



# Pitcairn Island Public Meeting

<b>Public Meeting</b>	
<b>June 25<sup>th</sup> 2015</b>	<b>06:30pm</b>
<b>The Square – Public Hall</b>	
<b>Type of Meeting</b>	VTC with Governor Jonathan Sinclair (Wellington) & Deputy Governor Kevin Lynch (Auckland)
<b>Mayor</b>	Mayor Shawn Christian
<b>Island Secretary</b>	Heather Menzies
<b>Attendees</b>	Deputy Mayor Brenda Christian, Cr David Brown, Cr. Charlene Warren-Peu, Cr Darralyn Griffiths, Administrator, Alan Richmond. Pitcairn residents and contracted professionals in attendance.
<b>Absent</b>	Cr Leslie Jaques (off island)
<b>Welcome and Opening</b>	Gov. Sinclair – welcomed everyone to the meeting extending greetings to Jacqui and Betty Christian and FCA, Jim Hayes, whom he had not previously met. Deputy Gov. Kevin Lynch joined the meeting via speaker phone. Gov. Sinclair thanked and acknowledged the council, Mayor and community for their continued efforts in working together, noting that a mood of genuine collaboration is apparent which is very important in terms of our ability to work together to face the challenges ahead.
<b>MEETING NOTES</b>	
<b>Item 1</b>	Peter Hayes (Director Overseas Territories) visit to Pitcairn
<b>Tabled by</b>	Governor Sinclair
<b>Discussion</b>	
<p>The Governor conveyed that he will be travelling to the UK for 3 weeks during which time, in week two, he along with all the Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Governors will gather in London to receive instruction from the prime minister as to the way forward post the election. At this time he will also be meeting with and the Director Overseas Territories, Peter Hayes and will have much to feed back on his return.</p> <p>The Governor reported that Peter Hayes left Pitcairn with a positive sense of the island and a sound understanding of the long term challenges and sustainable economic development for the island. The current mood of collaboration was noted and viewed positively. In particular, Mr Hayes sees that improving the island's long term access (freight and passengers services) issues are important. As such decisions pertaining to access will need to be made in the coming year. He noted however, that the issues must be dealt with realistically and responsibly given the government's fiscal situation, i.e. tackling the deficit in the UK, hence against which we are operating – things remain tough.</p> <p>From the Gallery, Kerry Young asked the Governor what he considered to be aspects of the current service that may need to change in order to improve access. Gov. Sinclair replied that he will get a better sense of Mr Hayes' views of the island's access issues when they meet. However, he noted that frequency is an issue which must be given some thought if we are to better support economic development.</p> <p>Again he stated that he did not want to raise unrealistic expectations but gave assurance that the matter will be discussed in more detail and that he will report back on his return.</p>	

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Deputy Governor Lynch added that any changes to frequency, for example a bi-monthly ship, will have broad and convoluted implications which will entail wide consultation and extensive planning. Administrator Richmond added that Mr Hayes left the island with a strong sense of improved positive relations and that this has provided impetus, for further engagement.

Kerry Young asked what the time frames are for the procurement process for the next shipping contract and what will be the likely time-frames for consultation with the island. Deputy Governor Lynch replied that normally it would start in March next and the contract expiry is due March 2017. However, given the increased focus on accessibility, very broad discussions have already started the consultation process will begin soon.

The Governor concluded that procurement will be based on what we can afford and what will be best for the island

**Action:** Governor Sinclair will report back to Council and community after he has met with Peter Hayes. The FC, Evan Dunn will begin the process of consultation shortly.

**Item 2** Marine Reserve & Budget

**Tabled by** Gov. Sinclair

### Discussion

Gov. Sinclair noted that the budget will be out on July 8<sup>th</sup> and this is important as to the overall aid budget that the government has. He conveyed that the conservative party is no longer in coalition and made very clear in its manifesto its desire to create blue water zones around its overseas territories and this was most advanced in terms of Pitcairn. As such, when in the UK, he will be catching up on where things are regarding the MPA, in particular the development of monitoring and enforcement mechanisms which have 'real bite' and they will be at looking technological solutions. He went on to say that the government will continue to have zero tolerance for any perceived frivolous spending and that all fiscal matters pertaining to overseas territories will continue to be highly scrutinised.

