



PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL

Minutes of the Special Council Meeting – with Alasdair Hamilton, Deputy Governor of the Pitcairn Islands Held at the Town Square, Adamstown Commencing at 08:30am, 15 October 2023

Present:

Alasdair Hamilton – Deputy Governor of the Pitcairn Islands, Acting Mayor Shawn Christian, Administrator Stephen Townsend, Cr Kevin Young, Cr Kerry Young, Cr Charlene Warren, Cr Melva Evans


Apologies: Mayor Simon Young, Cr Heather Menzies

In attendance: William Gordon – Island Secretary

Gallery: John Skerritt

Welcome: A moment of private reflection was taken.

Items	
1. Opening of the Meeting	Meeting Opened: 08:46am
2. Welcome all along with moment of reflection.	Acting Mayor Shawn Christian welcomed the Deputy Governor back to Pitcairn.
3. Welcome from The Deputy Governor	The Deputy Governor relayed that the Governor is grateful for her busy programme during her recent visit to Pitcairn, and that she has momentum for Pitcairn's further development.
4. Public Service Reform	<p>A general discussion was had about the history of the Pitcairn Public Service (PPS) and suggestions were put forward as to what potential systemic flaws need addressing.</p> <p>The Deputy Governor advised Council that the Governor was of the view that an external consultant may be best placed to assess the current situation and advise as to how reforms could be implemented.</p> <p>Further discussion about the need for simplicity was had.</p> <p>The Deputy Governor and the Administrator stressed that Pitcairn's population is very small, yet operational costs are relatively disproportionate and cannot be easily adjusted.</p>
5. Elder Care	The Deputy Governor affirmed the Governor's commitment to finding a feasible solution for Pitcairn's elder care needs, and that she is very receptive to the idea that Pitcairn could benefit from an on-island occupational therapist. It was also suggested that the role of the FCA be revisited with the view to revising their scope of work.

	<p>Council discussed the previous emphasis on child safety and the general lack of forward planning towards elder care, and how this can be remedied at present.</p> <p>Concern was also expressed about the present lack of financial assistance for those who may have to take a reduced role in the GPI workforce so that they may be able to care for elderly relatives.</p>
<p>6. Strategic Planning & Future Sustainability</p>	<p>Council discussed the demographic issues that Pitcairn faces and the ongoing desire to attract people back to the island.</p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding accessibility and the cost thereof; the need to sustain Pitcairn's language and cultural identity; and about the community's concerns about "what will tomorrow bring?"</p> <p>The Deputy Governor relayed to Council his thoughts as to when Pitcairn may reach a point of "no return" in terms of demographics. A figure of 5-10 years was given. He also expressed his view that the Marine Science Base is a very important focus point for Pitcairn's future.</p> <p>The Administrator advised that Pitcairn needs to build resilience against events which may cripple the tourism industry in the future.</p> <p>The general role of Council was discussed, as to whether it's role should be to manage all on-island affairs, or whether it should focus solely on strategic planning.</p> <p>Action: Council to come up with a 5 point strategic action plan for Pitcairn's future.</p>
<p>7. Banking</p>	<p>The Deputy Governor relayed the Governor's commitment to improving the banking situation on Pitcairn. The Governor is cognisant of the issues raised by the community at the Public Meeting during her recent visit.</p> <p>Council discussed the issues Pitcairn faces with its present lack of integrated banking services, and presented their concerns with how this is handled off-island.</p>
<p>Meeting Closed –</p>	<p>10:10am</p>
<p>Meeting Approved</p> <p>Mayor: </p> <p>Date: 9-11-2023</p>	<p>27 October 2023</p> <p><i>Acting Mayor Shawn Christian</i></p>

