

Minutes of the 20th Open Meeting of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee held on Thursday, 21st March 2019 @ 10:45am in the Council Chamber.

Present:	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
	Mr Nicky Lawrence	-	Secretary

Welcome.

The Chairman welcomed everyone present to the Open Agenda of the Environment and Natural resources Committee.

Open Agenda.

20.1 Matters arising from the Open Minutes of 21st February 2019.

Namibian Iceplant.

At the February meeting the Director said he would follow up on a paper which was to be prepared by the Invasive Plants Specialist. In early March a Press Release was issued about several plant species not known to St Helena which were recorded since the completion of the Airport. A 'Weeds Watch' poster was attached asking the public to report any Namibian Iceplant (*Galenia populosa*) they may have seen. It is believed the plant was introduced in sand imported for the construction of the Airport. Members felt that there is insufficient publicity about these invasive plants.

The project has been extended by six months due to the delay in recruiting staff. A Report will provide support for funding to allow the Invasive Plants Project to continue after the Project conclusion date.

The Chairman suggested that the Invasive Plants Project Manager be invited to the next meeting to give an update on the progress of the project.

Action: Chairman/Secretary

Road Traffic Regulations.

The Chairman reported that he and the Tutor Constable have visited the Attorney General's Chambers (AG) with regard to speed measuring devices, and also made suggestions to the AG's Chambers in relation to seat belts and the suggested transitional period before their legal implementation. A draft Regulation is now awaited from AG's Chambers.

Action: Chairman

Proposal for excision of land from the Forest Estate.

Following a proposal from the Agriculture & Natural Resources Division for the excision of selected land parcels from the Forest Estate the Environment & Natural Resources Committee (ENRC) has agreed that approval be sought from Executive Council (ExCo) to excise those proposed parcels of land.

The Chairman will now prepare a Memorandum to be presented to Executive Council for their approval to excise these lands.

Action: Chairman.

Forestry – Sawmill.

Following a query at the last meeting regarding timber production and terms of contract, it was reported that the contractor may purchase local timber but there have been no orders for a long time.

Heritage Report.

All stakeholders will be informed that the Report has been approved by the Environment & Natural Resources Committee. A Memorandum has to be prepared for Executive Council after which the Report will go to public consultation.

Action: Chairman/Director

St John's Parking.

The Chairman said a Business Case for the St John's Parking Proposal together with the proposal for parking in the Quarry have been submitted for funding from the Capital Programme.

Action: Chairman

Community & District Roads Grant Funding.

Members were told that successful applicants were progressing works on their respective roads. Some applicants have still to confirm acceptance of the grant. The Roads Manager expressed concern that contractors were being used to undertake the works. However, he was assured that this is acceptable but no extra funding will be provided.

The Roads Inspector will follow up with those applicants who have not responded.

Members also spoke of issues with the right of way for some applicants and the Head of Property said they should apply for Easements over the land to avoid disputes.

Action: Roads Inspector.

Any other urgent business.

Oil slicks in Harbour.

A member expressed concern about oil slicks in the harbour and the effect on the marine environment. The team who removed the oil from the wreck of the 'RFA Darkdale' said that there will be small leaks. The member told Committee that there is substantial leakage.

The Chairman said that he has raised this issue already and spoke of a Report written by the MOD team who removed the oil which he is trying to locate. He also told members that he has requested a local boatman to collect samples for analysis to determine what the slick actually is and to trace its origin.

Members agreed that the Report should be found to find any recommendations it may have and meet with all stakeholders to determine a way forward.

Action: Chairman

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12:30pm.

Confirmed..... Date...12 April 2019.....