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PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held at the Public Hall
Commencing at 9.00am, 24th June 2020

Present:

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

Apologies: Administrator Nick Kennedy

In attendance: None

Welcome: The Mayor welcomed Council to the table and Cr M Christian opened with a prayer.

Agenda Item	
Matters Arising / Actions from the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of 13 th May 2020	<p><u>ACTION</u></p> <p>The Mayor and Isec signed the draft amendment to Part IV-C of the Local Government Regulations to reflect additions to Appendix I of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and posted it on the Public notice board.</p> <p>Deputy K Young has forwarded the signed document to the Attorney General’s Office as requested.</p> <p><u>ACTION</u></p> <p>Cr L Jaques reported PIO has advised that all intellectual property matters relating to Pitcairn’s philately business remains the property of the Government of Pitcairn Islands. All stock and artwork currently being held by Russel and Louise Watson will be taken over by PIO and held by either PIO or Tower Mint, the new contractor.</p> <p><u>FURTHER ACTION</u></p> <p>The Mayor will arrange for a Bounty model to be sent to Russell and Louise Watson, from Council by way of acknowledging the couple’s work for the Pitcairn’s philatelic bureau of the past several years.</p> <p><u>ACTION</u></p> <p>The Mayor reported that the Deputy Governor did not provide her with a copy of the information which was sent to DFID regarding Pitcairn’s Covid-19 Financial Support Package. She said the Administrator has since advised that DFID approved the support package, however, details are not as yet available. The Administrator will provide further details on his return to the island (28th June 2020).</p> <p>There ensued general discussion about the duration of the proposed support package. It was noted that the impact of the pandemic on global travel and Pitcairn Tourism is likely to be far reaching for an extended period of time. It was agreed some assurance that the need for on-going support, to off-set income loss, will be provided as required going forward.</p>

	<p><u>ACTION</u> The Deputy Mayor advised he is continuing to explore the concept of community DNA testing. He has put in a request to the lab that does the police testing but they have not as yet responded. He will report back accordingly.</p>
Pitcairn's annual budget - approval	The Mayor reported the Administrator has advised that Pitcairn's 2020/21 annual budgets have now been approved.
Approval of the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of 13th May 2020	<p>MOTION: Cr M Christian / Cr L Brown "That the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of 13th May 2020, as previously circulated, be approved." All in Favour / Carried</p>
Pitcairn Island Loans Scheme	<p>Cr L Jaques (as DM Finance & Economics) discussed the previously circulated Pitcairn Island Loan scheme paper. He noted the paper proposes a 50% increase to available loan funds i.e. from a maximum of NZ\$40,000 (with free freight) to a maximum of NZ\$60,000 (with free freight).</p> <p>The scheme provides revolving credit facilities and is aimed to stimulate private sector home and business development. It was noted that the current personal loan facility (up to NZ\$5,000) is well utilised and both it and the current home loan scheme are without arrears and well managed.</p> <p>An additional recommendation within the paper is to establish a 3-person credit committee (comprising the DM F&E, the PIO Financial Controller and the Government Treasurer), to better manage lending discretion and approvals going forward.</p> <p>It was noted this paper signals the first phase of a broader review of Pitcairn's Financial Services which will begin once the SDP is finalised and approved.</p> <p>It was agreed that the current business loan offering will be removed as it is surplus to requirements under the new, more general, Pitcairn Island Loans Scheme.</p> <p><u>ACTION</u> Cr L Jaques will finalise the draft policy for formal approval at the next Regular Council Meeting (July 15th 2020).</p>
Council Related Complaints	The Mayor advised that 6 complaints have been submitted to the Office of the Mayor and each has been dealt with in accordance with the Island Council's Guiding Principles, Order and Conduct Policy. All complainants have been communicated with and each has stated they are satisfied with outcomes.
Record of actions from Council Workshop 11 th June 2020, re public nudity	<p>At the Council workshop of 11th June 2020 there was general discussion about what Council's, the community's and HMG's responsibilities and attitudes toward acts of public nudity might be. The following was agreed.</p> <p>MOTION: Mayor/ Cr L Jaques "That the Mayor will contact the Attorney General's office to seek advice on what might be the best mechanism to get input from the Pitcairn Community regarding its opinions about public nudity." All in favour / Carried</p>

