



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

**HELD AT COURT & ASSEMBLY
CHAMBERS**

13 NOVEMBER 2017

**RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
HELD AT ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
THURSDAY 31 AUGUST 2017**

Speaker of the House
(Mr Keith Biles JP)

MEMBERS (Ex-Officio)

The Honourable Chief Executive
(Mr Barry Rowland)

The Honourable Financial Secretary
(Mr James Wilson)

Elected

The Honourable Teslyn Siobhan Barkman
(Elected Member for Camp Constituency)

The Honourable Stacy John Bragger
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Roger Anthony Edwards
(Elected Member for Camp Constituency)

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

The Honourable Ian Hansen
(Elected Member for Camp Constituency)

The Honourable Mark John Pollard
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Lucila Leona Vidal Roberts (Leona Roberts)
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Roger Kenneth Spink
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

PERSONS ENTITLED TO ATTEND

The Deputy Attorney General
(Ms Rosalind Cheek)

Commander British Forces, South Atlantic Islands.
(Brigadier Barry Bennett OBE)

The Deputy Speaker
(Mrs Claudette Prior)

CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY (DES): Cherie Clifford

PRAYERS: Reverend Kathy Biles

CONTENTS

Prayers	5
Election of Speaker	5
Oath of Allegiance and Due Execution of Office: For Speaker	6
Election of Deputy Speaker	6
Oath of Allegiance and Due Execution of Office: For Deputy Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly	7
The Election of Elected Members to Executive Council	7
Confirmation of the Record of Legislative Assembly held on 28th September 2017	8
Papers Laid on the Table by the Honourable Chief Executive	9
MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT	14
The Honourable Ian Hansen	14
The Honourable Teslyn Barkman	15
The Honourable Stacy Bragger	16
The Honourable Roger Edwards	17
The Honourable Mark Pollard	17
The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby	18
The Honourable Leona Roberts	18
The Honourable Roger Spink	20
Commander British Forces	20

**The Record of the Meeting of Legislative Assembly
held on Monday 13 November 2017**

Prayers

Acting Attorney General

Ladies and gentlemen welcome to this first meeting of the Legislative Assembly. Can I just remind all Members and all those present please to turn off their mobile phones or at least put them on silent, please thank you.

Clerk of the Assembly

The election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

Acting Attorney General

So ladies and gentlemen as Honourable Members have not yet taken their Oath of Allegiance, the Constitution provides for the Attorney General to preside over the election of the Speaker. The Constitution also provides that the election of the Speaker is for the life of the assembly, so can I ask does any Honourable Member wish to nominate any person to be Speaker of the assembly?

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Thankyou Attorney General, I would like to nominate Mr Keith Biles to be Speaker of this House for the life of this assembly.

Acting Attorney General

Thank you and do you have any seconder.

The Honourable Roger Spink

Thank you Attorney General, I would like to second Mr Keith Biles.

Acting Attorney General

Thank you, are there any further nominations?

The Honourable Ian Hansen

There are no further nominations.

Acting Attorney General

Thank you. Accordingly I declare Mr Keith Biles to be elected as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and I would invite him to please take your Oath of Allegiance and to preside over the remainder of the Assembly.

So first if I could ask you to take the Oath of Allegiance.

Mr Speaker

The Oath of Allegiance.

Acting Attorney General

Thank you and if you could sign that one, ok. And if you could also take the Oath of due Execution of Office please.

Mr Speaker

The Oath of Due Execution Office.

Honourable Members we move to the election of the Deputy Speaker. Does anyone wish to propose a name or names please for this position?

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Mr Speaker, I would like to propose that Mrs Claudette Prior then be elected as Deputy Speaker of this house.

Mr Speaker

Thank you, is there any seconder to that?

The Honourable Roger Spink

Mr Speaker, I would like to second Mrs Claudette Prior MBE as Deputy Speaker.

Mr Speaker

Thank you, do we have any other nominations?

The Honourable Ian Hansen

No other nominations.

Mr Speaker

There are no other nominations, in which case I declare that Mrs Claudette Prior is appointed the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly and I ask her to come forward and take the oaths please.

Acting Attorney General

So if I could just ask you to take the Affirmation of Allegiance please?

Deputy Speaker

The Affirmation of Alliegnace.

Acting Attorney General

Thank you very much and if I could ask you to do the Affirmation of Execution of Office please.

