



**RECORD OF THE MEETING
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**HELD IN STANLEY
ON 23 FEBRUARY 2017**

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HELD IN STANLEY ON THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2017**

Speaker of the House
(Mr Keith Biles JP)

MEMBERS (Ex-Officio)

The Honourable Chief Executive
(Mr Barry Rowland)

The Honourable Financial Secretary
(Mrs Lydia Morrison)

Elected

The Honourable Janet (Jan) Lynda Cheek
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Ian Hansen
(Elected Member for Camp Constituency)

The Honourable Michael James Poole
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Phyllis (Phyl) Mary Rendell MBE
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Gavin Phillip Short
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Michael Summers OBE
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

PERSONS ENTITLED TO ATTEND

The Attorney General
(Peter Judge MBE)

Commander British Forces, South Atlantic Islands.
(Commodore Darren Bone, Royal Navy)

CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY: Claudette Prior MBE

PRAYERS: Reverend Kathy Biles

APOLOGIES – OVERSEAS

The Honourable Roger Edwards
(Elected Member for Camp Constituency)

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**The Record of the meeting of Legislative Assembly
held on Thursday 23 February 2017**

Prayers

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members, I bid you good morning, and to ladies and gentlemen in the gallery. My usual reminder please that mobile phones to be turned off, or at least set to silent. Thank you.

Clerk of the Assembly

Confirmation of the Record of the Legislative Assembly held on the 26th January 2017.

Mr Speaker

I have in front of me, a now amended copy of the record of our last meeting, if you wish to amend the copies, if you have them, in front of you. The amendment is on page 51 and it is to change the word “defective” to “effective”.

Apart from that amendment Is there any Member that wishes to make any other changes? No. Can I sign this as a true record of that meeting?

MLAs

Aye

Clerk of the Assembly

Papers laid on the table by the Honourable Chief Executive.

In accordance with section 1 (5) of the Charities Act 1960 in its application to the Falkland Islands.

- The annual report 2015/2016 Charity Commissioners for the Falkland Islands.

In accordance with section 451 of the Companies Act 1948 in its application in the Falkland Islands by virtue of section 2 (1) of the Companies and Private Partnership Ordinance.

- Board of Trade Annual Report Falkland Islands for the year ending 30th June 2016.

In accordance with section 84 of the Children Ordinance 2014.

- The Falkland Islands Children’s Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2016/2017.

In accordance with section 80 of the Constitution the report of the Public Accounts Committee in respect of;

- The Falkland Landholdings Corporation Accounts Year ended 30th June 2016

In accordance with section 82 of the Constitution the report of the Public Accounts Committee in respect of;

- Fire and Rescue Domestic Service
- Follow up report FIPASS

The Honourable Chief Executive

Mr Speaker, I hereby lay the aforementioned papers on the table.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, under section 41 (3) I move that the Annual Report 2015/2016 of the Charity Commissioners for the Falkland Islands be noted.

Mr Speaker

Thank you. Can I have a seconder for that Motion please? The Honourable Michael Poole to second

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. I deliver this note on behalf of the Honourable Roger Edwards, who is absent.

The Charity Commissioners Act is the register and regulator of Charities in the Falkland Islands. This report covers that Financial Year ending 30th June 2016, and is a report required by section 1 of the Charities Act 1960. (which is adopted in Falkland Islands Legislation).

The Charity Commission is the regulator of charities in the Falkland Islands, a key function of good regulation is to enable regulated Charities to demonstrate good governance to potential donors, and to reassure donors that money given to charity is used appropriately.

There are currently 36 charities on the register in the Falklands Islands (29 plus a further 6 excepted charities) holding, between them, £479,584 worth of charitable income. Using national figures it is possible to estimate that the sector contributed 0.5% of the National GVA.

This report results from active review and management of the regulatory responsibilities by the Law and Regulation Directorate. The review this year resulted in seven charities being removed from the register as they had been wound up or ceased to operate and proactive engagement with all charities. Charities with an income of under £15 from land and without a permanent endowment are not required to register with the Charity Commissioners and better information is being made available through the Government's webpages

Mr Speaker, this report is interesting and shows that we have a well-regulated charity sector, but the most important message is that a huge number of people in our community are prepared to give up their time and act as charity trustees, and support charitable activities. Through the generosity of our society we have been able to help those who are less fortunate and I think it is important for me – on behalf of this House – to recognise and thank all those

in the charity sector for the excellent work they all do and all those who give so generously to charity each year.

Mr Speaker, I commend this report to the House.

Mr Speaker

Does Any Member wish to speak to that?

The Honourable Michael Poole

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I welcome this report being laid on the table today, it's a useful development and thanks to the commissioners who have done this work. I think it will help give us a picture of the growing charity and not for profit sector in the Islands.

We were talking earlier in the week in the Economic Development Strategy review group about the importance of a strong third sector, both to our economy and also to the community generally. It's clearly something I think we would look to actively encourage and facilitate. Over the years we have generally struck the right balance between Regulation of the charities sector and recognising that people are giving up/volunteering their time so that we don't want to be overly bureaucratic about the process. We need to keep that in mind as we continue to regulate the sector in the future, and that we don't need, onerous reporting requirements, that potentially puts people off from getting involved.

Thank you Mr Speaker, I support the report.

Mr Speaker

Does Any Member wish to speak to that?

The Motion is that Annual Report of the Charity Commissioners be noted. Is there any objection to passing that Motion? There is no objection. That report therefore, is noted.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, under section 41 (3) I move the Board of Trade Annual Report Falkland Islands for the year ending 30 June 2016 be noted.

Mr Speaker

Thank you. Can I have a seconder to that Motion please?

The Honourable Gavin Short.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, once again on behalf of the Honourable Roger Edwards who is absent I deliver the background to the Board of Trade report.

The Board of Trade report is a report for the financial year to 30 June 2016. The report is required by Section 451 of the Companies Act 1948 as adopted in the Falkland Islands and in accordance with the provisions of the Companies and Private Partnership Ordinance.

The report explains the role of the Board of Trade, and the Board's responsibilities for the regulation of Companies, Newspaper proprietorship, and Co-operatives. The Board role in relation to Merchant Shipping is not discussed in the report as this area is subject to ongoing legislative review.

There were 182 companies registered to trade in the Falkland Islands, the majority of which are private companies limited by shares.

Analysis for the year ending June 2014 indicates that 75.7% of the Falkland Islands GDP arises from the activity of companies regulated by the Board of Trade.

Five companies are based overseas which have registered branches here. A further 7 companies have their registered office in Camp.

During the financial year 2015-2016, there were 2 new companies registered, 2 changed names and 6 companies were removed from the register.

The report highlights an area of concern - that 34 companies defaulted on compliance with their legal obligations to register documents on time. This is 19% of companies. Proactive work with those companies has resulted in some long overdue accounts being brought up to date to improve the accuracy of the public register and to assist the appropriate collection of taxation.

The report also sets out a number of areas for regulatory focus in forthcoming years - including continued focus on improving compliance, the review of our company law, improved focus on regulation of Insolvency practitioners and the development of a published set of Registrar General's guidance notes.

Mr Speaker, it is business not government that grows our economy. The Government seeks to create the conditions for economic growth, but it is those prepared to take commercial risks – to invest their own money, time and effort to build up and sustain a business – who grow our economy. On behalf of this House, I note the significant contribution made by all business and business people in helping the Falkland Island to be the successful country that it is.

Mr Speaker, I commend this report to the House.

Mr Speaker

Does any Member wish to speak to that Motion? No. The Motion is that the contents of the Board of Trade Annual Report be noted.

Is there any objection to passing that Motion? There is no objection. That report is therefore noted.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, under section 41 (3) I move that the Falkland Islands Children's Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2016/17 be noted.

Mr Speaker

Can I have a seconder for that Motion? The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby to second.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, the Safeguarding Board set up under the Children Ordinance relatively recently is an important institution in our society. Its function is to ensure that all members of the Government, or Directors in the Government and indeed members of the civil community are making sure that we provide the best facilities available for our children to flourish in society, in particular to protect them from abuse.

