



PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL
Public Meeting Minutes held at the Public Hall
Commencing at 9.00am Wednesday, 18th August 2021

Present:

Mayor Charlene Warren-Peu, Temporary Deputy Mayor Shawn Christian, Cr Simon Young, Cr S O'Keefe, Cr Lea Brown, Administrator Mark Tomlinson, Cr Michele Christian, Island Secretary Nadine Faulkner.

Apologies: None.

In attendance: Listed Councillors and 29 members of the community

Welcome: The Mayor welcomed the community to the meeting.

Agenda Item

The Mayor advised the purpose of meeting is to discuss the following five agenda items.

1.) Archaeological Expedition Proposals. The Mayor spoke on the two proposals that had been circulated to the community to read and review. She advised that Council will be meeting at the end of September, so any further questions the community has around the proposals can be asked to support Council's decision. One comment from the floor was to "let them (the interred) sleep". Another asked if anyone has really any knowledge that there are deceased under the floor of the hall. Past Pitcairn community members awareness around building over a gravesite was discussed and it was posited that the building would not have been located in this area if gravesites had been there. Some noted that they had been told by elders that exhumation had been done before building of the hall. Some felt that those directly related to those thought to be buried should be the only ones to make a decision on what happens, and some thought DNA testing would be extremely interesting.

Feedback from the community was mixed at this point, but the Mayor requested further thought and advise as soon as possible.

A show of hands for or against was taken to give a basic overview to see if it should even go ahead, but the Mayor noted that sometimes it is difficult to make a public show of your opinion, and suggested a note/email/letter was slipped into the mailbox at the ISEC office. A yes/no via ballot was taken and was tallied by Andy and Mark. The thoughts of community members not present was to be sought and the final result will be considered and advised.

2.) Community Square Complex. The Mayor asked the feeling from the community about what should happen to the whole community square area. Does the hall need to stay? Be renovated? Does the square stay? The ISEC offices? The community were curious about how much a renovation of the old town hall in which they sat would cost, and was advised there were funds for a renovation, but no costing has been done as yet. It was generally agreed that the current hall was suffering badly. Different options were discussed on what could occur – partial renovation, full renovation or demolition. One person asked if the hall could be renovated and turned into the new museum. One member noted there are donations from donators off island and these could be used to fund a full restoration and look at upgrading the whole square. It was noted that that state of the buildings in the square at present would mean a larger cash input than just the donations held in PIO from donators. EDF funds would be needed as well for such a large project. The restoration project would have to have specialist input to support the historic location and the buildings on site compared to a new build.

A show of hands was taken

For the concept of restoration of the whole square – hall/Isec office/post-office etc – 18

For the idea to demolish - 1

3). Covid-19 – Reopening Borders to Tahiti The Mayor spoke on reopening the borders to Tahiti, and noted that Council and HMG have been working together to facilitate the idea and process of Pitcairn / Tahitian travel for medical. At present with the new outbreaks in Tahiti and NZ at this time this will only be continued negotiation.

The administrator advised the community he had received a request from the French Navy for the FNS Bougainville to visit Pitcairn on the 30th of August 2021, with the crew being fully vaccinated. Council had decided to respectfully decline disembarkation/visit as Pitcairn's Covid Protocol does not allow this at this time.

The community moved on to discussions around Covid-19 and the situation around Tahiti and NZ at present. They noted that although the majority of Pitcairners have been vaccinated, with the Delta strain of the virus being so communicative, it can still be dangerous to bring back to the island from returning residents and brought into the light continuing worry of travel – either from NZ or Tahiti.

Community members asked if further support could be sought from HMG for British Passport holders to travel to NZ for medical treatment as it seems NZ is safer at this time than Tahiti. The Administrator advised that HMG has put a lot of work into this situation, but advised it is not a simple process as NZ Immigration has very strict regulations. The Administrator added that recent medical visits to NZ for British Passport holders have been granted access, though it has taken an immense amount of work recently going through the correct channels and ensuring all NZ immigration protocols were adhered to. He noted that the NZ Government is just as concerned with entry requirements as Pitcairn during this pandemic, notwithstanding usual requirements. As the situation progresses, HMG and the Administration will continue to work to support all residents who hold British Passports to enter NZ for medical needs etc.

4). Expedition to Outer Islands. The Administrator spoke on the expedition due to head out after Silver Supporter unloads at Pitcairn. The intent is to visit the islands to take scientific data retrieval as HMG has an environmental programme running throughout England and their OT's and have funded such at Pitcairn. He spoke briefly on what the expedition programme was and what data was planned on gathering. The departure date should be around early September.

From the floor was asked if all the plastic rubbish on Henderson from the last scientific expedition would be picked up. The administrator noted that if this could be done, it would. He advised if possible and weather permitted, the intention was to make sure the bags the trash and plastic had been collected in had not deteriorated, and the beaches were still tidy, or if plastic debris had multiplied again etc.

It was asked if thought had been discussed around the children being taken as an educational trip. It was noted that the trip is 15 to 17 days and is a long time to take children along. There may be a possibility that if another such excursion is proposed that they may be able to go - with planning. At this time the trip is geared towards scientific principles and data retrieval only.

5) Employment Contracts. The Administrator spoke on the update of contracts that he had proposed and sent out in the community's pay packets. He had received some comments before he left the island, and upon return he had many more concerns or requests come in for him to consider. The concerns around bonus/holiday pays were also raised. Due to these concerns and a petition raised with questions asked formally for response, the draft contract has been halted for consideration at this point to clarify these other issues. A discussion around existing contracts, wage rate issues, holiday pay and what might have been intended for the new draft was had. Community members asked who will be working on this project. The Administrator advised that he, the Division Managers

and legal advice from the AG office is being sought to aid in resolving issues and moving forward. The discussion continued around legalities and other issues that have been raised. The consultation regarding the best way to proceed with all those concerned will continue.

A comment from the floor noted that the pay rate has not increased for over ten years. The Administrator replied that different aspects of pay review were being considered.

Another question was asked if there was just the one ratified GPI Individual employment contract, and the Administrator confirmed there was only one.

It was noted by a member of the community that a further Covid-19 package was brought up in the last council meeting. It was asked if a case has been put forward to the FCDO to request a second package. A Councillor from the Gallery advised that a proposal and a Cost-of-Living breakdown has been put to the Governor for her support. The Councillor noted that this Cost-of-Living breakdown has also been forwarded to the FCDO. Council has put an action to the Administrator to follow up on these documents and proposal.

Arising Matters

Miscellaneous from the gallery

Update on Christmas unloading. A community member asked if the Supply Ship booked to be at Pitcairn around late December 2021 would be unloading on Christmas Day. Alternative dates and plans were discussed, and further advice would be sought taking into account engineering work and repair for the Ship and departure dates from NZ that would impact on arrival and unloading dates/times. The community preferred that unloading is done two days at least before the Christmas celebrations.

From the Gallery, Sales & Marketing Travel Coordinator, Heather Menzies, advised those present that the Pitkern Island Artisan Gallery will be running a 'Buy Now for Christmas' on-line promotion from September 1st. She invited artisans to submit their additional items to the Gallery, for inclusion in the promotion, as soon as possible.

Tourism Assistant Melva Evans reminded the community also that they need to fill out their Stock Submission Form to accompany all new submissions to the Gallery. This ensures that every item vendors bring to us is accounted for and tracked appropriately.

The Meeting closed at 10.40am.



Mayor Charlene Warren

Date 7 / 10 / 2021

