



**PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held at the Public Hall**  
**Commencing at 9.00am 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Present:**

Mayor Charlene Warren, Deputy Mayor Kevin Young, Cr Shawn Christian, Cr Leslie Jaques, Cr Lea Brown, Administrator Mark Tomlinson, Cr Michele Christian, and Cr Ariel Harding, Nadine Faulkner (Temp Secretary to Council)

**Apologies:**

**In attendance:** None

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

Agenda Item	Tabled by
ACTIONS / Matters Arising from Regular Council Meeting of 17 <sup>th</sup> of February 2021	<p>As per the Agenda, taken from meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Bonus Payments and Annual Leave: Administrator to discuss with DM's and advise. <b>Update.</b> <i>Agreement from the PIO to pay bonus payments for the year of 2020. Administrator and DMs have worked together to put together a process for any future bonus payments.</i></li><li>2) Financial Review committee: Deputy Mayor to follow up with FCDO. <b>Progressing/On-going.</b> <i>Still working with FCDO with information collated so far. Deputy Mayor advised should be able to circulate to council members this week. Administrator advised he is happy to work with Deputy Mayor to complete. Cr. M Christian has also offered her help and requested clarity on the project adding that all committees/project groups should share more information with council i.e., a brief update of progress for example. Cr. S Christian asked if there is a question of Land Tax being considered in this review. Deputy Mayor advised that all current and/or future costs of living (including any taxes) should be considered to support those in need/those most vulnerable, and all information will be provided for councillors' review. It was noted that any current living hardships suffered by any Islander is being considered as a case-by-case basis in consultation with the DM's (Finance and Community), Administrator and FCA.</i></li><li>3) Covid-19 Support Package: Support package yet to be advised, with the Administrator working with London around possible options being discussed. <b>On-going.</b> <i>Administrator working in tandem with Deputy Mayor and DM Finance.</i></li></ol>

**Update:**

*A letter has been sent to the Governor outlining Council's opinion that there is a need for the continuation of the Covid-19 support package. Council and the general public are aware that a second support package is a long-shot and is prepared for the last payment of the current Covid-19 package in March 2021. At this time there is no concrete time that council can be given to signify when or if another support package will be granted.*

**ACTION:** *Cr M Christian to draft a letter. This letter is to update the community of the current work being done to seek a further package, and to remind everyone that if they are in financial need to approach the Community/Finance and Economics Division Managers for advice and help. This letter is to be placed in each wage packet and on the noticeboard at Pamai Centre to ensure everyone is advised.*

*The Administrator added that he is very aware of the stringent budget constraints on the community at the moment, especially with the new Store debt payment requirements, but it should be noted that all debts need to be considered and paid – i.e., freight accounts.*

- 4) Draft Council Budget. The Administrator to seek clarity from PIO about the process for budget allocations once approved on island. **On-going.**

**Update:**

*The Administrator has been liaising with PIO on clarity on the budget and will report to council once the budget submitted has been confirmed and agreed on. It was asked to clarify what Council's discretionary fund intended use was, and it was advised that any proposed usage of discretionary funds would have to be approved by council. This would cover any unusual or unplanned costs. Councillors noted that the Council budget blowout for last financial year regarding wages was due to increased meetings with Covid-19, extra workshops and the running Tuesday meetings.*

- 5) Pitcairn Coin Issue Proposals. The Administrator to contact the Tower Mint for answers to councils' questions on the Dennis the Menace and Twin Towers coins.

**Update:** *The palace has approved the Queen's Birthday and the Year of the Ox coins as presented to Council in the last Council meeting. It was noted that the request to slightly modify the proposed Dennis the Menace coin to spotlight Pitcairn as well could not be done due to copyright issues.*

- 6) Tron Solar Units. The Administrator said he will discuss the Tron solar unit issue with the Governor on the basis of Councils discussion on the subject and issues raised.

