

Minutes of the 28th Open Meeting of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee held on Tuesday 19th November 2019 @ 10:15am in the Council Chamber.

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|-----------------|-------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 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 Nicky Lawrence | - | Secretary |
| Invited: | Mr Rhys Hobbs | - | Marine Conservation Officer – Item 2 |
| | Miss Catherine Williams | - | Legislative Drafter – Items 3 & 4 |
| | Mrs Gillian Francis | - | Deputy Chief Secretary – Item 3 |
| | Mr Allen Cansick | - | Acting Attorney General – Item 3 & 4 |
| Apology: | Mr Ismail Mohammed | - | Chief Planning Officer – Item 3 |
| | Mr Darren Duncan | - | Acting Director of ENRP |

Welcome.

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

Open Agenda.

28.1 Matters arising from minutes of 17th October 2019.

Excision of land from Forest Estate.

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

Action: Chairman

Waste Management Policy update.

It was reported that the consultation period has ended with one representation concerning recycling. The Environmental Risk Manager (ERM) will incorporate this into the Policy and present to Committee at the next meeting.

Action: Environmental Risk Manager

Proposed Work Scheme.

The Chairman reported that salaries have been determined and the successful candidates will commence work next week. A member asked for terms and conditions of work to be circulated to Committee members.

Action: Chairman

Brief on cycling risk assessment.

A paper has been submitted to Committee but a risk assessment is still required.

Action: Cllr Buckley

28.2 Marine Policy & Regulations.

The Marine Conservation Officer (MCO) presented the following updated Marine Policy and Regulations:-

- Whale Shark Tourism – Environmental Best Practice Guidelines.

These revised structures sit under the Environmental Protection Ordinance to implement and monitor Marine Regulations, Marine Tourism, Sand Extraction, Water Quality, Marine Species Interaction, Monitoring & Licensing, Marine Accreditation and licensing for tour operators. The Guidelines are focussed on safeguarding of marine habitats and the flora and fauna that live there.

The MCO went on to inform members of what is allowed and what is not allowed in the marine environment. i.e. scuba diving with whale sharks is not allowed.

The MCO said he will consult with tour operators and advise Committee on a way forward. He invited Committee to feedback on the documents and said he will have further documents for a future meeting.

Action: Marine Conservation Officer.

28.3 Dark Skies Legislation.

The Deputy Chief Secretary (DCS) told members of the intention to apply for Dark Skies Community status. A Memo has been presented to the Economic Development Committee and it was agreed for the draft Bill to be passed to the Attorney General's Chamber's for review and advice on suitable penalties for the offences.

A member objected saying this is not feasible or appropriate and that someone should explain the legislation which should be taken to full public consultation. The member suggested to meet with all Elected Members and present the Bill.

DCS said the Bill will be taken forward and not amend the LDGP. The necessary changes will be made and brought back to Committee.

Action: Deputy Chief Secretary

28.4

Amendment to Burial Grounds Ordinance.

The request to change 'Secretary of State' to 'Governor in Council' was approved, however the date of the Ordinance cannot be changed. A further amendment relating to the spacing of grave at the new Dungeon Cemetery has to be made.

The Acting Attorney General informed members that the legislation has been drafted for presentation to ExCo in 2 weeks.

Action: Acting Attorney General.

28.5

Request to operate Food Trailer in Grand Parade.

An application to operate a food trailer in the Grand Parade during the month of December was approved by Committee. The applicant must apply to Connect St Helena Ltd for connection to the power box.

Request to set up souvenir stall near Library.

A request to set up a souvenir stall near the Public Library was approved, however the applicant must liaise with the neighbouring Ice Cream vendors so that their times of operation do not clash.

Any other urgent business.

Visitor from Falkland Islands.

The Chairman informed members that the Environmental Officer from the Falkland Islands will pay a visit to St Helena on the 1st December 2019 for a pest risk assessment workshop.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12:15pm.

Confirmed.....*Don.*.....Date.....*05 Dec 2019*.....