

THE PITCAIRN, HENDERSON, OENO AND DUCIE ISLANDS

**ISLAND COUNCIL**

**APPROVED MINUTES – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023 – TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor - Simon Young, Deputy Mayor - Shawn Christian, Island Secretary – William Gordon, Cr. Heather Menzies, Cr. Kerry Young, Cr. Kevin Young, Cr. Charlene Warren, Cr. Melva Evans, Administrator Stephen Townsend.

**APOLOGIES:**

None

**GALLERY:**


Senior Constable Gavin Cyprian, Sherlene Cyprian, Adam Cyprian, Olivia Cyprian, Fiona Kilpatrick.

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	
<b>1.</b> Opening	Meeting Opened: 09:07 hrs
<b>2.</b> Welcome and Moment of Reflection	<p>The Mayor opened the meeting with a moment of reflection.</p> <p>The Mayor congratulated Cr. Charlene Warren on her election as the new Deputy Mayor and noted that he was doing so this month, rather than in January, as Cr. Charlene Warren will be off-island in January.</p> <p>Cr. Charlene Warren advised the Island Council that she will be submitting a leave of absence from 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023 until 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.</p>
<b>3.</b> Call for General Business	<p>The Mayor called for items of general business to be presented. The following items were presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Use of the Island Council discretionary fund;</li><li>- Current state of the internet system;</li><li>- Shipping Schedule;</li><li>- Departure of Administrator Fiona Kilpatrick.</li></ul>
<b>4.</b> Agreed Actions from the Regular Council Meeting of 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	<p><u>External Professional Expertise re. Island Vessels</u> The Mayor advised that this is ongoing.</p> <p><u>Costed plans for outstanding EDF projects</u> The Administrator advised that the health centre and other projects have been costed. Cr. Heather Menzies queried why the costings have not been presented to the Island Council. The Administrator agreed to provide the Island Council with the costings.</p>

	<p><u>Marine Infrastructure Development Plan</u> The Administrator advised that some engineering experts will be visiting Pitcairn in January, onboard the HMS Tamar, and will provide technical assistance.</p> <p><u>Free freight for new settlers</u> The Mayor advised that he had written to H.E. The Governor about the requested freight policy exemption.</p> <p><u>Timeframe for budgets</u> The Mayor and Administrator advised that this has been completed. The budgets were not presented to the Island Council.</p>
<p><b>5.</b> Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023.</p>	<p>Cr. Heather Menzies clarified the ordering of the policies listed for review on Agenda Item 18.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> "That the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 are approved".</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Mayor / Cr. Charlene Warren</p>
<p><b>6.</b> Approval of the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023.</p>	<p><b>Motion:</b> "That the minutes of Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 are approved".</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Mayor / Cr. Charlene Warren</p>
<p><b>7.</b> Approval of the Minutes of the Council-in-Committee of 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023.</p>	<p><b>Motion:</b> "That the minutes of Minutes of the Council-in-Committee Meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 are approved".</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Mayor / Cr. Charlene Warren</p>
<p><b>STANDING ITEMS</b></p>	
<p><b>8.</b> Head of the Pitcairn Public Service Monthly Report – November 2023</p>	<p>Cr. Kerry Young queried why the electrical power is being generated 24/7 at present. The Administrator deferred to Deputy Mayor Shawn Christian who advised that it was due to a recalibration of the generators, and that this will run through until the solar instal. The Administrator advised that the costings and diesel usage have been factored in, and that the cost savings are minimal.</p> <p>The Administrator reported that he and DM Operations have been in discussions with SPC about realistic suppliers of the solar panel bank. All of the required information has now been provided to SPC and it is in their hands to progress the project.</p> <p>Cr. Heather Menzies questioned whether the new FCA will be actively engaged with Council in respect of strategic planning for elder care. The Administrator advised that the new FCA is not likely to object to this.</p> <p>A discussion was had as to the language used, "social worker" or "FCA". It was agreed that FCA is more appropriate.</p>

	<p>The Administrator advised that the job description of the FCA has changed slightly. A copy of the same was not provided to the Island Council.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> "That the Island Council accept the PPS Report of November 2023".  <b>Moved:</b> Mayor / Cr. Heather Menzies</p>
<p><b>9.</b> Mayor's Report – November 2023</p>	<p>Cr. Kerry Young queried the Mayor's comment about rumours of repairs being made to 'O'Leary'. The Administrator advised that he was unaware of any spare parts being brought in for such repairs. Deputy Mayor Shawn Christian advised the Island Council that items were brought in for welding on any of the longboats, and that it remains of vital importance that 'O'Leary' can be utilised for emergencies, particularly for retrieving 'Moss', should the need arise.</p> <p>The Mayor circulated a copy of the unsigned JMC Declaration and a COP28 update. The Mayor advised that Pitcairn is unable to access any COP28 funding at present, and that the FCDO are looking into ways to make this possible in the future.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> "That the Island Council accept the Mayor's Report of November 2023".  <b>Moved:</b> Mayor / Cr. Charlene Warren</p>
<p><b>10.</b> Starlink Proposal – Final Draft</p>	<p>Cr. Kerry Young spoke to his updated proposal document, and advised that the likely saving will amount to around \$195,000 per annum.</p> <p>He went on to advise the Island Council that SpaceX will manage Pitcairn as a unique location on their technical and administrative systems, enabling the GPI to effectively deliver the proposal.</p> <p>It was agreed that this is to be a public utility, billed centrally by the GPI (as is currently the case). As such, hardware will also remain property of the GPI.</p> <p>A general discussion was had about telephony and how this may be integrated into the Starlink system.</p> <p>The Administrator advised that this is a one-time cost and, as a result, questioned if it may be better that not all sites are supplied with Starlink hardware. Cr. Heather Menzies reminded the Island Council that the Governor made clear during her previous visit that internet and communications are important public utilities, and therefore all sites per the proposal should be supplied with hardware.</p> <p>A general discussion was had about a Plan B in the event that FCDO do not provide the required funding. It was agreed that in this scenario, a Special Council Meeting will be called to ascertain where the funds could be drawn from within the current budget.</p>

