidence is clearly available. Our Economist is telling us the Rand is dropping and we're losing value here and it's hard for merchants to be able to balance their books, which raises other questions of should Saints be allowed to vote overseas, because after all, the UK Parliament is passing laws that directly affect us out here in the Atlantic, Mr Speaker, although that requires Constitutional reform obviously, but I hope that these overseas visits, the Honourable Lawson Henry, the JMC and the CPC events which we attend, I hope the general public doesn't view it as a holiday, because it really is a networking platform in which we can use to heighten St Helena's profile and to find other revenue streams. It is also, in addition to innovation and ideas that they can present, likening to many infrastructure projects which were going, happening here now that could use some input and lessons that we can learn from other people who've been in this experience before and have went through those procedures.

I'd just like to end, Mr Speaker, with an old quote, it's actually a prayer by the late Fr Joe Whelan who used to preside here on St Helena at one stage, and it says, Lord, give me the serenity to accept the things I can't change, the courage to change the things I can change and the wisdom to know the difference". Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member, thank you. Is there any other Honourable Member who wishes to speak to the debate? Honourable Russell Yon?

The Hon. Russell Yon –

Mr Speaker, I'd like to congratulate you and the Deputy Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you.

The Hon. Russell Yon –

Before I begin my speech, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my sponsors and supporters and all the constituents who showed trust and faith in me in the General Election and have now afforded me the opportunity to represent them and all other St Helenians as a member of this Legislative Council. The support and response I received from everyone overseas was also immense that it too should not go unnoticed.

Mr Speaker, I shall not take long as I believe that the majority of those present here have had the chance to read my manifesto leading up to the elections. However, I would like to thank my fellow colleagues here who have helped in making this transition from Fuel Manager at Basil Read to where I am standing today, a more comfortable one. Their support neither should go unnoticed and long may it continue as we, as a team, strive to meet the challenges before to make sure that our people get the best of what is offered and beyond. We cannot make changes if we are not open and transparent with ourselves. That, I believe, begins in our Chambers. I am sure that my suggestion of a LegCo newsletter will not fall on deaf ears, likewise all use of the media we have available. Our communications between our government and our constituents will play a big part informing everyone of the progress we seek and make and it will help in alleviating the frustration that most have been speaking of. We have challenging times ahead and let's hope that the arrival of tourists and our own St Helenians on the forthcoming flights will enhance our Tourist Industry and kick-start a drive in our economy. We must not, however, forget about our Saints on Ascension Island and the Falkland Islands as they too were just as instrumental when it came to voting yes for our airport as was everyone else. Pursuing a flight to the UK should also continue, if not by SHG then by a private airline. We must be open to flexibility and tap into every available avenue that will be of benefit to Saints and our island.

The impact on our society will also increase for the better when hopefully we will be fortunate to have a digital cable on our shores. That will allow every home on the island to have access to digital communications. The benefits we will gain from this access will be numerous, from social to educational to medical to investments, just to name a few. I have been a great believer in this project ever since it was tabled at a meeting at the Half Tree Hollow Community Centre to discuss the Ten-Year Plan by our Chief Secretary, Mr Roy Burke, well over a year ago.

Several more projects, be they large or small, will need to be addressed also and then there will be decisions that we will have to make to make them right not bode well within all of our community. However, they must be addressed, along with the small ones that have been tabled during our electoral campaigns. Issues like our cost of living, minimum wage structures, cost of imported construction materials, which defeats the very purpose that we are trying to encourage and that is having our own Saints building their homes and either staying on our island or to return home. Little issues we hear of today will become big issues of tomorrow if you do not address them and make every effort to resolve.

Our infrastructure needs utmost attention, but then again, we can look, but can't fix as we have our hands tied financially. Until we make an impact on our own financial restraints then I see our infrastructure as not being left on the back burner, but near to it. Risk assessments need to be carried out on most of our road network, especially Ladder Hill and Sidepath roads, as they are the kingpin to our access in and out of our capital, but at the same time our country roads need attention too.