The Safeguarding Board has quite a wide remit. It is currently chaired by the Director of Health and Social Services, that may or may not be the way to go in the future, I would invite Honourable Members and others to reflect on how we think the Safeguarding Board should best be chaired. Perhaps it continues to be the Director of Health Services, or perhaps somebody independent. It's primary purpose is to make sure that every time there is a piece of Government policy, every time there is a piece of Legislation, every time there is something happening in the Community that may affect children it should reflect on it and make recommendations to the Government.

There are one or two significant developments through the year that I would just like to mention. Continued review of the Lucy Faithful Foundation report has enabled us to set up a positive agenda for continuing to work in the benefits of children, including the creation of safer families and the Social Services Department has worked hard with the creating programmes for education for new parents and to help them along with making sure that they create a safe family environment.

The domestic violence campaign, or the Anti Domestic Violence Campaign – might be better described – has got off to a slightly slow start, but we are working on that and there will be some proposals coming forward relatively shortly together with education programmes to assist victims of domestic abuse, to make sure that they have the right mechanisms in place and the ways forward to try and get themselves out of those situations.

The Falkland Islands Safeguarding road map which was created by the Falkland Islands Government collectively and presented to other Overseas Territories at the Attorney

Generals' conference and the JMC, has been very effective and well received and reflects well on the Falkland Islands Government.

The big issue at the moment is the review of the social services files and dealing with historical allegations. This is not an easy issue for anybody to deal with, but it has to be dealt with. We have created (this is not strictly Child Safeguarding Board, but it's the Government's collective response to issues that arise from it) a special group to review those files and to ensure that any issues that have not been dealt with in the way that they might have been dealt with in the past, are now looked at, dealt with properly and any appropriate actions taken.

Operation Cinnamon has been established, it is working, it's working successfully we believe and we expect so see some outcomes from that relatively soon. If anybody in the public is interested in this issue and in this area and feels that they would like to provide any information or make any comments to those looking into these issues, there is a new line which goes directly into Op Cinnamon and it is 28374. If anybody has any issues they think they would like to raise in respect of that: 28374.

Finally on the report; a number of other issues remain on the agenda, discussion about nurseries go on. We are looking forward at some point in the hopefully relatively near future to see some proposals on what we may or may not do about assisting the nurseries to provide a safe environment. The Social Services database, which was inadequate, has been replaced and is now functioning well. The Family Law review is underway and Members looked at a paper on that at the Executive Council yesterday.

Finally just to report, there are very few children on the child protection register at the time of writing this report, and at the present time, that's probably a good thing. You can't be entirely certain, but it's probably a good thing and perhaps is an indication that we are getting things generally right.

Mr Speaker, I commend the report to the House.

Mr Speaker

Does any Honourable Member wish to speak to that?

The Honourable Michael Poole

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. This is clearly another report that I welcome and thank all involved in its production and clearly all the work that underpins the report itself. It is a sentiment that is often echoed in this House, but there is clearly no room for complacency in this field. I am pleased to see the continued focus and effort right across the Government in relation to safeguarding issues.

Sadly safeguarding concerns are something that we will continue to face from time to time, I don't think we should take that as a sign that we are failing, but more a sign that we are succeeding in identifying issues in dealing with them appropriately as we should be. Ensuring the safety, security and opportunity for our children is clearly an absolute responsibility of the Government and requires vigilance across the community in its entirety.

Many thanks to all involved in this report, and I too commend this report to the House.

Mr Speaker

Does any Honourable Member wish to speak? The Motion is that the report of the Falkland Islands Children's Safeguarding Board will be noted. Is there any objection to passing that Motion? There is no objection. That report is noted.

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker under section 41 (3) I move that the Falkland Landholdings Corporation Accounts year end 30 June 2016 be noted.

Mr Speaker

Can I have a seconder to that Motion? The Honourable Ian Hansen. Thank you.

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

Mr Speaker, these accounts cover the financial year 2015/16 for FLH. FLH is a statutory corporation. That covers the wool clip – the shearing for last season and it was a good year. Wool prices were very favourable, not only for FLH, but across the Falklands as a whole.

FLH has continued to invest in the farms and I think you can all see when you visit those farms, tangible results. Funds have been invested in infrastructure on the farms, re-cladding and re-roofing some of the very large warehouses that had looked somewhat dilapidated in the 90's when wool prices were so low. A lot of painting has gone on. The farms are really quite a shining example now, for visitors to see where we have reinvested funds to ensure that we have got good facilities for the work that goes on, on those farms.

The less obvious area that a lot of investment has been put into is – particularly at Fitzroy – has been in fencing. It's vital that we have a good boundary fences and wherever we are doing rotational work we need good fencing. We have had a team of extra support of labour coming in during the summer season to help with moving that forward, because the gang of each farm was busy anyway with the day to day work. To be able to move ahead we have been bringing in a team of Chileans, and that has worked extremely well. We have made some real strides and progress on the farms.

FLH Board is not complacent, we don't just rely on the income from wool, which has been good and meat to the abattoir. We are as a Board discussing and considering where we should diversify in case and when wool prices are not so buoyant.

We have been looking at issues and we are considering investing in horticulture, and how we might do that, and contribute to the production of fresh vegetables for the community. We have other proposals underway.

Another area that we have worked hard on over the years, and will continue to address, is how we can reduce energy costs on those farms and I think all the farms now have wind

power in place and we have got a solar energy project being put in place at North Arm in one property. If that works we'd like to roll that out to more properties. We are conscious that by investing to save, if we can cut the cost and use of diesel it will be in the long term a saving for those farms. I thank those that have worked for us in coming up with solutions to reduce diesel energy and put in some alternative energy on the farms.

I'd just like take this opportunity to thank all the board members. There have been some changes on the board of FLH. I thank those that have served, particularly in the year of 15/16, and those currently serving. They give their time voluntarily and their advice is very much welcome. I'd also like to thank all of the managers on our farms, and the staff for the hard work that they carry out. They can celebrate that hard work this coming weekend when we have Camp Sports Week. Goose Green will be hosting horse racing and many other events. I do hope visitors will be making their way to Goose Green over the weekend to help them celebrate the end of another busy season.

Mr Speaker, I commend the report to the House.

Mr Speaker

Thank you. Does any other Member wish to speak?

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Thank you Mr Speaker. I am very pleased to see this very positive report on FLH come to this House. It's not that many years ago that I recall we were heavily subsidising FLH farms with their move to an overdraft facility and to see it to this stage I find it very encouraging. It's great to see and I can only agree totally with the Honourable Phyl Rendell in adding my thanks and commending all the staff and the people involved.

Thank you.

Mr Speaker

Does any other Member wish to speak?

The Motion is that the Accounts of the Falkland Landholdings Corporation are noted. Is there any objection to passing that Motion? There is no objection. Those accounts are therefore noted.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker under section 41 (3) I move the Public Accounts committee report in respect of Fire and Rescue Domestic be noted.

Mr Speaker

Is there a seconder for that please?

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

I second the Motion.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, I am happy to see a clean report from the auditor of the Fire and Rescue Service and I commend the report to the House.

Mr Speaker

Does any Member wish to speak to that? The Motion is that the report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Fire and Rescue Domestic Service be noted. Any objection to passing that Motion? There is no objection, that report is therefore noted.

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

Mr Speaker, under section 41 (3) I move that the Public Accounts Committee report in respect of the follow up report on FIPASS be noted.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

I second the Motion.

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

Thank you Mr Speaker, just a brief explanation. There is work ongoing on FIPASS. This Assembly budgeted a million pounds per annum over 5 years to support the maintenance of FIPASS. It's not spent specifically one million pounds per year, it takes time to draw up contracts and let those contracts, but that's the average spend on FIPASS currently, covered under this report.

