



**PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Public Hall  
Commencing at 8.30am Wednesday August 9th 2017**

**Present:**

Mayor Shawn Christian, Cr Lea Brown, Cr Darralyn Griffiths, Cr Brenda Christian, Cr Michele Christian  
Deputy Mayor Charlene Warren-Peu and Island Secretary Heather Menzies, Acting Administrator Nicholas  
Kennedy

**Apologies:** Cr Leslie Jaques.

**Gallery:** None

**Welcome:** The Deputy Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer.

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| Matters Arising from Minutes of July 11th 2017                  | None  |
| Record of Approval of the Minutes of July 11 <sup>th</sup> 2017 | Motion: Cr B Christian / Cr M Christian<br>“That the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of the July 11 <sup>th</sup> 2017 as circulated, be approved.”<br>All in favour – Carried  |
| RAMSAR Convention Proposal                                      | <p>Cr M Christian (as Environmental, Conservation &amp; Natural Resources Division Manager) referenced the previously circulated overview to introducing a wetland, under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, also known as the RAMSAR Convention. She told Council that Pitcairn is included under the UK ratification and, in order to participate in this agreement, Pitcairn is requested to choose at least one designated site. Questions relating to the following points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How will Henderson Island’s World Heritage status and work in with a RAMSAR designation?</li> <li>• What mechanisms and related costs would be required for remote monitoring?</li> <li>• How will participation impact Pitcairn’s historical and cultural practices related to fishing etc</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that Cr M Christian will seek more detailed answers to these questions before the Environmental, Conservation &amp; Natural Resources Division undertakes the community consultation process.</p> <p>The Acting Administrator added that the Attorney General’s office is looking into how a designated RAMSAR site can best be integrated into the proposed MPA Fisheries</p> |

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|  | <p>Management Plan. There ensued general discussion about the need for Pitcairn to retain ownership of and involvement in any conservation initiatives which impact islands in the Pitcairn Islands group.</p>  |
| <p>Travel within the 2 year settlement period.</p> | <p>There was general discussion about Assistant Attorney General Danielle Kelly's reading of the Immigration Ordinance, as previously circulated.</p> <p>Ms. Kelly notes that the Ordinance is silent on whether those formally approved for settlement can leave during the initial 2-year settlement period. This also means that there is no explicit restriction on them doing so.</p> <p>As such, it was agreed that as long as, at the time of the review, those who have been formally approved for settlement, by the Governor, can satisfy Council and the Governor that he/she intends "to remain permanently on the Island for the indefinite future without retaining a domicile in any other country", then he/she will still be eligible to be granted permanent residence at the review (under s 12(4) of the Immigration Ordinance)."</p> <p>Motion: Cr. B Christian / Cr D Griffiths<br/>         "That Council adopt the aforementioned reading of s 12(4) of the Immigration Ordinance as provided by the Assistant Attorney General, as tabled."</p> <p>All in favour /Carried<br/>         It was agreed that this reading will be added to the repopulation website when the next systems and process review takes place.</p> |
| <p>Dental Care - Models for Pitcairn</p>           | <p>This item was discussed in workshop and covered the possible development of alternative models for meeting the dental care needs of Pitcairn populations' both in terms of prevention and treatment requirements. It was agreed Pitcairners should have consistent access to reliable dental care and that this must include both dentist and dental technician services.</p> <p>It was also agreed that the current on-island dental care model, which entails PIO advertising for and contracting Dentists to visit the island for short periods of time was inadequate in that it frequently resulted in patients being told they needed work done but that it was not possible to have that work done Pitcairn.</p> <p>It was noted that permanent residents, leaving the island for work or pleasure, can have 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s of their dental treatments paid for when they proactively access dental services whilst overseas. It was agreed that this practice should be actively encouraged but there is a people to have access to dental care practitioners that have established relations with the PIO to management payment</p>  |