From the gallery Jacqui Christian asked whether there is any intention to explore accessing external scientific funding options for access, monitoring and enforcement The Governor replied that all options will be explored and noted that Peter Hayes has, for example, looked into how monitoring is managed in New Zealand and will look elsewhere for input. If monitoring of an MPA and access could be conflated then that would naturally be something they would want to look at. He suggested that Jacqui feed through any thoughts she has on this matter.

**Action:** Governor Sinclair will report back on MPA monitoring progress when he returns from the UK.

### Item 3: Trade with French Polynesia

**Tabled by:** Mike Lupton-Christian from the Gallery

### Discussion

Mr Lupton-Christian told the Governor that a few years ago the island had requested that HMG assist with developing trade relations with French Polynesia - little seems to have come from these efforts. He asked whether the Governor knew what the current status was.

In response Deputy Governor Lynch explained that the previous Governor, Vickie Treadell, wrote to French Polynesia, more than 3 years ago, asking for trade access. He noted that it was and remains a very complex



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situation. His understanding at the time was that SPC was going to assist at the level of detail and he is unsure as to progress since. He noted that he also understands that Mangareva is an international port only by derogation– which means it is operational specifically for Pitcairn passengers and some freight – not trade. His reading of the current situation is that it has gone into the too hard basket. The Governor responded that he has recently been joined by a French counterpart, who is very eager to visit Pitcairn. She has suggested a joint trip, encompassing French Polynesia and Pitcairn when the Governor next visits in 2016. Such a visit may well be helpful in terms of trade developments and he will look into it and report back.

**Action:** Governor Sinclair will discuss a possible joint trip, which may support trade relations, with his French counterpart and report back.

**Item 4: Same Sex Marriage Ordinance**

**Tabled by:** Brenda Christian

**Discussion**

Immigration Officer Brenda Christian told the Governor there had been an increase in immigration enquiries as a result of publicising the same sex marriage ordinance.

Discussion ensued with general agreement that the ordinance had generated very positive international feedback. The Governor agreed that we may need to revise the current residency requirement of 15 days – so as to maximise potential ‘pink pound’ business opportunities.

We may need to look at changes to the current residency requirements so as to better accommodate those wishing to visit and marry on Pitcairn.

The Governor acknowledged the Mayor, Council and the community for developing the same sex marriage ordinance.

**Item 5: Repopulation**

**Tabled by:** Michele Christian

**Discussion**

Cr Michele Christian told the Governor that Council has made some progress on immigration matters, having recently developed a feedback survey to gather data on perceived barriers to immigration, which will soon be submitted to council for consideration. She asked whether there is scope within HMG to assist with support and expertise should we need support as to the next step. The Governor replied that yes HMG can help should the island need it and Michele is welcome to feed through any questions she may have. The Mayor added that the current Integre migrant workers pilot program is proving to be successful.

**Action:** Cr Michele Christian will feed through questions from Council regarding possible immigration support from HMG.

**Item 6: Child Review**

**Tabled by:** Mayor Christian

**Discussion**


Asked where we are at regarding the desk based Child Safety Review stating that he is keen to push on with compliance with previous recommendations. He added that he intends to touch base with Mike Sheath regarding these past recommendations and move council forward as required.



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The Deputy Governor responded that the deadline is Aug/Sept – but it is anticipated that the independent consultant will touch base shortly.  
The Governor added that Investigations and public scrutiny is greater than ever and Pitcairn is in fact ahead of other overseas territories in this regard.

**Action:** The Administrator will contact Mike Sheath and ask him to touch base with Shawn so as to progress this matter.

Next Meeting	As required
Closing Time	7.30pm
Signed By	
	Shawn Christian - Mayor of Pitcairn Island
Date	16 - 7 - 2015