Deputy Speaker

The Affirmation of Execution of Office.

Acting Attorney General

Thank you very much, if you would like to sign those please, thank you.

Deputy Speaker

Thank you.

Acting Attorney General

Thank you and congratulations.

Mr Speaker

And we move on now to the swearing of the individual Members.

Clerk of the Assembly

The Oath of Allegiance and Due Execution of Office for all MLA's.

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members now you are all sworn. First of all I'd like to thank you all and on behalf of the Deputy Speaker as well for your confidence in re-appointing us or appointing us as your Speaker. Speaking personally I pledge myself to uphold the privileges and rights of the Assembly and trust that we will all work together for the next four years to produce a result that is all good, we shall see.

Clerk of the Assembly

The Election of Elected Members to Executive Council.

Mr Speaker

I appoint the Attorney General and the Honourable Financial Secretary as tellers for this process for the purposes of this election. You have ballot papers in front of you.

The first ballot will take place for a Stanley representative to Executive Council. The result of the election for a Member from Stanley to serve on the Executive Council is the Honourable Roger Spink, will be the Member.

And now we take an election for Member of the Executive Council from the Camp constituency. The Member elected from Camp for Executive Council is the Honourable Teslyn Barkman.

So the next round, miles away there. The next voting is for a member from either Camp or Stanley and the papers are in front of you. The representative from either Stanley or Camp to serve on the Executive Council is the Honourable Leona Roberts.

So the Members to serve on Executive Council for the following year:-
Representative from Stanley- The Honourable Roger Spink
Representative from Camp- The Honourable Teslyn Barkman
Representative from either Stanley or Camp- The Honourable Leona Roberts.

And there we are.

Clerk of the Assembly

Confirmation of the Record of Legislative Assembly held on the 28th September 2017.

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members I have in front of me a record of that last meeting is it your wish that I sign this as a true record?

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Yes

Mr Speaker

Thank you.

Clerk of the Assembly

Papers to be laid on the table by the Honourable the Chief Executive. Copies of subsidiary Legislation published in the Falkland Islands Gazette since the last sitting of the Legislative Assembly and Laid on the Table pursuant to section 35(1) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance 1977.

- **Fishery Products (Designations)(Amendment) Order 2017**

- **Sea Lion Island National Nature Reserve Order 2017**
- **Sea Lion Island National Nature Reserve Regulations 2017**
- **Taxes and Duties (Defence Contractors' Employees Exemption) Order 2017**
- **Coins (Commemorative)(No3) Order 2017**
- **Coins (Circulation)(No2) Order 2017**
- **Road Traffic (Fixed Penalty Notices) Regulations 2017**
- **Road Traffic (Taxi Drivers' Permits)(Amendment) Order 2017**

Mr Speaker

The Honourable Chief Executive.

Chief Executive

Mr Speaker, I lay the fore mentioned papers on the table.

Mr Speaker

Thank you. The Honourable Roger Edwards, I'm sorry Roger Spink.

The Honourable Roger Spink

Mr Speaker, understanding order section 41(3) I move that the Road Traffic (Taxi Drivers' Permits) (Amendment) Order 2017 be noted.

Mr Speaker

Thank you, can I have a second appease for that?

The Honourable Roger Edwards to second.

The Honourable Teslyn Barkman.

The Honourable Teslyn Barkman

I would like to second that motion thank you.

Mr Speaker

Thank you very much.

And Honourable Members for you to speak. The Honourable Roger Edwards.

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. I would like to ask the Attorney General to comment on and to answer a couple of questions on the particular order referring to the Road Traffic (Taxi Drivers' Permits) (Amendment) Order 2017 just laid on the table.

This particular, these particular Regulations are in support of the Road Traffic Ordinance that applies to designated roads. As far as I understand there is no change to that ruling, and so any of these orders will only apply to the road traffic ordinance that applies to designated road and therefore will not apply to any off-road areas of East Falkland where the roads are not designated, all of West Falkland and nor the off lying islands where tourism takes place. I had understood that this bill had been produced for them. The Regulations in support of the bill will be introduced to prevent people who committed sexual offences from being involved in driving taxis and indeed, if approved later driving tourists. It seems to have expanded from that bit and so quickly Attorney General also please comment on that.

The Executive Council minute referring to these Orders approved in principle only where applicability of taxi drivers permits to those driving passengers from cruise ships, etc. etc. etc. So does this particular amendment bill, amendment regulation apply for that part of the order or not?

