

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF ST. THOMAS HELD ON FEBRUARY 11, 2016

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council of St. Thomas was held in the Council's Meeting Room on Thursday, February 11, 2016, commencing at 10:20 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE COMMENCEMENT

Councillor L. Mathison, Chairman Parish Council and Mayor of Morant Bay
Councillor V. Hutchinson
Councillor R. Bryan
Councillor L. Rawle
Councillor C. Bogle

MEMBERS WHO ENTERED DURING THE PROCEEDINGS

Councillor M. Francis-Johnson

Officers in attendance were:

Mr. E. Greene J.P., Secretary/Manager and Clerk to the Committee
Mrs. K. Esson, General Administrator (Personnel)
Mr. J. Robinson, Director of Planning
Mr. H. Jackson, Superintendent of Roads and Works
Ms. T. Thomas, Budget and Revenue Officer (Acting)
Mrs. J. James, Inspector of Poor
Ms. G. Dean, Ministry of Labour and Social Security
Mrs. L. Peart-Roberts, Parish Manager, Social Development Commission (SDC)

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|-------------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Notice convening the meeting | 1. | The Notice convening the meeting was read by the Mr. Errol Greene J.P., Secretary/Manager. |
| Devotion | 2. | Devotion was done by Pastor Leason Burnett, Chaplain of the St. Thomas Parish Council. |
| Apology for absence | 3. | Apologies for absence was tendered on behalf of the following persons:
1. Councillor Edwin Marr -Vice Chairman Parish Council and Deputy Mayor of Morant Bay
2. Mrs. Suezette Hemmings-Bryan- Director of Administration
3. Ms. Nadine Kirlew - Director of Finance
4. Mrs. Tamika Small-Broderick - Internal Auditor |
| Correction of the minutes | 4. | Nil |
| Confirmation of the minutes | 5. | The minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the St. Thomas Parish Council held on January 14, 2016, having been circulated were confirmed on the motion of Councillor Hutchinson and seconded by Councillor Bryan. |
| Matters arising | 6. | Nil |

Chairman's Announcement 7. Town Hall Meeting in Yallahs – Parish Preparedness for Zika Virus

His Worship the Mayor and Chairman of the Council informed the Council that a Town Hall meeting in relation to the Parish Preparedness for the Zika-Virus will be held in Yallahs at the Baptist Church on Thursday, February 11, 2015, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

He said that it was the 2nd Town Hall meeting of a series to be held across the parish. The 3rd meeting will be held at Hampton Court at a date to be announced.

Death Announcement

His Worship the Mayor announced the passing of the mother of the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Edwin Marr. He asked Council to stand and observe a minute of silence in respect of the deceased.

Reports from External Agencies

8. Ministry of Labour and Social Security - Report for January 2016

The following report was tabled for the month of January 2016.

Public Assistance Department

Type of Grant	East (Application processed)	West (Application processed)	East (Amount of grants received)	West (Amount of grants received)	*Amount Received
Rehabilitation	14	3	6	2	170,000.00
Compassionate	10	10	5	6	277,000.00
Emergency	3	3	2	6	200,000.00
Education and Social Intervention	0	0	2	0	29,445.00
Total	27	16	15	14	676,445.00

*Please note that amount received is from applications submitted from prior month.

PATH

The Ministry continues to promote alternative payment options for PATH beneficiaries who are neither elderly nor disabled. Beneficiaries are given the option of selecting from three payment agencies; NCB Keycard, Paymaster or Bill Express.

Public Education

The Ministry continues its drive to sensitize the public on the various services and programmes offered through the various departments.

Steps to Work

We are now taking applications for the Steps to Work Programme for Educational and Entrepreneurial Grants. Persons have to be registered in a PATH household to be eligible to apply. The following documents are required:

- ID, TRN & NIS card
- Recent passport size photograph
- Proforma invoice for the items to be purchased (**Must include Business TRN**)
- Proof of legal access to property on which the business will be conducted (**Property title, lease agreement or rent receipt, letter of permission from property owner signed by JP**)
- Copies of licenses required (**Food handlers etc.**)
- Birth certificate
- Written business plan

Transitional Grants

Intake period for Transitional Grant Applications is now open effective **January 04, 2016** to **March 31, 2016** for the 2015/2016 Academic Year. Applicants must submit their acceptance letter from an educational institutional registered with Ministry of Education along with their TRN and ID and TRN of the PATH family representative. Applicants must have received at least one PATH benefit before graduating from Secondary School.

