



PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held at the Public Hall
Commencing at 8.30am 20th July 2022

Present:

Acting Mayor Shawn Christian, Cr Michele Christian, Cr Simon Young, Cr Torika Christian, Cr Leslie Jaques, Cr Heather Menzies, Administrator Stephen Thwaite.

Apologies: Mayor Charlene Warren (On medical leave)

In attendance: Dr. Tony Steele, Kevin Young

Welcome: The Acting Mayor welcomed Council to the table, noting appreciation for those attending the outside, social distanced council setting. A moment of private reflection was taken.

Agenda Item	
<p>Actions from the last council sitting: - 22nd June 2022.</p> <p>Remote meeting participation for councillors. Mayor to work with AG's office re possible amendment of ordinance to make this possible. Action: Deferred until Mayor returns.</p> <p>EDF Solar Power Project Standing item on Agenda requested to ensure Councillors are kept up to date with progress as they are aware there is a timeline on spending the allocated budget. Action: Island Secretary to add to agenda as standing item. Added to Agenda</p> <p>Update on status of Pitcairn's copper-wire Connectivity Clarify rumour and conversation within the community around misinformation of copper-wire communications status. Ongoing: Public notice to be arranged by the Administrator</p> <p>GPI Employment Contract Draft Approval</p>	

Action: Administrator to forward the newly approved GPI Contract to the DM's as soon as possible.
Completed.

Marine Conservation Regulations 2022
Concerns raised over covering letter, and sections in the Regulations.

Ongoing: To discuss this meeting.

Covid-19 Policy

Action: Island Secretary to send amended draft to PRC.

To be redrafted and come back to council

Ship to Shore Vessel plans.

Current vessel to be sold as unsuitable for Pitcairn, new, more suitable vessel to be sought.

Ongoing: No major change. Unusable vessel going up for sale, and will continue working on improving landing, and or discussing need on replacing longboats if required or to use the Silver Supporter/ship to shore arrangement. To work with Operations DM to get correct information.

To continue to be a standing item for discussion.

Summary Offences (Penalties)

Amendment Ordinance 2022

Action: Cr. Heather Menzies to run with progressing a workshop to discuss the Summary Offences (Penalties)

Amendment Ordinance 2022 recommendations.

Cr. Heather Menzies worked through via email communication with the other Councillors. To discuss today.

Priority List

Action: Administrator to construct an updated project priority list for the community noticeboard.

<p>Completed – although to add an update to the board.</p>	
<p>Approval of the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of 8th March 2022</p>	<p>MOTION: Cr Heather Menzies / Cr Michele Christian</p> <p>“That the Minutes of Approval of the Regular Council Meeting of 8th March 2022, as previously circulated be approved.”</p> <p>All in Favour / Carried</p>
<p>Approval of the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of 22nd June 2022.</p>	<p>MOTION: Cr Heather Menzies / Cr Michele Christian</p> <p>“That the Minutes of Approval of the Regular Council Meeting of 22nd June 2022, as previously circulated be approved.”</p> <p>All in Favour / Carried</p>
<p>Approval of the Special Council Meeting Minutes of 22nd June 2022.</p>	<p>MOTION: Cr Heather Menzies / Cr Michele Christian</p> <p>“That the Minutes of Approval of the Special Council Meeting of 22nd June 2022, as previously circulated be approved.”</p> <p>All in Favour / Carried</p>
<p>Covid-19 Policy</p>	<p>Council updated the Covid policy to reflect changes due to Covid’s arrival on the island.</p> <p>Acting Mayor Shawn Christian welcomed Dr Tony Steele to the table.</p> <p>Dr Steele spoke on Covid, symptoms and current cases on island. He recommended that flu-shots should be promoted by Council to the community. He also spoke on his recommendations emailed to councillors before the council meeting.</p> <p>Recommends RAT testing upon embarkation onto the Silver Supporter organised by the crew to ensure testing protocols are taken. Masks to be worn in all common areas on the ship. Hand sanitising and covid-19 protection</p>