There is supposed to have been and was agreed under that same Executive Council instruction, that there was going to be a full public consultation in October to December 2017. I note it was later amended to the 1st of October to the 1st of December, so hence we've lost one whole month of public consultation. But in addition to that I've been made aware that there has been very little public consultation already, and we are already half way through November so please I would wish the Attorney General to comment on whether or not we can extend that public consultation. That full public consultation, further into the future.

We are told in the same ExCo that the results of that public consultation will be reported back to Executive Council in February or March 2018. But it doesn't actually say who reports back so please can I ask the Attorney General who it is that reports back on this particular instruction. And are we going to have an opportunity following that report back to actually alter these regulations before they come into being. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

Acting Attorney General.

Acting Attorney General

Thank you Mr Speaker. I think it might help if I provide a little bit of background in relation to these amending regulations, as I say set out the history to them. So in 2013 the Road Traffic Taxi Drivers Permits Order was made, the order was made by Executive Council and subsequently noted in the Assembly. That order came in to force on the 1st October 2013.

What the Order sought to do was to regulate the driving of vehicles for the purpose of carrying passengers for hire or reward. So as I say what it sought to do there was introduce a

permit system for any driver carrying passengers for hire or reward. For a number of reasons, largely administrative the order was not given effect to and was not sought to be enforced. The Royal Falkland Islands Police would be responsible for enforcing road traffic legislation, this order in the usual way.

It's because the order wasn't being enforced, steps were recently taken to address issues around that and to ensure that it can be enforced in future. And in particular one of the areas missing from the mechanisms to allow that enforcement was that the regulations provide that in relation to issuing permits under the order the Chief police officer will issue administrative criteria. So setting out the criteria under which an individual can be determined to be a fit and proper person to hold a taxi permit. So those administrative criteria were missing and there also seemed to be a lack of certainty around the issue as to whether these permits also extended to larger vehicles, so buses and in particular whether they extended to public service vehicles which are vehicles designed or adapted to carry passengers, 12 passengers or more. So the reason this went back to Executive Council was to put before Executive Council an indication of the administrative criteria that would be issued by the Chief police officer and to also seek clarification from Executive Council in relation to this question of public service vehicles and whether the regulations should also extend to public service vehicles. In addition it was considered appropriate to try and improve the transparency of the process around taxi driver licensing, so it was proposed that amendment would be made to the regulations to require the Chief police officer to publish the administrative criteria, to proactively publish them and make them widely available.

So the purpose of these amending regulations. So let's get clear that the original regulations came into force in 2013, so the purpose of these amending regulations is to require the Chief police officer to publish the administrative criteria. At the same time it was considered appropriate to make minor amendments to the levels of fees in relation to taxi driver permits. So the amending regulations before the assembly today do those two things only. They provide for the Chief police officer to publish the administrative criteria and to amend the fees. The regulations came into force on publication. So they came into force on the 27th October 2017, when they were published. So that means the original 2013 regulations were amended for those purposes with effect from the 27th October 2017. So that's the background to these amending regulations, if I could just now try and address the supplementary questions around those asked by the Honourable Member.

Firstly do the regulations, so that is the original regulations and the amendments to them apply only to designated roads or do they apply more widely? I would like to take a little look, bit more time before giving a definitive answer on this. But my initial answer appears, is that it appears that the regulations are not intended to be limited to driving on roads or driving on designated roads as defined in the ordinance and the regulations appear to, intended to capture those activities more widely. As I say there is no reference to specifically that I have been able to find in the short time that I have had to drive merely on roads or designated roads. So as I say it appears to me that the original regulations and those amended which are before the assembly today relate to the wider activities and not just on designated roads.

In relation to the consultation mentioned by the Honourable Member, I believe that there was some quite detailed consultation undertaken in 2012 before the original regulations were made. When Executive Council was considering these amending regulations which are before

the Assembly today proposals were also made to potentially amend the regulations to remove one of the exemptions. So under the existing regulations, a person who drives or seeks to drive passengers on a day when a cruise ship is visiting Stanley and those passengers are from the cruise ship that individual driver is exempt from the requirements of the Legislations. Now Executive Council have been invited to consider whether that exemption is appropriate or not and it is merely that issue which is to be subject to further consultation. In terms of who is to undertake that further consultation my understanding is that the police will be undertaking that consultation on behalf of FIG. Yes it was originally intended that the consultation take place between October and December 2017. My understanding is that there has been some delay in that process so it seems to me sensible and clear that any delay in the consultation will mean this is then delayed in terms of its reporting to Executive Council and the whole process will have to be pushed back. I think it's fair to say that a reasonable amount of time will be taken to undertake that consultation. So it will be reported back to Executive Council at an appropriate time in the New Year, to enable the Assembly to then the Executive Council to then consider the matter.

