



PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL

**Public Meeting Notes
Teleconference with Acting Governor, Robin Shackell and Contracted Facilitators,
Kathryn Barriball & Jim Heays
Held at the Public Hall - 1.00pm Wednesday July 19th 2017**

Present:

Mayor Shawn Christian and Councillors: Cr Lea Brown, Cr Darralyn Griffiths, Cr Brenda Christian, Cr Michele Christian, Deputy Mayor Charlene Warren-Peu & Island Secretary Heather Menzies.
HMG Acting Governor (AG) - Robin Shackell, Acting Administrator (AA) – Nicholas Kennedy, Kathryn Barriball and Jim Heays.

Apologies: Cr Leslie Jaques.

Gallery: Detective Sargent William Crowe, Dave Brown, Meralda Warren, Nadine Christian, Vaine Warren-Peu, Jayden Warren-Peu, Melva Evans, Mike Warren, Dennis Christian, Turi Griffiths, Jay Warren, Carol Warren, Pawl Warren, Sue O'Keefe, Dr Jack Dracula.

The Acting Governor (AG) opened the meeting and welcomed contracted facilitators, Kathryn Barriball and Jim Heays. He then enquired as to who, on Pitcairn, was in attendance and the Mayor stated the names of those present. The AG greeted everyone and handed proceedings to the Mayor and Ms Barriball.

The Mayor explained that the reason for holding this pre-arrival teleconference with contractors Kathryn Barriball and Jim Heays was to introduce Kathryn to the community and ensure that they have ample time on island when they arrive (from Aug 17th – Sept 3rd 2017). He suggested the facilitators hold an initial community consultation meeting, when they arrive, and a closing meeting, prior to their departure, which will enable plenty of time for private one-on-one and family sessions to take place - as discussed at the last teleconference with Council. Ms Barriball agreed that this structure would work.

The Mayor said Council had initiated this process to address past Child Safety Review (CSR) recommendations that some form of public recognition of past abuses needed to take place. He said the first issue is the legacy of Pitcairn's history of past abuses and the second is Pitcairn's continued commitment to ensuring that child safety remains a priority. He suggested that the legacy of past abuse be dealt with, in consultation with the community, when Ms Barriball arrives. He then said that today's focus should be on discussing the island's commitment to ensuring that past abuses are never repeated and to consider how the CSR's comments can be best addressed.

In response Ms Barriball said she firstly wanted to make it clear that she is not in the least bit interested in finger-pointing and that she is wanting to deal with things more generally. She went on to say that as far as the Child Safeguarding training goes, the community survey results show that most people feel that they had what they needed from the child safe-guarding training already provided – as such her intention will be to check in with individuals and families to identify any gaps and top up information and resources accordingly.

The Mayor said it is important that the Community and Council can come to understand what it is that triggered the CSR's comments about the need for some form of public recognition of past behaviours. He said the Pitcairn people have worked hard to move on from Operation Unique – though this may not have been formally acknowledged. He said the community survey results show that people are now well educated around child safeguarding – people know what is right and what is wrong and they also know what might have been thought of as right or wrong in the past. This in turn has led them to ask why those in authority allowed past abusive behaviours to occur. He said the people of Pitcairn deserve the opportunity to move on.

The AA asked Ms Barriball to tell the community about herself. She stated that she is a psychotherapist who has worked with victims of abuse and with people who have abused others. She spent 6 weeks on island in 2001 and she was also asked to review the program that was run in the prison. She said she has a very clear understanding of the dynamics of sexual abuse and she agreed to come back to the island because she has experience of the community and appreciates that things are a little different on Pitcairn. She said she hopes to assist the island to move forward and she has no set agenda. She sees her role as providing structure and leadership for the community to take a further step in bringing Pitcairn's legacy of abuse to a close.

Michele Christian asked Ms Barriball what her intention was when visiting people in their homes - will she be offering therapy? Ms Barriball stated she is not formally contracted to provide therapy but she can refer those wishing to speak with a therapist. She will provide general support, insight and advice when interacting with those she visits.

Cr Darralyn Griffiths asked Ms Barriball what her interpretation of the past CSR's recommendation that some form of 'public recognition' is required. Ms Barriball said she thought it would be 'one out of the box' if there was a consensus across the whole community. She said one of her first questions to the community will be 'how do you want to work this? Is it going to be by consensus or majority rule? We will need to brainstorm some ways of doing this and it will need to come about in a way that neither covers anything up or makes anyone look bad. Cr Darralyn Griffiths said we may not get 100% consensus but we should be able to work with the majority. If that is not good enough for the CSR's then they should help the community to come up with solutions for this. Ms Barriball said it is not uncommon for one or two people, in a group that has had to deal with sexual abuse issues, to not be ready and it is ok to say that the majority of the group are - if that is the case. She agreed that it would be practical to go by the majority and said she hoped this would be good enough (for the CSR's).