<p>Attorney General's Office - Response to Mayor re the community's attitudes toward</p>	<p>The Mayor reported that the Attorney General's office had responded with useful, general information about how to best gather community opinions on public nudity.</p> <p>The Mayor had also sought advice on what steps Council is required to take to formally request a change to the current law(s) pertaining to public nudity.</p> <p>In response the Attorney General's office advised that the Governor has asked for a review of the current laws relating to public nudity. As such, the AG's office will provide both the Governor and Council with options going forward.</p> <p>There ensued general discussion about what the public may or may not think about acts of public nudity and it was noted that surveying community opinion will need to be well managed. It was noted no further action will be taken by Council until it receives further information from the Attorney General's office.</p>
<p>Record of Actions from Council Workshop 11th June 2020 – Renewable Energy Project</p>	<p>At the Council workshop of 11th June 2020 Cr L Jaques circulated correspondence from Peggy Roudaut (SPC) about progressing the tender for the Renewable Energy Project. There ensued general discussion and the following was agreed: MOTION: Mayor / Cr L Jaques</p> <p>“That Council agrees with SPC implementing a 2-step process to progress the Renewable Energy Project tender.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SPC will open a call for the design of the solar installation, via a “Desk Design Study”, to re-gear and meet the current requirements – utilising Gerhardt Zieroth, who produced the initial study. 2. Once done SPC will launch the Request for Proposal (RFP).” <p>All in favour / Carried</p> <p>It was noted the expectation is that SPC / EU will cover the desk design study cost. Cr L Jaques advised Ms. Roudaut of Council's decision and circulated that communication accordingly.</p> <p>Cr L Jaques added that Gerhardt Zieroth has indicated interest in delivering the desk-based design study as tendered by SPC.</p>
<p>Record of Actions from the Tuesday informal Council meeting of June 23rd 2020 - Pitcairn's Covid-19 Border Controls</p>	<p>At the informal meeting of Council on Tuesday 23rd June 2020 Council reviewed and provided PIO/HMG with feedback on a 2nd draft revision of the passenger/shipping schedule, currently operating between NZ and Pitcairn.</p> <p>It was noted the draft covered the period Jan 2020 to April 2021. There ensued general discussion about the impact of Tahiti (currently scheduled to lift some international travel restrictions from July 15th 2020) and New Zealand (currently redefining its border controls to better manage an upsurge in Covid-19 cases), on Pitcairn, both economically and in terms of the medical well-being of the community.</p> <p>Council sent an email to PIO/HMG on 23rd June 2020, outlining its thoughts and recommendations, based on the following criteria:</p>