There is another phase of maintenance underway right now, but I think we need to be aware that FIPASS is not in as good a state as we've been deluding ourselves to believe. Over the years we have thought it will just do another 5, another 10 years. The surveys that have been carried out on FIPASS recently really do show that it's got a finite life. We've seen reports on the barges, and particularly the barge on the West end has got a very short life expectancy.

I know that work is now being undertaken in the Falkland Islands Government to look at what we do, there is a paper that will be coming forward (I believe) next month, to discuss FIPASS, to discuss Port Facility requirements, particularly from existing industries, although the Oil industry not being active currently, but can't be ignored.

We need to do something about Port Facilities for existing Industries – Fishery, Export of meat and wool, and imports to keep this economy going. This is a very serious matter and I look forward to proposals coming to us from the Civil Service about the way forward. Meanwhile, we do need to continue to spend some money on FIPASS to make sure that it is fit for purpose for the next few years, until we make decisions about another solution to our

port facilities for the islands. We are a maritime nation this is a really vital issue, we need to grip that in the next few months.

Mr Speaker, I commend the report to the House.

Mr Speaker

Does any other Member wish to speak to that Motion? The motion is that the report of the Public Accounts Committee in respect of the follow up report on FIPASS in noted. Is there any objection to passing that Motion? There is no objection. That report is therefore noted.

Clerk of the Assembly

Questions for oral response.

Question number 5 of 17 by the Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE.

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

Thank you Mr Speaker. Could the Honourable Ian Hansen tell the Assembly what proposals there are, if any, for alternative energy to be added to the power system at Fox Bay village to reduce the consumption of diesel? Would he not agree that FIG should be proactive in reducing the use of diesel wherever possible, particularly now that fuel prices are increasing. To reduce the cost of producing power at Fox Bay, as has happened in Stanley

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank my Honourable colleague for her question, and I completely agree that FIG should be proactive in reducing the use of diesel wherever possible.

Following some very good analysis by FIDC's renewable energy advisor, Andrew Crighton, we are actively considering the best option for using renewable energy at Fox Bay, for electricity generation. My understanding is that there is a very strong business case in terms of investing to save. I have asked the Director of Central Services to bring forward a proposal as soon as possible.

I am also pleased to report that our FIG colleagues in Power Section of PWD are keen to support this initiative. I'm sure that the Honourable Gavin Short will join me in commending the principle.

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

Thank you Mr Speaker, I thank the Honourable Ian Hansen for that reply. I am very heartened to hear that we are actively looking at taking forward some proposals for Fox Bay. I think it's probably the only settlement in the Camp that doesn't have any form of alternative energy being utilised. That is really encouraging, that there is going to be some activity there. I presume that we will need to (if we don't miss another year) we need to look at budgeting for Fox Bay for some alternative infrastructure, otherwise we miss a whole year. You have to

invest to save in this case so I hope that will be actively taken forward and won't miss this budget round. I am pleased to hear that. I do hope that the Public Works Department can get engaged with this project, after all, it is the Public Works Department, Power and Electrical Department that maintains the generation, (I believe) at Fox Bay, so we will need a joined up approach to move this forward.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

I'd like to thank the Honourable Phyl Rendell for those comments. I again, completely agree that we should moving forward in this budget process. As we are soon to lose the Director of Central Services, I am sure (in fact, I think tomorrow) we are going through the budget. I will certainly be advising that we should be, either something in our budget, or perhaps PWD budget, but certainly for this budget process.

Mr Speaker

Any other Member wish to speak?

The Honourable Michael Poole

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. The response to this question has taken the wind out of my sails slightly, but I'd just like to echo the sentiments expressed by my Honourable colleagues here, and just remind the House that over the last 18 months Executive Council has agreed an energy strategy, has looked at incorporating renewable energy provision into the future power station requirement in Stanley, and have also set the Government an energy efficiency savings target. That sits alongside a lot of work that the Development Corporation has done in terms of updating its own renewable energy schemes as well. Clearly the overarching policy in this area is there, the political will is there. I think as has been expressed here we hope and expect to see significant movement over the next 12 months in this field, whether it relates to Fox Bay village and elsewhere as well, particularly within the Government infrastructure which is my focus at the moment. So I look forward to those discussions throughout the budget process and over the next year.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

Are there any other comments?

The Honourable Gavin Short

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I'm afraid I can't actually tell the House what stage we are at with the planning for renewables at Fox Bay, although I would like to caution that if we haven't reached a stage where we are comfortable with project costs that we are not pressurised, because you know what happens when people are pressurised to put a figure on the table its normally not the right figure. The wheels come off a bit further down the track and we all start beating the PWD for being inaccurate in the figures we put forward.

Hopefully, we will have something that we can put forward to this budget, properly costed, that we are confident that we can stay within those figures given.

Thank you.

Mr Speaker

Are there any other comments?

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Thank you Mr Speaker. Just to add to the Honourable Gavin Short's comments. The work I have seen from the FIDC's energy advisor is quite comprehensive already. I am sure that there won't just be a finger in the air figure quoted for this project.

Clerk of the Assembly

Motions:

Motion number 3 of 2017 by the Honourable Ian Hansen:

That this House notes the comments and recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee in respect of the Falkland Islands Tourist Board Accounts year end 30th June 2016 and the Falkland Islands Government Office.

In accordance with the Public Accounts Ordinance 2009 Clause 14 (1) a written response is to be submitted to the Legislative Assembly by the Governor in Council, within 6 months of this date.

This is proposed by the Honourable Ian Hansen and seconded by the Honourable Michael Poole

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I won't go into any great detail on this as Honourable Members will have seen in the reports, there are a few concerns that the Public Accounts Committee would like to be addressed and responded to.

Mr Speaker, I submit this motion to the House.

The Honourable Michael Poole

I second the motion

Mr Speaker

Does any Member wish to speak to that Motion? No. The Motion before the House is that the Comments and recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee in respect of the Falkland Islands Tourist Board Accounts and also the FIGO office in London be noted and in

accordance with the Public Accounts Ordinance a written response is required from the Governor in Council to this Assembly on those recommendations within 6 months’.

Is there any objection to passing that motion? There is no objection. That Motion is therefore, carried.

Clerk of the Assembly

Portfolio reports: The Honourable Jan Cheek

The Honourable Jan Cheek

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with the Trade and Industry portfolio I and the Honourable Michael Poole have regular useful discussions with the Chamber of Commerce Board. We currently meet every 2 months in addition to the quarterly meeting attended by all Assembly Members. We were also included in their lunch meetings with the visiting Members of Parliament and at these meetings we can raise issues of mutual interest and they express concerns, or occasionally praise, for things that are happening in relation to their ability to run their businesses. I also welcome discussion with other businesses who are not active Chamber Members or who wish to discuss something one-to one.

Work to ensure our position and concerns on Brexit is well advanced and we have taken every opportunity to brief visiting MP’s and officials and have sent comprehensive information to all the relevant groups in the UK Government who will have to put into effect that exit from Europe.

I also sit on the FIDC Board as an ordinary member as it is now more independent of Government, and so I recommend that anyone interested in the activities read the recently published FIDC report to get a flavour of those activities. The Corporation, of course, continues to offer advice, loans, grants as well as initiating new projects and training opportunities.

Mineral Resources also comes under my portfolio, and as everyone knows, I think, we are awaiting the work that is being done by Premier towards making a decision in the future about possible development. They continue the development planning process for Sea Lion Phase 1A development project, and the front end engineering and design phase is drawing to a conclusion. Numerous streams of discussion are emerging between Premier and the Government as greater detail is provided by both sides about specific regulatory approvals that are required to provide overall development consent.

Particular focus at present is on environmental approvals, with FIG’s focus, as always, being to ensure appropriately high environmental standards are applied to the project with the aim of protecting the valuable natural environment of the Falkland Islands. The team of external advisers supports the department as it expanded by 2 in recent months to support technical discussions around the proposed Field Development Plan.

