

STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2015 in the Liberation Room, Secretariat at 3pm.

These minutes are draft minutes until confirmed by resolution at the next meeting of the Committee

Present: The Honourable M Summers, OBE, MLA, Chairman
The Honourable Dr. B Elsby, MLA
The Honourable I Hansen, MLA
The Honourable M Poole, MLA
The Honourable P Rendell MBE, MLA
The Honourable G Short, MLA

In Attendance: The Honourable Chief Executive, Keith Padgett
The Honourable Acting Financial Secretary, Lydia Morrison
The Director of Natural Resources, John Barton for Item 6

Clerk: Margaret Butler, Personal Assistant.
Wendy Luxton,

Public & Press: Two

1 Apologies for Absence

The Honourable R Edwards, MLA, Chairman
The Honourable J Cheek, MLA
The Honourable Financial Secretary, Nicola Granger.

2 Declarations of interest

The Honourable P Rendell, MBE, MLA for Agenda Item 6.1

3 Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23rd September 2015

The Honourable P Rendell, MBE, MLA drew attention to Item 7 AISE – PWD Training (Page 2 of 5) requesting paragraph 5 of this section be amended and for this to be changed to read “The Honourable P Rendell, MBE, MLA supported the request in principle noting that this is a large sum to have overlooked and advised that in future, funding may not be available”.

The Committee agreed to this amendment.

4 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23rd September 2015.

There were four matters arising.

4.1 Item 9.1 – Economic Development for EU Fish Analysis.

The Committee considered the response provided by Jonathan Nicholson the Laboratory Manager, Pathology Department in relation to the accreditation of the laboratory.

The Chairman, the Honourable M Summers, OBE, MLA noted from the update provided that there is a short fall in funding. The Honourable Dr B Elsby, MLA raised the question of what we are getting for this money and if FIG can use the Lab once accredited in another way.

LabMgr
DHSS

The Honourable M Poole, MLA advised the Committee that there is an external visit planned for next year and suggested a more detailed report is provided after this visit.

Taking this into consideration it was agreed to request a more detailed report for consideration by Budget Select Committee in February/March 2016.

4.2 Item 7 – AISE – PWD Training.

The Honourable Acting Financial Secretary (Ag FS) provided the Committee with a breakdown of the bid for funding in relation to the wind turbines and the Allen's Diesel engine funding.

The Committee was happy with this information and the funding of £50,040 in relation to the Enercon Training and £36,570 for Allen's Diesel training was approved.

DPW

4.3 Item 9.3 – Transport and Communications (Page 3) FIGAS Fire Appliances.

The Honourable Ag FS advised the Committee that the General Manager, FIGAS had confirmed that the Fire Appliance is due to arrive at the end of April beginning of May 2016.

4.4 Item 9.4 – Infrastructure – Municipal Services (Page 4)

The Honourable Ag FS advised the Committee that this item related to work carried out at Kiel Canal and the provision of fences and access tracks.

5 Virement report number 3 - 2015/16

The report was noted with no comments raised.

6 AISE – Fisheries Storage.

Paper
41/15

The Director of Natural Resources (DNR) John Barton attended the meeting to update the Committee on the Departments request for additional funds of £72,540 due to unanticipated storage costs incurred this year.

The DNR advised the Committee it was currently costing £36,000 per month for the storage of 39 containers holding some 1,000 tons of fish confiscated by FIG as part of an investigation by the Fisheries Department. Part of this cost includes electricity/container hire and also daily inspection costs of £5.00.

- 6.1** The DNR advised that evidence is still awaited from the Courts before the catch can be disposed of. The Court case is now scheduled to take place on the 19th November 2015.

The additional funding requested would cover the charges arising for the storage of the fish for September and October. Taking this into consideration the Honourable Dr. B Elsby suggested funding is also approved to cover November.

The Committee agreed to the request and to allocate additional funding of £100,000 to cover storage costs for September, October and November.

DNR

The Honourable P Rendell, MBE, MLA declared an interest in this Item and did not take part in this discussion.

- 7 To determine which items from the Executive Council meeting held on Wednesday 14th October 2015 can be considered in public and resolve these items.**

There were no matters with financial implications referred from Executive Council.

- 8 Date of Next meeting: 28th October 2015.**

- 9 Exclusion of Press and Public.**

The Chairman to move as follows:

I move that the press and public be now excluded on the ground that the next items of business to be considered are likely to disclose exempt information under Paragraph 10 relating to information about relevant contracts and negotiations of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012.

- 10 Confirmation of the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23rd September 2015.**

NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 10 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012, relating to information about relevant contracts and negotiations.

The Exempt Minutes were confirmed as a true accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

- 11 Matters arising from the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23rd September 2015.**

There were two matters arising from this meeting.

- 11.1 Item 16.3 – Infrastructure – Municipal Services – MPA Wind Farm (Page 5).**

The Honourable Ag FS confirmed that the Director of Public Works (DPW) had confirmed revenue is being collected from the MoD.

11.2 Item 16.4 – Infrastructure – Departmental Equipment – Natural Resources Improvements (Page 5).

The Honourable Ag FS advised the Committee that due to the pressure of work the Public Works Department had not been able to complete these works.

12 Exempt matters with Financial implications referred from the Executive Council meeting held on Wednesday 14th October 2015.

There were no Exempt matters with financial implications.

Chairman

The Treasury,
Stanley.
20 October 2015.

Clerk