



PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held at the Public Hall
Commencing at 9.00am 25th May 2018**

Present:

Mayor Shawn Christian, Deputy Mayor Charlene Warren-Peu, Cr Darralyn Griffiths, Cr Kevin Young, Temporary Island Secretary Nadine Christian, Administrator Nicola Hebb.

In attendance: Governor Laura Clarke

Apologies: Cr Sue O’Keefe, Cr L Jaques, Cr Michele Christian

Gallery:

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

<p>Council sat to meet with Governor Laura Clarke</p>	<p>The Mayor welcomed Governor Clarke to the table and invited her to outline her thoughts as she began her first visit to Pitcairn Island.</p> <p>Governor Clarke stated how glad she was to be on island and have the opportunity to meet the Council and community. She praised the steps Council had taken on important issues, including Child Safety, the Future of Pitcairn and EDF work. She was pleased with how Council was working in tandem with BHC, PIO and HMG and the progress made.</p> <p>The Governor said she hoped to see the community growing and thriving and that she would continue to work with the Island and Island Council to promote this.</p> <p>She spoke briefly on shipping, and confirmed that tenders for the shipping contract were currently being assessed, noting that improved access and potentially lower costs were key considerations.</p> <p>The Mayor spoke about work to establish a memorial for child safeguarding, which resulted from last year’s reconciliation workshops. The memorial stone had arrived and the final location for it would be put to the public. A separate plaque would commemorate the fallen heroes celebrated on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day.</p> <p>Administrator Hebb commended Council for their work to identify a better future for Pitcairn, and welcomed the fact that work between HMG and Council had increasingly aimed to agree a common approach to the issues at hand.</p> <p>The Mayor agreed that as a community Pitcairn needed to work as a team with HMG and Council. He was concerned that some people on island might not see the work that had been done so far, and did not realise how far Pitcairn had moved forward. It was important for the whole island to come together.</p> <p>A short discussion took place on the forthcoming community meeting on the Future of Pitcairn. Those who did not speak in the meeting would have the opportunity to speak with the Governor one on one.</p>
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	<p>Council noted, for the Governor’s benefit, the history and meaning of Public Dinners, which are more than a chance to eat together but represent a long history of community sharing.</p> <p>Governor Clarke spoke about communication and there followed a discussion on the evolution of communications on the island – beginning with mail, later ham radio and now internet. The faster connection available now made it possible for Pitcairners off island to contact home, and for children away at school to feel less isolated from their families. All agreed the importance of this. Discussion turned to the Future of Pitcairn workshops. These were proceeding well and work would continue, including with a facilitator, to firm up the ideas expressed during the community workshops.</p> <p>Council discussed the aging demographic and the physically hard nature of life on Pitcairn: work such as manning the longboats, driving heavy vehicles and working the roads took its toll physically. No one was complaining about this work, but it is an important factor to consider. The older generation was still working to keep the community moving forward, but younger blood was needed to support them.</p> <p>A discussion took place on helping settlers to integrate, and what more was needed. Governor Clarke suggested an induction programme might be helpful, as might a buddy system. The facilitator could work on this with the FCA.</p> <p>The Governor reminded Council that HMG stood ready to support the community and Council in this work.</p> <p>Governor Clarke was asked how HMG saw Pitcairn Island. Governor Clarke responded that Pitcairn, was important to HMG, not only as one of the UK’s 14 overseas territories, and its smallest, but also as its only OT in the Pacific and as an important part of the Pacific Community. During her recent visit to New Caledonia for a summit with France’s President Macron, she had represented Pitcairn Island and received assurance of the continuing importance to the Pacific Community of Pitcairn. Working with FCO and DfID, Pitcairn remains an important dynamic.</p> <p>A member asked whether the relationship with French Polynesia was sound and cooperation was likely to continue. Responding, Governor Clarke said that if anything it was stronger than ever and this had been confirmed by conversations with officials, including President Macron, in the South Pacific Conference.</p>
	<p>The Mayor thanked the Governor for her time and closed the meeting to re-open for the public meeting.</p>

Meeting Closed: 10.00

Date of Next Council Meeting: To Be Confirmed

Mayor Shawn Christian:

Date: 19 / 6 / 2018