If any further amendments are made to those regulations, those regulations would of course then in due course be laid before the Assembly. So the assembly would have the opportunity at that point to consider any further amendments in that regard. Just to clarify the process in relation to the assembly's consideration of these amending regulations today, and remember it is just those amending regulations it's not the original regulations. Under section 35 of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance it is permissible for Members to propose amendments to those regulations that are laid before them, before you on the table today but not until the next Assembly meeting and of course if Honourable Members in the meantime would like further information I'm sure we will be only too pleased to brief you on the detail of that, thank you.

Mr Speaker

The Honourable Roger Edwards

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, I thank the Honourable Acting Attorney General for her answers. Indeed I would wish that we can vote for section 35 and bring it back to the next Assembly so that we can be further briefed, particularly on the areas that this particular piece, particular regulations will cover because if it is all the Islands, that is East Falkland, West Falkland and all the outlying Islands then I would suggest that the public consultation will be quite significant and also the people who drive those tourists on those outlying islands will also have to comply with all the other Road Traffic Ordinances that apply to those who drive on those designated roads.

I welcome the fact that the consultation can be extended and I would wish that the Attorney General speak with our Chief police officer to take forward those consultations because again I assume it is the Chief police officer who is conducting those consultations. Mr Speaker I think we have a lot of work ahead.

Mr Speaker

The Honourable Teslyn Barkman

The Honourable Teslyn Barkman

I would like to support the Honourable Roger Spink and the Honourable Roger Edwards for addressing this order; I believe we do need to ensure it is properly and publically consulted. Especially if it's got a wider Islands reach, at the moment it's only been consulted privately. I know there ambitions for a public consultation, but the deadlines have been missed as stated. But we need to ensure that happens before we approve this order.

I do think it's a wider safe guarding mission and it's not one just based on sexual assault, I think there are different levels of safeguarding issues that have been raised with this paper. I think it's important we don't lose sight of that.

What I also think we should look at further amendments, such as reviewing it so it could be a permit for a longer period such as 5 years, which is typical elsewhere and would save a lot of administration issues for the police and for the people wanting to do casual driving, I think that's the focus that has been lost.

This has already been covered by the acting Attorney General but I'd thank to thank her for her response but she had advised me that the road traffic ordinance does not appear to restrict as provisions to vehicles being driven on the road in this case and I think to make that clear that it affects every single tour driver within Stanley on a designated road and outside of Stanley on a designated road.

And I would like to ask the Acting Attorney General Ros Cheek if she would provide a definitive answer and present it to the next Legislative Assembly meeting. Thank you Speaker.

Mr Speaker

The Acting Attorney General

Acting Attorney General

Yes, Mr Speaker I confirm I would be very happy to do that.

Just to mention that the Clerk has noted that she believes that the consultation may have started towards the end of October, I do apologise if I've mislead the Assembly I must admit I haven't personally seen the consultation papers but it appears that they may have already been released.

Just to clarify for the Honourable Roger Edwards the consultation that is taking place is in relation to a potential amendment which has not yet been put to the Executive Council nor to the Assembly, so that is a separate matter from the amendments that are before the Assembly today. So just to provide that clarification, but as I say we are very content to provide further briefings in the interim period and it is of course entirely a matter for Members as to whether they wish to bring any amendments to these regulations before the house today when it meets again on the next Assembly, thank you.

Mr Speaker

The Honourable Roger Edwards

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker we seem to come back to the Consultation over and over. Might I suggest that the accuracy of the consultation as dictated in the Executive paper was actually wrong, it claims to have represented 90% of the tourist drivers in the Falkland Islands and it is underlined by saying all of them were supported. Might I suggest that in fact it wasn't 90% but something like 20% even if that, so you think we've had some poor information has been given to both Executive Council and the House. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

Does any other Member wish to speak?

No.

Most before the houses that the Road Traffic Taxi Drivers Permit Amendment Order 2017 is noted, is there any objection to passing that motion? There is no objection that order is noted.