Our friendly environment has a lot to offer as we continue to tap into the use of green energy extending our wind and photovoltaic farms and looking for other means of producing renewable energy will eventually reduce our reliance on fossil fuel.

Our private sector need to be addressed and in partnership with SHG a lot more can be achieved that would help push our economy upwards without making holes in pockets. Our farmers and fishermen need support to kick-start an industry that we all know exists but is

crying out for help. Both could be valuable assets to our island as we make every effort to buy local at good value prices, yet be able to export as well.

The construction sector could get involved by investing in the construction of homes that Government could rent and thus help ease the issue of insufficient housing. What a programme it would be if SHG could fund one house or an apartment for every two funded by the private sector. Would we find ourselves in the predicament we are in now? I don't think so. In doing so, we could seek to build homes with local materials, especially timber from our forests, thus rejuvenating the use of our own Sawmill that has been acquired by the private sector, but not used to its full potential. This alone creates jobs, more jobs brings more funds and income, bringing benefits and better quality to life.

These are just a few ways that could kick-start our future and we also could include students from Prince Andrew School at times to give them the practical skills they neglect. This would balance out with those who believe academic qualifications is their route to a better future. As we help to develop our island we must not forget those who have and are still sacrificing to get us where we are today. For some, who are finding it so difficult to enjoy their life and struggle whilst others are benefitting from the luxuries. It is the day to day living that they are concerned about which some of us take for granted. Let's hope that I, together with the other eleven members of this team, can make a positive difference in everyone's lives, not just for today, but for a better tomorrow. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Is there any other Honourable Member? Honourable Derek Thomas?

The Hon. Derek Thomas –

Thank you, Mr Speaker, I rise in support of the adjournment and like my colleagues, I congratulate you to your role as the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you.

The Hon. Derek Thomas –

Mr Speaker, first of all I would like to thank my supporters and to those people who voted for me at the General Election, I am pleased to be back on Council and I will continue to do my very best for the development of St Helena and its people.

I'm also pleased to be able to continue as the Chairman of the Public Health and will again, with the support of the Health Directorate, the Committee and the Council, continue to strive to bring about improvements to our Health Service for the benefit of our people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you will be aware that although in recent discussions considerable amount of improvements have been made to our Income Related Benefits System and the Basic Island Pensions, we still have for what is a serious issue within the system, that is in relation to people who are sick and those people who are not able to work, in cases their benefits have been taken away and this is due to the fact that the allowances work out on the household basis. Mr Speaker, this should not be right, in certain cases we have situations where people are leaving the family home in order for those persons to receive the benefits.

There is another issue, Mr Speaker, where there is a small group of people who have been receiving either the Basic Island Pension or the Income Relation Benefit which was introduced five years ago, have not seen the increase. They have been described as being caught in the crossfire. This is not right, Mr Speaker, this group of people have to face

inflationary increases like everyone else. I would ask that these issues be treated as a matter of priority by the Social and Community Development Committee and addressed.

Mr Speaker, in my campaigning I mentioned about the work that has been carried out for over a year on the Immigration Review, Freedom of Information/Data Protection, Lands, our Comprehensive Development Areas and the high prices of land, leases and rents, including a review of our Constitution. Mr Speaker, these issues should be progressed by the Council, many of which are just about ready to go out to public consultation and if enacted they will stand to see real benefits for the development of our island.

Mr Speaker, there will be many challenges, especially with our essential infrastructure requirements; Ruperts rockfall protection, cargo requirements at Ruperts, the road leading out from Field Road and Sidepath, the Prison, a most needed Acute Mental Health facility and the list goes on and on. Our paymasters in DfID need to be fully appreciate and have a clear understanding of these issues if St Helena is to stand a chance of economic growth through the DfID's investment of our airport. I fully support what has been said, we need to do all we can for a visit from a delegation of an All Party Parliamentary Group, a ministerial visit, to see firsthand on the ground the situation we are in and report back to the British Government.