External agencies, such as the Health & Safety Executive operating in its role as off-shore safety adviser to FIG, have been devoting significant resources to technical discussions with Premier and SPN, the chosen FPSO contractor. Detailed assessment also continues on other technical aspects to the project with the department working closely with its team of UK

advisers to assess detailed submissions, and I would like to take the opportunity here to again praise the hard work by one of the smallest and most efficient government departments: Mineral Resources.

Thank You.

Mr Speaker

Any Honourable Member wish to raise a question or comment upon that report.

Portfolio reports: The Honourable Ian Hansen

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Thank you Mr Speaker and Honourable Members. My report is also fairly brief this month and I will begin with a quick update on Human Resources.

Unfortunately, a lot of case based work in the Human Resources and recruitment has called for much of the available resources over the past reporting quarter. The recent work by the Audit team on directorate based payroll transactions has proved highly useful in the drive for more efficient and effective practices. On the back of the work already undertaken to strengthen further the initial activities in the payroll submission process, the HR team are working closely with officers within directorates to rationalise their payroll activities, and this is in an effort to reduce the error rate on first submission and therefore saving significant officer time devoted to checking and reworking of payroll systems.

Following a period of high demand for HR case support, it was hoped this would reduce, allowing an officer to be deployed on more developmental work. Unfortunately this has not been the case so far and as such the policy development work has been delayed slightly.

A brief update on the rewriting of the Management Code. The Management Code, Chapter 4 Conduct, Capability and Discipline is being re-written. As previously reported, these documents will form the basis of consultations with stakeholders before final drafts are produced for formal approval. Unfortunately, the commitment of resources to HR casework has again resulted in a delay of around 4 weeks on this project, the planned date for submission of draft documents is now the 29 March of this year. Other elements of the Management Code are under development and will follow a structured approach to ensure we have a code to support a robust employer/employee relationship.

On learning and development, the first workshop of the revised Management Development Programme will commence on 14 March 2017. The programme is designed for current aspiring leaders and managers within the Falkland Islands Government with a desire to learn how to develop and use the skills of leading and managing to improve their own performance and the performance of their teams. A total of 28 delegates can be accommodated on the first 3 workshops scheduled for March.

And finally on recruitment, we are in the process of identifying potential providers of an on-line candidate management system which will over the next 12 months help rationalise the

way in which administer the whole recruitment process, and this will also deliver significant cost savings.

I now move on to a brief report on Central Services issues. Just on FIGAS: very good news. I would like to congratulate our two Trainee Licenced Aircraft Engineers who have successfully graduated from Air Service Training Scotland, and they will begin a 6 month phase of approved practical experience before returning to the Islands. So I certainly welcome that news, it is very difficult to get aircraft engineers these days.

As far as the Leisure Centre goes, we now have a full complement of staff, or will have with effect from March and this will enable us to increase opening hours and offer an increased range of exercise classes.

I would like to welcome our new Senior Magistrate, Martine Kushner, to the Courts, and also on Courts, there has been an increase in international cooperation with witnesses being able to provide evidence over the Court's video link to places in other countries, and in particular St Helena and the UK. This video link is also being used to support the KEMH Diabetic Clinic.

The Fuel Depot work is progressing by Stanley Services at Fox Bay and is scheduled to be completed in June of this year. Also on Fox Bay, the building and refurbishment works on the old Manager's House is to be attended to next week.

I am also happy to say the self-service fuel pump that had been broken down for a few days at Fox Bay is now back in service, thanks to the Agents for sorting that.

And finally just briefly on procurement. The total value of tenders during the calendar year 2016 via the Central Procurement Service was very nearly £10m, and in total 39 tenders were handled by Central Procurement Service. Of these 3 were not awarded.

Finally I am very sad to say goodbye the Director of Central Services, Matt Bassford, at the start of April, but the recruitment for his successor is well under way.

Mr Speaker that concludes my report.

Mr Speaker

Does any Member wish to comment or raise a question on that report?

The Honourable Michael Poole

Thank you, Mr Speaker and Honourable Members. About 10 months ago we had we had quite a wide range of discussions with the then Chief Executive and Director of Human Resources regarding the issue of succession planning and making sure that permanent residents of the Islands can move up through the tiers of Government, and I have personally cited in this House, as a number of others have, particular instances in the past where we feel that system maybe hasn't worked in the way that we had hoped it would.

In Budget Select Committee this afternoon we will see some figures which I think roughly show the Government have 650 posts in place, so it has grown quite significantly over the last 5-7 years. So personally I think it is about time that the Director of HR did some work looking at a strategic review of succession planning and the relative split between the permanent residents within the Government and contract officers. It's something we have touched upon in that discussion previously, so I guess my question is: are we likely to see policy in that area come to this Government before we finish toward the end of the year?

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the Honourable Michael Poole for his comments and questions. Part of the Learning and Development Programme I mentioned will address this issue to a certain extent, I believe. I can't honestly stand here and say I can give you an exact timescale as for when there will be something coming to us on the progression of people moving through the ranks and further planning, but I do know that the Director of Human Resources is very much working on that as well.

Mr Speaker

Any other comments or questions on that report?

No. Thank you for your reports.

Clerk of the Assembly

Order of the Day, Bills

The Law Revision and Publications Bill 2017.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. The Law Revision and Publications Bill 2017 will, if passed by this House, enable the Falkland Islands Government to give effect to its ambition set out in the Islands Plan to produce and maintain an authoritative statement of Falkland Islands Legislation which will be freely and publically accessible.

The Bill is a culmination of the Government's investment in a two year project to achieve this and would authorise the online publication of a statute law database, a project which has been overseen by Executive Council with the valuable assistance and support of an international expert advisory committee who have given their time free to us, and they have been incredibly useful.

This Bill reflects the project's objectives for the publication of clarity, certainty, flexibility, accessibility and durability.

- Clarity in the law is achieved by requiring the publication of the full and up to date text of all laws made locally together with lists of all applicable United Kingdom Laws.
- Certainty is achieved by the Bill providing that the content of the Statute Law database is authoritative.
- Flexibility is achieved through mechanisms in the Bill providing for an ongoing programme of law revision including a requirement that the Statute Law Commissioner reports regularly to the Assembly about developments in UK laws allowing the Assembly to choose whether and how it adopts UK laws going forward, and that will require further ongoing work on a regular basis by the Legislative Assembly.
- Accessibility is ensured by treating the Internet as the primary means of access for the database, but also by requiring the Statute Law Commissioner to have regard to those who cannot have Internet access or who prefer to use other forms of access.
- And finally durability is enabled through the twin approach of firstly the Bill requiring the Statute Law Commissioner to keep a database up to date, and secondly the procurement of a cost effective technical solution which enables the Statute Law database to be updated quickly and efficiently within the Falkland Islands using a sustainable level of local resources.

The first schedule for the Bill reflects proposals to bring the Falkland Islands adoption of United Kingdom laws up to date. The publication of the database will provide the foundation from which the Falkland Islands may continue to improve and localise the Statute Book. In conclusion, improving access to the law in the Falkland Islands enhances the application of the rule of law, but also provides for the more effective operation of the Legislature, improved access to justice, fairer government and a more efficient economy.

Mr Speaker, this is an important Bill which if passed will form the very foundation of our law. I anticipate that Honourable Members will shortly move that this Bill is examined in Select Committee under the chairmanship of my Honourable colleague MLA Roger Edwards, however, it is my role at this point to propose that the Bill is read for a second time, I so propose.

Mr Speaker

Can I have a seconder to that motion please, the Honourable Phyl Rendell to second.

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

Mr Speaker, I second the motion.

Mr Speaker

Thank you. Does any Member wish to speak on the principles of the Bill? The Honourable Michael Poole.

