

**Minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> Open Meeting of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 @ 10:40am 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   |
|                 | Mr Derek Henry         | - | Acting Director of I&T                             |
|                 | Mr Nicky Lawrence      | - | Secretary  |
| <b>Invited:</b> | Miss Helena Bennett    | - | Director of Tourism – Item 2                       |
|                 | Miss Melissa Fowler    | - | Tourism Manager – Item 2                           |
|                 | Mr Darren Duncan       | - | Acting Director of ENRP – Item 3                   |
|                 | Miss Isabel Peters     | - | Chief Environmental Officer –Item 3                |
|                 | Dr Rebecca Cairns-wick | - | Coordinator, St Helena Research Institute – Item 3 |
| <b>Apology:</b> | Hon. Cruyff G Buckley  | - | Member   |

**Welcome.**

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

**Open Agenda.**

**24.1 Matters arising from Open Minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019.**

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

The Chairman stated that an information paper need not go to Executive Council (ExCo) but will be circulated via email to members. The public consultation period has been completed and it will be published via Gazette Notice that the land will be transferred to Crown Estates on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019.

All lands are developable and an assessment will be made of these lands which can take up to six months, after which the final document will go to ExCo. However, the public can identify land and submit their Expressions of Interest to the Crown Estates Office.

**Action: Chairman.**

**Heritage Report.**

Terms of Reference are being prepared for this Report.

### **Waste Management Policy Update.**

The Acting Director of I&T will follow up on the progress of the Waste Management Policy with the Acting Director of ENRP due to the Environmental Risk Manager being on leave.

**Action: Acting Director of I & T**

### **Safety Rail near Gray's Cottage, Vaughn's.**

The Chairman reported that the Police and Emergency Services informed him that they are conducting a survey of all safety rails around the island. Chairman said this is outside of their remit and he will follow up on this.

**Action: Chairman.**

### **Drainage at Longwood Hangings.**

This matter is still to be addressed with the Roads Manager and the Buildings Manager.

**Action: Chairman/Roads Manager**

### **Roundabout at Scotland.**

Refreshing lines on the Scotland Roundabout is on the Roads Inspector's Programme of works.

### **Three day Work Scheme.**

The Acting Director of I&T will address this matter with the Director of Corporate Human Resources to draft a general Policy for a Part Time Work Scheme.

**Action: Chairman/Acting Director of I & T**

### **Peaks National Park Conservation Management Plan.**

The Plan is currently out for public consultation and any comments are to be submitted to the Acting Director of the Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Directorate.

## **24.2**

### **Transport Briefing Paper.**

The Director of Tourism together with the Tourism Manager presented the Tourism Transport Briefing paper. This paper outlines some changes that the Tourism Directorate would like to implement in order to have safe operational guidelines for Taxi and Tour Operators, in particular those who offer their

services to our tourism industry. The Committee realised that some of the proposals will need to be addressed through legislation, but there are some best practices that the Tourist Office can implement independently with those taxi and tour operators who are registered with the Tourist Office.

**24.3 Discussion on Research Institute Policies.**

The Chief Environmental Officer together with the Co-Ordinator of the St Helena Research Institute, gave a presentation on the Policies that will have particular impact on the Institute with work carried out in line with the Environmental Protection Ordinance, 2016. These Policies are designed to ensure that research undertaken on St Helena is beneficial and in the best interests of the St Helena Community. Additional information was provided as to how the Institute has progressed to date.

**24.4 Amendment to Burial Grounds Ordinance, 1895.**

The Burial Grounds Ordinance, 1895 was reviewed and Committee agreed and approved several minor changes. These entailed renewing names and titles, removing some archaic text and adding the required amendments. This will now follow the normal process for amending legislation before the changes can be implemented.

A member asked to check the feasibility of initiating a Trading Account for the maintenance of the Graveyard.

**Action: Chairman**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:45am.

The next meeting of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee will be held in the Council Chamber on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019 @ 10:00am.**

Confirmed.....*Blon*.....Date.....*07 Aug 2019*.....