Clerk of Assembly

Motion for Adjournment.

Mr Speaker

The Honourable Chief Executive

The Honourable Chief Executive

Mr Speaker I beg to you that the house stands adjourned sine die.

Mr Speaker

Thank you. Honourable Members to you the Honourable Ian Hansen.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members I'm rising to support the motion for adjournment, I will be brief it is always a privilege and honour to be elected to any assembly and I'd just like to thank very much all those that made it possible that I'm back here for another 4 years. I of course would very much like to welcome all members, the two colleagues I served with previously and of course the 5 new members. I was very impressed with their, with all the candidates in the lead up to the election and the way they handled themselves in particular on social media and indeed in front of television cameras and the radio. I think what I found most impressive was the fact that nobody promised things they didn't feel were realistic to achieve and I think that's always a good sign for an Assembly.

I think this Assembly will have extremely interesting Assembly, there's a lot going to be happening we've already had a huge capital programme in place and there will be other things that will be needed to be done.

Oil prices are slowly rising so we may be moving forward on the oil front as well. We shall have to see.

Finally Mr Speaker of course I think in my last adjournment speech to this house I said that I hope I would be working with you again and thankfully that has come to fruition so I welcome you back to this Assembly and of course to the Deputy Speaker as well, thank you.

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members, the Honourable Teslyn Barkman.

The Honourable Teslyn Barkman

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members I would like to start by saying how grateful I am to be elected and also today to be elected to executive council. I have a lot of ideas and enthusiasm for the work but it is in talking to people and being confident and cooperative that a lot of change can be made for the better of the whole Falklands. That being said success only comes at the hands of defeat. My heart goes out to those who have not made it this time, for many this was their first attempt and it is encouraging to hear that it will not be the last.

We have all learnt a lot from this election process and not least the subject of a single constituency has come up often. I know people feel passionately about the subject and what is clear is that we do need to find a way forward. I'm not a camper myself yet but I was warmly received and I know others would be too. If you stand you are for choice which is lacking particularly in camp elections at the moment. It is a job if you can do it well and commit to it please don't ever let fear of how it will be perceived to stop you from standing from one constituency to another constituency, it is permitted for a reason.

As the youngest woman to be elected, I think, to a Legislative office I also believe it is a shame that only 5 of 17 candidates were women. I hope to be an approachable face for people in the future to share ideas with but also to come to if they are interested in pursuing the role themselves.

I congratulate the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker on their election to the roles and I would also like to thank the Clerk of the Assembly Cherie Clifford for organising our induction week and taking on the responsibility of organising our lives for the next four years. I would also like to congratulate my fellow members on Executive Council now the Honourable Leona Roberts and the Honourable Roger Spink I think we can get a lot done.

Thank you Speaker, Mr Speaker I support the motion.

Mr Speaker

Thank you, any other Member wish to speak? The Honourable Stacy Bragger.

The Honourable Stacy Bragger

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. I will begin by saying what an incredible honour it is to be standing here in this chamber as an elected member for these islands. I have to admit the feeling slightly overwhelmed on Thursday evening at being chosen by the people of the Falklands to be one of their representatives, thank you to everyone who voted for me all I can say is I will work for the next four years to justify the confidence that you have shown in me. I'd like to record my thanks to the chamber of commerce board for the support obviously from them to take this step.

I found the election period fascinating and hope that the candidates who weren't successful this time continue to be engaged in local politics. I'd also like to place my thanks to the Honourable Members from the previous assembly who are not here today, Jan Cheek, Michael Poole, Gavin Short, Phyl Rendell and Mike Summers. They all deserve to be commended for their public service and wish them all the best for the next chapters of their lives.

I'd like to congratulate everyone who was involved in conducting the election on Thursday which was another example of the very healthy democracy we have here. The level of engagement shown by the public is exemplified by the increased voter turnout of 80% for Stanley and 86% for camp. I was very pleased by the outcome of the election.

We've only had one afternoon together but I am hopeful that this will be a group that will work positively together to make real progress in achieving the aspirations of this community. I believe there is a good mix on this Assembly as we have our 3 colleagues from the previous group with their experience and the 5 first time Members to have a wide range of skills and experience. I don't think that we will rip up everything that has gone before but I think it is likely that it will take some time to look at different things with fresh eyes and see if a different approach would be worthwhile. It's only natural that with 5 new Members that there will be a different dynamic and I believe that the public will see change.

