

Minutes of the Meeting of Executive Council held on Tuesday, 10th March 2020 at 9.30am in the Council Chamber

Present: His Excellency the Governor (Dr Philip Rushbrook)
The Hon Chief Secretary (Mrs S O'Bey)
The Hon Financial Secretary (Mr D L Richards)
The Hon Attorney General (Mr A T Cansick)
The Hon C R Beard
The Hon A A Green
The Hon L A Henry
The Hon D F Thomas
The Hon R K Yon

In attendance: Clerk of Councils (Mrs C C Johnson)
Head of Corporate Support (Mrs C A George)
Head of News (Mrs K Yon)
Head of Governor's Office (Mr Greg Gibson)

OPEN SESSION

72.1 Welcome

The Governor welcomed all to the meeting. Members of the public were in attendance.

72.2 Pension (Amendment) Ordinance 2020 (ExCo Memo 20/2020)

The Financial Secretary introduced the Memorandum asking Council to advise whether the Pensions (Amendment) Bill, 2020 should be printed, published and presented as Government Business at the next formal meeting of Legislative Council to be held in March 2020. The Financial Secretary explained that the proposed amendments to the Pensions Ordinance was a tidying up exercise because pension entitlements for officers who have been transferred to other entities as part of SHG's divestment strategy when medically boarded are currently inconsistent with the pension entitlements for officers employed by SHG. Members noted that the Economic Development Committee had endorsed the changes at their January 2020 meeting.

Members were of the view that this was the correct approach and fully supported the change but enquired whether there were any other contentious issues; the Financial Secretary advised that he was not aware of any.

Following discussion, Council advised and the Governor agreed, that the Pensions (Amendment) Bill, 2020 should be printed, published and presented as Government Business at the next formal meeting of Legislative Council to be held on the 27th March 2020.

(Action: Clerk of Councils)

72.3 Waste Management Policy (ExCo Memo 21/2020)

The Director of Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Mr Darren Duncan and the Environmental Risk Manager, Mr Mike Durnford were in attendance for this item of business.

The Chairman of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee introduced the Memorandum asking Council to advise whether the Waste Management Policy, January 2020, should be endorsed.

The Chairman of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee explained that volumes of waste being landfilled on-Island are increasing and the available landfill space is rapidly reducing. This has significance for SHG as the need to replace and restore Horse Point Landfill Site (HPLS) would need to take place within a reduced timeframe. It was noted that the opportunity to delay the replacement of the asset through a recycling programme would bring a number of associated benefits.

Members were content to support the Waste Management Policy and Supporting Plan adding that this was long overdue and said that they hoped that it would help to tap into other external funding sources, add value and promote economic development. A query was raised as to why yearly reviews were not proposed; the Director of Environment, Natural Resources and Planning explained that there would be a broad review of the policy in three years but annual reviews could also be undertaken.

The Chief Secretary thanked the officers and all involved for all their hard work in developing the policy and implementation plan.

Following discussion, Council advised and the Governor agreed, that the Waste Management Policy, January 2020, should be endorsed.

(Action: Clerk of Councils)

At this point, the Director of Environment, Natural Resources and Planning and the Environmental Risk Manager left the meeting.

72.4 Development Application - Proposed New HM Prison and Custody Building, Bottom Woods (ExCo Memo 22/2020)

The Chief Planning Officer, Mr Ismail Mohammed, was in attendance for this item of business.

The Chief Secretary introduced the Memorandum asking Council to advise whether full Development Permission should be granted, with Conditions, to build a new prison and custody building on the land in Bottom Woods as recommended by the Land Development Control Authority (LDCA).

The Chief Secretary reminded members that outline permission was granted in September 2019 and the application was referred to Executive Council because it was for the development of buildings or sites, which are (or are proposed to be) used for the custody of persons sentenced or ordered by the court to be imprisoned or otherwise detained.

The Chief Planning Officer explained to Members all the details of the application in particular the conditions, issues and concerns raised from the St Helena Airport and the St Helena National Trust.

Members were content to give their full support to the application noting that there had been visits to the site, the Land Planning and Control Board had also carried out their part in the process, there was a wirebird management plan in place and they were aware of the challenges with the current prison premises. Concern was raised about what sewerage system which would be used and the Chief Planning Officer confirmed that it would be a septic tank system.

