



PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held in The Square - Public Hall

Commencing at 8.35am on Wednesday 21st January 2015

Regular

Present:

Mayor Shawn Christian, Deputy Mayor Brenda Lupton-Christian, Cr David Brown,
Cr Charlene Warren-Peu, Cr Sue O'Keefe, Administrator Alan Richmond,
Cr Melva Evans, Cr Leslie Jaques
Island Temp. Secretary – Linda Singer

Apologies:

Cr Darralyn Griffiths, Cr Michele Christian

Gallery:

Constable John Singer, Kari Boye-Young

Opening Prayer:

Cr Charlene Warren-Peu

Welcome:

Mayor Shawn Christian

Matters Arising:

PEW Notice:

- Mayor noted the launch of the PEW Virtual Watch Room Satellite today. Copy of link available for Councillors to view the live feed.

Commonwealth Flag:

- Mayor asked Council for support to fly the Commonwealth Flag on Commonwealth Day - 9th March 2015 on Pitcairn Island.

Approved by Council

Foreign Office Building London: Pitcairn Flag

- Mayor announced that the Foreign Office will fly Pitcairn Flag on Bounty Day – Pitcairn National Holiday. Administrator Alan Richmond to relay appreciation of gesture by Pitcairn Island Council to the Foreign Office. Photographs available on Foreign Office Twitter feed after the event.

Budgets:

- Budgets have been deferred from today's agenda and scheduled for next Council specifically for Budgets to finalise restructure plan on Wednesday 28th January 2015 8.30a.m.

Council Report:

Apologies re: International Relations Report not being included in Island Report.

- Cr Leslie Jaques speaks to late additions to the Report
- Hard copy given to Councillors and any questions arising from Report to be addressed to Leslie or if major issue to formalise for next Council Meeting.
- Questions re: Report –*Nil*
- Highlighted in Jacqui's and Leslie Reports was the need for assistance to develop an Environmental Policy.

Pitcairn Library –

- Pg. 9 of Island Council Report states Pitcairn Library is open three times per week. It is believed that this is incorrect and the Library is open twice a week and the third day the Museum is open.

Tourism Department-

- Updating of the webpage continues despite computer malfunction issues. Tourism Dept. is purchasing own new software.

Island Council Report Pg. 10(f) – Divisional Manager - Natural Resources-

- Clarification sought and discussion followed regarding the proposed Marine Reserve and possibility of students coming to Pitcairn Island to study Marine Biology. A student has made an enquiry for funding of study/research through the Darwin Project. The Darwin Project – Terry Dawson is assessing sustainable fisheries management and PEW supports the establishment of a Marine Reserve which is under consideration by FCO. Policy and Guidelines need to be developed for Information from Pitcairn Is. re:-studies.

The above mentioned student will be advised to use current processes and submit application for a Visa as per website details. DM to refer them back to website.

Comments

- A question was asked about what specific Audits are done, from all income streams for Pitcairn Is.

Response: As this is Operational Procedure it is to be discussed outside of Council

- Cr Jaques on behalf of Council thanked all who contributed to the organising of the Christmas celebration in the Square and its new format. It was a positive community event – the best Christmas ever.
- Miscellany – A reminder that ships have asked that pictures of their vessels are **not** printed in Miscellany with the exception of gracht Ships and Cruise Ships and yachts.

Motion to Approve Reports – Carried

Moved – Cr David Brown

Seconded – Cr Charlene Warren-Peu

Minutes of Last Meeting - 07 Jan 2015:

Motion to Approve - Carried

Moved – Cr Leslie Jaques

Second –Cr Charlene Warren-Peu

- Amendment: Re: Council Approval sought to accept develop concept for continuing Pitcairn representation in Brussels for 12 months from February. Should have read;

6-0

6 affirmative

1 abstain

Motion Carried

- Mayor Shawn Christian spoke to Evan with regard to a sub account for Conservation donations. This is being actioned.

Share Out Policy:

Proposed Amendments –

- Under Objectives –used to read- *“all items addressed to the community”*, shall now read *“all items donated to the community.”*
- 1. All donated items that may be of use to the entire community e.g. gym equipment will be kept in the Public Hall for the entire community to use.
- 2. All donated books, movies, music, software, gaming and the like are to be placed in the Pitcairn Island Library.

This centralises the share out for the community as a whole rather than have individual recipients.

- Under Residency Clause- to change/remove –*“ and qualify after six months of residency”*
- Under Definitions – to change/ remove-*“ and qualify after six months of residency”*

Motion to Approve Amendments to Policy – Carried

Motion – Cr Brenda Lupton-Christian

Second – Cr David Brown

P.I Council Audio Recording Policy:

After discussions with the Administrator Alan Richmond, Mayor Shawn Christian proposes to dissolve the Policy for Audio Recording at Council meetings for public purchase.

Recording is for internal purpose only as a reference for the accurate writing of minutes by the Island Secretary.

Approved and signed Minutes are available for the public and are the Official Minutes. Public are free to make their own recordings and attend Council Meetings in the Public Gallery. A general discussion followed

Motion to Abolish Audio Recording Policy

Motion - Mayor Shawn Christian

Affirmative - 6

Against - 1

6-1 Carried

Business Visa Application – Adrian Young

Cr Brenda Lupton-Christian tabled an email from Adrian Young intending to visit Pitcairn February 26 2015 – March 12 2015 to assist with the writing of his dissertation on the

history of travellers, missionaries, scientists and historians' interest in and uses of Pitcairn and Norfolk islands across last two centuries. Followed by a general discussion Council is asked to approve the purpose of Mr Young's visit.