The Honourable Michael Poole.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

As with all Members, I am very supportive of the principles of this Bill and great progress has been made over recent months by the Law Commissioner and thanks to her for all of that work. Clearly we are keen to maintain that momentum and I know Executive Council reiterated that yesterday. Future proofing the Law Commissioner role and looking to ensure we do not find ourselves in this situation again where there is a lack of clarity in terms of what law applies and what doesn't is entirely the right goal. I am confident that this Bill heads us in the right direction.

Clearly there is a lot here in terms of structure and the application of UK law and such we will need to go through this in more detail in Select Committee, but at this stage I am content with the principles of the Bill.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

Does any other Member wish to speak on the principles? No.

The motion is that the Bill be read a second time, is there any objection to that motion? There is no objection, the Bill will be read a second time.

Clerk of the Assembly

The Law Revision and Publication Bill 2017.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, I propose the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. Such Committee to be Chaired by the Honourable Roger Edwards and will comprise all members of the Legislative Assembly. First meeting of the Select Committee to commence on Friday 3rd March at 9 o'clock in the Court and Assembly Chambers.

Mr Speaker

A seconder for that. (The Honourable Phyl Rendell) – Mr Speaker I second the motion. Thank you very much.

Is there any objection to that motion? There is no objection, the Bill is now referred to a Select Committee on the Bill.

Clerk of the Assembly

The Immigration Amendment Bill 2017.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. The Immigration Amendment Bill 2017 proposes minor amendments to the current Immigration Ordinance to clarify the need for the Immigration

Service to receive information about people and passengers entering the Islands in a timely fashion. It is important that we continue to look at ways of improving the experience of all visitors to the Islands whilst maintaining effective border control. The amendments to Section 6 and Schedule 2 are designed to facilitate the Immigration Service being able to prepare for the processing of passenger information in advance of their arrival. Improved sharing of information will enable immigration staff to increased efficiency in immigration control and, where possible, reduce avoidable delays. This should contribute to a positive experience for all visitors.

Mr Speaker, I move the second reading of the Bill.

Mr Speaker

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby agreed to second the Motion. Does any other Honourable Member wish to speak to the Bill.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. I fully support this Bill, but I am aware that there has also been discussion in the Press and in Facebook and other forums out there concerned about the level of intrusion that this Bill represents. I don't think this Bill is overly intrusive, I think we have to recognise we live in a modern world, and when we have large numbers of people accessing the Islands each day in the Summer, I think it is essential we try to facilitate and make that process as smooth as possible, but also to try and ensure that people who may not be welcome in the Islands for whatever reason are noted before they arrive, so that we can actually help prevent any problems in the Islands.

I support the Motion.

The Honourable Michael Poole

Thankyou Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. I was out of the Islands on business when this Bill was remitted through Executive Council and discussed by Members generally. As has been described, there are good reasons for the Immigration Authority having early access to necessary information from airline and travel agencies, however, I would suggest that this may have been better understood publically earlier in the process if Executive Council had chosen to publish the brief covering paper that came in with this Bill when it came through Executive Council. I mean the Bill for obvious reasons does feel a little bit rushed and I think it could have been strengthened by more clearly defining the information to be provided to the Immigration Authorities, and the timeframes within which that information is required. We could have more clearly defined relevant travel agencies, I think in my view, but as has been suggested, there is good reason for this. I am confident that it will work in the way it hoped, that the Immigration Authorities will only ask for the minimum information necessary to perform their duties, and clearly, if we see it as an issue we can always revisit it in the future anyway, so I am content with the principles of the Bill. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

Does any other Member wish to speak?

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, can I just clarify for the Honourable Member and for members of the public. In the first instance Executive Council had cogent reasons for not publishing the paper at the time and they were to do with internal security. Mr Speaker, I would just like to clarify once again that all this Bill does is to clarify the timing at which a member of the Immigration Service can ask for information. It does not change the information that the Immigration Service can ask for, it doesn't add anything, it doesn't take anything away, it simply clarifies that the Immigration Service can require information at an earlier stage than the arrival of a vessel or an aircraft in the Falkland Islands.

I think it is important that Immigration Authorities have wide ranging powers to require information to be provided so that we can protect our internal security. It is also an important matter that those powers are used properly and only in accordance with what is actually required in a particular instance. But to clarify for members of the public once again, this doesn't change the Immigration Ordinance in any way other than to change the timing of when an Immigration Officer can require information to be provided.

Mr Speaker

Does any other Member wish to speak?

The Honourable Gavin Short

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, just to put on record that this particular Bill has my full support. I think the Honourable Mike Summers has explained the situation very eloquently, and as far as I am concerned this very small change that this makes is a good change, it's a correct change and we must do all we can to protect our country and this is what this does.

Thank you

Mr Speaker

Does any other Member wish to speak?

Is there any objection by dealing with this Bill by the short procedure? There is no objection. Does any Member wish to propose any amendments to the wording of the Bill? There are no amendments, I declare that the Bill will be read a third time and do pass.

Clerk of the Assembly

The Immigration Amendment Bill 2017.

The Motion for Adjournment.

The Honourable Chief Executive

Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the House stands adjourned *sine die*.

The Honourable Jan Cheek

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. As possibly the oldest person in the room who therefore can remember him, I would like to place on the record of this Assembly a brief tribute the memory of Sir Cosmo Haskard. Not only was he one of the longest serving Governors, and you can see him second to the right on the top row from the door, but he was also held in great respect and affection. He earned that respect and affection by his gentlemanly and honourable conduct at a difficult time in the history of our country, and continued to keep an active interest in the welfare of the Islands and the people for the rest of his long life. I would like to extend sympathy to Lady Haskard, to her son Julian and to his family.

Moving on and without wishing to steal the thunder from the Honourable Phyl Rendell who I am sure will have something to say on the subject, I just wanted to mention briefly the current anniversary of the Falklands Fishery. I have been involved at various times in various ways, and I know how difficult it was to get started against a fair amount resistance and some actual obstruction. I congratulate all those genuine hardworking participants. The evidence of their success is all around us in investments onshore, in ships and in shipping, the fish company, the trout hatchery, the Chandlery and many more substantial assets around the Islands. There is much to celebrate this weekend, and thanks to all the companies who have something to show on this great anniversary.

We have just been made aware that this is likely to be the last Assembly for the Attorney General and I would like to thank him, although we will be working together for some weeks more, I would like to thank him for all the good work that he has done, it's been a pleasure to work with him.

Finally, with the Representative from the Falkland Islands Government Office in our audience, I want to say thank you for all the excellent work done by another small department of our Government. For all of the good work they do, most of it unseen by us, but invaluable in keeping the Islands in the eye of the world, and I welcome the addition of the new staff member who will be focussing on getting the message about the Islands out to a different audience from that the Representative Sukey Cameron focussed on. Only last night, on the way to a social event, I heard some well earned praise for some of the work done by people in that office in London, and particularly for the kindness and efficiency of handling of someone's medical case. So I am sure we would like to have that message passed on to all the staff in that office.

I support the Motion.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in rising to support the Motion for Adjournment I just have a few things to mention.

First of all, I would like to thank Commodore Bone for an excellent evening on Tuesday evening, and please pass on my thanks to the staff and the people who entertained us. It's always good to get out and meet people and I think it was a good event, thank you very much.

It's been a busy couple of weeks with visits from Members of Parliament, I won't go into that in any great detail, but I think it's been again very useful for us to have Members of Parliament down, and once again, our Representative from Government Office has organised a great lot of people to come down and see us.

Yesterday we had a Rural Development Strategy Steering Group Meeting for the first time for a few months. It's interesting to see where we are as there is quite a bit happening, certainly within the energy side of things. I am very impressed with what our Energy Adviser, who is seconded from FIDC, has done in that field, it has been very impressive and a lot is happening.