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|  | <p>requirement. This being due to the fact that not everyone is able to pay for dental work, upfront.</p> <p>The idea of permanent residents being able to regularly access dental (and optometrist services) in Tahiti was discussed at length and it was agreed that this option should be further explored to compare it with the current model's quality of service and costs. It was noted that not all locals were fit and able enough to travel to Tahiti for dental and optometrist services. As such, Acting Administrator said that the current model (i.e. having dentists come to the island), which may not be working as well as it could be, does continue to have merit</p> <p>It was decided that Cr M Christian will undertake a preliminary line of enquiry about accessing dental and optometrist services for Pitcairners in Tahiti and report back to the DM Community and Council. The Acting Administrator will discuss dental services with the on-island medical officer and PIO and report back to Council.</p>  |
| <p>Work and non-work related<br/>Sickness/Injuries recommendations</p> | <p>Cr L Brown introduced general discussion on the draft Work and Non-Work Related Sickness and Injuries recommendations, previously circulated.</p> <p>In general it was noted that injured individuals should be offered light duties by the relevant Division. If the relevant Division did not have appropriate light duties then they should consult with other Divisions to see if they could offer light duties instead. The Deputy Governor and PIO Financial Controller, Evan Dunn had suggested it would be good to decide a minimum number of hours per week of light duties that should be offered.</p> <p>Where even light duties are not possible then a benefit very similar to the non-working pension should be provided until the person is fit enough for light/full duties. If individuals refuse to carry out the light duties then they will not be eligible for benefit. The emphasis was on support to assist people to return to full health and re-join the workforce. It was agreed that the next step is for the Councillor/DM leading on this issue to write this up into a brief policy document which we can run past the Attorney General's office.</p> <p>The Acting Administrator added that it will be good to keep the issue in mind during the proposed deep future-of-Pitcairn thinking on elderly care, economics etc. in case something comes out of those interconnected issues which might amend injury related benefit policy further.</p> <p>The Acting Administrator tabled the following notes from the PIO Financial Controller for Council's consideration:</p> |

- Instead of a NZD\$400 fixed amount, consider using the average of the last 6 months' earnings. This is what the NZ based ACC (Accident Compensation Commission) does.
- If a worker is deemed unfit for any duties then their benefit should remain in place, regardless of duration, until pension age is reached.
- Consider requiring regular (free) doctor visits to reassess eligibility and assist in recovery.
- There should be an appeal process if there is disagreement about the doctor's decision. The final authority in this process should be the Governor.
- Any repayments of loans etc should remain in place and deducted at source as per whatever levels were in place prior to the accident (e.g. the person receiving the benefit should be no worse off, but they also shouldn't be better off).
- Perhaps a process should exist where people can apply for consideration for hardship, (maybe in the form of subsidies for power & phone).

There ensued general discussion so to how the proposed system would integrate with project work and how it should be implemented. Cr L Brown, as DM Community, noted that the existing budget of NZ\$5000 would not likely support implementation for a prolonged period of time and added that budget requirement for the new system will need to be worked through shortly so as to ensure funds were available in the new financial year.

It was noted that full cover for a work related injury, which had occurred on the Alternate Harbour project, was straight forward as there was irrefutable evidence that the injury happened in the workplace, as such the on-island Medical Officer was very much involved in all aspects of the process. But this may not initially be so easy for non-work related injuries and illnesses.

The Mayor said there were two issues to consider in terms of Council's duty of care for Pitcairn citizens. One being that no one is financially disadvantaged due to work or non-work related sickness/injuries. And two, there must be increased vigilance within the workforce and within the island's medical centre's patient evaluations and recommendations to Division Managers.



