



PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL

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Minutes of Meeting held in The Square - Public Hall
Commencing at 10.30am on Wednesday Sept 24th 2015
Regular

Present:

Mayor Shawn Christian, Acting Deputy Mayor Cr Charlene Warren-Peu, Cr David Brown, Cr Darralyn Griffiths, Cr Michele Christian, Cr Leslie Jaques, Acting Councillor Melva Evans and Administrator, Alan Richmond

Temp Island Secretary – Heather Menzies

Apologies: Deputy Mayor Brenda Christian

Gallery: None

Opening Prayer: Cr Charlene Warren-Peu

Welcome: Mayor Shawn Christian

Item	Discussion
Minutes	Motion: Mayor “That the minutes of Sept 2 nd , 6 th and 9 th as circulated approved be accepted.” All in favour - carried
New Miscellany Editor	Cr Leslie Jaques reported that Melva Evans has been appointed as the new Miscellany Editor. Council welcomed Ms Evans to the role and requested that future issues depict the ‘old’ Bounty/Pitcairn Island masthead. Ms Evan conveyed that her intention is to do so however the revised template may not be ready in time for her first issue in Sept. All following issues, however, will depict the ‘old’ masthead.
Active Settlement Applications	The Isec reported that the Deputy Governor has made contact with the current active settlement applicants. He is continuing the application procedure, following Council’s recommendation last month.
JMC Communique - as previously circulated.	Cr Jacques confirmed that he will be attending the 2015 JMC meeting in London, with the Deputy Governor in November this year. He drew Council’s attention to Point 10 of the Communique, which relates the commitment from the Department for Work and Pensions to provide support and advice to the Territories on a range of policy areas including welfare and pensions reform. The Overseas territories have asked the UK Government to consider uprating of UK state pensions for residents of all Overseas Territories. Cr Jacques noted that this is a good starting place which evokes a degree of favourable traction and sympathy. The Administrator added that expectations should remain realistic. Such discussions will have global consequences and take some time, with no guaranteed outcome. The Mayor added that the JMC’s support for sharing information between environmental scientists and officials, allowing access to expert reports and assessments across Territories in terms of renewable energy, climate

	<p>change and biodiversity, links well with the Natural Resources Division's recently drafted Pitcairn Islands Terms of Engagement for NGOs document, which will be submitted to Council for input in due course.</p>
<p>Child Safety Review Document and Covering Letter – As previously circulated.</p>	<p>The 2015 desk based Child Safety Review and covering letter, as previously circulated, was discussed. Council noted that the review, undertaken and submitted by Mr Michael Sheath, was positive, favourable and helpful report.</p> <p>The Administrator said he anticipates Mr Sheath or his equivalent will again visit the island in 2016. Cr Michele Christian noted that Pitcairn has taken a 'massive leap' in its appreciation of child safety matters. The Child Matters Training, which she and many other islanders have done, was very worthwhile. She added that it is important that training and education continue and be made available for all current and future residents - including refresher courses when required.</p> <p>Council also noted that it was very encouraging that Mr Sheath acknowledged the importance of Pitcairn's child safety practices island is able to attract new immigrants, with children if it is to prosper as an economically viable and healthy community.</p> <p>As Child Safety Officer, the Administrator added that he too was very pleased with report which conveys a much more positive approach, reflecting a number of positive steps which have been taken by Council. Divisions and community members.</p> <p>He asked that Council share it and the community's feedback on the report and its recommendations with the Governor so as to ensure informed discussion moving forward. Council generally acknowledged work to date and, in particular, the efforts undertaken by the Mayor in ensuring past child safety recommendations have been implemented promptly.</p> <p>Motion: Mayor "That council formally accepts the Child Safety Review report and accepts its content and recommendations." All in favour – carried.</p>
<p>Darwin Plus Applications</p>	<p>Two applications had been submitted to Council. Though separate, both related to Darwin Plus applications.</p> <p>The Mayor shared his written response to one of the applications. It clarified that Council will not accept or respond to applications and/or requests for project endorsements, from NGOs/ researchers, and or affiliated individuals unless the applications have been formally submitted to the Natural Resources Division for its initial assessment before referral to Council.</p> <p>ACTION: The remaining application has been passed to the Natural Resources Division, which will report back to Council accordingly.</p>