**Update:**

*The Governor has asked the Administrator to work on her behalf to rectify this issue and answer any questions. The Administrator noted that he had already approached Steve Christian with a proposal that would mean working together, and this was rejected. The aim was to keep the project as a people's project and not a government one. Therefore, at this point there is no change to the status held for those who hold council positions i.e., Councillors, Division Managers and Island Secretary, who cannot have a donated solar unit due to the Gift Policy and being Government Employees.*

*Councillors noted that there already is an EU funded power system being implemented for the community and the push by the Government/Council should be to support that EU project.*

*Discussion around future projects funded by outside companies and those issues was had. It was asked that if for example, why it was that if a current councillor cannot receive a Tron funded unit, but a future elected council member could sit even if he/she did have a Tron funded unit installed. It was asked if this was not a fair position to hold and a discussion was had around this.*

*It was also pointed out that this situation could have been avoided as the current Administrator has attempted to work with the Tron Solar Power manager to resolve this issue so that current members of Council could receive these units, but the Tron Solar Manager had vetoed this proposal. The current situation has reverted back to a basic blanket no to installation for those named Government Employees as per the Gift Policy.*

- 7) SV Starlight proposed visit. Mayor Warren to draft a reply to the visit request by SV Starlight crew.

**COMPLETED**

- 8) Land Application – Down Wilks. Mayor Warren to liaise with Land Management to arrange application.

**COMPLETED**

**Actions to be carried forward.**

The Deputy Mayor will populate the template provided by the AGs Office with all relevant government fees and circulate to all Councillors before submission to the Governor.

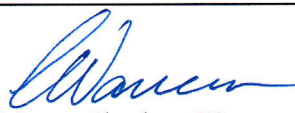
**On-Going.**

Child Safeguarding Audit.

	<p>Council will hold a closed workshop as soon as the report is available to discuss its findings and recommendations.</p> <p><b><i>On-going.</i></b></p> <p>The Guide to the Wildlife of Pitcairn of Pitcairn Islands – proposal and request for funding will be referred to the relevant Divisions for further discussion with the applicant. The Divisions will report back to Council.</p> <p>The Administrator will report Council’s decision to Dr Irving.</p> <p><b><i>Awaiting further discussion.</i></b></p>
Approval of the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	<p>MOTION; Cr M Christian /Cr L Jaques</p> <p>“That the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 as previously circulated, be approved.</p> <p>All in favour / Carried</p>
Covid-19 Support Package	<p>Mayor C Warren thanked everyone for all their work on this proposal and their input during the matters arising.</p> <p>The business case worked on by council has been forwarded to the Governor for her consideration.</p>
UK Territories Departure from OCTA	<p>Cr. L Jaques spoke on documents (including a draft MoU, and letter from the chair – Ms K Durrant of UKOTA) that he circulated regarding the UK Territories departure from OCTA. He noted that there has been a lot of work in this area since Brexit and that Pitcairn and our Pacific partners as the whole has had a lot of support regarding opportunities to apply for further funding for projects in the future.</p>
Roger Millard Work Permit	<p>Mayor C Warren put to council an application made by Mr R Millard for a Pitcairn Island Work Permit.</p> <p>Council approved the permit and the Mayor will inform the applicant.</p> <p>Approved: Cr. S Christian. Seconded Cr. M Christian</p>
Land Court	<p>Mayor C Warren spoke on Land Court due to a few legal issues and with guidance from the AG and Governor, Land Court has been suspended temporarily.</p> <p>A lengthy discussion was had around the suspension of the Land Court, why it has occurred and what would have been a better outcome. The Mayor stated that with the issues that have been raised, she had to approach the AG to get legal advice. The decision to suspend was made on the resulting conversation at the risk that if Land Court did continue to sit in its current format then issues could arise in the meantime. More discussion on the legalities of the job of the Temporary Land Registrar, who was supposed to fulfill this responsibility, the update of the land laws and other issues was undertaken. More clarity on the situation relies on the return of the Island Secretary as Land Registrar and the results on the current Supreme Court case regarding a Land Court decision.</p>