Education & Entrepreneurship Grants Programme

Applicants are invited to apply for Entrepreneurial and Educational Assistance through the Social Intervention Project – Educational and Entrepreneurial Grant. Applicants must be between 17-35 years old and are deemed to be “at risk” or unemployed. Basic requirements needed are: **Identification Document (National ID, Passport, Drivers Licence), letters of recommendation, certified passport size picture and birth certificate.** Persons are invited to visit the local office for further information regarding additional documents.

On the Job Training

The Ministry has commenced the Second Phase of the On-the Job Training Programme with 29 participants, who are members of Programme of Advancement through Health and Education (PATH) households between the ages of 17-25 and having five (05) or more CXC subjects. Orientation was held on January 13, 2016 and workshop commenced on January 18, 2016 and will be completed February 15, 2016.

National Insurance Department

Funeral Grant

The number of Funeral Grant Applications received is Fifteen (15).

The number of Cheques paid out is thirteen (13) totaling One Million and Forty Thousand Dollars (\$1,040,000.00).

National Insurance/Business Registration

The number of National Insurance Registration is 199.

Employed	-	177
Self-employed	-	20
Domestic	-	1

The number of Business Registration	-	1
The number of business closed		Nil

Claims

The number of applications received and processed is 20.

Old Age	-	16
Widows/Widower	-	2
Invalidity	-	2

National Insurance Claims

All new claimants **MUST** submit their banking information as all benefits will be sent to their bank account. Please note that the banking information being requested are National Commercial Bank and Bank of Nova Scotia.

Effective January 2016, all existing pensioners are required to submit their banking information to ensure benefits are sent to their accounts. Pensioners who do not submit their banking information as December 31, 2015 will be paid a cheque once per month.

Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme (JEEP)

The amount of Applications received	-	13
The amount of Placements	-	13

The Ministry is still in the process of seeking employment for applicants and continues to accept applications from persons 18-35 years of age.

Labour Department

Farmworkers

The amount of persons called for Medical	-	72
The amount of persons called for Flight	-	0

Labour Market Information System

The amount of Registration	-	02
The amount of Placements	-	13

Social Development Commission (SDC) – Report for January 2016

The following report was tabled for the month of January 2016.

“The Parish compiled and submitted a total of (11) project proposal. Five (5) was submitted to the GOJ Administrative Grant fund for CDCs (Southaven, Retreat, 11 Miles, Rowlandsfield, Middleton) and six (6) to the Digicel Foundation Every Mickle Mek a Muckle.(Trinityville ADCBS, Robert Lightbourne Skills Training Centre, Baptist, Albion Height, Lloyds, Yallahs Garden).

A Wealth assessment was done with the Green Wall/Jamintel district. The exercise was impacted by poor and late turnout of community members, there was no representative from Pamphret proper. This is to be completed by February 7, 2016.

Next step: a review of the approach to be taken, as the community of Pamphret proper has over and over proved challenging to mobilize.

A Meeting was held with Ness Castle /Spicy Grove community group to develop proposals identify lands for farming and agri-processing.

A number of meetings have been convened to host a Climate Change fair/Career Day at the Robert Lightbourne School.

Meetings were held with RADA, Food for the Poor, Ministry of Agriculture Spring Garden/Soho Farmers Association to assist community members to start farm projects.

The SDC also, gave support to the Local Sustainable Development Planning Unit Visioning Workshop in Seaforth, Cedar Valley and Port Morant.

Two DAC meetings were held one in Port Morant and the other in Trinityville.”

Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) – Report for January 2016

The following report was tabled for the month of January 2016.

“Despite the many challenges that the Parish had encountered over the past years, (the prolonged drought, numerous incidents of bushfires), the parish stood out like a beacon during the RADA’S 25th Anniversary Presentation and Awards Ceremony held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston December 2015.