Proposed - Cr Leslie Jaques

Second – Cr Melva Evans

Approved

Immigration Application - Tim Makin's

- Mayor Shawn Christian tabled a note for Councillors information about the withdrawal of Tim Makin's settlement application. A general discussion followed re: repopulation and attracting migrants.

Firearms Ordinance:

A letter of response from Governor Jonathan Sinclair 15.01.15 was tabled re: amendments to the Firearms regulation. After wide consultation with experts on this proposal the Governor has rejected the proposed amendment. General discussion followed.

Administrator Alan Richmond confirmed that the process for buying/owning firearms and obtaining gun licenses has not changed.

Honey Import – James Driscoll:

It was noted that there was a move in NZ to prevent the importation of honey from Pacific Islands. Council support the appointment of James Driscoll in NZ to act on Pitcairn's behalf in making appropriate representation in support of Pitcairn honey imports. It was also noted that any changes should not affect Pitcairn honey in transit. Council to approve James Driscoll as representative for Pitcairn Island on this issue.

Motion – Mayor Shawn Christian

Second – Cr Charlene Warren-Peu

Approved

Council moves into workshop to discuss/comment on and amend

Environmental Protection Ordinance/Regulations

- It was noted the Repeals that have been taken out have been condensed into one Ordinance bringing the regulations from various parts of the law books into one single Ordinance. Examples given:
 - Reference to Section 6, Reg. 1-8 Part 4. Goats has been tidied up

- Subsection C, Wildlife, Subsection D, Pesticides.
- Powers of Biosecurity Officer. There is no longer a reference to Quarantine Officer. Quarantine Act repealed in 2007(?).
- Job title change from Quarantine Officer to Biosecurity Officer. To be looked at by Michelle as Head of Dept. with restructure.
- Bulk of additional input has been on expert advice from RSPB. The Ordinance supports the greater cooperation between NGOs and Pitcairn Island. PI needs to be serious about protecting environment.
- Two aspects that need to be balanced,
 - (1) the environment,
 - (2) Community that utilises the environment and the future development. Balance to be made with Environment protection and needs of community aligned with SDP
- Simplify- 18pg document with an island of 42 plus 15 off islanders.
- We have 2 police officers and with proposed restructure could possibly see up to 8 enforcement officers with 1 ordinance. Propose to have any enforcement under ordinance carried out by police officers. Ex-Pat Police on island is used to carrying out searches/investigation and this minimises the chances of getting it wrong.
- If we have a local individual get it wrong it could cost the GPI. We cannot afford to spend money due to an overzealous individual extending their authority.
- Concern that a Biosecurity Officer does not need a Warrant.
- Initial recommended changes have been submitted to Danielle following input from Michelle as HoD and Jay as Biosecurity Officer.
- Pitcairn Is. Council has already reviewed the document referred to and dated 01.October 2014 up to 'Cultural Species' back in November 2014. That is the latest version.
- Goats are now referred to in EPO rather than as previously in the Animal Ordinance- for purpose of eradication.
- It was commented that there must be an open and transparent process for community involvement and comment. PI Council view to be for the benefit of the Island as a whole with every Ordinance.

Council works through Draft Ordinance explaining comments and recommended changes:

- Pg.2 'Whether Native Species or not...'
- There is already a document by Nolene Smith that lists species.
- All Councillors asked for comment on Draft Ordinance

Objection voiced regarding " Authority may enter without warrant...'
 Mayor to cover off this point later in discussion.

Pg. 4

- Point 6- 'Biosecurity may 'take action...'
It was suggested it should read, 'The Director of Biosecurity'...
- ...'keeping of Controlled Plant'
Definition of Controlled plant required.

Pg.9 Part 3

- Police or Biosecurity to enforce

Question- do we need within a small community? It is unreasonable to allow Biosecurity Officer to visit property because it is in their power to do so.

Explanation: -that only when a controlled species is kept according to permit. Ordinance states...is not for entry to private house.

...have to consider 'reasonable time' for entry into a private house.

Section 2

- Definition of Biosecurity Office or Police Officer.

For the purpose of fines then should be just the Police Officer because Pitcairn Islands does not have the infrastructure to deal with prosecution.

If we are giving power and authority to a person without formal training other than a Police Officer whose power is quite clear and common practice within law, if that person violates people's rights we don't have the legal representation on Pitcairn Island to deal with it.

Question-can we avoid potential problems. Powers invested in Police are not to extend to Biosecurity Officer. Biosecurity Officer is to be accompanied by Police Officer.

Answer-Cannot give the same powers to persons without training. Will have to be accompanied by Police Officer, either Local Police or Community Police Officer. Talking about the wider context of enforcement not to strip the authority from the Biosecurity Officer.

The intention is to avoid conflict within a small community and make sure it gets done professionally. We should use the Police.

Pg. 14 Enforcement Officers.

Discussion on the need for Biosecurity Officer receive sufficient training in areas of detaining.

Council Meeting suspended for VTC with Governor 11.57 am

Meeting Resumed 12.22pm

Propose that the Ordinance go through as is with the rider that Biosecurity Officer only to conduct search power when certified training has been given.

Every Enforcement Officer be trained. This is also to ensure that whilst an Officer is off the Island, his replacement also be trained. This will include the power of Use of Force.

This is not required to be changed in law but training matter needs to be in Job Description.

Pg16 under Misc.

Matter discussed and confirmed that Policies are covered in this Ordinance.

Under DG

Confirm that proposed change, where it refers to carcass of an animal, should be returned when possible to the owner.

Discussion on the definition of Native species and Endemic species.

Endemic is covered under endangered species laws.

Ordinance to be sent to Administrator for review after canvassing community for feedback then to take a vote of Council.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 28th January 2015

Meeting Closed 12.50pm

Mayor Shawn Christian: 

Date: 26 / 2 / 2015

