



# PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held in The Square - Public Hall  
Commencing at 10.30am on Wednesday Sept 2nd 2015

**Present:**

Mayor Shawn Christian, Acting Deputy Mayor Cr Charlene Warren-Peu, Cr David Brown, Cr Darralyn Griffiths, Cr Michele Christian, Cr Leslie Jaques and Administrator Alan Richmond  
Temp Island Secretary – Heather Menzies

**Apologies:** Deputy Mayor Brenda Christian

**In attendance:** Terry Dawson & Robert Irving - Darwin Project

**Gallery:** None

**Welcome:** Mayor Shawn Christian

Item	Discussion
Darwin Project presentation	<p>The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed the 2013 -2017 Darwin Project leaders, Terry Dawson and Robert Irving, who provided Council with a presentation on the project’s current activities. This included their preliminary ideas for delivering a sustainable marine and fisheries management plan for the Pitcairn Islands – as previously agreed in their funding proposal.</p> <p>They began by clarifying that an effective marine and fisheries management plan requires 3 key factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recording and monitoring catch data and records, scientific surveys, assessments and advice.</li> <li>● Regulation</li> <li>● Enforcement (if needed)</li> </ul> <p>Given that Pitcairn’s marine resources are “a community common pool resource” The Darwin Project leaders recommended that Pitcairners establish a “Pitcairn Islands In-shore Fishing Conservation Association” which would, in their opinion, aid the development of the Marine and Fisheries Management Plan because it would give its members power to manage their own fishing and enable them to develop their own bi-laws and regulations. The Project leaders have developed a draft constitution for such an association, with legal input from Pitcairn’s legal adviser, Danielle Kelly, and their own legal advisers. The draft they submitted to the Natural Resources Department, prior to arriving on island, was developed from an existing SPC document which they “substantially trimmed” to make appropriate for the Pitcairn Islands. They added that their intention was to raise the idea of establishing the association at a forthcoming Public Meeting.</p> <p>Cr Leslie Jacques asked if the Government and local Council had been consulted in the development of the draft association constitution. He noted that the proposed constitution, as described, with the capacity to create bi-laws etc., would create yet another level of bureaucracy in an already stretched work environment. This would be impractical given Pitcairn’s very small population.</p>

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	<p>In response Mr Dawson said that the recommendation to establish the association was an accepted mechanism which, elsewhere in the world, has aided the development and implementation of marine and fisheries management plans.</p> <p>The Administrator stated that whilst this may be the case elsewhere, on Pitcairn, concept of an association would have to be agreed to by the people of Pitcairn, approved, in principle, by Council and then passed on to Her Majesty's Government, for further input.</p> <p>The Mayor added that the need for a marine and fisheries management plan remains a top priority for Pitcairn. And, Pitcairn will utilise the skills, expertise and research undertaken by the Darwin Project so that the island's fishers, its Council and its operational divisions can work together to produce a robust document that will meet the island's overarching strategic development objectives. He added that should an association be established in the future, its constitution would need to be designed specifically for realistic implementation on Pitcairn. He emphasised that Council had not agreed to establish an association at this time.</p> <p>Cr Jaques asked whether Council agreed that it is appropriate for Darwin Project leaders to raise the association recommendation publically before Council and its partners have had an opportunity to digest and discuss the recommendation.</p> <p>In response the Administrator said that it was appropriate to offer the concept publically as an idea which people can then consider and discuss over time. He added that this is an important area for HMG so any mechanism and/or marine and fisheries management plan proposal must be formally developed, in consultation, before being submitted to the Governor for consideration.</p> <p>There ensued further general discussion at to what the proposed association constitution might guide. Cr Michele Christian, reminded those present that on Pitcairn, any recommendations and/or bi-laws which pertain to Pitcairn's marine and fishery management must be approved and implemented within the island's existing operational structure, i.e. via Natural Resources Fisheries Department, local Council and the government. As such any agreed upon association constitution will be required to clearly reflect this practice.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked the Darwin Project leaders for the presentation and it was agreed that Council will review the recommendation documents and continue to liaise with the Darwin Project leaders, via the Natural Resources Department going forward.</p>
<p><b>The 2015 – 2019 Pitcairn Islands Tourism Sector Strategic Development Activities Plan &amp; Summary</b></p>	<p>The Mayor presented the draft documents for Council's consideration and further input.  Motion: Deputy Mayor Warren-Peu  " That the Pitcairn Islands Tourism Sector 2015 – 2016 Strategic Development Activities Plan and Summary be approved for submission to HMG and the EU.  Seconded: Cr Griffiths.  All in favour.  Action: The Island Secretary will compile the final documents forwarded to relevant parties by end of business today.</p>

Meeting Closed: 2.15pm

Next Council Meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 8:30am - with the Auditors

Mayor Shawn Christian.....

Date.....22 / 9 / 2015.....