RADA St. Thomas received the most coveted awards; National Extension Officer of the year, awarded to Dwight Forrester Cedar Valley Extension Area and Land Husbandry Officer of the year, awarded to Lennox Bartlett the parish Land Husbandry Officer; the parish see these awards as very significant as there are 84 Extension Officers that covers the Island and six Land Husbandry Officers. The Parish Agricultural Manager, Lennox Hemans, Senior Accounts Technician Deloris Osbourne and Agricultural Assistant Dalgo Bennett, receive awards for over 25 years of service to the organization.

RADA Report St. Thomas Parish Council Meeting Hope River/Yallahs River watershed

“The Parish was host to a three Days workshop at the whispering Bamboo Cove, all the project implementing partners sent representatives; the focus was on Land Husbandry Farmer Field School the participants were taken through the various techniques at sites in Content where Land Husbandry Structures were demonstrated and the ballasting of a water way with stones in Richmond Vale.

Forty two persons participated in the Workshop. The project will start in field implementation at Windsor Castle (Gutter Head) and the Hagley Gap areas respectively.

The GIZ project for the Hagley Gap area has now received approval, the Senior Land husbandry Specialist from RADA is slated to meet with representative of the community to look at prospective Proposals.

Trinityville Area Integrated and Management and Disaster Risk Reduction Project.

1. Complete classroom training for 267 Farmers
2. 60% of target farmers complete field training
3. 3850 Pineapple suckers established in five communities (Trinityville, Bailey's Piece, Jones Pen, Mt. Vernon and, Mt Lebanon.
4. 825 Fruit Tree Seedling distributed to Farmers in four districts (Mt. Vernon, Mt. Lebanon, Jones Pen and Bailey's Piece).
5. 355 Timber Plant distributed in three districts
6. The ^{1st} public Awareness Fair will be held on March ^{18th} at the Robert Lightbourne High School grounds.
7. Request for expansion of interest is on the way for the rehabilitation of the Danvers Pen Community.
8. Consultant for the formulation stage (drawings) of the drainage infrastructure for Mt. Lebanon is selected and awaiting sign-off on Financial & Technical proposal.

Spring Garden Small Irrigation Project

The irrigation system that is implemented in the Spring Garden area where a water catchment was rehabilitated and pipes laid to 25 farmers plots to improve their ability to mitigate against drought.

Seventeen (17) of these twenty-five (25) farmers received ¼ acre Irrigation Kit plus 1000 gal Plastic Water Tank. Of the Seventeen farmers that received, five is now connected to the irrigation system and three have established ¼ acre Irish Potato plots. This project is funded by JAR each USAID and the GOJ Adaptation Fund Programme.

Bushfires Rehabilitation

The Parish has received 1200 (25kg) bags of fertilizer (11-22-22 and 15-30-15) to assist affected farmers on the phase two of this programme these will be distributed to farmers in Hagley Gap, Minto, Cerrick Hill, Epping Farm, Monkland, Ness Castle Penlyne Castle, Ramble, Llandewey areas respectively.

Five thousand (5000) Coffee Seedling was distributed to 23 farmers in Cedar valley, Grove, Richmond Gap, Mango Row, Nunk, and Monkland Hill.

Five thousand four (5,400) Banana and Plantain Suckers was also received to be established for those that was lost by Coffee farmers. Approximately 550 Banana and Plantain suckers was distributed through the parish; this Banana variety was introduced because of the large bunch (18-20 hands) it produces and its ability to withstand strong wind.

Irish Potato Expansion

Planting Material was received from the GOJ Adaptation Programme, from this 1.9 ha was established.

Farm Road Rehabilitation

The farm road rehabilitation work that has started from Tarris to Spring Bank is ongoing. Work includes grading and retaining walls construction.

ABIS

Farmer registration/verification, ID processing and distribution continues, upon verification the farmers are required to pay \$350 for the processing of the ID. Over 12,235 farmers are registered in the parish presently.

Agro Park Yallahs and Plantain Garden

9.4ha of Onion established to date with over 30 farmers. The Sweet Potato demonstration plot that was established with the Beauregard variety was harvested; this variety when peeled has a very unique orange color and has to be placed in storage for about five days to enhance its sucrose content.