	<p>practices taken. If on arrival passengers test positive, to isolate on island. Crew members that would test positive could isolate in a cabin to ensure those with negative tests are not affected. Islanders going out to a cruise ship could test pre boarding. Cruise ship visitors presumably would test before landing on island. Testing for all departing passengers from Pitcairn will be put in place.</p> <p>Cr. Simon Young asked what would happen with a tourist that tests positive before leaving the island. The potential passenger should then not be allowed to embark. All passengers should be aware that this could happen, and will be covered by their medical insurance that they have to have when book to come to Pitcairn.</p> <p>Cr. Michele Christian asked if passengers flying from Tahiti to Mangareva should be requested to wear masks. Cr. Heather Menzies and Cr Simon Young advised that the policy already recommends masks should be worn, but it is not something that can be forced, or even enforced.</p> <p>Cr. Leslie Jaques asked are new vaccines coming? Dr Steel advised that yes, new boosters/vaccines and anti-viral drugs are due to arrive next ship.</p> <p>Cr. Leslie Jaques asked if there are concerns with new variants with the new surges in NZ and UK, being that the realisation that Covid is here to stay. Dr Steele advised that newer variants will indeed keep coming, as viruses will, and will just need to work with each new strain as it affects the island.</p> <p>Cr. Michele Christian asked what can the community do to prevent breeches of a doctor's request – i.e., a patient breaking their isolation. Dr Steele advised you can only speak with the patient. You would hope that people would</p>
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	<p>comply to protect others in the community. Mr Thwaite advised that they had approached the AG office to request guidance, but there are few measures that can be taken except encouragement from council to the community/those with positive tests/or even basically unwell to comply with doctors' requests.</p> <p>Noted: All policy around Covid-19 needs to be followed as closely as possible, with cooperation from the Silver Supporter, Pitcairn Community and passengers (visitors, locals and HMG staff) travelling to and from the island.</p> <p>Noted: Communication between doctors on cruise ships/Pitcairn will pass to the community to ensure awareness. A situation where Swine Flu was on a vessel, but the community was not made aware was related to the doctor as an example. Dr Steele advised that this communication can be done, but correct information from the ship for example must be gathered to do so.</p> <p>Noted: Council stated that communication to the public re any sickness on board any vessels, cruise ship/yacht etc is important so that the community can make informed decisions on whether to isolate themselves, or in turn take protocols to protect themselves while interaction with visitors.</p> <p>Noted: That the questions put to the cruise ships should be standard. I.e., Is/has there been illness on board? Has covid-19 testing been done?</p> <p>Noted: That individuals themselves should monitor wellness and if feeling unwell to curb interactions with others until medically checked. This would protect from covid-19 or even just the basic cough or cold spreading wider through the community.</p> <p>Cr Simon Young to make changes as recommended by Dr Tony Steele and Council and then bring back for approval.</p>
Land Court date request.	Cr Simon Young requested approval for a sitting on the 25 th of July 2022

	No objection. Approved.
PPS Report	<p>Administrator Stephen Thwaite stated that he was so pleased to finally be able to visit and experience Pitcairn, and have the pleasure of covering the administrator role, even if for only a short period. Having worked on Pitcairn and supported from afar, he said that it's great to actually be able to meet people here, and experience Pitcairn himself. It's an incredible place, and I've been made to feel very welcome – thank you.</p> <p>The Administrator advised it had been a busy start to his time on Pitcairn, and a busy July. On top of getting to understand how Pitcairn operates, and keeping on top of the normal administrator responsibilities, Stephen is hoping to make some clear progress on the social protection work, the EU solar project, and some of the project planning, the first two of these coming to council this month.</p> <p>Stephen noted he had met more than weekly with the acting Mayor Shawn Christian since his arrival and have discussed a range of issues and priorities, including Covid-19 planning (now being put into practice), social protection (paper with council this month), EU projects (including plans for use of the solar funding), and wider island issues. Since the arrival of Covid on island we have continued to meet with the Doctor, and initially with DM Communities too, to discuss our response and management of Covid on island.</p> <p><u>DM Communities</u></p> <p>It's been a quiet month no problems to report</p>

- Division orders have been sent with plenty of time for PIO to source items we need.
- House at Tibi cleaned and now in use with Doctor Donovan
- Working closely with Dr Steele due to the positive Covid test

DM Environment/ Nature

Darwin Plus Funding Approvals

- Darwin Plus Application - RSPB. Project: Inhabited Territory restoration: completing preparations for a rodent-free Pitcairn Islands.
- Darwin Plus Application - Prof. T Dawson, Kings College London. Project: Humpback Whales of the Pitcairn Islands.

Both project Leads are making arrangements for visits to Pitcairn in the later of the year.

