



**PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL**  
**Public Meeting Notes held at the Public Hall**  
**Commencing at 10.00am Tuesday, 20 April 2021**

**Present:**

Mayor Charlene Warren-Peu, Deputy Mayor Kevin Young, Cr Shawn Christian, Cr L Jaques, Cr Lea Brown, Administrator Mark Tomlinson, Cr Ariel Harding, Cr Michele Christian, Temporary Clerk to Council Nadine Faulkner.

**Apologies:** None.

**In attendance:** Listed Councillors and 25 members of the community

**Welcome:** The Mayor welcomed the community to the meeting.

Agenda Item
<p>The Mayor advised the purpose of meeting is to discuss the following three agenda items.</p> <p><b>1). Borders.</b> The mayor spoke on councils' recommendations regarding borders opening to NZ only. Borders will still be closed to yachts and ships at this time. This would include contractors, new settlers and non-residents. Visitors would have to adhere to all conditions as per residents returning to Pitcairn including PCR tests and isolation. A member from the gallery asked if this would be with or without vaccine, and the Mayor advised a vaccine was not mandatory, but adhering to Pitcairn Covid protocols would be. Concern raised whether a returning visitor to NZ would be stopped at the border if not vaccinated. It was advised that a visitor would have to take all these concerns into account before travelling to Pitcairn.</p> <p>The Mayor advised that all conditions are being monitored closely regarding COVID-19 and the situation may change at any time.</p> <p>The mayor asked the community to raise their hands if borders opening re council recommendations were agreeable - 19 – majority of community present in favour.</p> <p><b>2.) Covid Vaccine Update.</b> Target has been set to get the AstraZeneca vaccines to Pitcairn on the May ship. The Administrator explained to the community the way the vaccines are tracked so the medication arrives in good order.</p> <p>A member of the community asked if there would be training available to give the vaccine. The doctor explained that the vaccine will be given as any normal one and he is fully able to give those doses. A member asked about concerns about the vaccine being sent and would prefer another brand. The Administrator explained that basically if a patient wanted another brand of vaccine, they would have to wait for it to be ordered and sent. Shipping issues around other brands were discussed. The doctor then spoke on concerns around the vaccine, high-risk patient's issues, side-effects etc. He also spoke on how medical personnel problem-solve the issues that may arise after taking any administered vaccine.</p> <p><b>3). Covid-19:</b> The Mayor and Doctor explained the decision by Council to reduce the days in isolation before boarding the ship to Pitcairn to seven days, instead of 10. PCR tests as usual will be taken – on day 2 and day 5 in this new shorter protocol if agreed upon.</p> <p>The five passengers returning to Pitcairn on the upcoming supply ship will be doing the current 10-day protocol as set. Members of the community asked if the passengers returning would be taking advantage of taking a vaccine before leaving NZ (or even those leaving the island going to NZ on the May ship when it returns), and would the</p>

vaccine taker be monitored. The doctor agreed that this would be an idea to consider and noted that monitoring of patients who have taken the vaccine on-route to Pitcairn would not be able to be undertaken. Discussion was had around returning passengers waiting to return before taking the vaccine as there will be plenty of doses for all.

A long discussion around issues arising in patients who have taken the vaccine and its different brands were had, i.e.: Johnson & Johnson's Janssen/Pfizer-BioNTech/AstraZeneca/Moderna, and also issues around the J&J vaccines halt due to blood clot investigations. A member of the community noted that media spin, good or bad, on the vaccine should be taken with a grain of salt and any medical advice should instead be taken from the doctor on island.

A member asked the doctor what the implications if some of the community have the vaccine and some don't. The doctor advised that at the moment, Pitcairn being Covid-free, either vaccinated or not, the community will stay at its present virus free status. Once the island opens up to more visitors however, the community's Covid free status may not be clear as it is at present.

A question was asked if the island was 100% vaccinated, would medical travel between Pitcairn and Tahiti be opened. The doctor explained that there could still be a small risk because of different strains of the virus that are circulating.

**4). HMG Covid Support Package.** A letter, which has been placed on the noticeboard for the public's perusal, has been sent to the Governor, FCDO requesting further consideration for a second Covid support Package. At present there has not been a reply or confirmation of further support, but council are making every effort to work towards some sort of financial awareness and ultimate long-term support for the community, including working on Living Standards costing to understand future economic endeavours.

Discussion around why and how the UK Government is supporting their communities during the pandemic financially, versus the support to the British Overseas Territories was had. Council is set to have a workshop Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April to discuss the package and Living Standards.

**5) Silver Supporter Shipping schedule.** Shipping dates for the Silver Supporter at this stage are departure 3<sup>rd</sup> May from NZ, arriving 17<sup>th</sup>, Pitcairn with a tentative return to NZ date of the 23<sup>rd</sup> (unloading completion dependant.)

Next rotation set for: Departure from NZ 9<sup>th</sup> of July arriving Pitcairn the 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

Rotations then in September, December and January 2022.

#### **Questions from the gallery**

A member asked, due to past problems, if persons who hold a UK passport traveling to NZ for medical are able to get a visa. The Administrator advised that HMG have been working with NZ immigration endeavour to make things smoother and quicker.

A member of the community expressed concerns about a returning resident's problem in returning home to the island. That resident is currently residing outside of NZ and due to Covid restrictions travel is precarious at best. The Administrator asked that member to approach him to speak privately.

A member of the community raised the issue of the \$10 pay rate. This member noted that people are all working very hard for the island in their current jobs at the \$10 an hour payrate and that new positions have been advertised on the public noticeboard are at a higher rate. The Administrator advised that as yet the newly advertised jobs are only on a one-year contract. The Administrator, along with the Division Managers and Council are working on all currently held permanent contracts where it will include pay parity for jobs done according to skills and

abilities. Discussion was had around pay rates and living costs, and noted that after the council workshop tomorrow more information will be available.

A member raised the concern that the medical care situation on Pitcairn is very important – re travel for medical, rates of repayment etc. This member reiterated that any change to the current system would be financially destructive to the community. The Administrator advised that there are no changes planned.

A member asked if a new replacement doctor has been hired at this time. The Administrator advised that expressions of interest have been

The Meeting closed at 11.20am.



Mayor Charlene Warren

Date 13/05/2021