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|   | <p>It was agreed that the emphasis needs to be on support (be it financial or otherwise) designed to assist people to return to full health and re-join the workforce.</p> <p>It was agreed that those who decline to take-up 'light duties' as specified by the doctor will be made aware that this will disqualify them from receiving work related injury support.</p> <p>It was agreed that work related injury support will be covered by the relevant Division and 'Light Duties' limitations will also be managed and covered by the relevant Division.<br/>Non-work related injuries and illness cover – will be managed by the Community Development Division and covered by a benefit very similar to current the non-working pension.</p> <p>The next step will be reviewing the non-working pension for further discussion. Cr. L Brown will provide the Acting Administrator and with the current policy and pension details for further discussion and feedback to Council.</p> |
| <p>Community internet connectivity – during Mike Warren's skype session</p> | <p>The Mayor reported that ex prisoner, Mike Warren, will be participating in the first of regular Skype meetings with Psychologist Amon Tamatea in the coming week. This generated general discussion about the need for internet connectivity to be closed to all other users during the skype session. It was agreed that though this is not ideal all effort will be made to set the appointments on the least intrusive days and times, going forward. It was also agreed that the community will be informed, by the Operations Manager, each week as to why and when internet connectivity will be unavailable.</p>  |
| <p>Proposal from Dr Jack Dascalu re Aged Care on Pitcairn.</p>              | <p>The letter from the Medical Officer, Dr Dascalu, was deferred for discussion in workshop. It was agreed that his concerns for ensuring that aged care on Pitcairn is well managed were entirely valid. General discussion resulted in agreement that Council is committed to providing appropriate, supportive and qualified support for its aged community.</p> <p>It was agreed the opportunity for local people to gain entry level qualifications should be thoroughly explored and it was noted that this may entail recruiting a qualified aged care worker/trainer to the island for training for support and training purposes.</p> <p>It was also noted that given Pitcairn's small workforce and its aging population Dr Dracula's idea of recruiting contracted aged care professionals should not be discounted either. Rather, it was agreed that both options should be thoroughly explored.<br/>The Acting Administrator will raise Council's discussion points</p>         |

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|  | with the Medical Officer, and the Community Development Division Manager and report back to Council.   |
| Information for New Settlers   | It was agreed that the Acting Administrator will provide the DM Community with relevant information from the contracted professionals info pack for inclusion in the draft list. This will then be forwarded to the Deputy Mayor for additional, relevant, information from the repopulation site's frequently asked questions page. Once compiled the final document will be prepared for Council's final review and adoption.  |
| <b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b>  |  |
| Aranui 5 - Update  | The Island Secretary as, Tourism Travel Coordinator, reported that the owners of the Aranui 5 will be visiting Pitcairn on the last rotation in Aug/Sept. The purpose of the visit will be assess the feasibility of the Aranui 5 including Pitcairn and Oeno island in a special itinerary in Jan 2019. Before a visit itinerary is finalised it was agreed that the Tourism Department will hold a public consultation meeting to share information about the visit and to call for feedback on service delivery options. The public meeting will be held on Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug at 10am.   |
| Cruise Ship Curio Pricing  | The Acting Administrator conveyed that he had heard from a few people that Pitcairn Curios are very cheap and he wondered if people had considered putting their prices up and/or agree to price fixing. This generated a good deal of discussion relating to selling points, cruise ship passenger markets and private enterprise. It was agreed that whilst the the Acting Administrator's thoughts on curio pricing may be valid, private enterprise and related matters were not a priority for Council at this time.  |
| Fixing a Date for Council/Community discussions on future of Pitcairn, settlers & the economy. | <p>The Acting Administrator tabled Pitcairn age statistics and suggested it would be good to start a conversation with Council and the Community about Pitcairn's future. He said he anticipates being able to circulate Alex Cameron's recommendations in the next day or so. Mr Cameron, visited Pitcairn last year his letter to Council and the community will cover some key points and recommendations for Pitcairners to consider when planning for the Islands future. It was noted that in particular Mr Cameron's recommendations will likely touch on what Pitcairn's future will be should Council's repopulation efforts not be successful.</p> <p>This generated some discussion and it was agreed that the Acting Administrator will circulate the communication from Mr Cameron as soon as he receives it. The matter will then be initially discussed, in workshop, on Monday 14th Aug, 8.30am.</p> |
| INTEGRE<br>Recycled Glass blowing training and   | The Mayor (as DM Operations) reported that everything is in place for the INTEGRE Souvenirs from Recycled Glass Training Project to take place later in the month. The training will be set up at either the remand centre or the temporary store building and he will keep the community advised of developments.   |



Meeting Closed: 1.30pm

Date of Next Council Meeting: Workshop only - August 14<sup>th</sup> 8.30am

Mayor Shawn Christian: .....  ..... Date: 5 / 9 / 2017



Approved