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PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held at the Public Hall
Commencing Friday Nov 24th 2017 at 8.30am**

Present:

Mayor Shawn Christian, Cr Lea Brown, Cr Darralyn Griffiths, Cr Michele Christian, Cr Brenda Christian, Administrator Nicola Hebb, Temporary Island Secretary Nadine Christian, Deputy Mayor Charlene Warren-Peu.

Apologies: Cr Leslie Jaques

Gallery: Assistant Attorney General, Danielle Kelly & Mark McGuinness, FCO Desk Officer for Pitcairn.

Opening Prayer: Deputy Mayor Charlene Warren-Peu

Welcome	The Mayor welcomed recently appointed FCO Desk Officer, Mr Mark McGuinness and Assistant Attorney General, Ms Danielle Kelly, to the table.
Introduction: FCO Desk Officer, Mark McGuinness	Mr McGuinness outlined his role within the FCO and his working relationship with Pitcairn and the Administrator. He advised that the purpose of his 11 day visit is to better understand, as much as possible, the real day to day workings of the island, to meet with and talk to as many people as possible and to look at ways to improve communications. Though first point of contact remains via the Administrator he will be very much involved in the in representing Pitcairn's issues, concerns and aspirations within the FCO and beyond. He advised has been with the FCO for 29 years and he has many strong networks which he will utilise to assist Pitcairn and its community going forward. Mr McGuinness will advise the community that he is available to meet with people in the coming days.
Assistant Attorney General, Danielle Kelly	Ms Kelly covered the following points which had previously been submitted for her consideration and recommendations: 1) Changing currency from US to NZ for official Government fee requirements. It was agreed that it is preferable for official Government fees to be costed in NZ\$. Ms Kelly advised that Immigration Fees can be changed via policy adjustments without requiring an ordinance amendment. And, Landing Fees can be adjusted and set via the Chief Immigration Officer with the approval of the Governor and by notice i.e. a full list of approved fees should be publically available, posted on the



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public notice boards and on the Government, Immigration and Tourism websites.

ACTION

The Chief Immigration Officer will liaise with Council to make recommendations for changing official currency, taking into consideration that fees will be costed appropriately to ensure no loss of revenue. Ms Kelly will provide the Mayor, as Chief Immigration Officer, with a draft form for making the necessary changes and publishing notice of all. Governor approved, fees.

2) Time Frames for Marriage on Pitcairn

It was noted that the current timeframes required for applying for and publishing notice of intention to marry (i.e. 21 days) and the fact that one of the parties needs to be resident on Pitcairn for no less the 15 days does not make it easy for visitors to marry on Pitcairn if they wish to.

Ms Kelly advised and clarified there is a provision, within the Marriage Ordinance, that enables couple to apply for a 'Governor's Licence' to marry without public notice and without the Registrar's certificate. The Administrator can grant this licence as long as she/he is satisfied that there is no lawful impediment to the marriage taking place.

As such, if visitors wish to marry on Pitcairn they should be informed that they can contact the Administrator for a Governor's Licence, ideally prior to arrival. The current fee is NZ\$50. The applicants are required to provide an affidavit stating that there is no legal impediment to the proposed marriage. The Administrator can also perform the marriage ceremony.

Additionally, it was noted that if the fee were to be increased it would require an amendment to the Ordinance. It was agreed that the Ordinance amendment should enable future fees to be adjusted as required – without the need for further amendment.

ACTIONS

The Administrator will liaise with the Travel Coordinator to review the current fee and to develop a notice and form for applying for a Governor's Licence. It was agreed that the revised procedure for marrying on Pitcairn, along with Pitcairn's same sex marriage ordinance could be promoted internationally to both straight and LGBT communities via the Government and Tourism Websites

Ms Kelly will develop a list of what is required within an affidavit which can be conflated with the existing affidavit form. The information and form could then be made available for submission on-line.

3) Wills and Will Information

Ms Kelly reported that she intends to deliver a workshop on Wills Information in the coming week. She advised that she is unable to provide individual advice on Will preparation as this may constitute a possible conflict of interest for the Attorney General's Office. However, she is able to provide good general information and will help facilitate connections with legal support to assist those wanting to ensure their wills are valid.

ACTION

Ms Kelly will provide a Will Questionnaire and examples of what should be included in a valid will at the workshop.

Ms Kelly will leave a Will kit information with the Island Secretary for general public access.

The Island Secretary will remind the community the Will Kit is available from time to time going forward.

4) Divisional & Land Management

Ms Kelly reported that there are some grey areas in the Land Ordinance and the Environmental Protection Ordinance which will require further consultation going forward. She noted that the priority for the time being must be the MPA.

5) Elections Ordinance

It was noted a minor amendment is required as to the wording of the Election Ordinance in relation to the position of Mayor being temporarily replaced if needed. A draft recommendation, previously developed by Council will be reviewed for further discussion going forward.

ACTION

The Mayor will resubmitted to the Draft Recommendation to Ms Kelly.

6) Safe Guarding Against Monopolies

There was general discussion about ensuring the resident Bounty descendant community and the island resources are not disadvantaged or exploited in any way as Pitcairn's repopulation strategy roles out. It was noted that creating equal opportunities, across the population and fair access to wealth creation must be given careful consideration for current and future generations. Mr McGuinness noted that he

	<p>will look into what other countries are doing to address these types of issues which may be of some help going forward.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Attorney General's Office will stay in touch with the forthcoming Future Planning discussions and workshops until any recommendation and/or draft work may be required.</p> <p><u>ACTION:</u> Council will meet early in 2018 to develop a list of discussion points re the above discussion.</p> <p>7) <u>Employment Law</u> It was agreed that Pitcairn's Employment Contracts, responsibilities, obligations were very much due for review and this is one of Councils top priorities for the coming year.</p> <p><u>ACTION</u> The Administrator and Division Managers will meet to discuss the above matters early in the new Council year to assist Council in making decisions and recommendations for reform.</p> <p>8) <u>Constitutional Reform:</u> Noted that the Privy Council will be looking at the Constitution next year. It was agreed that a review of the Constitutional should be deferred until later in 2018.</p>
Acknowledgements	The Mayor thanked Ms Kelly and Mr McGuiness for their attendance and input.

Meeting Closed: 11.30am

Date of Next Council Meeting: Dec 13th 2017

Mayor Shawn Christian: 

Date: 7 / 1 / 2018

