



PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL
Public Meeting Notes: Held at the Square.
Commencing 10.00 30th April 2020

Councillors Present:

Mayor Charlene Warren-Peu Deputy Mayor, Cr Kevin Young, Cr Shawn Christian Cr Michele Christian, Cr L Brown, Cr Ariel Harding, Isec Heather Menzies, & Administrator Nick Kennedy Cr L Jaques

Community Present: Full Community attendance, including contracted staff; Police, FCA & Medical Officer.

In attendance: None

Apologies: None

Welcome: The Mayor welcomed the community to the meeting advising that its purpose is to inform everyone of a number of developments over the past few months

Agenda Item	
<p>Revised Passenger/ Shipping Schedule & Pending Changes to the Shipping Contract Consultation.</p>	<p>The Administrator advised that the new shipping schedule, which has been revised in response to COVID-19 pandemic has been posted on the public noticeboard. It was noted that NZ's new 14-day managed isolation/quarantine requirement has impacted the Schedule. The new schedule will remain in effect until 31st March 2021</p> <p>It was noted there is no longer a need for the ship to take 14 days to get to NZ from Pitcairn as NZ's managed isolation requirements make this unnecessary.</p> <p>The Administrator advised that the first phase of Pitcairn's current shipping contract is new for renewal. The contract is for 2 years +1 +1 +1. We are approximately 1 ½ years into the contract and contract is due for renewal 31st March 2020 as such renewal discussions will soon be underway.</p> <p>The Administrator that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the UK economy will affect budgets going forward. In general, this will see less money being available to overseas territories, including Pitcairn. As such, the cost of the shipping service, in its current form, will be reviewed.</p> <p>The Administrator advised PIO/HMG will consult with Council and the community to ascertain what they consider to be the most important aspects of the shipping service, for Pitcairn's present and future needs. The community was invited to begin the consultation process by passing their thoughts to Council via the Council office. The Mayor and Administrator will keep the community informed of developments.</p>

	<p><u>From the Gallery</u></p> <p>What sort of input is HMG looking for in reviewing the contract?</p> <p>Administrator advised there are a number things people may wish to have input into. e.g. the number of freights runs, passenger services etc.</p> <p>The Medical Officer suggested an isolation room on the Silver Supporter could be considered.</p>
<p>The New Pitcairn Island Loan Scheme</p>	<p>Cr L Jaques advised the Finance and Economics Division and Council have reviewed Pitcairn Island Loan Scheme. As a result, a new Pitcairn Island Loan Scheme has been implemented. A copy of the new policy is on-line at the govt. website and the Council Office.</p> <p>It was noted the personal loan of \$5000 remains unchanged. But the more general loan has been increased from NZ\$40,000 to & NZ\$60,000 and operates as a revolving credit facility.</p> <p>It is interest free for the first 6 years (payable at 10% per annum. Goods purchased from general loan funds are freight free and it was noted that water tanks and whiteware etc. are freight free within the general loan. It was noted a loans application panel has been established. It was noted vehicle/ boat purchase applications will fall under personal loans.</p> <p><u>From the Gallery</u></p> <p>If after you pay some money off a general loan off and apply for a top up, does the term change.</p> <p>Answer: No, the term doesn't change. People and the loan application panel will need to be mindful of debt loads.</p>
<p>DFID Covid-19 Debt Support package</p>	<p>The Administrator advised that DFID has provide a Covid-19 Debt Support package for on-island permanent residents at this difficult time of the pandemic. The support is to offset loss of income from the tourism. It was noted it is not a cash payment but is designed offset debt.</p> <p>DFID have provided a sum of \$171,000.00 and Council has added a further \$4000 from its discretionary fund which means that all of Pitcairn's 35 current adult residents shall receive NZ\$ 5000.00 each. A payment of \$555.55 per month will be credited to individual accounts at the GT for the next 9 months, from July 2020 to March 2021.</p> <p>Payments can be made against store debt, freight and general accounts, GPI loans, utilities, compassionate grants etc.</p>