Over the last couple of months we have had quite a few more youngsters moving to Camp, there are one or two things I feel we have probably let slip a bit or just been forgotten about. One of them is the fact that we don't really have a set policy or a scheme for helping people nowadays with satellite dishes for television. This is something I would like very much to reintroduce and I intend to speak to the Director of Central Services about how we go about that, because there is the perception in some places that if you are a youngster and move to Camp you are expected to sit on a farm with no immediate prospect of a road, with having to pay for your own satellite dish etc. and you expect to sit there for a year before anything happens. That obviously isn't government policy, but if that perception, and it is out there, if it is out there we have to make sure that that perception doesn't increase, so there is more we can do there to improve the quality of life for young people moving to Camp, so the more we can encourage them the better, and I believe somebody said yesterday, I think it was the Honourable Phyl Rendell, thought that the actual Camp population has grown by about 30 people so that's helpful as well.

I would just like to finish off by a couple of thank you's. First of all, I would like to thank Vicky Collier and Amelia Appleby for their support on my recent Caribbean trip. It's very gratifying to have young people come away who can speak coherently and knowledgeably about Falkland's issues, and it was very impressive the way they handled themselves in sometimes fairly difficult situations.

I would also like to congratulate our shearers and rousies who are just on their way back from representing our Islands overseas. Once again, an amazing achievement by them, and not only did they do extremely well, I am sure they were great ambassadors also.

Finally I believe it's the Attorney General's last Assembly. I would just like to thank Peter very much for everything you have done and all your help, it's been a pleasure knowing you and your family and I wish you well for the future.

Mr Speaker, I support the Motion.

The Honourable Michael Poole

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. I too would like to welcome Sukey Cameron to the House this morning, and many thanks, as always, to her and her team in London for the work they do. As has been mentioned particularly in relation to the MP visit that we have just had, I think you have only had limited experience with groups of MP's visiting the Islands in the last couple of years, but I guess from that limited experience the MP's come in

generally very supportive, as you would expect, they leave even more so, which you would hope, and clearly with a much better understanding of the Islands, and consistently mention Sukey and her team in London which is great to hear. Clearly we don't always agree with visiting Parliamentarians from overseas. They raise a number of issues, as you would expect them to, in different areas, some of which we intend to follow up with them and write to them shortly explaining things in a bit more depth, and there is a couple of actions we have taken on from those visits that will follow through in the coming weeks, and again that is how we expected it to be.

Finally Mr Speaker, I too would like to add my sincere thanks to the Attorney General for all of his work. Obviously, we have a few weeks left, and it's slightly sad that so much of the hard work of Peter and his team over this Government will actually be coming in the next 6 months. We have got some big bits of legislation, and sadly the Attorney General will not be here to see that through, but I am sure we will keep him in touch with those issues and email him regularly about the typo's he may have missed.

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. In rising to support the Motion as you would expect, and as the Honourable Jan Cheek alluded to, I will be talking about the Fishery today. I think rightly so the Fishery gets the spotlight this week, and it's rightly so we should be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Fishery. It's now in February that's 30 years ago that the first fishing licences were awarded, and we had control over a Conservation Zone rather than just a free for all as it had been prior to that. I think it has been very interesting the last couple of weeks where we have been witnessing the Illex Squid vessels coming into the harbour. I don't think there are any outside the window today, and not any too close today either, so that's a good thing, but we do value that fishery. I think the Illex fishing vessels have come in groups, collected their licences and currently they have gone back onto the high seas as the Illex hasn't actually moved into our zone yet. I understand from the Fisheries Scientist yesterday and I am optimistic that, unlike last season, we will see a movement of Illex coming in in the next few weeks and we should have a reasonable season, let's hope so. There are a large number of other nationalities of vessels fishing on the high seas this year, possibly in previous years too, but I think it's been specifically noted, not only by ourselves but also by the Argentine Government. We have seen something like 100 Jiggers, Chinese Jiggers, fishing right on the Argentine Zone and North of ours. We have seen some images of the lights from that massive fishery. It illuminates the South Atlantic even more than a city, and certainly more than Stanley.

I think we have embarked in discussions with the Argentine Government on a number of issues not only flights but also Fishery data exchange, and I think this demonstrates the need to hopefully go for more than just data exchange, but also getting to a discussion about a regional fishery management system with more the neighbouring countries, so that we can address this issue and manage this, and sustainably control fishery beyond our borders, so I hope we can, over the coming months and before this year ends, make some progress there.

Not only have we got the Illex Fishery licencing under way, but next week it's the Loligo Fishery, or the Falklands Calamari as it's known in the industry, or the *dorytenthis gahi*, whichever you would like to call it, and I do think that this week we have got some debate about names of fish, and we have an expert in the guise of Jean Baptiste who has come down

and gave a lecture on Tuesday evening, and some of us are going to have the opportunity to hear from him on Friday as well as there is some discussion about the names of our fish which is great that scientists are discussing that, but we will see Spanish trawlers coming in and we are optimistic there will be quite a few here this weekend for people to visit, also of course, our own Falklands flagged vessels.

The Director of Fisheries and I had the very good fortune to attend last week the launching of a brand-new long-liner, the *CFL Hunter*, in the port of Marin near Vigo in Spain. It was a momentous occasion for the fishery and extremely well timed to occur just before we celebrate here in Stanley the 30th anniversary. This splendid new ship designed in Spain by Mendosa also taking into account the specific needs of CFL, it's wholly funded by Falkland Island companies, it's the first vessel to be built wholly with Falkland Islands funding. It is a remarkable achievement for the Fishery, and I think for those that are interested, she will sailing fairly soon, if all the trials go to plan, and could be in the Falklands by early April. I believe the company will have an open day for people to visit the vessel. It is a huge step forward, and a demonstration as to how the ITQ system has worked for fishing, and particularly for CFL and for other fishing companies, and people are investing in new builds and the benefits we get from that is a more efficient vessel, a more environmentally friendly vessel with proper waste systems on board, and so on, and that must be the way forward for our Fishery and may more companies do that. Whilst we were in Spain in Marinport we saw two other vessels being built for Falklands fishing companies, one very near completion and one with the steel just being laid down, and I understand that there are plans for possibly another vessel, so this is a great commitment by our fishing companies to invest in new builds.

I would just like to thank the Chair of CFL, Tom Blake, and Janet Robertson in particular for the organisation of the launch of the vessel, and for inviting John and I to attend.

This leads me on to Saturday which is Fish Day, and if you haven't seen a leaflet yet please look out for one, I expect they are in the Post Office. I would like to give the Commander of British Forces a leaflet so that he is aware of what is going on in Stanley on Saturday, and can encourage his people from MPA to come and visit. There will be activities on FIPASS, there will be vessels on FIPASS to visit, the *Protegat* our Fishery Patrol Vessel will be on the East Jetty. The Fisheries Department will be open and you can go into the lab and take your children and grand-children and cut up some fish. The SAAS yard will be open to show how containers of fish are moved about and sealed and all the rest, so I think it is going to be quite an active day. I do encourage people to get out and visit and understand the Fishery which is so important to our economy. I would just like to congratulate all those people who work in the fishery, all the companies, all the people in our Fisheries Department and I hope they have a really great weekend.

But in addition to that, some of us are really being cut in half as we have Camp Sports as well starting out on the West and at Goose Green, and for people that enjoy horse racing, I do hope that they have a very good weekend as well.

Thank you Mr Speaker. I support the Motion.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I just want to touch on a very brief update on matters relating to the Education Department if I may, as I didn't have time at the last meeting of this House because of a very full agenda.

The Community School is doing extremely well and I am pleased to say morale in staff and students is very high, the highest it has been for very many years. I think that is reflected in the fact that this year we have 5 people, 5 Teachers were due to be re-contracted when their contract will come up for completion and I am pleased to say 4 out of the 5 have decided to re-contract for at least another year, and that is very encouraging as it gives us the continuity which at times we have not had in the past. I am pleased to say we already think we have identified one person to fill the post of the Teacher that is actually leaving so it looks very good for continuity at the Community School.

We have also had a visit from a representative of Chichester College, and whilst that person was here they met with parents, staff and, of course, with pupils and I think that was a very good meeting and very good visit.