Marine

- MPA Officer and DM continue to liaise with Blue belt Leads.
- Preparation/development is underway on material for community consultation around the Marine Conservation Regulations.
- We are awaiting from Blue Abacus on the report from the BRUVs work carried on the scientific expedition we are expecting that either July/Aug.
- Blue belt has started uploading some Pitcairn content on Facebook and Twitter.
- A Masters student from Newcastle University UK will be conducting a desk base study on Oeno.
- A student from Southampton University will be conducting a desk base study on localised climate change on Pitcairn. The work will be around sea temperature and sea levels.

- An Operational workplan is currently being developed by Blue belt as a tool for the MPA Officer.
- Monitoring and Research Plan is currently being developed which will be used as a guide for the MPA Officer and future researchers.
- Blue Belt are in consultation with St. Andrews to re-work and adapt a phone app for Pitcairn to record fish catches.

Land

- Land Management Officer is carrying out consultation with land holders and reviewing their existing holdings to ensure files are up to date.

Bio Security

- Department currently reviewing the draft Bio Security Legislation and will provide feedback to the DM to submit to the AG.

DM Operations

- Finalised, signed and filed all permanent contracts.
- Outer Islands expedition and passage navigation training.
- Regular monthly Grounds maintenance and cleaning was carried out during the month.

COMTECH

- Repaired and replaced line filters.
- Resolved some phone issues and ordered required Telrad parts for remaining premises.

ELECTRICAL

- Complete installation of 6 Government solar systems.
- Complete installation of 1 residential solar system.

ENGINEERING

- Completed repairs to mobile crane.
- Service and maintenance work on power generators.
- Service and maintenance to longboats.

LANDING

- Unload supplies and passenger transfer from Silver Supporter.

R.A.M

- Regular monthly road maintenance was carried out during the month and prep work for the concreting of roads.

PROJECTS

- Complete insulation installation to Health Centre.
- Prepare EU solar concept and costing for Pitcairn.
- Construct walls for Marine Science Base.

DM Finance and Economics

The DM tendered his resignation as GPI Divisional Manager on Monday 4 July 2022 with a two-month notice period with the intention of finishing up at the end of August 2022.

The F&E DM JD has been shared and will be used for the recruitment of the F&E role, which will be initially for a 6-month term (future recruitment to be decided by the permanent administrators).

The Post Office.

The Post Office has suffered from lack of visitors but gallery and honey sales have provided a worthwhile boost.

There have been challenges with the lack of a mail tracking system following the global Covid shutdown which we are attempting to resolve.

There have been problems with delivery of new stamp issues from recently appointed Agents. Tower Mint. We need to be more proactive in addressing these issues with PIO and Tower Mint. Currently PIO lead on this

Tourism.

Things are now picking up with a large number of cruise ship bookings going forward and hopefully income from tourists travelling from Mangareva now French Polynesia has opened up. The Silver

	<p>Supporter schedule has been advertised and bookings are now being taken.</p> <p>Tim Moody will assume responsibility as Administrator from the 31st of July until early October.</p>
JMC Agenda	<p>Cr Simon Young circulated an Agenda of items that will be raised at the JMC that he is due to attend. He has already approached DM's which may have input which he may bring to the table. He asked if Councillors had anything further, they wished to add to each session he had listed.</p> <p>Some discussion around the implementation of the recommendations of the White Paper for independent rule as indicated in the agenda re the first session of the JMC. Councillors feel that consultation (i.e., Council) needs to continue in matters that affect the island. A few councillors felt that there was still lack of consultation between HMG and Pitcairn's governing body and being empowered to speak and work on behalf of the community. The Administrator assured Council that HMG is proactive in promoting all the good news stories of Pitcairn and supporting Councils actions to improve all aspects and opportunities of life on island.</p> <p>Noted that different Administrators, or Deputy Governors who are put in place have different views on where Pitcairn should go and proceed to implement them, sometimes with, and sometimes without island input. Councillors also noted that sometimes visions which DM's or Council see can benefit the island are disregarded. Council felt better communication and relationships can be fostered with the FCDO.</p> <p>The Administrator noted that each OT is different and each territory has varying ways to link in with each governing body. He noted that there are always gaps where communication drops through, but these areas can be worked on to ensure clearer information highways.</p>

