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**MINUTES OF THE 123<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA**  
**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 AT 9.00 AM**

- PRESENT: Acting Governor, Mr Perin Bradley
- Acting Deputy Governor, Dr Bonnie Richardson-Lake
- The Honourable Minister for Social Development, Cultural Affairs, Youth Affairs, Gender Affairs, Education and Library Services, Ms Dee-Ann Kentish-Rogers
- The Honourable Minister for Home Affairs, Immigration, Labour, Human Rights, Constitutional Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Lands and Physical Planning and Acting Premier, Mr Kenneth Hodge
- The Honourable Minister for Sustainability, Innovation and Environment and Acting Minister for Infrastructure, Communications, Utilities, Housing and Tourism, Mrs Quincia Gumbs-Marie
- The Honourable Attorney General, Mr Dwight Horsford
- Clerk to Executive Council, Mrs Angela Hughes
- IN ATTENDANCE: The Honourable Parliamentary Secretary, Mr Merrick Richardson
- Financial Specialist, Mr Stephen Turnbull
- ABSENT: Her Excellency the Governor, Ms Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam
- The Honourable Premier and Minister for Finance, Economic Development & Investment and Health, Dr Ellis Webster
- The Honourable Minister for Infrastructure, Communications, Utilities, Housing and Tourism, Mr Haydn Hughes

EX MIN 23/33

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

Parliamentary Secretary and Financial Specialist remained.

Council confirmed the Minutes of the 122<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Executive Council held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2023 and the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2023.

Council noted the apologies of H.E. the Governor for her absence.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

EX MIN 23/34

**EX MEMO 23/23 ACQUISITION THROUGH EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY IN REGISTRATION SECTION NORTH, BLOCK 59017 B, DESCRIBED AS PARCEL 4**

Parliamentary Secretary and Financial Specialist remained.

Council:

- 1) noted the history of the matter as outlined in the paper;
- 2) noted the analysis provided in relation to the two properties, proposed for exchange. The property registered to the Crown is located along the public road which in general is attributed a higher value than lands which are situated off the main road and also as compared to lands located in Corito. However, with respect to the property registered to the Crown there are limitations in terms of further development and future expansion, as there are no other Crown lands within the said area. The Ministry of Lands and Department of Lands and Surveys has noted that there is increased demand for lands to lease in Corito, especially as ANGLEC is seeking 20 acres for a Solar Farm. Having lands in such a location would allow for further development in the area and might yield higher returns in the long term. In addition, there is potential overshooting from the Airport expansion that might need to be considered in the future;
- 3) agreed that the lands registered to the Crown, situated in Registration Section North, Block 59017 B, described as

Parcel 4, and being 0.15 of an acre, shall be acquired via an exchange for lands which are situated in Registration Section South Central, Block 38813 B described as Parcel 132 (Part of) Lot 4 being 0.30 of an acre on GIS subdivision scheme;

- 4) agreed that Lot 4 be transferred to the Crown in accordance with GIS subdivision scheme, subject to a Survey Plan being presented to the Department of Lands and Surveys;
- 5) agreed that each Applicant shall be responsible for any planning permission, survey and Tax Clearance certificates fees; and
- 6) agreed that the Ministry of Lands shall write to the proprietors of the said property to communicate Government of Anguilla's interest.

Action: PS, HA; DLS; HON, MIN HA

EX MIN 23/35

**EX MEMO 23/24 APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF LICENCE UNDER THE ALIENS LAND HOLDING REGULATION ACT – REGISTRATION SECTION EAST CENTRAL, BLOCK 89318 B, PARCEL 149 CONTAINING 0.25 OF AN ACRE**

Parliamentary Secretary and Financial Specialist remained.

Council agreed to issue an Aliens Land Holding Licence to hold on a freehold basis, property situated in Registration Section East Central, Block 89318 B, described as Parcel 149 being 0.25 of an acre located in the Keys, Island Harbour, with a dwelling house thereon, subject to the following:

(a) Payment of the following Stamp Duties:

- |     |                          |               |
|-----|--------------------------|---------------|
| (i) | under the Stamp Act – 5% |               |
|     | of EC\$403,230.00        | EC\$20,161.50 |

(ii)	under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act – 5% of EC\$403,230.00	EC\$20,161.50
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>EC\$40,323.00</u></b>

- (b) the property must be used for residential purposes;
- (c) the Licencee must not rent their dwelling house without first notifying the Ministry of Economic Development & Investment in order to rent the said property; and
- (d) the Licensee shall fully comply with the laws of Anguilla in force from time to time including the Land Development Control Act, the Property Tax Act, the Building Regulations, the Labour Relations Act 2018 and Work Permit Regulations, the Social Security Act, the Immigration and Passport Regulations and any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof and any rules or regulations made there under.