Mr Speaker, I will touch on the issue within our Education system and this is in no way a form of criticism, but it needs to be brought out into the open and addressed in my view. There is concerns about the low level of achievements within our Primary Schools and here I'm talking about basic reading skills, spelling, grammar and maths. The information I've been provided with is that over the past four years 50% and less of our Primary School children have been reaching their required level in maths. Last year, 2016, only 44% of children in our Primary Schools reached these levels in spelling, grammar and maths. Mr Speaker, if we want to support a constitutional change on Saints first policy, succession planning, wanting our Saints to take on key positions then we have to start at the very bottom, we have to start at the very bottom. It's no good sending our children to Prince Andrew School and trying to play catch up, this is no good, it needs to start at the ground roots. We are spending money in Enterprise St Helena for private sector investment, economic development and we're being a bit shortsighted, from what I can see, when it comes to investing in our children and like I say, this is no criticism, but it's an issue that needs to be addressed within the Education, and not only in the Education Committee, but the Government as a whole needs to address this where the problem lies. Some of the Primary Schools might be performing greater than others, but where is the problem and that needs to be addressed, because, in my view, when children go to Prince Andrew School we're playing catch up. Last year, for the very first time, we invested a significant amount of money to send more of our students to university, it used to be two and I think last year it increased to seven, although the budget might be there for ten, so that is a good thing, but that is no good if you're not starting at the ground roots, so that, in my view, needs to be addressed, public are concerned about this.

Mr Speaker, finally, St Helena are seeing many challenges. These challenges will become greater as the island develops and I do believe it is time that St Helena now starts working towards a ministerial government. In that way, there'll be greater level of accountability and efficiency. The Chief Minister and his cabinet will be held accountable to the electorate. I think when the next four years, Mr Speaker, that should seriously be addressed.

Mr Speaker, in concluding, I look forward to working with the new Council for the next term, four years and bringing about added development for the benefit of St Helena and its people. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Is there any other Honourable Member that wishes to speak? Honourable Tony Green?

The Hon. Anthony Green –

Thank you, Mr Speaker, I support the Adjournment. I also too would like to congratulate you and your Deputy on your re-appointment.

Turning first to the election we had recently I really would like to take this opportunity publicly to thank my supporters for nominating me and for those who voted for me, but having now been elected I'm a representative of everyone. Also, thank you for the election, Members, of my position on the Social and Community Development Committee and also on ExCo. I really thank Honourable Members for their support. I now look forward to working with whatever members I have on my Committee, working also with the Civil Service and, of course, members of the public. The next few weeks will be about understanding all the relevant issues. At this point I would like to pay tribute to the Honourable Brian Isaac for the work he's done from which I will inherit, so thank you Brian.

I do though, Mr Speaker, see a potential problem for the immediate future and I believe that really relates to how we fund everything that we really want to do. The airport is not yet up and running as we originally thought and the proposed solutions may not result immediately in a huge number of tourists as anticipated. In the Faber Maunsell Report some years ago it forecast that following the opening of the airport there would be an increase in tourist numbers from 800 per year to over 50,000 per year twenty-five years from the opening of the airport. Can we still be so optimistic? But, nevertheless, Mr Speaker, we are gearing up for change. As of now money and time have been invested on the promise of us having a fully operational airport, but the current situation does bring problems for our economy. The issue now is where will the money come from. We also face problems that may arise from Brexit. No certainty that we'll be able to tap into EU sources of funding as previously. The UK Government may be reluctant to give us money so easily after the intense media comments regarding our airport as at present. Even now, tourists may not start to come in numbers as we anticipated. Apart from the thousands of visitors we could have been expecting now, we could possibly have benefited if we had an airstrip fit for purpose because of the problems with the Ascension Island airstrip. Had we had an airport that could have accommodated 737s or the like we might now be an ideal stopover for flights right from the UK to the Falklands. That would really have kick-start our economy. The next two years will be a challenge economically.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we were happy with our coming together a few days ago, I feel though that our honeymoon is over. I support the adjournment.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Is there any other Honourable..... Honourable Gavin Ellick?