	<p>Concern over engagement with what the community wants and what the council wants and the disconnect between the two.</p> <p>Session two had been discussed with the Division Manager for Natural Resources and the Administrator for their input. Council felt that promotion of all the work and positive results Pitcairn has already accomplished – MPA or Renewable Energy for example, could be pushed.</p> <p>Concern again raised that no consultation with the community asking what's important to them to promote a Pitcairn they see is worth fighting for. Poor roads, communication and lack of elderly care was noted strongly as something that is not being seen as important compared to the building of a Marine Research centre by HMG or Council itself.</p> <p>A long discussion on what was important to the island to ensure that the islanders themselves see will be a sustainable future so that the community survives. It was asked if the marine base, roads, communication, anything that is currently being worked is really seen as able to support or continue to ensure the future.</p> <p>Session three discusses the building of a successful, and sustainable economy. Pitcairn needs to be clear of what they want, where they want the island to go, what economic benefits that can come to the island through interactions and projects with the SPC for example. Where can funding benefit the island, community etc. The question was raised – what does the island want? It is unclear as a fractured community has taken opportunities given to them and run with them without a focused vision to strive towards.</p> <p>Session four discusses security.</p> <p>Session five touches on inclusivity – international human rights and creating equal opportunities for all. Council felt our policies around child protection and LGBTQ+ are</p>
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	<p>exemplary and forward thinking and worth promoting.</p>
<p>Social Protection System</p>	<p>The Administrator advised that the underlying principle is that we want to ensure anyone that is vulnerable is supported, and that mechanisms are available to prevent people falling on hard times (i.e., not being able to meet their 'needs' to put food on the table, a roof over their head, access healthcare, have power etc). As you know HMG are committed to providing 'reasonable needs assistance' to Pitcairn.</p> <p>The proposed way forward is to make full use of existing processes/ policies, and to address any additional requests for support and assistance on a case-by-case basis if not covered by existing policies. Any request for support should be made to a panel consisting of DM Communities, the Administrator and the FCA (when in post) to review their situation and agree what support is required. They are the three who are best placed to consider such requests and will be able to make a decision based on the evidence provided (where financial support is requested, they will conduct an open book review of the applicant's financial position).</p> <p>Current policies that continue to provide tailored support include: pensions, child benefit, maternity/ sick leave, council housing, home support, loan scheme. If further support is required, this would be defined as a welfare payment (or payments), as referred to in the Budgetary Aid policy, which can be set on a case-by-case basis. I do not believe a whole new process/ policy is required to begin implementing this immediately.</p> <p>The Administrator advised that he would like to thank all those who have contributed to this process so far. A lot of work went into the basket of goods analysis. Pitcairn has shown how resilient it can be during the last two years of closed borders, and this provides the clearest evidence that any blanket approach (like the initial emergency support) is not justified on an ongoing basis, but the ability to respond on a case-by-case basis and be agile provides the best response to</p>

	<p>allow any interventions to be tailored to the individuals, and implemented by those on island who are best placed to make these judgements.</p> <p>Council discussed issues around those who may struggle, and what is already available to support them. It was agreed that staying proactive and continuously updating policy and process to support those more vulnerable.</p>
<p>GPI Solar Panel Project</p>	<p><u>Proposal for delivery of EU Solar Power Project</u></p> <p>Funding for a PV solar project was included in the EU projects provision. A previous competitive tender exercise took place (prior to any private solar kits on houses), but the resulting bids were unaffordable from the available funding. Following widespread take up of residential solar, this proposal focusses on public areas, and reducing the reliance on diesel.</p> <p><u>Current situation</u></p> <p>All HMG properties are now running on Solar King solar kits (Clinic, police station/ house, school, administrator house, doctor/teacher/FCA houses), with solar to the satellite dish still to be installed. We are less than a short while into using these, but they appear to be working well and it appears they are sufficient for the current loading (we should be able to do some trend analysis once they have been in place for longer, but encouraging they are working well even in the winter).</p> <p>Almost all residential properties that are currently occupied (or due to be occupied from people who may come back) have private solar house kits, that (from utility bills) have brought their grid usage to almost zero. There are 6 properties that are yet to receive private panels, but 3 kits are due on the next ship, and 3 on the Nov ship. That should then be all private residences covered through private supply/ private arrangements.</p> <p>Diesel consumption before the arrival of private supply panels was approximately 4,500 litres per month. This has significantly dropped since private installations (I believe down to 1,500 – 3,000 litres per month), and will drop further now with the HMG installations.</p>

This essentially leaves the community areas and GPI buildings that still require solar power, and that still require the generator to be running through the day.