	<p>1) Pitcairn has zero capacity to manage mild or severe Covid-19</p> <p>2) Pitcairn is Covid-19 free</p> <p>3) NZ is not Covid free.</p> <p>Council advised PIO/HMG it did not wish to alter its current border controls and asked that Draft 2 of the revised schedule (and budget) again be reviewed with this in mind.</p> <p>Council advised PIO/HMG it intends to pass a resolution, at its next Regular Council Meeting (24th June 2020), to formally recommend to PIO/HMG that Pitcairn's current border controls remain in place, without review until 31st March 2021, after which time it will review again.</p> <p>At the meeting of the informal 23rd June 2020 there was general discussion about time requirements for adequate medical treatment in NZ.</p> <p>It was noted that exemption from managed isolation, on arrival in NZ, is possible in exceptional circumstances and that Pitcairn should well be considered exceptional, given it is Covid-19 free, it has zero capacity to manage a mild or severe case of Covid-19, NZ is its current medical pathway and all passengers, from Pitcairn, will have been at sea for a minimum of 14 days. It was also noted that requests for exemptions need to be submitted prior to a traveller leaving his or her own country.</p> <p>Given the above discussion, Council also sought confirmation from PIO/HMG (23rd June 2020) that Pitcairners entering NZ from Pitcairn will not be required to isolate for 14 days on arrival.</p> <p>Council asked PIO/HMG (23rd June 2020) what progress has been made in getting Pitcairn formally recognised with NZ immigration etc. as being Covid-19 free as has been previously requested.</p>
<p>Record of Motion - Recommendation to PIO/HMG that the Pitcairn Islands current Border Controls remain as is until March 31st 2021.</p>	<p>MOTION: Mayor/ Deputy Mayor "That Council formally recommends to PIO/HMG that the Pitcairn Islands current border controls remain in place, without review, until 31st March 2021. After which time it will review again." All in favour / Carried</p>
<p>Leave of Absence</p>	<p>The Mayor advised Cr A Harding has requested leave of absence for medical reasons.</p>
<p>Date of Next Public Meeting</p>	<p>It was agreed that the next public meeting will be held on Thursday 9th July 2020 at 10:00am. The Agenda will be finalising on Tuesday 7th July 2020.</p>
<p>EU Ship to Shore Vessel - Update</p>	<p>The Mayor reported she and Council received correspondence from PIO (22nd June 2020) re the current status of the ship to shore vessel. PIO noted sea trials have been undertaken and the vessel has been finished to a very high standard. The intention is to now lift the boat from the water for a final check of the hull etc. and have it delivered to Tauranga and stored until it can be delivered to Pitcairn. It was noted the vessel is too heavy (19 tonnes) to be lifted by the Silver Supporter's crane.</p> <p>PIO anticipates that the new boat shed, which will accommodate the ship to shore vessel, will be ready to take delivery of the boat once it arrives, probably at least a couple of months away.</p>

	<p>There ensued general discussion about the proposed time frames for getting the vessel delivered to Pitcairn and it was noted there is no point in it being shipped before the landing area / boat shed is ready and Pitcairn's border controls are lifted. However, it was also noted that having the vessel stored in Tauranga will add cost to an already extended budget.</p> <p>PIO also advised Council that the boat builders are keen to train someone on how to operate the vessel and asked Council for their thoughts on having someone go to NZ for this before it is shipped.</p> <p>The boat builders' training recommendation was discussed. Cr S Christian, as DM Operations, advised Council that he has discussed this matter with the boat builders and advised them that it is important for as many of the boat crew as possible to have appropriate training given Pitcairn's limited boat crew/workforce. As such it is Cr S Christian's recommendation that the boat builders instead send a trainer to Pitcairn.</p> <p>It was noted there is time to arrange this between now and when Pitcairn is ready to receive the vessel. It was noted there is a need to ascertain what qualifications the trainer(s) might need have in order to deliver what is locally required.</p>
<p>Drafting a Revised 2020/21 Passenger / Shipping Schedule</p>	<p>As previously noted, on Tuesday 23rd June 2020 Council reviewed and provided PIO/HMG with feedback on a 2nd draft revision of the passenger/shipping schedule, currently operating between NZ and Pitcairn.</p> <p>At that time Council recommended a flexible 56-day turnaround (Pitcairn to Pitcairn) to allow adequate time for medical appointments, treatment, testing, medical clearances and quarantine time if required. Broadly, this would entail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depart PI - 14 days at Sea • Arrive NZ – 28 days in port / or anchored offshore (Allowing for medical treatment and isolation/quarantine requirements etc.) • Depart NZ – 14 days at Sea – arrive Pitcairn. <p>Council also noted in its correspondence with PIO that if there are no Pitcairn bound passengers travelling, from NZ the turn-around would be faster.</p> <p>In response (24th June 2020) PIO advised there is no problem redrafting the schedule again but asked Council to consider that if passengers are having a COVID-19 test and are then quarantining until the results are received, after which they board the Silver Supporter - how much more protection would the additionally requested 14 days isolation in NZ actually achieve?</p> <p>PIO noted there are significant costs involved with having the ship in Port for such a long time, including the crew needing to apply for work visas, plus port and accommodation costs. Adding that the schedule and budget can be reworked but we will need to look at allocating funds from other areas to cover these additional expenses.</p> <p>There ensued general discussion about PIO's feedback and what Council, PIO and HMG need to achieve between now and March 31st 2021 (and</p>