The Hon. Gavin Ellick –

I'd like to thank you and congratulate you for being re-elected, Mr Cranfield. I would like to thank the electorate for voting for me and I'll try to do my best for their best interests, to work with other Honourable Members, not just words, put it into action this time, we got another four years to get it done. To the officials, hope to work with you'll again and our DfID Representative. Thank you, thank you, Mr Speaker, that's it.

The Speaker –

Thank you, Honourable Member. Is there any other Honourable Member wishes to speak? No other Honourable Member wish to speak. Alright then, would the Mover like to wind up, please?

The Hon. Roy Burke –

Thank you, Mr Speaker. It would be remiss of me not to add my congratulations to everybody who's been elected, to you, Sir, and also to your Deputy, Mr Cranfield and to all Members sitting round this table. I've been honoured to serve Governments across the, I'd like to say across the world, but it's not quite that, in the last thirty years, but I've been selected and never elected so I take my hat off to all of you who put yourselves into that difficult position of being elected to sit here in the first place and while you're in this room putting yourself forward to be elected again for various posts. I would like you to be assured that I and my colleagues stand ready to support you in the policy initiatives that you wish to bring forward. I hope that you don't encounter resistance, and I'm quite certain you won't, but if ever you do please come and knock on my door and tell me that there are, things are not going quite as you would hope them to go.

I'm very hopeful that we will build on the successes of the past three years in my case, four years in the life of the Council, and there have been many successes over those past four years and also many disappointments, some of them significant disappointments, but a lot of significant successes as well and we can rest assured that there will be more of both, successes and disappointments over the next four years. However, we all need to work very hard to ensure that the balance is positive and there are more successes than disappointments. It is a difficult time for us all and it's been alluded to in a number of comments that have been made today in terms of investment. The conditions are not good for investment for St Helena at the moment, we have significant difficulties in our capital programme, that's one of the issues that I'm sure the Honourable Russell Yon will get to grips with as Chair of the Committee responsible for a lot of the capital programme projects. Rockfall, the capital programme in general, Ruperts development, roads, prisons. I haven't heard anything about parking today, which is unusual, but those issues remain difficult for all of us to resolve. Capital programme in particular is a considerable worry. We're now at the beginning of August, the current funding for the capital programme runs out at the end of September, which is a matter of weeks away. Getting projects to be stood up by 1st October is going to be very difficult and I think the Honourable Dr Corinda Essex mentioned we might just be finishing off a few projects for the rest of this year. However, it's important for us to work very closely with our funders, now that we only have really one funder and that's the Department for International Development, we need to be able to persuade them that they need to invest more for St Helena to make sure those white elephants don't appear around the island and to make them understand the necessity, the significant necessity for St Helena to invest in capital funding. The discharge of planning conditions in Ruperts is a serious issue. My colleague to my right, the Honourable Financial Secretary, will be bringing a paper to the new ExCo fairly soon to try to persuade ExCo that it is possible to discharge those planning conditions at the moment, despite the fact that we don't have rockfall protection, the planning condition is in respect of an investigation into rockfall, a review of the potential mitigating actions, not actually to introduce those, although I fully appreciate that the two are not mutually exclusive, but we need to work very hard on that to make sure that the MV Helena can dock round in Ruperts and offload its cargo and the roads that need to be in place to allow that cargo to be moved into Jamestown.