Action: PS, HA; DLS; HON, MIN HA

EX MIN 23/36

**EX MEMO 23/22 PRESENTATION ON STONEY CORAL TISSUE LOSS DISEASE IN ANGUILLA**

Parliamentary Secretary and Financial Specialist remained. PS EDMSIE, Mrs Chanelle Petty-Barrett, Marine Biologist, Jasmine Ruan and Fisheries Officer, Mr Vincent Webster joined the meeting.

Stoney Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) was first noticed in 2014 in Florida. Since that time, scientists have observed the disease spread to more than 20 countries, including some Caribbean islands. By 2022, Fisheries and Marine Resources Officers identified SCTLD at three separate locations in the waters around Anguilla.

The key issue with SCTLD is that it causes rapid and severe coral mortality, leading to a reduction in coral species diversity, and a decline in coral reef ecosystem biodiversity. Anguilla is highly dependent on healthy coral reef ecosystems for tourism, fishing and coastal defense. SCTLD, compounded with other diseases of coral, and anthropogenic impacts, could destroy our fragile coral reef systems. The main objective of the ongoing Conflict and Social Stability Fund (CSSF) funded project, being delivered through the

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), is to develop a strong collaborative approach between the overseas territories to combat SCTL D and reduce anthropogenic stressors to coral reefs.

In 2019, the JNCC began work with the Department of Natural Resources (Fisheries and Environment Units), delivering the Conflict and Social Stability Fund (CSSF) project, 'Implementing Coral Reef Action Plans for the UK Overseas Territories Coral Reef Initiative'. JNCC has developed a programme of work, to support environmental resilience. The project covers four overarching themes of reef conservation: coral reef monitoring; outreach and education; reduction of pressures and coral disease management.

A number of workshops focused on capacity building to collect and analyse data, identify diseased coral and promote the overall health status of coral, were held for fishers, divers and the Department of Natural Resources staff. Funding and other resources were made available through this project to assist with the Department's human resource needs and purchase gear and supplies needed to treat diseased coral.

Over eleven sites were surveyed and five treatment sites were established around the island. Coral found to be suffering with SCTL D were treated and their status re-evaluated. This project is now in its fourth year and is scheduled to end in March 2023.

Officers of the Department of Natural Resources (Fisheries and Marine Resources Unit) made a presentation to Executive Council on the SCTL D.

Council:

- 1) noted the concerns and the reasons why revision and enforcement of the Fisheries Protection Act and the Marine Parks Act is required. Noted that new policies to support coral reef health should be considered, e.g. a ban on non-reef friendly sun screens;
- 2) noted the ongoing work of the SCTL D project, the impacts of SCTL D on Anguilla's coral reefs and supported the recommendations for coral reef management;
- 3) noted the salient points of the presentation, as follows:

- SCTL D affects hard coral and was first sighted in 2014 in the Florida Keys area. It is now found in approximately 22 Caribbean islands.
  - There are key signs that indicate the presence of SCTL D but pathology tests are required for confirmation.
  - The JNCC and CSSF offer support to raise awareness and manage the issues.
  - For people that are in and around the seas/coral reefs often, there is an investigatory questionnaire, which is used to assess their knowledge of the key issues.
  - Annual monitoring takes place at 6 sites and 10 reef sites are also monitored.
  - Treatment using a chlorine and cocoa butter mix is administered to the coral to stop SCTL D, this kills the disease and a section of the coral. In some places antibiotics are used where there is wide spread disease. Probiotic treatments are also an option, but the use of these is resource intensive.
  - Public outreach and education continues, especially through the ALHCS, where talks are given and also via the distribution of booklets and the placement of posters.
  - The challenges faced by the team. As there is no dedicated vessel, they are reliant upon fishermen to take them out on the water for the various projects undertaken and also the work needs to be done when the weather is fair.
- 4) noted the importance of maintaining coral and also the wider impact that damaged coral can have particularly as it relates to the economy and tourism. Coral is an ecosystem pillar and damaged coral can affect the appearance of the waters and more coastal damage may occur; and
- 5) noted that the objective is to advance to the point where valuations for ecosystem services are viewed in the same manner as national budgets. The aim is to educate and sensitise a wide group of persons. A presentation will be given to the House of Assembly and it will also highlight the rationale for the proposed legislative amendments.

Action: PS, EDMSIE; HON, MIN SIE

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