

**Minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Open Meeting of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee held on Thursday, 21st February 2019 @ 10:30am in the Council Chamber.**

<b>Present:</b>	Hon. Russell K Yon	-	Chairman
	Hon. Dr. Corinda Essex	-	Deputy Chairperson
	Hon. Gavin G Ellick	-	Member
	Hon. Cyril K Leo	-	Member
	Hon. Cruyff G Buckley	-	Member
	Mr Derek Henry	-	Director of ENRD
<b>Invited:</b>	Mr Nicky Lawrence	-	Secretary
	Mr Derek Pedley	-	Head of Property
	Mr Jonathan Hall	-	RSPB
	Ms Sarah Harvey	-	RSPB
	Mr Darren Duncan	-	Head of ANRD
	Ms Myra Young	-	Forestry Officer
	Mrs Pamela Ward Pearce	-	Chair Heritage Sub-Committee - Item 5
	Mrs Ethel Yon	-	President, SHNT - Item 5
	Mr Edward Baldwin	-	Chair St Helena Heritage Society - Item 5
	Mr Adam Sizeland	-	Director of Museum of St Helena - Item 5
	Mr Nicky Lawrence	-	Secretary

**Welcome.**

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

**Open Agenda.**

**19.1 Matters arising from the Open Minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019.**

**Namibian Iceplant.**

The Director said he will follow up on the illustrated paper which was to be prepared by the Invasive Plants Specialist and circulated to Committee and through the Press Office.

**Action: Director.**

**Heritage Report.**

This is an Agenda item.

**Road Traffic Regulations.**

The Chairman is awaiting a response for the Police Directorate regarding speed measuring devices.

**Action: Chairman**

## **18.2 Jamestown Parking Survey.**

Following a final attempt at getting the commercial businesses to submit their questionnaires two more responses were received. Further questionnaires are to be returned after which the Jamestown Parking Review can be progressed.

### **St John's Parking proposal.**

This proposal is still with the Planning Office.

### **Greenland's and the Market.**

These issues are still to be addressed during the walk-through of Jamestown as part of the Jamestown Parking Review.

**Action: Chairman.**

## **19.2 Peaks Management Planning.**

Jonathan Hall and Sarah Havery of the RSPB gave a presentation on Management Planning for Diana's Peak National Park, especially addressing biodiversity, climate change and water security. The aim is to have one project with all stakeholders working together and implementing a 20 year plan for the future of the peaks and identifying funding to support this project. In all, 300 endemic species grow on the peaks alone.

Jonathan and Sarah were thanked for their interesting and informative presentation.

## **19.3 Proposal for excision of land from the Forest Estate.**

The Head of ANRD together with the Forestry Officer submitted a proposal for the excision of selected land parcels from the SHG Forest Estate. ANRD has completed their phased exercise to rationalise the SHG Forest Estate and redefine its boundaries towards streamlining its management responsibility for an Estate that is both productive and environmentally suitable for long-term forestry benefits for the Island. A total of 2,117.292 acres is proposed for excision. The Committee agreed that Exco approval be sought to excise those parcels of land from the SHG Forestry Estate.

**Action: Head of ANRD**

## **19.4 2018/19 Strategic Plans Progress Report for April 2018 - December 2018.**

The Director of ENRD gave a report on outcomes for the period April to December 2018 for the ENRD Strategic Plan Report.

The Blue Belt Programme has enabled a Marine Enforcement Officer post to be implemented.

A review of the Agriculture Estate is being undertaken and the Agriculture Improvement Ordinance is being reviewed.

A training and development needs survey of relevant stakeholders was undertaken. Funding was secured from ESH to undertake further training and upskilling.

An Agronomist has been recruited to work in the Farmers Support Section of ANRD.

A workshop was held with producers and retailers to develop a strategy to maximise fresh produce sales.

Approximately 19.2 acres of land within the ex ADA Estate was protected with rabbit proofed fencing.

A new consignment of chicks were imported, St Helena's very own local vet has taken up post and a potato producer group formed.

#### **Forestry – Sawmill.**

The Chairman asked if any progress is being made with the existing contractor with regards to timber production and the terms of the contract. The Director was asked to look into this.

**Action: Director.**

#### **BioSecurity.**

Services continue at Jamestown, Rupert's and the Airport to protect our borders from new introductions of pests, diseases and weeds. Horizon scanning workshops were held in November last year with funding from CSSF and an Invasive Species Draft Bill should be ready in March 2019.

#### **Weeds Management Strategy.**

This project has been extended to end in October 2019 due to first year delays in recruiting staff.

#### **Land for development.**

Crown Estates Staff are now working directly with investors/developers to help them identify and purchase land.

#### **Crown Estates.**

The overall condition of various crown estates have been improved by upgrades and refurbishments.



### **Government Landlord Housing.**

Some GLH stock and public facilities have been improved and planning permission is being sought to construct new housing and bus shelters.

### **Infrastructure.**

Licences continue to be processed and issued under the Environmental Protection Ordinance

### **Anaerobic Digestion.**

An expert in anaerobic digestion will arrive next week. A Business Case will be prepared for a composting service.

### **Recycling of marine plastics.**

New recycling machines for SHAPE have been purchased under the DEFRA Marine Plastics Project.

### **Terrestrial Biodiversity.**

Workshop to inform a Peaks Management Plan on island held with RSPB in November 2018.

### **Climate Change Policy.**

Policy taken to Chairperson's assembly by Chairman of ENRC and now awaits feedback from the Governor.

### **Renewable Energy.**

Plans to increase renewable energy as share of total electricity generation by 100% by 2022. A power purchase agreement is being developed.

The Director indicated that a Quarter 2 progress report will be presented in April 2019.

**Action: Director**

## **19.5**

### **Update on Heritage Report.**

An update of the Heritage Report was presented by the members of the Heritage Sub Committee led by the Chairperson Mrs Pamela Ward Pearce. ENRC will now use this report once it has been officially accepted to support and address the upkeep, maintenance and development of our historical buildings and monuments and seek funding for this work.

The Chair of the Heritage Sub-Committee asked that the document now be taken forward to Executive Council. The President of the St Helena National Trust asked that a public consultation be held also.

**Action: Chairman/Director**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.25pm.

The next open meeting of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee will be held on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019 @ 10:00am in the Council Chamber.**

Confirmed... *Bon.* ..... Date... *13 MARCH 2019* .....

