



Held at 1.30pm on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013  
in the Liberation Room, Secretariat, Stanley

## OPEN MINUTES

Present:	MLA Phyl Rendell	PR	Chairperson
	Mr Keith Padgett	KP	Chief Executive
	Ms Vicki Jackson	VJ	Deputy Head of Policy
	Mr Mike Evans	ME	West Falkland Representative
	Mr P Phillips	PP	East Falkland Representative
	Mr Neil Judd	NJ	Senior Agricultural Advisor
	Mrs Nuala Knight	NK	RDS Co-ordinator
	Mrs Siân Nightingale	SN	Minutes

Public: 0

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

- |           |  |        |
|-----------|--|--------|
|           |  | Action |
|           | PR raised the issue that although the meeting was open, it was not advertised, so she would take this up with Gilbert House.   | PR     |
|           | As the minutes are to be open to the press and public, it was agreed to discuss Item 7 of the agenda, REZ Fiscal Incentives Proposals in the Closed part of the meeting. |        |
| <b>1.</b> | <b>Apologies for absence</b>   |        |
| 1.1.      | Jamie Fotheringham passed on his apologies and Vicki Jackson attended the meeting in his place. Marc Boucher and Ian Hansen also passed along their apologies.           |        |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Declarations of Interest</b>  |        |
| 2.1.      | PR declared an interest in item 7, NK declared an interest as an RBA committee member and having a farm at Fox Bay, ME & PP declared interests as farm owners.           |        |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013</b>   |        |
| 3.1.      | <u>5.2.</u> The word 'it' to be removed from line 6.   | NK     |
| 3.2.      | The minutes were approved as an accurate record if the meeting.  |        |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>Matters &amp; actions arising from meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013</b>   |        |

- 4.1. 7.8.3. - The teacher was already in the key worker house.
- 4.2. 7.8.5. - The conversion of an existing property at Fox Bay into single unit flats is yet to be investigated or fed into the Fox Bay development plan. NK
- 4.3. 8.2. - The FIDC Development Officer is working with the Fitzroy Social Group as it was previously been agreed to allow a CDF application to go forward. PR said that all MLA's have received a letter from the residents of Fitzroy and PR and NK have met with Owen Summers to discuss the points raised within it. There are other areas of funding that the Fitzroy Social Group could tap into such as that for signage, PR will reply and possibly visit with NK. PR, NK
- 8.5. - It was agreed prior to the meeting that this meeting was to be a normal RDS meeting. Whilst it would be good to hold a meeting in Camp, those attending as members of the public could only sit and listen to the meeting. PR suggested that at the December meeting the format of the 2014 meetings could be discussed. NK
- 4.4. **Actions carried forward from previous meetings**
- May 2012 (Goose Green)
- 4.4.1. NJ to bring a concept paper to the December meeting on the possibility of FI based practical/vocational agricultural training. NK commented that the Training Centre had undertaken some work on this previously and ME is happy to provide input. NJ, ME
- 4.4.2. MB has yet to discuss the potential of tourism lodges and tourism development with Stevie Dickson. MB
- July 2012
- 4.4.3. KP is to speak to Hilary Rowland about how to incorporate health into the RDS and invite her along to the next meeting. KP
- 4.4.4. ME said that there had been some work on addressing the 2 metre system in camp, adding that he would like to see full coverage achieved from a safety perspective and there is still some work to be done on this. KP said that KTV carry out the repairs on behalf of the Police and there are still some gaps in coverage. NJ said that it would be useful to have a map showing 2 metre and mobile coverage, KP added that Sure would have the information on mobile coverage. NJ suggested the DoA could generate the map and PR said it would be good to include frequencies, KP to circulate the information. NJ, KP
- 4.4.5. It was suggested that it would be good to include a section on camp vacancies on the FIG website. KP updated the group that the PR & Media Manager was now Krysteen Ormond so the issue needs to be raised with her. KP
- October 2012
- 4.4.6. Regarding the need to identify suitable replacement parts for the failing part in the satellite dishes, PR said that people need to know where to go. ME commented that Chris May has done something with getting this part in. ME to follow up with Chris May. MW
- February 2013
- 4.4.7. NK said that something needs to be actioned to alleviate farm managers from acting as village agents should settlements be designated as REZ's. RDS development might tie in with existing management of the settlement, utilities etc. PR to ask Mike Summers where this is at. PR
- April 2013
- 4.4.8. On the agenda.
- 4.4.9. KP commented that more spares in general were needed for the satellite dishes in camp and NK to speak to Justin McPhee to see if Sure are interested. KP said that the person who installed the dishes may be interested. NK

in taking this on if funding was available.