Planting Garden Agro Park

10 Hectares of vegetables is currently growing, cucumber, water melon and pumpkin. Land preparation for Fall planting of onion, was affected by the inclement weather condition that prevailed during the month of November and December as such only 2 ha was established ; however land preparation is being done for the spring planting season. 2ha of Irish Potato was planted; this planting material was made available by a Marketer who does business with farmers on the park.

RADA Open Day / St Thomas Parish Expo

This event will be held on Friday the 24th of June at the Rudolph Elder Park Morant Bay. This event will showcase the Parish’s Agriculture and other important Sectors. The Parish Management is seeking the support of the St Thomas Parish Council and all the Agencies represented to promote and support this annual event.”

Council to sit as the Local Board of Health	9.	Nil
Adjournment of the Local Board of Health	10.	Nil
Questions	11.	Nil

Notice of Motion

12. Councillor Hutchinson informed the Council of his intension to table three (3) Resolutions at the next sitting of Council in March 2016.

Resolutions

13 a.) Resolution to Issue Final Approval - Subdivision

WHEREAS the subdivision applications have been filed with the St. Thomas Parish Council under Section 5 (1) of the Local Improvements Act for:

1. Lands Part of Orange Park, Yallahs, St. Thomas - Basil Watson c/o Roosevelt Thompson
2. Lands Part of Lot 4 Creighton Hall - Beresford Barrette et al
3. Lands Part of Lloyds Penn - Lorna Richards

AND WHEREAS the said lands are described in the maps prepared by Commissioned Land Surveyors which maps or plans, have been signed by the property owners and contain the required particulars concerning them,

AND WHEREAS the Council had sought, obtained & accepted the advice of the Government Town Planner and the Chief Technical Director, Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing on the applications and draft conditions,

AND WHEREAS conditions of approval have been accepted in writing by the applicants,

AND WHEREAS that in accordance with section 8 (10) of the Local Improvements Act, the St. Thomas Parish Council sanctioned the subdivision of the land in the Parish of St. Thomas,

AND WHEREAS that the Honourable Minister of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change having confirmed the Council's decisions under Section 8 (5) of the Local Improvements Act,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Seal of the St. Thomas Parish Council is hereby affixed.

Moved by Councillor Hutchinson seconded by Councillor Bryan

b.) Building/Planning Applications to be approved

NOS.	NAMES OF OWNERS	LOCATION OF BUILDING	PURPOSE	REMARKS
	YALLAHS			
1	Jason Williams	Lot 16 Sandalwood Avenue, Albion	dwelling	Erection
2	Wayne Wheatley c/o Denval Harvey	Lot 109 West Albion, St Thomas	dwelling	Extension
3	Devon Crawford	Lot 12 Pondview	dwelling	Extension

	c/o Nellisa Crawford	South, Yallahs		
4	Nadine Sutherland Marshall	Lot 137 Blue Nile Avenue, Riverview Estate, Yallahs	dwelling	Erection
5	Judith Graham c/o George Smickle	Lot 671 Albion Estate, Yallahs	dwelling	Extension
6	Joyce Hylton c/o Darren Graham	Lot 142 West Albion, Yallahs	dwelling	Extension
	LYSSONS			
7	Christine Morgan	Lot 23 Lyssons, Lyssons P.O	dwelling	Erection
8	Shanetta Forbes	Lot 241 Starfish Drive, East Prospect, Lyssons	dwelling	Erection
9	Floyd Falloon	2 West Street, Morant Bay	commercial	Extension
	MORANT BAY			
10	Awa Rosales c/o Kirk Brown	Lot 6 West Down Drive, West Down Oaks	dwelling	Erection
	PORT MORANT			
11	Robinson Parker	Lot 4 Leith Hall, Port Morant	Commercial	Extension
12	Alton Berry	Part of Airy Castle	dwelling	Erection

Moved by Councillor Marsha Francis and seconded by Councillor Constantine Bogle.

It is noted that the building application for Mr. Floyd Falloon of West Street, Morant Bay P.O., St. Thomas was not approved and therefore placed on hold for an investigation to be carried out.