	<p>possibly beyond) regarding Pitcairn’s shipping and medical pathway requirements. The following issues were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • costs associated the ship being in port in NZ • the need to more formally clarify that NZ is the agreed medical pathway for Pitcairners, regardless of Tahiti’s border controls • the amount of time the ship needs to be in Pitcairn waters in case there is a need for an emergency medivac • the need for contracted staff to have time for effective and useful handovers • the need forward planning for general and EU project supplies • the need to factor for weather conditions, NZ loading and Pitcairn unloading requirements • the need to ensure the health and well-being of the ship’s crew remains a priority. • the need to allow time for patients to attend medical appointments, recover and get appropriate Covid- 19 testing and clearance done before boarding the ship. • The need for flexibility so as to buffer for changes to NZ’s border controls, changes to testing requirements and/or extended quarantine requirements • The need for flexibility should there be no Pitcairn bound travelers departing either PI or NZ • The need to maintain Pitcairn’s current border controls so as to ensure the health and well-being of all PI residents during the pandemic. <p>It was agreed Cr. L Jaques will contact PIO (24th June 2020) to advise the following:</p> <p><i>There are a number of factors to consider and which need further discussion at both ends. Council is looking at a 14 day stay in Tauranga for those with medical needs but notes there will not always be medical needs, so these requirements will not always be necessary.</i></p> <p><i>Council envisages there will be two different scenarios:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>one with those going off for medical and</i> 2) <i>one when there are no medical requirements and therefore the ship can turn around quickly.</i> <p><i>We should keep the schedule as fluid and as flexible as possible given changing circumstances and we look forward to discussing further.</i></p> <p>The Deputy Mayor reminded Council that if it intends to reconsider Pitcairn’s current Covid -19, 14-day NZ isolation requirement, it will need to bring medical evidence and PHE best practice recommendations to the table in order to inform decision making and to revise the protocols.</p>
SDP - Revised format workshop and final doc review	Deferred until further notice.
General Business	
EDF 11 focal sector funds	Cr L Jaques advised Council the EDF 11 focal sector final tranche was received in May. This brings Pitcairn’s project work with the EU to a close.

Council Committees	<p>It was agreed that Council will finalise the SDP before formalising the agreed upon actions of the Repopulation and other SDP related committees.</p> <p>It was noted each of the committees will be required to submit TORs for approval to guide activities and outputs once the final SDP is signed off. It was agreed there is a need to get the SDP signed off and in process as soon as possible.</p> <p>With regard to repopulation, there ensued general discussion about Pitcairn's viability in terms of repopulation. It was noted that the ability to generate an income from tourism is no longer a draw card for potential new migrants. It was noted that the priority for Pitcairn at the moment is economic and Council's committees to factor what is required to maintain the existing population and realistically manage natural attrition.</p>
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Meeting Closed: 11.30pm

Next Regular Council Meeting: Wednesday 15th July 2020 9.00am

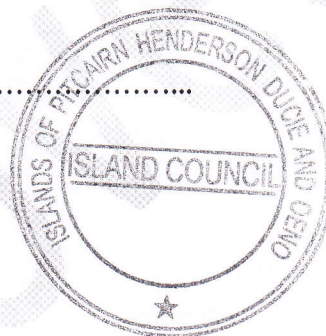
Tuesday Check-in: TBC

Public Meeting: TBC

SDP Meeting / Workshop: TBC

Mayor Charlene Warren-Peu: *Warren*

Date: *20* / *7* / *2020*



Approved