



PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL

Public Meeting Notes

Held at the Square, commencing 10:30am, March 10th 2020

Present:

Mayor Charlene Warren-Peu Deputy Mayor, Cr Kevin Young Cr Shawn Christian Cr Michele Christian, Cr L Brown, Cr Ariel Harding Isec Heather Menzies, & Administrator Nick Kennedy

In attendance:

Full Community attendance

Apologies: Cr L Jaques

Welcome: The Mayor welcomed the community to the meeting.

Agenda Item	Tabled by
Covid19 Management Protocols	<p>The Medical Officer provided a current overview of Covid19 and how it may impact Pitcairn and the health and wellbeing of the community and confirmed that he is well versed from all relevant official sources. He advised his only response can be from a public health approach and that anything to do with border control etc is a matter for the Council and HMG.</p> <p>He explained that Covid19 is a specific mutation of a well-known group of viruses which cause respiratory illness. It can be likened to an influenza – most will recover 5 to 7 days, the aged and those with respiratory illness are most at risk and deaths related to the virus vary.</p> <p>He emphasised it is important that correct communication about the virus and how it is contracted is important so as to manage the community’s fears and minimise the unhelpful impact of myths and rumours. He spoke about education, community awareness and case definition as it applies to the virus.</p> <p>He advised that when a ship arrives at Pitcairn Medical Officer liaises with the captain to assess the health of both crew and passengers. Asking the following-questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have any passengers or crew travelled through any category 1 or 2 countries within the last 14 days?• Has the ship been at any category 1 or 2 country ports within the last 15 days?• Are there any passengers with respiratory illness and temps of at least 100.4°F (38°C)? <p>These general questions and their appropriate responses are congruent with what is being used internationally and they will continue to implemented on island as required.</p>

When asked about the efficacy of testing for the virus he advised internationally the test themselves continue to evolve. He reported that that some test kits have been ordered for Pitcairn, though there is some uncertainty as to whether they are on the March Supply ship or not.

When discussing infection control, he emphasised the importance of hand washing / hand sanitising, personal distance i.e. no less than 1 metre / no hand shaking or close personal contact / using disposable tissues / disposing of used tissues carefully and keeping surfaces clean, noting that the virus is spread in respiratory droplets.

There ensued general discussion about nursing patients at home whilst maintaining the health of carers. He advised they can use masks, eye protection, gloves, aprons and gowns all of which are available at the clinic, as is hand sanitiser.

There was further discussion about the management of suspected, probable or confirmed cases and various scenarios relating to whether Pitcairn could in fact medivac severely ill patients, not only because of Pitcairn's isolation but also because most countries would not accept the patient. Given this, operational support, e.g. patients needing help at home will need be factored as required.

Question from the Gallery:

If people have flu like symptoms, they will ring the doctor but which group are the most at risk?

Response

70 plus has been the commonest at-risk age globally.

Pitcairn's best response is consistent implementation of the maritime clearance with everyone adhering to frequent hand washing / hand sanitising, personal distance i.e. no less than 1 metre / no hand shaking or close personal contact / using disposable tissues / disposing of used tissues carefully and keeping surfaces clean.

How many people have been cured?

Response

No cure as such but a significant percentage of those infected have recovered.

There ensued general discussion about what should be done to stop the virus reaching Pitcairn. With several people calling for strict border controls. Cr. A Harding's community questionnaire was then circulated for people to consider.

The community was asked to think about today's discussions over night and submit their responses to the questionnaire via private ballot tomorrow - at 11.00am (March 11th 2020), in the hall.

Council will then meet to review the feedback and add the community's thoughts the development of GPI protocols for local management of Covid19 and report back to everyone.

	<p>There was also general discussion about whether or not cruise ship Le Soleal (schedule to visit and land at Pitcairn on Saturday 14th March 2020) should be permitted to land. Many in the community expressed grave concern calling on Council to make a decision as soon as possible.</p> <p>It was agreed Council will meet tomorrow (11th March 2020) to review all current information, in consultation with the Medical officer, HMG, Tourism and Immigration, whilst taking into account the concerns expressed by members of the community, and report back.</p>
Pitcairn Islands Shipping Service Possible Schedule Changes	<p>The Administrator advised that in response to French Polynesia's Covid10 management protocols, the Silver Supporter is now required to stop a Papeete for clearance before it can transit between Mangareva and Pitcairn. This has resulted in the need to revise the current passenger schedule.</p> <p>Council is meeting with the Administrator to work through the new schedule and will report back to the community as soon as possible.</p>
TRON & Private Sector Engagement	<p>The Administrator advised the community of the following information, from the Governor, about TRON and private sector engagement:</p> <p>The specific employees of the public service who cannot engage with Tron are Divisional Managers and the Island Secretary.</p> <p>Council has voted that Councillors will not engage with Tron.</p> <p>If private individuals come to an arrangement with Tron, and Tron wants to ship items to Pitcairn for use by these private individuals, then such items can be carried on the Silver Supporter and unloaded at Pitcairn as normal.</p> <p>If private individuals come to an arrangement with Tron about making a modification to their home such as adding a solar panel to the roof, this will be seen as a modification to private property and therefore okay (e.g. the fact that a home is built on Crown Land does not prevent modification to the home).</p>
Correspondence PIO – freight	<p>The Mayor advise the community that PIO is aware that folk may not be able to easily locate some of the goods, given the load had been split up for shipment. She asked that people let her know if things don't turn up.</p>
USAF Space Satellite Monitoring Visit Cancellation	<p>The administrator advised the USAF Space Satellite Monitoring Visit has been cancelled due to Covid19</p>
Child Safeguarding Audit Postponed	<p>The administrator advised Child Safeguarding Audit has been postponed due to Covid19</p>
Internet outages	<p>The administrator advised there will be internet outages, over the next few weeks. This is caused by the position of the sun in relation to the satellite and is not permanent</p>
Gift of BBQ Western ITM	<p>The Mayor advised Western ITM has donated a bar b q to the community by way of acknowledge their business relations with</p>

	Pitcairn. They hope it might be put to use when the new community centre opens

Meeting Closed: 11.45am
Next Public Meeting: TBC

Signature
Mayor Charlene Warren-Peu:

Date: 17 / 3 / 2020



APPROVED