

Minutes of the Meeting of Executive Council held on Tuesday, 19th January 2021 at 9.30am
in the Council Chamber

Present: His Excellency the Acting Governor (Mr Greg Gibson)
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 C G Buckley
The Hon A A Green
The Hon L A Henry
The Hon D F Thomas

In attendance: Clerk of Councils (Mrs C C Johnson)
Head of Corporate Support (Mrs C A George)
Acting Head of News (Mr Liam Yon)

OPEN SESSION

94.1 Welcome

The Acting Governor opened the meeting by welcoming all present and extending condolences to the Hon Cruyff Buckley on the loss of his Father.

94.2 SHG Archives Lending Policy (ExCo Memo 1/2021)

The Chairman of the Social and Community Development Committee introduced the Memorandum. He explained that since the Memorandum was published on the SHG website, a number of representations were received by Members objecting to the introduction of a Lending Policy for the SHG Archives. Some Members had not yet had the opportunity to read the objections and requested time to do so. With regard to the policy, some concerns were expressed about the possibility of adequate Insurance cover being secured when items were loaned due to the difficulty in putting a value to what were unique records. It was explained that Solomons Cell Captive had been consulted about insurance provision and indicated that this could be provided on a case by case basis.

The view was expressed by one Member that the introduction of a policy could result in more people being aware of the Archives collection and having the opportunity to view some of the documents if loaned for an exhibition, which could in turn stimulate interest in visiting the Archives to view other material. The question was asked as to the progress of the refurbishment of the former Public Works and Services Unallocated Stores building, which Executive Council had agreed for leasing to the Heritage Society in 2014, part of the plans being to relocate the Archives to the refurbished building. There had been various bids for the use of the building and it was disappointing to see that there appeared to have been very little progress made.

Some Members had reservations about the introduction of such a policy, as there was a need to protect Heritage and historical records and asked for the views of the SHG Custodian of Records (CoR), who was present in the public gallery. The CoR, who had drafted the policy, stated that she did not support the proposal to lend items from the SHG Archives, as it had always been the case that once deposited there, no documents were permitted for loan; however there was not a formal written policy in place. In response to a question as to whether or not Archives in other Overseas Territories had a lending policy, it was noted that some did, as did the National Archives in the UK.

It was acknowledged that a formal policy should be in place, rather than having to deal with requests for loans on an ad hoc basis. The Attorney General suggested that the policy might be amended to state that the final decision as to whether or not an item could be loaned should rest with Executive Council on the recommendation of the Custodian of Records.

The Chairman of the Social and Community Development Committee stated that he would withdraw the Memorandum in order for all Executive Council Members to read the objections that had been submitted, undertake further consultation and report back to Executive Council in due course.

(Action: Hon Chairman Social and Community Development Committee)

94.3 Confirmation of the Open Session Minutes of 17 November 2020

The open session minutes of 17 November 2020 were confirmed. There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

94.4 Confirmation of the Open Session Minutes of 1 December 2020

The open session minutes of 1 December 2020 were confirmed.

94.5 Matters Arising from the Open Session Minutes of 1 December 2020

94.5.1 (92.5.4) International Labour Organisation Violence and Harassment Convention

Action completed.

94.6 Confirmation of the Open Session Minutes of 18 December 2020

The open session minutes of 18 December 2020 were confirmed.

94.7 Matters Arising from the Open Session Minutes of 18 December 2020

94.7.1 (93.4) Development Application: Proposed Construction of a Pet Care Centre, Merrimen's Forest (ExCo Memo 85/2020)

It was noted that the Chief Planning Officer was working with the applicant.

94.8 Any Other Business

94.8.1 Governor's Office Staff

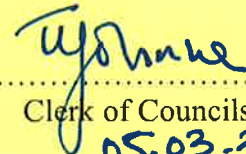
The Acting Governor informed Members that the Economic Development and Prosperity Adviser, Karan Garcha, would be leaving the Island at the end of February. Temporary cover for the role was being pursued until a full-time successor could be appointed.

94.8.2 UK Travel Restrictions

The Acting Governor informed Members that additional travel restriction were to be introduced for persons arriving in the UK, whereby a period of 10 days self-isolation would be required; this would be reviewed in mid-February.

94.8.3 BVI Commission of Inquiry

The Acting Governor informed Members that the Governor of the British Virgin Islands had launched a Commission of Inquiry into alleged corruption and criminal activity and a Judge had been appointed.


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Clerk of Councils
05.03.21


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Acting Governor

5/3/21
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Date

