

Police/Community Consultative Group Meeting

Held at Police Headquarters Training Room

On Thursday 21st February 2013

Meeting commenced: 1916hrs

Persons present:

Kenneth Scotland	Steve Foster
Charles Thompson	Philip Kready
Christiana Weekes	David Tuitt
Glanford Cabey	Laurine Fenton
Julian Romeo	Philford Reddock
Kenroy Hyman	

The meeting was brought to order and chaired by Mr. Kenneth Scotland. A word of prayer was given from Commissioner of Police, Steve Foster.

Amendment to published agenda: after matters arising from minutes **insert Resolution.**

Mr. Scotland quoted from the Community consultative group manual regarding the nature by which elections should take place. The resolution was put in place to waive the previously read section of the manual to allow for the election notwithstanding that this meeting was not an annual meeting as is specified in the said manual for election.

Proposition made by Scotland

Seconded by Romeo

Motion passed

Reading of the minutes

No amendments were made to the minutes

Motion to have the minutes accepted as presented. Motion was seconded and passed. Minutes so accepted.

Matters arising from the minutes

Nil for pages 1, 2, 3 and 5

Page 4

Question (D.Tuitt): The minutes highlighted the use of security cameras on major roads what is the intention of such, crime prevention or otherwise?

Answer (COP Foster): The cameras when implemented will be used for several reasons to include crime prevention and border security. As most persons are aware the Southern and Eastern portions of the island is not adequately policed for multiple reasons to include insufficient staffing. Therefore we are looking at the use of technology to assist in policing these areas in terms of providing border security.

The prevailing opinion of Montserratians living abroad is that Montserrat is overcome with drugs. The location of the cameras should be kept as confidential as possible where only a handful of persons are aware of its exact location as there are no secrets in Montserrat.

Follow up- (D. Tuitt): As a businessman I am looking at the cameras placed on the major roads. Will there be a ticketing system in place to attempt to cover some of the cost of using this technology?

I am also wondering about the usefulness of placing cameras in the town/central areas in terms of intelligence.

Answer. Yes. The document is before the Hon. Attorney General. The law is already in place for the ticketing system. Hopefully, this will be in place for the new financial year. We are also looking at the plans for the new town center to see where best to install them to maximize its use.

Has the public been informed?

Yes. The law surrounding the ticketing system is already in place. It was in the old traffic act as well, it simply was not being used. Information about this was given at a recent press event.

Public awareness needs to be rebuilt with regard to the ticketing system. It was suggested that Radio Montserrat ZJB be used as a medium to inform the general public. For example the Rose Willock show.

There is a need for proper road signs to allow for better rate of conviction. These signs can be quite expensive. COP, this is one of our major concerns.

Financial constraints seem to be a recurring theme when it comes to equipment and tools that are needed, who is in charge of this?

Answer: According to the Constitution, the Governor is in charge of National Security on Montserrat. The Governor says there is no money. Perhaps it would be better if the Police had a minister to represent us because it faces difficulties when there is no one to argue our cases.

Do you meet with DFID?

Yes, but at times these meetings it is sometimes said that the purpose is not to discuss matters of security.

When you prepare your budget, who defends it?

COP: I do.

Are police officers civil servants?

Yes and no. Inspectors and above are civil servants, they are covered by the General Orders. Sergeants and below are public servants and are governed by the Police Act.

What are the challenges for a patrol vessel for Montserrat?

COP: All persons at the meeting should be aware of the porousness of the borders which needs to be addressed. One challenge faced was evident when the DEA came to assist with the recent drug operations. Because Montserrat is a British Territory we had difficulties accepting "gifts" from other nations. We have requested assistance from DEA in procuring a patrol vessel and this request seems to be positive. However we are cautious in stating that the DEA resources will be available to us as accepting it is dependent on the powers that be granting permission to do so. Efforts are being made to claim assistance as a CARICOM member. On my trip to come I will discuss a patrol vessel, closed circuit television for borders as well as raiders which are currently being used in other countries in the region.

It was then suggested that a fully equipped patrol craft is preferable to the raiders to conduct maritime duties.

The recent drug find lends the opportune time to show the region the need to have the proper tools in place. It can be highlighted by stressing the potential consequences if the drugs were consumed on island and also is evidence that Montserrat is being used as a transshipment point.

The Commissioner of Police took full responsibility for the low publicity surrounding the drug find stating that it was a strategic move for several reasons. Adding that he is aware of our vulnerability so the information was withheld until the Police was able to secure exhibits and the persons involved. He drew attention to drug related incidents at security facilities in Anguilla and Venezuela.

Question: If there is a calamity on the seas with the ferry what measures are in place or being looked at to secure the lives of the people on board? Chairman response: there should be preventative rather than corrective measures.

High on the agenda is the issue of crime and security. When the OECS meets perhaps the Premiere can make an appeal to other members of the OECS to make a case for Montserrat in relation to Montserrat becoming a major transshipment point and getting the aide needed to stop this.

Question: What is the point of putting cameras on roads when you have other more pertinent issues at hand that needs fixing? There is a need to reorganize priorities. For example the septic system at Police Headquarters which has been a cause for concern for over three years.

Answer: A vibrant Police Welfare Association should be able to rectify the same with ease. A faulty septic system also poses health risks.

Resolution: The procedure for election was read. The following posts are available for election: Chair person, deputy chair person, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, floor member (2).

The following persons were **nominated** for the position of **CHAIR PERSON**:

Kenneth Scotland

Laurine Fenton (nomination declined)

Kenneth Scotland elected as **Chair Person of the Community Consultative Group**

The following person was **nominated** for the position of **DEPUTY CHAIR PERSON**:

David Tuitt

David Tuitt, elected as **Deputy Chair Person for the Community Consultative Group**

Derona Semper was nominated and elected to the **office of Secretary**

Rushelle Reid was nominated and elected as the **Assistant Secretary**

The following persons were nominated to the post of Treasurer

Charles Thompson

Christiana Weekes

John B. Douglas

John B. Douglas was elected to the post of **TREASURER**