As my colleague the Honourable Michael Poole touched on, we had 4 MP's visiting the Islands recently, we also had a group of 6 that were hosted by the military. The 4 that we invited visited the Community School and they were, as always, very impressed by not only the building, but the enthusiasm of the students and the quality of work being produced there. They also had a 45 minutes question and answer session with some of the senior students of the Community School and that was very entertaining, and it was very good to see some very probing questions. President Trump was perhaps a key focus on the students' questions, but also they touched on Brexit and the importance of Brexit, and how that will affect the Falkland Islands. So it is good to realise that our students, in the same way as Members of this House, are focussed on the effect that will have on the Islands, and I think the MP's went away with a clear understanding that our students were being taught well, and also clearly thinking about the future and asking probing questions.

That is important because the visiting MP's also met with Jodie Aldridge and Gemma Finn to talk about the Youth Parliament. The Youth Parliament, the Commonwealth Youth Parliament, we regularly send people to that, it is a tremendous experience and Jodie and Gemma last year went to the Youth Parliament in Vancouver, and again had tremendously good experience and came back fired up with enthusiasm to develop a Youth Parliament in the Falkland Islands. People will be aware that we have tried to develop a Youth Parliament here a number of times over the years. It's been a stuttering stop and start, but I truly believe this time we are very much at the beginning of a successful Youth Parliament. Jodie and Gemma have been engaging with people in their 20's in the Islands, they have had well attended meetings where people have come along wanting to be involved with the Youth Parliament, they are using Facebook as a means of getting other people involved and, of course, people from the senior students in the Community School are also willing to be involved. I think we are at a point where the Youth Parliament, the Falkland Islands Youth Parliament, I think will grow from here and it will not disappear after another debate. The first debate of the Youth Parliament is due to focus around Commonwealth Day next month, and I hope as many people as possible will attend the House to sit in the audience and hear the debate.

The Infant and Junior School and Camp Education system are also doing extremely well, and it is interesting that the Infant and Junior School and Camp Education release their Newsletter today which talks about many things including an excellent camp and annual camp at Goose Green, which seems to have been on that week where there was sunshine and absolutely no wind, and they had a very good time. There is much to read in this, and it's available to all students in the Infant and Junior School and Camp Education who will be taking a copy home, or it can be accessed, of course, on the Government website www.fig.gov.fk/ijs and I would encourage all people to look at it.

At the beginning there is an editorial from the Head Teacher, Mrs Karen Steen, I think it is worth quoting from that because she's written an editorial that's very thought provoking and it is something I think will lead onto debate amongst parents and amongst the students and teachers, and if I read you a section from it, I think you will understand why I think it is important. She says "The biggest issues coming over the Head Teacher's desk in recent years is a worrying and growing change in our children. We see less independent learning skills, less respect for others, less resilience and we see that children are often tired during school time. You might have noticed this as well, and other things too. Our family lives have changed dramatically, but the basic needs of children haven't. They need exercise, and a lot of it every day, both in school and out of school, to remain healthy. They need good healthy food (including the green bits) to avoid illness. They need lots of sleep, much more than an adult, so think about taking TV's, computers and electronic games out of bedrooms. They need love and security, and we know they have it unconditionally, but how well do we show that to them. They yearn to spend more quality time with us, and sitting together, each on an individual telephone, I-phone, tablet or a computer is not quality time spent together. We all know there are areas we could do better in, and I am thinking about this and want to make changes myself, maybe you could too. How well we as parents achieve this impacts on how well our children learn at school. Healthy, happy, well rested children with high levels of self-esteem and an unwavering belief in themselves learn well and grow and develop into people we always hoped they would be".

She continues about other things in the editorial, but I think it is clear as she says, she and the school will be working with parents to try and engage in all these points she's raised there, vitally important points and the fact that they are in the Editorial I think tells you that Mrs Steen, an experienced Head Teacher whose opinion I value greatly, feels that we are at a point where we do need to recognise there are some things we can improve on as parents and as a community, and I look forward to parents engaging with Mrs Steen and her staff in the months to come to the benefit of the children.

Mr Speaker, I support the Motion.

The Honourable Gavin Short

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in rising to support and speak to the Motion for Adjournment just a couple of fairly brief points from me, if I may please.

I would really like to join with the tribute that has already been paid in this House to Sir Cosmo Haskard, and to pass on my condolences to his family. From what I have heard from those who remember him and his family, the word that encapsulates Sir Cosmo is

“Gentleman”, he was apparently a natural born gentleman who showed respect to everyone he encountered, no matter what their situation in life, and that really was pretty enlightened in those days as we were still very much living in a colonial situation. Sir Cosmo was, of course, also a stalwart supporter of the Falklands and Falkland Islanders both whilst he was here and after he left the Falklands, he certainly, as far as I understand, never lost an opportunity to vigorously defend our rights.

I have to confess that I was a bit too young to remember him and his family, but I guess my claim to fame was that I went to school with his son Julian, and I am told that even the act of Sir Cosmo putting his son in the local school with us local kids was frowned on by some. I am also told, but I have no clear memory of this that I may have been involved in a playground disagreement with Sir Cosmo’s son, so if I did take a swing I do apologise. The Falklands has lost a real friend.

Talking of losing friends I would like to join with the words that have already been spoken in this House as we are losing our Attorney General, Peter, and I would like to thank him for everything he has done for us whilst he was here in the Falklands. I know Peter and I have locked horns on one point of law, but it actually added to the esteem in which I hold you, and I would like to also say thank you to Matt Bassford for all he has done for us. He has worked jolly hard and as I say both Matt and Peter have done a lot for the Falklands and they have also been jolly decent chaps, so I would like to wish them and their families all the best for the future, and I sincerely hope we will see them back here in the Falklands in the future.

I know folk keep a beady eye on the asphaltting to see how things are going, and I am afraid that I have to report that after a blistering start we have hit a few problems with the asphalt plant. Interestingly these are new problems, but are fixable, but it means of course that we have been suffering quite a run of disruptions while the fixes are done. It is just as well that we have the funding for the new plant and everything underway to have it here and fired up ready for the next season. I am happy to stand corrected on this, but I believe the old plant is actually ex-MPA so it really is a museum piece and certainly has served both the civil and the military community as well all this time, and may be the Museum would like to be the proud owners of the antique asphaltting plant, they may have to extend their shed though.

It does seem timely to pay tribute to everyone involved in the asphalt campaign this year the cross-departmental cooperation etc that is required to make it happen is quite something.

I would also like to make a plea once again for people driving passed our gangs whilst they are laying asphalt to do so in a safe manner. I have once again had reports of some people going past our crews at speeds that would probably outrun a Hellfire Missile, our workers are doing a job that is a benefit to us all, so please just be a little bit more considerate.

I know there is interest in the construction of new roads in Camp, this has come about as a result of farms being resized or sold onto new owners who unlike those before them would like a road or indeed those who are shifting their abode from, for example, a main settlement to be more on site as it were. We stopped constructing roads some years ago now and our plant focussed switched to maintenance with the capability to build smaller runs of road. This of course doesn’t mean that we as a government will have to tool up again if we decide to go into the road building business as there are contractors out there who already have the plant. The old policy which was basically that we weren’t building any more roads was taken to the

TAC for discussion some time ago, and as a result of the discussions DPW now has a draft Executive Council paper ready to go back to the TAC to be further discussed before being put forward to Executive Council and then if it doesn't get sent back or vetoed onto Standing Finance Committee for the funding part of any recommendations.

I cannot say what Executive Council or Standing Finance Committee may do or say, but please be rest assured that the work to get the proposal to those august bodies is moving ahead. For my part, I can see the reasoning for new roads in certain places, the funding though is another matter and I will fight tooth and nail if there is ever a suggestion that any funding comes out of the £2m already allocated for the roads in Camp and this has to be fresh money. I also believe that if we build, we build something that will last, before, and I can understand why, we built quick, cheap and to a low standard and we are paying a price for that now. I believe we must build to a higher standard, it will be more expensive, it will take longer, but I hope people will be patient as it will be worth the longer time that we may take.