#### July 2013

- 4.4.10. On the agenda.
- 4.4.11. NK said that she had produced an article for the Penguin News but some people didn't feel it was interesting so it was abandoned. PR asked NK to re-circulate and hit Penguin News before Christmas. NK welcomed any comments from the group on making the article more interesting. NK, All
- 4.4.12. NK said that she didn't know how to address the different kinds of freight costs across the Falklands, in different geographic blocks. KP said that it was a no-win situation. PR said that this should be left until the budget process when a policy view can be decided on. PR
- 4.4.13. NK said that nothing had been actioned on getting a better understanding of the hurdles facing individuals living in Stanley who want to move to camp. The group agreed these were currently the same as they had been previously. This action can be removed.
- 4.4.14. Regarding the future employment of an RDS Co-ordinator, KP said that this was being discussed as part of the FIDC Review. KP

#### 15<sup>th</sup> August 2013

- 4.4.15. On the agenda.
- 4.4.16. To be removed from the agenda.
- 4.4.17. To be removed from the agenda.
- 4.4.18. To be removed from the agenda.
- 4.4.19. NK would continue working on a 3 year action plan for the Rural Development Strategy and would bring a draft along to the January meeting. NK
- 4.4.20. To be removed from the agenda.

### **5. Welcome to new members**

- 5.1. The group welcomed PR, VJ and NJ.

### **6. RDS Co-ordinator Update**

- 6.1. Key Worker House – NK updated the group that although a teacher was currently using the house at Fox Bay, NK has been trying to get a copy of an appropriate lease to compare as FIG are technically leasing the house from themselves. The tenant has raised some issues on maintenance. It was agreed that FIG not the RDS should be taking on the repairs so it was suggested that Simon Fletcher needs to be approached to add the house onto the maintenance schedule for Fox Bay. KP, NK
- 6.1.2. NK added that she believed it would be easier to recruit someone into the mechanics position if the house was fully furnished but when PWD was approached this was rejected. KP to speak to the Housing Officer. KP
- 6.1.3. NK included a draft advert for the Key Worker/Mechanic Post. It was agreed to approach someone locally who may be interested in the position and NK to come up with some basic requirements/skills set for the position. Failing this the post would be re-advertised overseas. NK
- 6.1.4. ME, VJ, PR & NJ suggested some changes to the advert to make it more appealing. NK
- Take off reference to FIDC (this could be included at the end)
  - The first paragraph is a bit scary, implying someone might have to live off £15,000 after the second year is up
  - Population of 22 at Fox Bay could suggest that is the only customer base available
  - Take out that the teacher is 'full-time'

- Add in that there is an air service
- Replace the 'excellent' condition of the house with 'good'
- Training may be available to assist with the maintenance of wind turbines
- Include a small paragraph about the quality of life/family in the Falkland Islands
- Add in some contact details for a person to receive any enquiries about the position, not just a website address

6.2. Map of camp – NK said that this has been warmly welcomed, although there are a couple of errors in it which will be rectified ahead of any future reprints.

6.2.1. Sebastian Reid, the Assistant Roads Engineer has been working on road signage strategy which will complement the maps well.

6.3. Website – NK commented that there is a lot of work to do on it as that the access has been restricted for some time, but this work can now begin.

NK

6.4. Appendix 1 – RDS project update and project spend

6.4.1. NK commented that the RDS budget is grossly underspent again, although there is some committed funding that doesn't show on the appendix.

6.4.2. (1) Key Worker Position & House – already discussed.

6.4.3. (2) Capital Development Fund (Business) – this is on FIDC's website and NK to include in her article for the Penguin News.

NK

6.4.4. (3) REZ fiscal incentives – separate agenda item.

6.4.5. (4) Training Scheme – NK to highlight this in her Penguin News article. There are no guidelines to the scheme, so this needs to be actioned. NJ commented that this was something that could be potentially carried out at Beckside Farm.