General Business: Land Court members	Motion: Mayor That the existing members of the land court continue in their current capacity for the next 2 years. All in Favour – Carried
General Business: Cultural Advisor Appointment	Motion: Cr Leslie Jaques “That Cr Darralyn Griffiths be appointed as Council’s Cultural Advisor.” All in Favour – Carried ACTION: Cr Jaques, who has previously managed cultural liaison, will facilitate a handover with Cr Griffiths.
Repopulation Steering Group (RSG) Preliminary Report – as circulated.	<p>The RSG Preliminary Report was tabled by Cr Charlene Warren-Peu, who is also a member of the RSG. RSG members, Finance and Economics Division Manager, Leslie Jaques and Tourism Travel Coordinator, Heather Menzies were also present and granted permission to speak to the report by the Mayor. RSG member, Community Development Division Manager, Lea Brown was not present.</p> <p>Cr Warren-Peu outlined the RSG’s work to date.</p> <p>It was clarified that that intention of the preliminary report and its recommended activities is not to drive a restructure but to review and improve the current systems and processes associated with the delivery of the GPI Repopulation Strategy. The report and its suggested remedial activities are broad and do not focus on a particular GPI role, department or division. Should the preliminary report’s activities be approved for implementation, all further developments will regularly circle back to Council and HMG for input and approval as and when required.</p> <p>The RSG preliminary report finds that since the establishment of Pitcairn’s initial settlement application management tools, in 2012, little else has been done to build and improve the institutional foundations necessary to successfully implement its Repopulation Strategy.</p> <p>The Mayor and the Administrator acknowledged progress and noted that much contained within the activity plan can go forward. However, clarification on the following points was sought:</p> <p>Point 2: The RSG report recommends that an implementation budget, of up to NZ\$10,000, be split between the existing tourism marketing budget and Council’s Community fund given that Immigration marketing development has not previously been budgeted for. The Administrator stated Council should consider the implications of shifting funds from existing budgets to implement the programmes activities to ascertain the opportunity costs involved?</p> <p>The DM Finance & Economics explained that the RSG considered utilising community funds for repopulation initiatives to be a good fit - given the importance of repopulation to Pitcairn’s future. He also drew Council’s attention to the point that the 2015-2016 Tourism Marketing Budget had been</p>

significantly reduced due to an accounting error. This has resulted in the department's planned activities being altered anyway. The RSG considers allocating up to NZ\$5000 of the existing 2015-2016 marketing budget to rebrand and promote settlement on Pitcairn entirely appropriate.

Council agreed that, if approved, the RSG should begin activity implementation from within the Tourism Marketing budget, managed by PIO and the DM F&E. The RSG can then circle back to Council should access to Council's Community fund be needed.

Point 3: The Mayor requested that this point, which relates to developing a documented procedure for managing active settlement applications, from first point of contact to council acceptance, be managed in an inclusive and consultative manner.

The RSG clarified that the sample procedural review, submitted to Council within the preliminary report, contained procedures which were provided by both the Immigration Officer and the PIO Operations Manager. The Deputy Governor has also agreed to assist in the review process, which is relevant to both Points 3 & 4. The RSG stated that the sample procedural review provides evidence that inclusiveness and consultation are central to the successful implementation of the RSG's proposed activities.

The possibility of having the Deputy Governor – undertake preliminary interviews before an active settlement applications comes to the Council table was also discussed as an options worth considering.