I had a report last night of people once again being spotted up on top of the Camber Tanks. I asked for anti-climbing devices to be fitted to the ladders and I have not had time to find out whether they were fitted, but even if they have not yet been put in place I would ask people to have a bit of common sense and not go shinning up on top of the tank and bopping around on top of them. Those tanks are a good old age and may not be structurally sound as perhaps they might be, if you go through the top of them or come whizzing off the top down or if you actually slip off the top of them, I suspect you will not be walking away from the experience.

I am sort of left pondering about the huge gap there seems to be between the calculations used to measure inflation, and the practical effects in real life. I am referring to the debate in Standing Finance Committee yesterday where a majority voted to accept the fact that changes in the package size offered by Sure means that inflation has decreased by about 1%. Whilst pretty equations may prove the point, the practical effect on a person's pocket remains the same as the package changes do not allow consumers used to their present packages, or the size of those present packages, to drop down to another one, and you can't just phone up like you can with fuel and order the amount of gigabytes that you want for the month, they come in various pre-packaged amounts. Neither can you, as you can with fuel for example, keep your coat on for one month and what remains in the tank is yours to use the next month, that's if you have saved that bit of fuel. I am not taking this swipe at Sure, but the inability of pretty formulas to actually take account for what happens in the real world. I don't know why but during that short debate yesterday, I did find my mind wandering to certain lines from that famous tome: the Hitch-Hikers Guide to the Galaxy, but I won't go into which lines they were.

Finally, anyone out who may think that the present situation with those across the water has led to an outbreak of love and rapprochement would have been quickly disabused of that notion by a photograph of some graffiti that was found by someone out walking last night. I do read Spanish and let me assure you that what was written was not sweet, nor nice, toward Falkland Islanders. I do though find myself wondering where they get the materials to do the graffiti as if South American aviation authorities are running to the same sort of rules as the European ones, the materials used are classified as dangerous goods and are not allowed on a plane, it sort of makes you wonder. I also wonder whether we are going to see the Argentine Government and other organisations making an apology for the vandalism that has occurred here in the Falklands, I shan't be holding my breath.

Thank you.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. I would like to associate myself with the words of condolence to the family of Sir Cosmo Haskard for his passing. I did not know him in Government until 1989. I hear that he was a fine man and I am sure that he will be very much missed by his family, but I am aware of the huge amount of support he gave to the Falklands after he left, which is always greatly appreciated.

Much of what I might have said today has been said by others, so I won't be repetitive, but just a note in terms of the visit recently by 10 Members of Parliament, that every single one of them left here without an iota of a doubt about Falkland Islanders right to self-determination, and with great respect for the achievement of the Islands over the last 30 years, so that is very positive.

I would like to thank Darren for the excellent evening on Tuesday. I had the opportunity to sit next to some people and meet some people who had real interest in sport, so we have dug out a top cyclist, a golfer and a cricketer so that was very positive. We did also talk some other business.

I would also like to thank the other lads and lasses who set up the fun day on the football pitch the other day in the pouring rain, I think they only had a few customers, but I hope they are not discouraged by that, it was a great thing for them to do and thank you very much for doing it, and I hope they will be encouraged to do it again, and good luck to them in finding a better day.

Fish Day on Saturday will be an important day, I know that FIFCA have put a lot of work into Fish Day and I hope the community engage with it. The fishing industry generally is not as well known in the Falklands as perhaps it should be and certainly not as well known as the Agricultural industry, everybody knows something about that, everyone knows something about road building as well. I hope people engage with Fish Day and go to FIPASS and go and have a look on the vessels there will be a lot of things to see and to do, and I think it would be really positive experience especially for young people if parents take them to join in.

To note briefly we are on the downhill run towards FIOGA participation in the Island Games in Gotland in June. We have had some very generous donations to assist taking all our students to Gotland, so that is a great thing for us all, and we know they will have a fantastic experience as a result of that.

Finally, can on behalf of myself and my colleague Roger Edwards who is not here, thank Peter for all of the work he has done during his time here as Attorney General. He has substantially revised the workings of the Law and Regulation Departments including changing its name, that was probably the easy bit. There have been some big pieces of work passed through the Chambers in its relatively short time including the Crimes Bill and the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Bill and the work of the Law Commissioner. They all take time and they all take supervision so thank you very much indeed for all of your work and I

hope you and your family enjoy whatever else it is you are going to do next. Thank you very much indeed.

I support the Motion.

The Honourable Attorney General

Mr Speaker, I am very grateful for the opportunity to speak because as Members know I only have that opportunity if you grant it to me. I remind myself that after 3 years here this is the first opportunity I get to speak to the House with my personal views and not my professional ones on any subject. I am also aware that it is probably the last time that I have the benefit of this House as Parliamentary Privilege which in relation to those listening means that I can say anything to this House about anybody, about anything and I will always be protected from legal proceedings, providing of course Mr Speaker I do not use any un-Parliamentary language. So it in this vein that I greatly appreciate the chance you have granted me to speak. Mr Speaker, as the Government's principal Legal Adviser and the Director of Public Prosecutions I have the privilege to have a great deal of information about the intricate workings of this government and this community. I am it's Monitoring Officer, I am its Director of Public Prosecutions and as such what I know is the best of stuff and also the worst of stuff, and therefore Mr Speaker knowing all of this I have one most pressing thing to say to the House and that is this, "thank you".

I stand here with an almost overwhelming sense of gratitude for the opportunity to be your Attorney General. I am, of course, grateful to my family who I must mention first, who gave me the opportunity to come here and have supported me every day from home. I am grateful to the extremely good team I have in the Directorate, they have supported me every day for the last 3 years. The day I started in my role I stood up personally and made a public promise to say I would do my best, they have been kind enough to tell me when that is not quite good enough, they have encouraged me to do better and they have worked together to continually improve. The whole Directorate bring remarkable demanding dedication and skills to a permanently demanding job, you are lucky to have them. Honourable Members they are deserving of your support and I am extremely grateful to everyone in this House for the support shown to my Directorate over the last 3 years. We are also grateful for some excellent private practice lawyers, a dedicated Court team and Judiciary particularly the JP's and others. Dedicated Police Officers and Social Workers and Probation Officers and all those involved in the criminal justice system they have kept me safe they keep us all safe and they uphold the rule of law. I know that it is much harder to do than it appears.

I am grateful for the relationship I have enjoyed with all of my government colleagues, with Government House and with the military at MPA. For a small community we have a remarkable ability to make simple things very complicated, and without the good working relationship we have with all of them we could not have got as far as we have. I am grateful to every Honourable Member in this House for being testing, and challenging to making my job interesting and for making sure what I do understands the interests and needs of the people of the Falkland Islands who each of you represent. Most of all I am grateful for the tremendous generosity and kindness that my family and I have almost without exception received from everybody I have met in the Falkland Islands over the last 3 years.

As Honourable Members will be aware, I firmly believe the Falkland Islands is a place of immense opportunity, I genuinely see very few challenges that cannot be overcome with determination, hard work, talent, passion and courage. If anyone is listening beyond the Falkland Islands I urge you to come and visit if you are lucky enough to get the chance to come here to work. It is a tremendous opportunity, it is a deeply beautiful country and you would enjoy a brilliant and clean environment. An environment where every person comes together in service and support of each other. Yes, of course, there are some of the most stunning wildlife you will ever see, particularly if you like Penguins.

So, with my last opportunity to speak to this House, at least for the time being, I thank you all for the opportunity you have afforded me and for the challenges and tests that have made this job such an interesting and demanding role. I wish all those here and all those listening great courage and ambition to follow their dreams exactly as I followed mine to get here in the first place.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members, may I add my personal thanks to Peter for all the help he has given me in his time here, and personally I wish him and his family well for the future.

Honourable Members that that concludes the business of the House for today. The House stands adjourned accordingly.