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PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL
Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held at the Public Hall
Commencing at 3.00pm, May 21st 2020

Present:

Mayor Charlene Warren-Peu, Deputy Mayor Kevin Young, Cr Ariel Harding, Cr Shawn Christian, Cr L Jaques, Cr Michele Christian, & Isec Heather Menzies.

Apologies: Administrator Nick Kennedy, Cr Lea Brown, Cr Ariel Harding

In attendance: Dr Quynh Nguyen

Welcome: The Mayor welcomed Dr Nguyen to the Council table and Cr L Jaques opened the meeting with a prayer.

Agenda Item	
Welcome and background	<p>The Mayor advised today's Special Council Meeting was called to more formally capture discussions from the monthly Pitcairn Islands Covid-19 Management Protocol workshop held, in consultation with Medical Officer, Dr Quynh Nguyen on Tuesday 19th 2020.</p> <p>At that workshop Dr Nguyen advised Council she, like her predecessor Dr. Hall, is in communication with Public Health England (PHE) to stay informed of Covid-19 matters across the British Overseas Territories.</p> <p>She reported there is real concern for Pitcairn as more information becomes available about the virus what is required to successfully managed mild and severe cases. She advised that things have changed since Dr Hall set up the Isolation Hospital and this has highlighted that Pitcairn has zero capacity to manage a mild or severe case of the disease. If the virus were to reach Pitcairn, the risk and number of potential deaths has greatly increased or almost half the population.</p> <p>Dr Nguyen advised, that PHE agrees that greater emphasis needs to be put on keeping Pitcairn Covid-19 free. As such, she recommended that Pitcairn's Covid-19 Management Protocols be amended.</p> <p>At the workshop Dr Nguyen advised she is attending another meeting with PHE on the 21st (earlier today) which will further clarify PHE's recommendations for Pitcairn's ongoing management and containment of Covid-19.</p> <p>At the workshop it was agreed the Mayor will call a Special Council, after Dr Nguyen has spoken with PHE to more formally capture PHE's and Dr Nguyen's recommendations.</p>
Information from Public Health England – meeting 21 st May	<p>The Mayor invited Dr Nguyen to update Council on Covid-19 developments</p> <p>Dr Nguyen advised she emailed PHE and attended another meeting with them earlier today. She said she advised PHE that Pitcairn does not have the capacity to manage Covid-19. That Pitcairn is high risk and we cannot deal with it. She advised them that Pitcairn has no ability to intubate or ventilate patients or to give oxygen properly because we don't have a proper negative pressure room.</p> <p>She noted PHE have requested video images of the Isolation hospital rooms and also the resuscitation area the clinic.</p>

	<p>She said PHE agree that Pitcairn cannot use the rooms set-up at the old remand centre as an Isolation Hospital to adequately care for patients and again emphasised that Pitcairn has zero capacity to manage Covid-19.</p> <p>She said PHE agree that greater emphasis has to go into keeping Pitcairn free of the virus.</p> <p>She said PHE agreed that all travellers to Pitcairn should have antibody and PCR tests, done by accredited medical health professionals and they need to get medical clearance, from accredited practitioners, no less than 3 days prior to boarding the ship. Additionally, copies of the test results and the medical clearance certificates should be sent to her, as Pitcairn Island Medical Officer prior to the ship departing NZ.</p> <p>She advised PHE that some passengers scheduled to travel on the May 30th departure from NZ, have been receiving treatment in medical facilities in NZ. They are therefore at greater risk of having contracted the virus. The Administrator in particular will not have been in isolation for 2 weeks prior to boarding time. It was noted that the incoming FCA has been working in a hospital environment as well.</p> <p>She said PHE advised that the Administrator should have both the antibody and the PRC tests done because 30% of PCR results show a false-positive result. This, she said could be minimised by having the tests done in an accredited hospital by a certified health professional rather than self-swapping or drive through testing.</p>
Illness whilst at Sea	Dr Nguyen advised she discussed with PHE the current protocol of having the ship continue to Pitcairn if a passenger becomes unwell, if it is closer to Pitcairn than NZ. They agreed this should no longer happen because Pitcairn is virus free and has does not have the capacity to manage Covid-19. Rather, the ship should divert to either NZ or Tahiti – as per government to government medivac arrangements.
Social distancing whilst as sea	Dr Nguyen advised she discussed on-board social distancing requirements with PHE. It was agreed greater emphasis should be put social distancing if there are more than say 3 people on board. She said she discussed with PHE whether there should be a doctor on board the ship for all voyages. PHE advised that this would be at the discretion of the Captain.
Self - isolation	<p>There was general discussion about the need for managed self-isolation in Tauranga prior to boarding the ship. Dr Nguyen recommended that all travellers to Pitcairn be managed in isolation for 2 weeks prior to departure so as to ensure appropriate self-isolation and testing takes place. She emphasised Pitcairn’s inability to manage Covid-19. The risk is high and these requirements should not be minimised.</p> <p>Correspondence between the DM Community and the Deputy Governor regarding the possibility of using NZ’s isolation facilities and the need to ensure isolation prior to boarding the ship was tabled. Additionally, the Mayor advised she has signalled to the Deputy Governor that all Pitcairn bound travellers should be appropriately tested.</p>
Clinic: Expired PPE, Medications Replenishing stock Quality control Hygiene & cleanliness	<p>There was general discussion about expired and damaged PPE, expired medication and the associated risks.</p> <p>Dr Nguyen tabled examples of perished and mouldy PPE and expired antiseptic solutions etc. She advised that a thorough audit of medications and PPE was required. She said PHE agreed that this is necessary. She said there is also a need for on-going quality control re medication expiry dates going forward.</p>

	<p>Should a passenger fall ill it is the responsibility of HMG to gain medical evacuation access for the ship and the patient via, either NZ or Tahiti.” All in favour / Carried</p> <p>MOTION: Mayor / Cr L Jaques “That Council urgently recommends all necessary PPE and related medications etc. be ordered and shipped at the earliest opportunity.” All in favour / Carried</p> <p>MOTION: Mayor / Cr S Christian “That Council urgently recommends that the Silver Supporter’s proposed departure from NZ on May 30th is delayed until the above recommendation are implemented.” All in favour / Carried</p> <p>MOTION: “That the Deputy Mayor will liaise with Medical Officer to take images of the proposed Isolation Hospital rooms and the clinic resuscitation area as requested by PHE.” All in favour / Carried</p> <p>MOTION: Mayor / Cr M Christian “That the Mayor will liaise with the DM Community and the Administrator regarding Dr Nguyen’s general feedback about the Medical Clinic. All in Favour / Carried.</p>
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Meeting Closed: 4.15pm.

Mayor Charlene Warren-Peu: *Charlene Warren-Peu*

Date: *9* / *6* / *2020*