During the election period I outlined some of the things that I want to see achieved I hope that we can move quickly to make progress in the areas that have been identified as areas of common ground, the development of new education facilities was mentioned briefly on Friday afternoon and I believe that we should ask the Chief Executive to bring forward an Executive Council paper on this as soon as possible. I'm very ambitious what this Assembly can achieve we'll have our ups and downs I'm sure and I'm sure there will be practical reasons for why some things can't be accomplished but let's have the confidence to try and push the boundaries.

I congratulate you Mr Speaker on your reappointment to the role and look forward to working for you, also like to say that our scene from the other roles I've had the ruthless efficiency of the Gilbert House staff and also look forward to working with Cherie, Imogen and Meghan.

Finally Mr Speaker now that I am a politician I will endeavour to ensure that I don't use some of the stereotypical words and phrases associated with the profession. I am confident I won't use the words on island, I have caught myself recently using the term moving forward so I will try and make sure that doesn't happen again.

Mr Speaker I support the motion.

Mr Speaker

Thank you, the Honourable Roger Edwards.

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members in rising to support the motion for adjournment I too would like to thank the electorate who cast their vote for me in the general election. I thought it was going to be a very close election and indeed it was. Both here in Stanley and in Camp, I don't think anyone could have foretold the outcome. But I would like to say a very well done to everyone who stood in this election because that's why we have an election, if we didn't stand there wouldn't be an election you would just be appointed if that was the sole numbers available.

I'd like to welcome back Mr Speaker to the house and Claudette after so many years coming back in as the Deputy Speaker so congratulations to those.

Like Stacy I do believe that this new Assembly, particularly with 5 new Members with 5 new ideas there will be change I'm sure some of that change I will dig my heels in and fight against it however change is inevitable and change for the better must be welcomed by everybody.

I must say that during the election campaign I am not on Facebook as many people would be aware and there was comment about that during the election process. But from what I did see on Facebook I was absolutely staggered how vicious and nasty it got at times and I'd like to remind everyone that although you're sitting at home in your ivory tower tapping these things out on your computer you are still open for libel and slander on Facebook and some of those things that came up and were passed around during the Assembly were really nasty and I would imagine came under the heading of both libel and slander.

I would like to thank Cherie for setting everything up in Gilbert House, we even have new phones, new computers linked in across the ether by means I know not what. But I would like to thank everybody for their help in getting us all up together.

Mr Speaker I support the motion for adjournment.

Mr Speaker

The Honourable Mark Pollard.

The Honourable Mark Pollard

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to start by thanking all of those who had faith in me and voted for me in the general election. I'd like to thank the organisers of the general election and they deserve our gratitude as well for all the hard work. I'd like to thank all of the previous MLA's for their past service and all that came before us.

I look forward to serving alongside my colleagues, the Gilbert House staff, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, to represent the people of the Falkland Islands over the next four years. We have an interesting mix of experience and youth and I'm confident we can work together to make the right decisions and effect change. There's many things we are going to have to do if we are going to live up to the expectations but perhaps the first thing I'd like to see is to look for better ways to engage with the electorate and more ways. I think if we can truly engage with the people of the Falkland Islands then this can only help us to make better decisions whether we are on basing social media or just being available and I look to take those steps.

As we are only on our second full working day we haven't as yet decided who's going to take on which portfolio but I hope we will have some news for you regarding this very soon.

Mr Speaker I support the motion.

Mr Speaker

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members I will keep my comments very brief and I would just like to echo what my colleagues have already said about the welcome to yourself and the various members of the staff and again my thanks to the electorate for supporting me, supporting my ideas and voting for me.

Roger Edwards, the Honourable Roger Edwards says there will be change and he will dig his heels in sometimes, I won't be digging any heels in I think change is very useful, very good and I will be supporting the new Assembly in driving forward change.

I would just like to take up and echo what my Honourable colleague, the Honourable Stacy Bragger has said that it does appear there is a ground swell now to build a new IJS and we've already had brief discussions about that, and that's very reassuring because I can stop now knocking my head against a brick wall.

Mr Speaker I support the motion, thank you.

Mr Speaker

The Honourable Leona Roberts.

