



PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held in The Square - Public Hall

Commencing at 8.30am on Friday 29th May 2015

Present:

Mayor Shawn Christian, Deputy Mayor Brenda Lupton-Christian, Cr David Brown,
Cr Charlene Warren-Peu, Cr Darralyn Griffiths, Cr Michele Christian, Cr Leslie Jaques,
Administrator Alan Richmond, Director Overseas Territories Peter Hayes, and Financial
Controller Evan Dunn

Island Temp. Secretary – Heather Menzies

Apologies:

None

Gallery:

Closed

Opening Prayer:

Cr Charlene Warren- Peu

Welcome:

Mayor Shawn Christian welcomed Peter Hayes and Evan Dunn to Council and handed over to Mr Hayes.

Peter Hayes expressed his sincere appreciation of the welcome he has received on this, his first visit to Pitcairn. He conveyed that he is not expecting dramatic change of policy given the change in government and that conservative manifesto continues to advocates support of all Britain's overseas territories. This includes the Marine Reserve - a project which will entail all stakeholders working together to implement over time.

Mr Hayes noted he is very aware of the specific challenges relating to Pitcairn given its isolation and stressed his commitment to us working together to ensure the islands future. He stressed that it is important for Pitcairn to focus who and what it is, moving forward so as to clarify and build on the interdependence of the Pitcairn's history, cultural and natural resources and its developing tourism industry

He noted that PIO and London office will continue to support the island's development – particularly in relation to access.

The Mayor agreed with the importance of developing niche market tourism products and which both Pitcairners and visitors value.

Cr Leslie Jaques endorsed the Mayor's comments and acknowledged Council's forward thinking stating that eco-tourism direction is the way forward. He noted that though we are currently constrained by capacity issues. The 3 migrant workers recently contracted from French Polynesia, will ideally provide a positive trial run for future workforce development. And we continue to work on immigration and we are looking to enhance relations with NGOs, via the St Andrew's partnership, to ensure the research and outcomes work for Pitcairn.

Financial Controller Evan Dunn thanked Council and reiterated that PIO is there to assist and urged people to continue to be persistent if they require information and immediate response.

Cr Darralyn/Griffiths stated that we basically need more people to help the island sustain. Mr Hayes asked whether she felt the council and community are now ready and opened to this she said that yes she believes they are and that Councillors are actively promoting the fact that the community must be open to all potential new immigrants – not just those of Pitcairn or Pacific island descent.

Councillor Michele Christian spoke of the proposed new immigrant buddy system which has been developed to aid integration when new immigrants first arrive.

The Mayor added that utilising the existing skills of local residents is just as important as welcoming long term visitors and new immigrants. He stressed the importance of we need to accessing the skills and talents within the community regardless of position or authority. He stated that the success of this council will be measured on how well we engage the community across the board, accessing support and expertise locally and via our partners and external stakeholders.

Cr Brenda Christian raised her concern that there are some structural barriers to immigration which require review noting that application fees and associated costs are deterrent potential immigrants. She also noted that some of the responses recorded in the diaspora survey were gathered from people have not been back to the island in years and they are not aware of how things have changed.

In response Mr Hayes agreed that the diaspora is just one part of the potential pool of immigrants so should be viewed with in context. However, it can be useful as a vehicle measure changing perceptions. By way of example he spoke of the Irish, living in North America, being resistant to returning to Ireland because they believed things were same as they had been in the 1970's.

Cr Brenda Christian asked the FC about the status of the GT position given the past holder of that position was due to return to the island. The FC confirmed that this is an open and on-going matter that had been referred to DFID. And the Mayor requested that this be discussed outside of Council if required.

Cr Christian went on to raise her concerns about Bradley Christian who is attending boarding school in New Zealand. The Mayor requested this matter be raised with the FC outside of Council.

The Mayor went on to discuss the forth coming child safety review, which will be desk based and stated that this Council is keen to respond to any and all recommendations to help promote a positive outcomes. He stressed that this Council is committed to taking greater responsibility for its community and social development.

The Administrator acknowledged Council's improved commitment and ability to focus down on what is important to Pitcairn. He sees Council more focused on working toward clear outcomes, unencumbered by overly bureaucratic systems and processes.

Mayor noted that the move away from Gov. Rep to Administrator has been pivotal in bringing about these positive changes which he sees as enabling Council to focus on and be driven by its strategic goals.

Cr Michele Christian added that communication is greatly improved and acknowledged the Governor's modern approach and management style.

In closing the Mayor raised the on-going - during the restructure process we have started to look at integrating divisions and looking what aspects of the islands operations can be self- funding.

Council Closed 9.40pm

Next Proposed Council Meeting: Friday 29th Closed Council - 9.00am

Next Regular Council June 10th 2015 – 8.30am

Meeting Closed: 9.15am

Mayor Shawn Christian.....

Date..11...../.....6...../..2015.....