Point 7: Recommends that on-line settlement data should be more interactive to enable relevant personnel to engage and track progress. The RSG clarified that this referred to making better use of the current settlement enquiry spreadsheet on the current GPI Immigration website, www.immigration.gov.pn, which tracks numbers of settlement enquires and comments.

Point 17: Refers to reviewing the existing GPI structure to ensure it has in place the necessary scaffolds to immediately realise its Repopulation strategy. This should entail a fresh look at all current repopulation related roles, responsibilities and reporting mechanisms.

Cr Michele Christian noted that the Governor can appoint Immigration Officers as he deems necessary and wondered if this might be utilised to support future workload requirements. The Mayor stated that Pitcairn has two Immigration Officers, the local Police and Immigration Officer and the senior Police Officer seconded from New Zealand. There ensued general discussion regarding the role of the Chief Immigration Officer and it was agreed there is a real need to clarify

reporting lines, roles and responsibilities going forward.

Point 19: The Administrator noted a review of visa applications forms and fee structures must be managed appropriately and adhere to all legal HMG requirements.

In response RSG members explained that a proposed visa and fee review specifically related to building in a short term visitor visa so as to increase revenue. The RSG also recommends this activity be undertaken in preparation for managing more frequent voyages and increased numbers of overnight visitors - many of which may be being able to stay for up to 18 days or more.

Point 20: The Mayor noted that this point, which relates to establishing, documenting and publicising all on-island permits and protocols that may impact new migrant experience, should also consider how the Long Term Visitor visa, in its current form, can better link with settlement applications.

Point 21: The Administrator requested that the RSG rework this point which refers to seeking the Governor's agreement and assistance to facilitate 'early allocation' of land to committed new migrants.

The Administrator clarified that all land on Pitcairn is crown land. As such Council/Land Court may approve lease hold applications as and when required. He indicated this may not require changes to land tenure ordinances etc.

This generated general discussion about developing a step by step procedure which might enable committed new migrants to apply to Council/Land Court for land, on a possible sub-lease basis, within 6 months of arrival. Then, once their Settlement Application is fully and finally approved by the Governor – the sub-leased land could be transferred to their name.

It was agreed that the RSG will rework point 21 to reflect the need to develop procedures for Council to assist in managing land lease applications for new migrants. The Mayor stated he will personally work with the RSG to progress this activity.

Point 22. Refers to developing and promoting house rental options for new migrants. The Administrator said the RSG should be mindful of the need for standards and base lines for rental properties. The RSG clarified that there are a few, private rental properties available for long term tenants. The RSG proposes holding a meeting with these property owners to discuss all rental aspects – it was agreed that this will include standards development and fair expectations.

	<p>Motion: Cr Charlene Warren-Peu Seconded: Cr Darralyn Griffiths. That the Repopulation Steering Group begin implementation of its activity plan, noting amendments and utilising additional skills within Council and the community as required. All in Favour ACTION: The RSG will amend the recommendation as approved and circulate.</p>
<p>Proposed Public Meeting Date and Time</p>	<p>It was agreed that Council will hold a public meeting on Wednesday 7th October at 9.00 am to share information regarding the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Child Protection Review Report ● The Skills Audit outcomes ● An Update re EDF10 ● A request for private rental information temporary settlement housing ● Information about the new Pitcairn Artisans Gallery ● Information about the additional passenger voyages in 2016 ● An outline of the forthcoming Nominations and Elections procedures. <p>Council will compile the Child Safety Review report and covering letter for delivery to all households. The Skills Audit report and an Agenda for the Public meeting will also be included.</p>

Meeting adjourned: 12.00
 To enable set up for the VTC public meeting with the Governor and Deputy Governor:
 Meeting resumed: 1.00pm
 Meeting Closed: 2.10pm

Next Regular Council Meeting: Wednesday 7th 11.30 am (after the Public Meeting).

Mayor Shawn Christian.....

Date.. 13 / 10 / 2015