I'd like to reassure the Honourable Lawson Henry that we are working with the CPA and the All Party Parliamentary Group to get them both here in good order. We have heard that the CPA, in terms of their seminar on parliamentary work, could take place sooner rather than

later, but we're now looking at October, hopefully, and I say this with my fingers crossed, that will mean that they'll be able to fly here and thus seminars can progress quickly, but the All Party Parliamentary Group needs to come as well, we are working on that.

There's a number of issues which have been raised today which at this point in time, and understandably so, are pretty general in their construction, lots of policy voids which have been identified by the Honourable Derek Thomas, which will need to be filled; good policy is formed and amended as it goes along, because we identify that our policy's not quite right, and it has to be amended to make sure that those voids are filled. I fully agree with the Honourable Derek Thomas about some of the ongoing and I think, in terms of the future around the foundations of what we need to be able to achieve, so while we talk about some of the big projects, of course, the airport, we talk about internet, we talk about energy, making sure the education system here works as effectively as it can be is crucial, as is health and some of our social benefits to look after the older people in the CCC and in their own homes, all crucial, but all of which take, of course, significant amounts of money and it's the responsibility, of course, of this Council to decide where that money is allocated, all of which requires us to make sure that we make our case to DfID in good order. We're already, as I've said, in August, the next budget aid mission, financial aid mission, whatever we're going to call it this year, will be coming fairly quickly so we've got to get ourselves in order before the end of this current year to make sure that we've made the case for the future investment that we need to ensure that St Helena can prosper over the next four years.

Two of the projects that were mentioned today, the internet cable and the energy piece of work that we're doing at the moment I think are significant and important for St Helena, as the Honourable Russell Yon has indicated, and we are all working very hard to land the cable and to make sure that the energy work delivers cheaper electricity for St Helena in a sustainable way.

The Honourable Cruyff Buckley mentioned demographic issues which I think are potentially the biggest threat to St Helena. We have an ageing population, we will continue to have an ageing population and fewer people to fill the coffers to look after those old people, so we need to do some imaginative thinking there to make sure that we can look after our older people and the vulnerable people in St Helena with an economy which won't take off this year, just because of the airport. The airport will open and planes will come, we're probably talking a generation before we've seen significant income for St Helena from the airport, but that problem is here and now and it is significant.

There's lots of communication issues which we'll need to continue to address. A number of people today have said we need to make sure that we engage the community better and I fully agree with that, better use of social media, dare I say, there's a paper for members in your pack from the Press Office which suggests that you might like to contact them and they'd be very happy to help you with special media issues.

In closing, Mr Speaker, I'm not going to be able to see this next four years out, as I said earlier, I'm selected, not elected, so my time will be up during this period, but I'm quite confident that over the next few months with my successor already identified we will have continuity which will enable St Helena to prosper over the next four years. And what an exciting time for us all to be in post. Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

The Speaker –

Thank you. Honourable Members, we are coming to the end of this session, but I'd like to say thank you, Chief Secretary, for your input into this island, I didn't know that you were going to leave us sometime soon, but you still have some time with us I hope in which we can express that to you.

Thank you, Honourable Members, we had a long morning, but I think I've been requested to get some photographs taken, so we'll make the formal closure of this meeting as we normally do, I will leave and then I will return back here, so I'm gonna ask if Honourable Members will remain in the premises after this meeting closes because they want some formal photographs being taken here, it will take just a few minutes I think the Government Press is doing that, okay, and they'll be ready for us. Thank you, Gilly. Okay, so normal closures, thank you very much for an interesting discussion and we look to see you around again and we can tell you, look what our programme's gonna be in the future, we have normally in the past met informal LegCo on the second Friday and the fourth Friday of each month, I hope to continue that, because it's a good time for us to have some structured sessions and it's when we can all meet together, so try and reserve Tuesday, the second Tuesday and the second, the second Friday and the fourth Friday if you can in your calendar for informal LegCo, just bear it in mind.

I now have to put the question, the question is that this Council now do adjourn sine die.

Question put and agreed to.

Council adjourned sine die.