Correspondence

14 a.)

Read letter dated January 19, 2016 from the St. Ann Parish Council regarding a Resolution that was passed by that Council on January 14, 2016: Same is tabled below:

“WHEREAS a number of Parish Council Roads within the parish of St Ann have been left in a deplorable condition as a result of excavation done by the National Water Commission through its pipe-laying and repairs programme;

AND WHEREAS some of these roads have been recently rehabilitated;

AND WHEREAS, the Council is not able to source funding to rehabilitate these roads;

AND WHEREAS, the Council has been facing embarrassing situations due to outcry of the residents in the various communities;

AND WHEREAS, the National Water Commission has failed to repair these roads on a timely basis.

BE IT RESOLVED that this Council at its sitting today seeks to enforce its regulation that any corporation, organization or company seeking to carry out works on Parochial Roads must seek the “no objection” of the Council;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the National Water Commission be made to implement a programme to have all the roads so affected repaired within the next six (6) months.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to all Councils, Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation and the Municipality of Portmore for their support.”

Supported.

- b.) Read letter dated January 28, 2016 from the St. Catherine Parish Council regarding a Resolution that was passed by that Council on January 14, 2016. Same is tabled below:

“WHEREAS, the Government of Jamaica has amended the Dangerous Drug Act to allow for the decriminalisation of small quantities of marijuana;

AND WHEREAS, the cultivation of five plants per household is now permissible, whilst allowing possession of marijuana for certified marijuana research;

AND WHEREAS, the Cannabis Licensing Authority has been established in accordance with the Dangerous Drug (Amendment) Act, 2015 with a mandate to make regulations for the procedures and criteria for applying for licences and permits as well as other authorizations for cultivation, processing, distribution, sale and other handling of ganja for medical, scientific and therapeutic purposes;

AND WHEREAS, the local Authorities are supportive of these developments and are desirous of participating in the Jamaica Cannabis Industry;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the parish Councils, Portmore Municipal Council and Kingston and St Andrew Corporation make regulations for the sharing of the fees relating to the cultivation ,processing distribution, sale and handling of marijuana within their particular jurisdiction;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be circulated to the Ministries of Justice and the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation for their support.

Supported.

ALGA Matters

15. Councillor Hutchinson updated the Council on the Association of Local Government Authorities (ALGA) matters that were discussed at a meeting he attended. He said that two (2) matters were of utmost importance that he wished to bring to the fore.

1. The parish preparedness in relation to the Zika-Virus - The Councils were encouraged to endeavor to be a part of the cleaning up programme in terms of drains, gullies and gutters in preparation of the threat of the Zika-Virus

2. The implementation of Justices of the Peace in handling minor court cases to reduce the pressure on Judges as well as backlog of court cases. He said that the need to have Municipal Court was discussed.

Minutes of the Finance & Commercial Services Committee

16. Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Finance & Admin. Committee held on January 7, 2016, having been circulated were received on the motion of Councillor Hutchinson seconded by Councillor Bryan.

Minutes of the Public Health and Sanitation Committee

17. Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Public Health and Sanitation Committee held on January 11, 2016 having been circulated were received on the motion of Councillor Hutchinson seconded by Councillor Bryan.

Minutes of the Physical Planning Committee

18. Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Physical Planning Committee held on January 12, 2016, having been circulated were received on the motion of Councillor Hutchinson seconded by Councillor Bryan.

Minutes of the Poor Relief Committee

19. Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Poor Relief Committee held on January 13, 2016, having been circulated were received on the motion of Councillor Hutchinson seconded by Councillor Bryan.

Minutes of the Human Resource Management Committee

20. Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Human Resource Committee held on January 18, 2016, having been circulated were confirmed on the motion of Councillor Hutchinson seconded by Councillor Bryan.

Councillor Bogle commended the Secretary/Manager for the work he had being doing in the parish which he said had given the Council some recognition for its collaborative effort.

Adjournment

21. Councillor Francis moved and seconded by Councillor Hutchinson for the adjournment of the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

**CORRECTED:.....
SECRETARY/MANAGER**

**CONFIRMED:.....
CHAIRMAN**

DATE:.....