The Administrator believes there is approximately Euro 430k (NZ\$ 707k currently) remaining with SPF that is allocated to solar for Pitcairn, and the bids received to date far exceed this (and were based on starting from zero solar provision, but obviously things have moved on). The PIO are also due to receive a proposal for provision of a solar-farm type solution, but a decision on how to progress is required urgently to avoid losing the funding from the EU.

Plan to implement remaining solar

The plan is to use Solar King units (as recently procured and installed for HMG properties) to meet the remaining need, and allow the generators to be turned off for the majority of the day. They are easily scalable, modular, and the team are familiar with installation and operation. They are supplied from NZ so spares should be straightforward and readily available.

This will require a number of mini grids set up across the island for solar provision. The island wide grid will be maintained, and the diesel generators available when demand requires it either when there is limited sun, or for heavy usage (i.e., heavy engineering operations). The plan includes provision of one new (smaller 60KVA) generator to 1) provide resilience for the ageing generators and 2) release one of the current generators to power the recycling plant (which needs 3 phases). A new switchboard is also included to allow smart control of the generator provision, and ensure generator operation is minimised to run only when there is demand (and to run for maintenance purposes).

Detailed breakdown

The detailed breakdown of the plan (within the available budget) has also been shared, which shows where each additional mini/ micro grid will be located. The complete original quote from SK came in at NZ\$1.8m, which is over budget, but also

	<p>unnecessary given the remaining need. The detailed plan comes in at NZ\$683k, excluding freight, but this is scalable and we could increase/ reduce the units as necessary (but what we want to avoid is leaving an area with no solar if it has a constant demand, as that will then require constant generator operation).</p> <p><u>Goal/ vision</u></p> <p>100% provision of solar power for Pitcairn is unrealistic at this stage. But the goal is to provide for the majority of the remaining baseload requirement, and to have a system that can be scaled to suit the need (modules can be moved between mini grids, or added by buying more). I think the vision should be to have Pitcairn providing all electricity from renewable sources for a full day, then a full week, and maybe then a full month depending on the success of the rollout (and whether people adapt their usage in line with available power). A 90 or 95% reduction in diesel use (from pre-private solar) might well be achievable with this funding, and would be a great story for Pitcairn.</p> <p><u>Decision required by Council</u></p> <p>Councils' endorsement of this approach is sought. An endorsed proposal is required (we believe by the end of July) to prevent the current funding being lost (which is a real and imminent risk). This sets out an affordable way to achieve almost entire solar power to the island within the next 6-12 months (depending on shipping and stock availability), and by using a modular approach this can be continuously tailored to Pitcairn's needs.</p> <p>Council discussed the options given and logistics of setting up a solar farm, however as a new company has submitted a tender and Council will reconvene and discuss after review.</p>
<p>Summary Offences (Penalties) Amendment Ordinance</p>	<p>Cr Heather Menzies asked Council to approve the Ordinance as discussed during the month of June/July via email chain.</p> <p>MOTION: Cr H Menzies / Cr M Christian</p>

	<p>"That the Summary Offences (Penalties) Amendment Ordinance be approved and that the Island Secretary will advise the Attorney General Office of Council's approval."</p> <p>One Abstention / Carried</p> <p>ACTION: Island Secretary to advise Attorney General of Council's approval of the Summary Offences (Penalties) Amendment Ordinance.</p>
Matters arising:	
Breadfruit interpretation board for Aranui Breadfruit Trees	<p>Cr H Menzies has put together a draft Breadfruit interpretation board for the gifted Aranui Breadfruit Trees and will forward to councillors for their review.</p>
Capacity/Essential Services	<p>Cr Leslie Jaques spoke on the capacity issue around living on Pitcairn Island, for example continuation of essential services. He noted that there had been a paper written by himself and Cr M Christian that had not been tabled, and wished to present this at the next council meeting.</p> <p>Council spoke on their thoughts around the subject and importance of further discussion on this and agreed for the report to be added the agenda for next Regular Council Meeting.</p>
Date of next Regular Council meeting.	Sunday 24th July 2022
Closure of meeting.	The meeting closed at 2.00pm
Minutes Approved 4/10/2022	Mayor. <i>Warren</i>