NK

6.4.6. (5) Review of the Coastal Shipping Contract – The contract ends in 2016 and needs to be driven by the department responsible for the coast shipping contract. It was agreed that this should be discussed at a future meeting and Simon Fletcher to be invited to a meeting in the New Year so the RDS could provide some input.

NK

6.4.7. (6) Livestock fencing and panels (NK declared an interest in this item) – the RBA had made an application to FIDC, which was the route that was previously agreed. An update is required from the General Manager of FIDC.

MB

6.4.8. (7) Rural Enterprise Zone Improvements – no progress to date.

6.4.9. (8) Improvements in access to water in camp – this is going well.

6.4.10. (9) Capital Development Fund (Housing) – NK said that there was one approved application and £15k has been committed. PR said that this needs to be addressed as there was some confusion over what is eligible. KP said that as part of this project, older properties could be identified that could be renovated and brought back into use.

NK

6.4.11. (10) Water consultation – separate agenda item.

6.4.12. (11) Tourism road signage – NK to speak to Sebastian.

NK

6.4.13. (12) Power/renewable energy, Phase 1 Consultancy – separate agenda item.

6.4.14. (13) Power/renewable energy, Phase 2 Establishment of new power scheme - dependant on Phase 1.

6.4.15. (14) RDS Co-ordinator Post – already discussed.

6.4.16. (15) Camp burning firefighting first response team – waiting on quotes from Chief Fire Officer.

## 7. REZ fiscal incentives proposal

7.1. It was agreed at the start of the meeting that this item should be discussed during the closed section.

## 8. East Falkland Rural Enterprise Zone (REZ)

- 8.1. NK said that at the last meeting it was asked if there should be an East Falkland REZ. The Head of the Policy believes that we need to get Fox Bay right first, so any lessons learnt can be applied in other areas.
- 8.2. KP commented that before decisions were made relating to an East Falkland REZ location, farm owners and managers should be consulted to see if it is something they want in their area. With this in mind, it would be useful to have a developed concept of what a REZ is and what it might look like in order to assist in those discussions.
- 8.3. PR said that discussions need to be held with FLH first about the concept of an FLH becoming an East Falkland REZ before any further progress is made. NK

## 9. Energy Advisor job description, location, management

- 9.1. NK said that it needs to be decided where the base and line management for the Rural Energy should be. Concerns were raised that if line management was based at the Power Station, the postholder may get absorbed into non RDS work, resulting in more time being spent in Stanley than in Camp. However, being based at PWD would mean the postholder would have wider access to knowledge and support from colleagues working in that area. After some discussion, the group agreed that they would like to see the person based at the Power Station, but the Director of Public Works needs to be consulted first. NK
- 9.2. Some amendments to the job description were also suggested: NK
- Working hours per week needs to be increased to 37.5 and terms need to be consistent with other FIG posts in this department
  - Contract length needs to be agreed
  - Consult with Director of Public Works on the qualifications required
  - Last paragraph of background information regarding renewable energy needs to be updated
  - Some more attention to the job purpose of what the post-holder will actually do

## 10. Water Consultation

- 10.1. NK briefed the group on the background.
- 10.2. NJ informed everyone that from his previous work, he had found that a domestic bore is a fairly simple 3 hour job, costing about £2,500, whilst a traditional well costs significantly more and a much larger project. NJ also suggested that we see if there's any data on previous minerals/mining work that could be summarised for the December meeting. NK, NJ
- 10.3. PR suggested we put the efforts into the Rural Energy Advisor, have discussions with landowners and then come back to this.

## 11. Import Substitution

- 11.1. As the meeting ran out of time, it was agreed to put this to the top of the agenda for the next meeting. NK

## 12. Peter Robert's email

- 12.1. As the meeting ran out of time, it was agreed to put this to the top of the agenda for the next meeting. NK

## 13. RDS 3 Year Plan

13.1. Already discussed, NK will bring a draft to the January meeting.

**14. Any Other Business**

14.1 PR requested that two hours agendas are drafted in the future. NK

14.2. NK informed the group that the lease runs out on the office used by the RDS Co-ordinator in December and the Lands Committee has said no to NK remaining in the office. From the end of December the RDS Co-ordinator will have no office accommodation. PR suggested NK email the group for suggestions in an attempt to resolve the situation. NK, All

The meeting ended at 15:40