<p>Divisional update – Administrator</p>	<p>Administrator Tomlinson advised of updates re the divisions for February.</p> <p>Finance – the gallery made NZ\$ 900 last month and a good shipment of honey left on the February supply ship. The annual audit of divisional assets is being carried out.</p> <p>Natural Resources – the new MPA Officer has been recruited and the division will soon be advertising for a Communications Officer. There have been a number of calls with the new Deputy Governor in Auckland and stakeholders in London on a range of environmental issues, including underwater cameras completing the marine management plan and discussion of a possible trip to Henderson Island later in the year.</p> <p>Communities – the government auction is due to take place in the next few weeks.</p> <p>Operations – the roof trusses will be going up on the Community Centre shortly. Work on the clinic extension has been taken forward, but is now on pause while we ensure the doctor’s input is taken into account. The roof turbines have been fitted on the store.</p> <p>A question was asked regarding the power outage on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March. It was explained that the problem was found in an underground cable and related to the 24-hour power line. More work needs to be done to rectify the issue, but can be sorted without further power outages.</p>
<p>Updating of Public Service employment contracts</p>	<p>A meeting with the Administrator and the Division Managers looked at the updating of public service employment contracts and the issuing of the bonus/holiday pay payments (see the Matters Arising re bonus payments)</p>
<p>Easter Holiday</p>	<p>The Administrator proposed that Pitcairn Government Employees take the long weekend, Friday to Monday in respect to the Easter weekend. Council was all in approval.</p>
<p><b>General Business Matters</b></p>	
<p>New Business Registration</p>	<p>The Island Secretary tabled correspondence for a new registration of a business on island and requested council approval.</p> <p>Councillors approved the application on the proviso that the non-Pitcairn Island resident’s name is removed as only residents of the island can apply for a business registration. Provisionally approved with changes requested.</p> <p>Approved: Cr. S Christian    Seconded: Cr Lea Brown</p>
<p>Tower Mint coin proposal</p>	<p>The Administrator supplied a design of a coin to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.</p> <p>Councillors approved the design.</p> <p>Approved: Cr. M Christian    Seconded: Mayor C Warren</p>

Mayors Report	It was asked if there was a need to supply the public with a Mayors report to the public that detailed the actions and progress of council over the month. It was suggested that there was an intention or a proposal for the Mayor to do a yearly report for the public's information.
Medical Centre update	Cr. S Christian asked if the council would like to see and re-approve the plan for the Medical Centre. Cr. S Christian noted that both he and the DM Community have taken into account suggestions from the current and past doctors regarding better usage for the soon to be renovated/updated building. All information provided has indicated a few modifications on the inside of the building relating to function, but in reality, there have been no real large outer, building modification. Council noted that blueprint or budget changes would need to be approved, however if it is just small changes to existing rooms for example then council does not need to re-approve.
Official functions	It was noted or asked that the official functions held for community should be held in governmental facilities and not private homes.
Governor's Twitter "tweet" regarding Pitcairn.	It was raised that there had been a "tweet" by the Governor that she had a meeting with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Pitcairn. Topics of conversation included the MPA, Environment, Pitcairn Community and the new push that the UK is focusing in regarding the environment and how Pitcairn is already a huge part of this initiative.
Covid-19 Vaccines	The Administrator will query when the vaccines bound for Pitcairn will be sent. Conditions regarding the change of custody from fridge to ship needs to be clarified to keep the vaccines in best condition. Some urgency needs to be taken as any Pitcairners entering NZ may soon require a vaccine certification to enter. A short discussion around Tahiti, UK, and NZ status around Covid-19 and the vaccines was had.
Border Controls	<p>The Mayor asked Council to consider the policy has regarding Border Control status. Do we consider borders remaining closed, do we open to NZ?</p> <p>Discussion around medical needs vs a fear of sending patients out to NZ for treatment. An example was made regarding the delay of holding travel of a patient with noted medical problems and delaying treatment. Council discussed Tauranga vs Auckland as medical sites – Tauranga seeming safer to site our patients than Auckland – and past medical visits by patients had progressed well in Tauranga with no issues.</p> <p>Councillors agreed that:  Borders remained closed to all ships but Silver Supporter.  Borders remained closed to passengers to all but:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HMG staff &amp; Partners</li> <li>• Incoming approved Settlers</li> <li>• Any NZ Citizen following Pitcairn Covid-19 Protocols.</li> </ul>

	<p>It was added to clarify that all non-residents will need to pay their own 10-day isolation costs before boarding the Silver Supporter.</p> <p>The cost of a NZ tourist passage to Pitcairn via the Silver Supporter was briefly discussed as resident islanders have a fee structure already in place for travel between Pitcairn and Tauranga and there is no tourist/non-resident passage cost that council is aware of.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> The Administrator to investigate passenger fees for the Silver Supporter between NZ and Pitcairn.</p>
Island Secretary	<p>The Mayor advised that the current Island Secretary has submitted her resignation. The Administrator has advised the Governor of the resignation and proceedings will begin to advertise the position. Councillors noted that a decent handover needs to be done as the position is a very involved and important position supporting council. Council also wanted it noted that Ms H Menzies has done a brilliant job in the position and needs to be commended for her time and work.</p>
Meeting Closed	Meeting closed at 12.15 pm
.	
Next Meeting.	Next meeting set for 9.00 am Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
	Workshop reviewing the SDP to be moved to Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2021, 10am
.	
Approved 14/ 04/ 2021.	 Mayor Charlene Warren.