Sue O'Keefe introduced herself to Ms Barriball She read out a list of questions and asked that they be recorded in the meeting notes and forwarded as necessary.

In terms of data, will comparative studies, on similar situations in isolated island populations, be supplied?

- *Can data be provided on any population, statistically that has a higher number, per capita, who have completed course on Child Safeguarding?*
- *Can data be provided on any other isolated island community that has 1 police officer per 25 people, on average?*
- *Can data be provided on any other population, with a single port of entry, that is more closely monitored?*
- *Has HMG ever accepted responsibility for not more closely monitoring on-island activity historically?*
- *Will information be made available, on-island, about the level of concern HMG has in regard to the current population and child safety?*

- *Can information be provided on any other population that has had no convictions for sexual abuse for over 5 years?*
- *What does HMG expect from the community during the time you (the contracted facilitators) are on island?*

Ms Barriball, having heard the questions, said she felt they would be better directed to HMG (Robin Shackell) rather than to her. The AG said that he can have a look but it will take a lot of time and effort to compile that information. He said he will take the request and have a think about. He said HMG certainly does have data from other overseas territories but it may take time to get hold of.

He then said, with regard to HMG's historic involvement on Pitcairn, that when he was last on-island (in May 2017) he had told Council that if you look at the history of Pitcairn, going right back to when it was first populated by people from the Bounty we would probably be right to say that in certain contexts, there were certain that we (HMG) could have been more present. It is also true to say that in the last 20 years we have been present. There has been a major effort to work with Pitcairn. There are harmonious relations between HMG and Council and relations, in very many areas, are good.

He said, we (HMG) are not trying to push Pitcairn in any particular direction. What we hope is that this will be a process that can heal and bring this to people who don't yet have that. We are not trying to prescribe to the island how this process should run or what should come out of it. We are hoping that when the next CSR comes along it will be much better than the last once – which was good in very many areas. We don't see this as a 'them and us' type of thing. We see it as a partnership between the Island and HMG and we are not trying to point the finger at anybody in this process. This is not something we want to do.

In response the Mayor said the past is in the past. We can acknowledge that things have been wrong in the past but we should not dwell in the past. We must move forward. He said the background as to why we are all at today's meeting is because past CSR reports have stated that there was a need for those convicted of sexual offences, as a result of Operation Unique, to show 'some form of public recognition' of past behaviours. He said, Jim Heays (the on-island Social Worker in early 2017), and HMG Administrator Hebb, had presented Council (in workshop on Jan 4th, 2017) with a proposal to have those who had been convicted, as a result of Operation Unique, sign a statement acknowledging and apologising for past behaviours (this option was tabled in workshop as 'Plan A'). The proposal further stated that should Council not support Plan A, HMG will, in addition to the scheduled Child Safety Review in November 2017, contract professional support to work with the entire community to address, what it referred to as, the 'Unique Legacy' (noted in the proposal as, 'Plan B').

The Mayor told those present that Council had not agreed to Plan A. Had it done, maybe 4 or 5 people would have agreed to sign such a statement and perhaps that would have been that. Instead Council agreed to HMG initiating Plan B. In order to keep the Community informed of these matters Council undertook a survey to get a sense of what the community felt it needed in order to bring Pitcairn's history of past abuse to a close and to inform HMG and the facilitators of their position.

He said Pitcairn's history of abuse ran far deeper than Operation Unique but what today is the point of delving into that past or attempting to hold HMG or anyone else accountable for the past.

He said in order to move forward the real issues are:

- What are the independent CSR reviewers looking for?
- What has informed their thinking in the past and what should be the focus for the community

- What form should this 'public recognition' take?
- Are the facilitators and the CSR reviewers wanting to focus on 4 or 5 people and solely on the legacy of Operation Unique or are they going to work with the community in prioritising the island's commitment to child safeguarding and help bring its history of past abuse to a close - once and for all.

If the latter is the case, he said, he is confident that the majority will respond positively, with hand-on heart, they will be able to stand up and acknowledge that some things were wrong and they will make sure it will not ever happen again on Pitcairn.

In response, Ms Barriball said whilst she cannot speak for the Child Safeguarding Reviewers she thinks exploring the following questions will be useful:

- Does the community take responsibility for what has happened in the past?
- Does the community understand what contributed to that being able to occur?
- Does it understand that it was wrong and why was it wrong?
- Does it have mechanisms in place to make sure it doesn't happen in the future?

She said she sees that there are two things in play here. One being, what needs to be done to satisfy the Child Safeguarding reviewers. And then, there is healing. And, the two may not be the same. This will have to be worked through when she gets to the island. The Mayor thanked Ms Barriball for her helpful answers and said he looks forward to her arrival in August.

In closing the AG said HMG is absolutely aware of the amount of progress that has been made on Pitcairn. He said he see this as a direct result of the Mayor's leadership and the work that has gone on in the community.

Meeting Closed: 1:50pm

Mayor Shawn Christian:  Date: 3 / 8 / 2017

