

Minutes of the 26th Open Meeting of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee held on Thursday 19th September 2019 @ 09:40am in the Council Chamber.

Present:	Hon. Russell K Yon	-	Chairman
	Hon. Dr. Corinda Essex	-	Deputy Chairperson
	Hon. Gavin G Ellick	-	Member
	Hon. Cruyff G Buckley	-	Member
	Hon. Cyril K Leo	-	Member
	Mr Derek Henry	-	Acting Director of I&T
	Mr Darren Duncan	-	Acting Director of ENRP – Item 3
Invited:	Mr Nicky Lawrence	-	Secretary
	Miss Ludi Kern	-	Invasive Plants Specialist – Item 3
	Mr Derek Pedley	-	Head of Property
	Mr Deon Robbertse	-	Roads Manager – Item 2
	Mr Darren Francis	-	Roads Inspector – Item 2

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

Open Agenda.

26.1 Matters arising from minutes of 15th August 2019.

Excision of land from Forest Estate.

Procedures following the excision of land from the Forest Estate is still work in progress.

A member enquired about the integrity of the land allocation process. The Acting Director informed the member that there is a process in the Land & Buildings Policy (L&BDP) which is used for the allocation of land. There are also Internal Guidelines approved by the ENRC which are followed.

Also an Internal Audit within Crown Estates was conducted in February of this year. As a result all applications and expressions of interest for land are recorded. All Expressions and Conflicts of Interest across the Directorate are also recorded on the HRIS system.

A member expressed concern that it was stated that the land will be assessed and advertised to the public which conflicts with the Land Development Control Policy (LDCP). Members of the public can still identify land and express their interest in it.

The Chairman said he will address this with the Estates Strategy Panel (ESP).

Action: Chairman

Waste Management Policy Update.

The Acting Director of ENRP reported he is awaiting the Environmental Risk Manager's return to work for an update on the Waste Management Policy.

Action: Environmental Risk Manager

Safety Rail near Gray's Cottage, Vaughan's.

The Chairman reported that he has been in discussion with Emergency Services and was informed that they are identifying areas where safety rails are required and they will report to the Directorate.

Three Day Work Scheme.

The Chairman reported that this matter has been addressed informally with the Governor who advised that a document be prepared for Elected Members; who should consider employing those people currently unemployed.

Action: Chairman.

Amendment to Burial Grounds Ordinance.

The Chairman reported that this matter has been referred to the Head of Governor's Office for clarification on how to replace '*Secretary of State*' with '*Governor in Council*'. The document will then be sent to the Attorney General's Chambers for amendment.

Action: Chairman.

26.2 Proposed road widening at Vaughan's and Blue Hill.

The Roads Manager tabled a proposal to widen two areas of the Island's road Infrastructure. The areas recommended for works at this time are in the vicinity of Gray's Cottage, Vaughans, and the Blue Hill Road from the junction with Thompson's Wood Road and Red Hill, to include Toby's Ledge. Works are anticipated to begin shortly once the arrangements are finalised. The public will be informed when this work will commence.

Action: Roads Manager

26.3 Update on Darwin Invasive Plant Project.

The Acting Director of Environment, Natural Resources and Planning and the Invasive Plants Specialist provided an update on the Darwin Invasive Plant (IP) Project. The Committee was informed that this project is nearing completion and funding providers have agreed to extend the project until March 2020. This will allow the Invasive Plants Specialist to continue her work including

integrating project IP trials results with farmers and land holders to provide them with as much information and methods to control the invasive plants which are a threat to their pasture lands. It was also noted that during this project some 17 members of staff from the Agriculture & Natural Resources Division, Roads Section and Saint Helena National Trust (SHNT) have been trained in the safe use of herbicides and three are now qualified trainers. James Fantom of the SHNT who is a project partner, also spent two weeks in South Africa on an additional invasive plant management course.

There being no further business for the Open Agenda the meeting concluded at 12:30pm.

The next open meeting of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee will be held on **Thursday 17th October 2019 @ 10:30am in the Council Chamber.**

Confirmed.....*Don*.....Date.....*09 Oct 2019*.....