

Minutes of the 30th Open Meeting of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee held on Thursday 16th January 2020 @ 10:20am in the Council Chamber.

Present:	Hon. Russell K Yon	-	Chairman
	Hon. Dr. Corinda Essex	-	Deputy Chairperson
	Hon. Cruyff G Buckley	-	Member
	Hon. Cyril K Leo	-	Member
	Mr Derek Henry	-	Director of I&T
	Mr Darren Duncan	-	Director of ENRP
	Miss Karen Thomas	-	Secretary (Temporary)
Invited:	Ms Tara Jane Sutcliffe	-	Director of SHNT - Item 2
	Mr Mike Durnford	-	Environmental Risk Manager - Item 3
Apology:	Hon. Gavin G Ellick	-	Member – engaged with SHNT
	Mr Nicky Lawrence	-	Secretary - Medical appointment

Welcome.

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

Open Agenda.

30.1 Matters arising from minutes of 16th December 2019.

Excision of land from Forest Estate.

There was nothing further to report at this meeting.

Action: Chairman

Waste Management Policy update.

An updated Waste Management Policy and Action Plan is on this month's Agenda.

Action: Environmental Risk Manager.

Proposed Work Scheme.

Members agreed that funding for this scheme should come from the Consolidated Fund. However if there are savings in the recurrent budget this should be used first. If further funding is required this should be sourced through Supplementary Appropriation.

Action: Director of I & T

Brief on cycling risk assessment.

The Chair of the Working Group will report on progress at February's meeting.

Action: Cllr Buckley.

Dark Skies Legislation.

The Chairman reported that further discussion needs to take place with the Economic Development Committee.

Action: DCS/Chairman.

Amendment to Burial Grounds Ordinance.

Amendments to the Burial Grounds Ordinance were approved by Executive Council yesterday and will be presented to Legislative Council.

Action: Chairman

Continuation of Marine Policy & Regulations.

Following last month's presentation and discussion the Marine Policy and all agreed measures have been put in place. A Marine Accreditation Scheme Policy will be brought to a later meeting.

Action: Marine Conservation Officer

30.2

Introduction to Director of St Helena National Trust.

Members introduced themselves and welcomed Miss Tara-Jane Sutcliffe, the new Director of the St Helena National Trust (SHNT), who has been in post for four months.

She shared with members her background as a heritage profession, including having worked as an archaeologist. Most latterly, before joining SHNT, she ran an international volunteering charity. The new Director aims to strengthen the relationship of SHNT with St Helena Government (SHG) at a strategic level with a revised Memorandum of Understanding. She emphasised the need to collaborate more closely with SHG to prevent competing for limited funding (e.g. DEFRA Darwin+) or replicating areas of work. She welcomed opportunity to strengthen the working relationship with the Director of ENR&P, Darren Duncan, who agreed to meet to discuss shared objectives.

The Chairman spoke of historic buildings under the remit of the Infrastructure & Transport (I&T) Directorate and, in light of environmental and historical issues presented, the SHNT Director welcomed opportunity to collaborate with SHG in these areas. She confirmed that SHNT has been working with SHG to obtain divestment leases on a number of heritage and natural environmental assets in order to leverage external funding that is more accessible to an NGO than Government. Members asked about High Knoll Fort. The Director clarified that SHNT is negotiating a long-term, 99-year lease but the unknown liabilities of a full maintenance lease are untenable for the charity and its trustees. High Knoll is a Health & Safety risk and needs a conditions survey to be undertaken so that an informed business case can be drawn up by SHNT for management

and funding purposes. The SHNT Director welcomed the opportunity to discuss the matter further with the Director of I & T.

The SHNT Director asked the Committee about the opportunity for legacy support following completion of LEMP (the airport mitigation project divested to SHNT), which has one more financial year to run. The Director of I&T informed members that DFID would not be funding LEMP any further once the current project comes to an end. Councillors confirmed that monies were also not available in the recurrent budget given pressures on health, educations, etc.

There was also discussion of the SHG and SHNT Marine Centre collaboration. The ENR&P Director confirmed that a meeting had taken place the prior day and that he would provide SHNT with written confirmation of SHG's position. Concern was raised by the Chair and members at the possibility that SHG would progress without SHNT owing to delay in obtaining a lease. Members requested that a Position Paper be drafted as a matter of priority and brought to the next ENRC meeting for discussion.

Action: Director of I & T

30.3 Draft Waste Management Policy and Action Plan

The Environmental Risk Manager (ERM) briefly went through the Draft Waste Implementation Policy and Action Plan with Members. This document has been out for public consultation. The ERM told members there are plans to revisit and update the National Environmental Management Plan.

There was some discussion on recycling scrap metals such as aluminium and copper which is very valuable. There should be no competition with the Private sector. Will aluminium provide a good return and can Ascension be included for social marketing? Ascension's method of compressing results in greater density. The ERM suggested Waste Management Services could work with them to make a container for export every 6 months. If this happens Biosecurity should be involved for mitigation measures. The Private Sector should be made aware of the availability of recycling with SHG setting the Model.

WMS does not collect Bulky Waste but suggested this could be a business for the private sector.

Members congratulated the ERM and his team for compiling the Policy and Action Plan and gave their approval for this to proceed. These documents will be submitted to ExCo for approval.

Action: Chairman

The being no further business Committee moved to the Closed Agenda of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee at 11:30am.

Confirmed.....*Bon.*.....Date...*12 FEB 2020*.....