The Honourable Leona Roberts

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members in rising to support the motion for adjournment I would like to take a few minutes to make this my first address to the Assembly. I must first express my gratitude to those members of the electorate who voted for me on Thursday and to all who have taken the time to speak to me before and since Election Day. To have the opportunity to serve my country as a member of this assembly is an honour and a privilege and I don't doubt will be the greatest accomplishment of my life. I will do my best to serve

the Falklands with integrity and respect for the community always keeping in mind the best interests of our country and our people and I hope that I'll prove myself worthy of the confidence shown in me last week. I would also like to pay tribute to those who were not on this occasion successful in their campaigns. To stand for election takes courage and a genuine desire to serve ones country and I believe that anyone who is prepared to step forward is deserving of admiration.

Mr Speaker I believe that this Assembly brings with it a new energy, we have the desire and the will to instigate growth and to bring about changes both great and small. There is much to be done but we have inherited a Nation with healthy reserves and a strong framework and I believe we're committed to working together to lead the Falklands into a confident and positive future.

If I may I would just take a couple of minutes to touch on a few of my priorities. Mr Speaker we will of course safeguard our political freedom and our right to determine our own future and continue to ensure that the International community hears the truth of our history and understands more of our culture and society and continue to resist interference from outside Nations. We will also be responsible in our management for the Nations finances ensuring that we maintain sufficient reserves and protect the Islands in the future but I believe there is a real need for expenditure on key infrastructure and in some cases this is a matter of some urgency. As we address these issues I hope this assembly will formulate a long term vision for capital expenditure and also a rolling programme for renewals allowing government departments to at least have an idea of how long they have to keep old sheds standing and all but obsolete equipment running.

The private sector has shown it has the will to invest in development and I believe that local businesses have the ability to be strong partners for government and look forward to seeing this progressed.

I would like to touch also on the issue of rotor winds at Mount Pleasant it's a cause of enormous concern and alarm right across this community at the moment and this really does need to be resolved. Loss of confidence and trust and a potential for lasting damage to our economy cannot be overstated.

I would also like to see a process of Constitutional review begin; I think given conversations in recent weeks this is timely. I know it is a major piece of work and will take many years.

But Mr Speaker while we continue to work to enable the political and economic development of our Islands so I believe we must not overlook the social wellbeing of our community I touched on this in my manifesto and I believe we sometimes forget the so called small stuff, the everyday concerns of the average family. Those issues that eat into our happiness, damaging our health and ability to contribute. Spawning blame and creating division in the community and here I would echo the comments by the Honourable Roger Edwards about Facebook and social media. I think we need to think twice sometimes before we hit the return key on our keyboards. I want to see a greater focus on generating happiness and believe there are many ways we can work towards this, starting perhaps with the distribution of wealth through implementation of the living wage and reintroduction of the travel credit scheme. But I do believe we need to continue to develop inclusive policies and create equal opportunities across our community.

So in essence I would like to see more done to celebrate our Islands and our people, our cultural heritage and our natural environment and there's a lot to do in the next four years but I genuinely believe that although we will face a great many challenges and difficult decisions and probably will not achieve everything that we set out to do within our tenure I have faith that this Assembly with work together for the good of the Falklands showing vision, leadership and imagination and I look forward to the next four years with a healthy dose of trepidation a sense of optimism and an eagerness to get cracking.

And Mr Speaker I support the motion.

Mr Speaker

Thank you. The Honourable Roger Spink.

The Honourable Roger Spink

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members in rising to support the motion I would like to thank all those who supported me in the election I'll keep my comments very brief. I would just also like to thank Cherie and her staff who have settled us in very well and all of those involved in planning the training programme that we've got over the next two weeks. I'm sure I'll have a lot more say in future LEGCO's but on this one I think the hard work starts now and I would like to say I support the motion. Thank you very much.

Mr Speaker

Thank you, Commander of British Forces.

Commander of British Forces

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members may I also congratulate you on being elected and putting yourselves forward as many of you have already said, I think being a public servant is an outstanding thing to do. May I also congratulate the Speaker and Deputy Speaker as well.

I look forward to working with you all and I think my headline to all of you is MPC is absolutely open for business and I know I've covered that with the previous assembly as well. I describe part of my job as running the town of Pleasant and I think this is the hour where the Falkland Islands can play a far greater role than they are at the moment. There is a momentum already behind this and this is no small part down to the Chief Executive and I look forward to recasting those initiatives with you and taking them to fruition with all of you over the next couple of years while I am still here. Mr Speaker, thank you.

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members that concludes the business for today, this house stands adjourned accordingly.