Following discussion, Council advised and the Governor agreed, that full Development Permission should be granted, with Conditions, to build a new prison and custody building on the land in Bottom Woods as recommended by the Land Development Control Authority (LDCA).

(Action: Clerk of Councils)

72.5 Development Application - Proposed Custody Suite, Coleman House, Jamestown (ExCo Memo 23/2020)

The Chief Planning Officer, Mr Ismail Mohammed, was in attendance for this item of business.

The Chief Secretary introduced the Memorandum asking Council to advise whether full Development Permission should be granted, with Conditions, for the Proposed Custody Suite

at Coleman House, Jamestown, as recommended by the Land Development Control Authority (LDCA).

The Chief Secretary explained that the application was referred to Executive Council because it was for the development of buildings or sites, which are (or are proposed to be) used for the custody of persons sentenced or ordered by the court to be imprisoned or otherwise detained.

The Chief Planning Officer explained all the background behind the application to Members and advised that representations had been received from Sure St Helena and the St Helena National Trust.

Members were content to support the application but asked about the steps into the building because they felt that for safety reasons the rooms should be on the one level; the Chief Planning Officer confirmed that some of the steps would remain but lifts would be put in as well. Members also raised concerns about whether there would be some security fencing and sound proofing and the Chief Planning Officer was tasked with ensuring adequate security procedures be put in place and sound proofing (due to the building being in a residential area) addressed.

Following discussion, Council advised and the Governor agreed, that full Development Permission should be granted, with Conditions, for the Proposed Custody Suite at Coleman House, Jamestown as recommended by the Land Development Control Authority (LDCA) adding that adequate sound proofing would be required to ensure noise is kept to a minimal in this residential area.

(Action: Clerk of Councils)

72.6 Development Application - Proposed replacement of existing and additional Solar Type Street Lights in Jamestown Conservation Area and James Bay (ExCo Memo 24/2020)

The Chief Planning Officer, Mr Ismail Mohammed, was in attendance for this item of business.

The Chief Secretary introduced the Memorandum asking Council whether full Development Permission should be granted, with Conditions, for the replacement of existing and additional Solar Type Street Lights in the Jamestown Conservation Area as recommended by the Land Development Control Authority (LDCA).

The Chief Secretary explained that the application was referred to Executive Council because it was a heritage area and within 50 metres of the sea.

The Chief Planning Officer explained all the background behind the application to Members and advised that representations had been received from the St Helena National Trust, Heritage Society and one member of the public.

Members were content to support the application but asked whether there would be any additional lights in the Public Gardens in Jamestown, as the public had raised concerns about how dim the existing solar lights were; the Chief Planning Officer confirmed there would be additional lights and they would not be solar but powered lights which would increase illumination in the area. There was some discussion about the siting of the proposed new lights and noted that in agreeing their location, officials had taken account of existing poles and connections shared with other agencies. Mention was made as to how this development would tie in with proposed Dark Skies legislation and noted that an amendment to the Environmental Protection Ordinance was proposed and being progressed.

Following discussion, Council advised and the Governor agreed, full Development Permission should be granted, with Conditions, for the replacement of existing and additional Solar Type Street Lights in the Jamestown Conservation Area as recommended by the Land Development Control Authority (LDCA).

(Action: Clerk of Councils)

As an aside, the Chief Planning Officer reported that with regard to the PASH application, PASH had agreed that underground rather than overhead cables would be acceptable.

The Governor thanked the Chief Planning Officer and his team for their assistance and at this point the Chief Planning Officer left the meeting.

72.7 Confirmation of Open Session Minutes of 11 February 2020

The minutes of the open session of 11th February 2020 were confirmed.

72.8 Matters Arising from the Open Session Minutes

72.8.1 (68.4) Development Application - Proposed Installation of Three Wind Turbines and Energy Storage System at Deadwood Plain (ExCo Memo 15/2020)

The Financial Secretary advised that arrangements with PASH were in progress.

72.9 Any Other Business

72.9.1 Gibraltar International Bank

The Financial Secretary advised that a Press Release had been issued the previous day explaining how the Gibraltar International Bank had agreed to formally support the St Helena Government and Bank of St Helena. The Financial Secretary explained that this would enable St Helena residents and businesses alike to apply to open an account directly with the Gibraltar International Bank and they would be able to access online banking services and obtain a debit card which could be used for online purchases/payments, including payments whilst abroad.



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Clerk of Councils

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Governor

7 April 2020

Date