	<p><b>Motion:</b> "That the Starlink Proposal as of 13/12/2023, with the highlighted revisions, be accepted and submitted to the FCDO".</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Mayor / Cr. Kerry Young</p>
<p><b>11.</b> Inflation Adjustment Proposal – Final Draft</p>	<p>A general discussion was had as to whether this is a wage increase proposal or an inflation adjustment. It was agreed that the proposal is for inflation adjustment, of 45%, to reflect the reality that wages have not increased in line with inflation since 2009.</p> <p>The Administrator proposed that recommendation 4 be removed, as it pertains to objective wage increases rather than an inflation adjustment.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> "That the Inflation Adjustment Proposal be provisionally approved pending the agreed revisions being completed by Cr. Kevin Young".</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Mayor / Cr. Heather Menzies</p>
<p><b>12.</b> Settlement Application – Ben Wheeldon</p>	<p>There was general discussion regarding the correspondence received by Immigration from Mr. Wheeldon.</p> <p>The Island Council decided it was appropriate to defer approval and to possibly an interview with Mr. Wheeldon via TEAMS with the Mayor, Immigration Officer, and possibly an interested Councillor.</p> <p>The Island Council also discussed the merits of conducting their own interviews with settlement applicants prior to recommending that the application be progressed to the Office of the Deputy Governor.</p>
<p><b>13.</b> Setting Date for Public Meeting</p>	<p>The Island Council determined that the next Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023, at 1030hrs, in the Town Hall.</p>
<p><b>14.</b> Setting Dates for GPI Christmas Holiday</p>	<p>The Island Council determined that the GPI Christmas Holiday shall run from 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023 until 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 (inclusive).</p>
<p><b>15.</b> Plastic Odyssey Expedition – Henderson Island, February 2024</p>	<p>The Island Council raised concerns about the intended final destination and form of the plastic that the expedition intends to collect from Henderson Island. It was agreed that it was undesirable for plastic to arrive on Pitcairn in shredded form, and that the community will have no use for it.</p> <p>A number of councillors raised concerns about the expedition being operated during the turtle laying season, and that this will cause unnecessary disturbance. Further concerns were raised about the proposed installation of a remote monitoring camera – which was deemed undesirable. Some councillors also expressed concern as to why the permit application was only coming to the Island Council in December 2023 for an</p>

	<p>expedition in February 2024, and was known about for around a year.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> "That the concept be approved and the issues raised (legislation/camera/local participation) be clarified".</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Mayor / Cr. Charlene Warren</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Mayor to clarify the issues raised and to ensure that Plastic Odyssey is informed.</p>
<p><b>16.</b> Head of Department Biosecurity Report – Henderson Expedition, October 2023</p>	<p>The report was previously circulated to Councillors and it was noted that no action should be taken, pending feedback from the RSPB.</p>
<p><b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b></p>	
<p><b>17.</b> Use of the Island Council Discretionary Fund</p>	<p>To be deferred until the next Regular Council Meeting.</p> <p>The Mayor raised that he has purchased VHF Radio Base Stations for the Square and the Landing.</p>
<p><b>18.</b> Current State of the Internet System + Risk Management Planning</p>	<p>DM Operations has spoken to Speedcast about the state of the tower and is awaiting a response. It was noted that internet delivered via the copper system is still operational. In the event of a complete tower failure, Operations would be able to run a cable to the properties not currently connected to the copper, although it is a large task. Hotspots can be run from existing Starlink Enterprise units.</p>
<p><b>19.</b> Shipping Schedule</p>	<p>The Mayor reported that the schedule has reverted back to how it was originally advertised, and that FV101 will indeed go to New Zealand and collect a small amount of freight.</p>
<p><b>20.</b> Departure of Administrator Fiona Kilpatrick</p>	<p>The Administrator informed council that Administrator Fiona Kilpatrick will be departing on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 due to a personal emergency. Given the shipping schedule, it is unlikely that she will return prior to the end of their posting in April 2024.</p> <p>The Island Council wished Fiona Kilpatrick well, and thanked her for her work on Pitcairn over the past year.</p>
<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p>	<p><b>WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024</b></p>
<p><b>MEETING CLOSED:</b></p>	<p>11:44 hrs</p>
<p><b>MEETING APPROVED:</b></p> <p>BY: Mayor – Simon Young</p> <p>SIGNED: </p> <p>DATE: 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023</p>	