	<p>A minimum of 60%: \$ 333.33 shall be applied against store debt if store debt is over \$1000.00. Existing store debt repayments remain unchanged.</p> <p>Those with no GPI debt have the option, after funds are applied against monthly utilities to have a credit at the store, or to have the funds credited to a suspense account which shall be run by the GT to be applied against future costs incurred. The balance of any unused credit shall be carried forward until the funds are extinguished. The community support package can be transferrable within households to be applied against household debt.</p> <p>A cover note and disbursement form was circulated with instruction for to people to meet with the GT to finalise their individual arrangements.</p> <p>The community applauded and thanked Council and the Administrator for the work done in to getting the package in place.</p>
<p>Update on the Renewable Energy Project</p>	<p>Cr L Jaques advised that the tender has gone out for phase 1 of the Renewable Energy Project – it closed 21st July.</p> <p>It was noted the first phase is now well underway after long delays and it is anticipated the desk-based study will be completed by Sept 2020 with the final tender for build, install and train going out by Oct 2020. All going to plan it is anticipated the project will be completed by mid-2021.</p> <p>It was noted the project was delayed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. It is now underway with SPC having received 16 expressions of interest to review and update the initial proposal</p> <p>It was requested that the community begin thinking about their needs now and start feeding questions and suggestions through to Cr L Jaques.</p> <p><u>From the Gallery</u></p> <p>Will the design allow for increased demand?</p> <p>Answer: Yes, this will be a necessary requirement and these are the types of questions will be fed into the design review.</p>
<p>Update on EU Projects</p>	<p>The Administrator extended his thanks to all who have been involved in getting the Store Built and in keeping the island running.</p> <p>He advised that after the store completion the next immediate priorities will be roads and off-site building of the Clinic Project.</p>

	<p>From the Gallery</p> <p>What about getting the jetty, the new ship to shore boat and cultural centre?</p> <p>There ensued general discussion EDF 10 and 11 and getting work done and current workforce numbers and the need for more workers was raised.</p> <p>It was noted an external labour would not want to come to Pitcairn to work for NZ\$10 an hour. And that it would not be fair to bring workers in on higher wages than locals are getting.</p> <p>The DM Operations noted that if we draw down for any components not within budgets the money will have to come from somewhere. The overspend on the ship to shore vessel has impacted the overall EU project budget. He noted he supports bringing in external labour but not unless an increased living wage is brought in across the whole community.</p> <p>The Mayor noted the current system was not working and does not support projects getting finished in a timely and efficient manner. It was noted that Council has a wages and salary review scheduled in its SDP 2021 objectives. She advised we have received 6 new settlement application but if we don't improve our management of employment and salaries who would want to come to Pitcairn. She reiterated the matter will be dealt with within Council's SDP.</p>
<p>Update on incoming/outgoing Administrator & Deputy Governor</p>	<p>The Administrator advised the new Administrator is Mark Tomlinson – currently working Washington. The current administrator will depart Pitcairn in November.</p> <p>Alister Hamilton, the new Deputy Governor, is currently working in Beijing. He will be starting in Feb and will not travel to Pitcairn given current COVID-19 travel restriction.</p>
<p>Update on the New Ship to Shore Vessel</p>	<p>The Mayor advised the new ship to shore vessel is finished sea trials and provided photos. The vessel will be stored in NZ until it can be shipped to Pitcairn.</p>
<p>Update on Pitcairn Boarder Controls:</p>	<p>Mayor advised Council/PIO/HMG have agreed NZ is Pitcairn's approved medical pathway. Tahiti will only be considered for emergency medical evacuations.</p> <p>Council/ HMG / PIO have agreed that all passengers travelling from NZ to Pitcairn to spend 14 days in managed quarantine before boarding the Ship. Within the 14-day managed quarantine period Council has recommended that passengers have 1 PCR test, no later than day 10.</p> <p>The Medical Officer noted this is not her recommendation. She advised that Public Health England has provided information on</p>

double testing for UKOTs. She noted that performance of a single test is poor on its own and that 14 days isolation and double testing is preferable regardless of prevalence levels in the country of origin.

There was general discussion about the pros and cons and medical evidence regarding the efficacy either 1 or 2 tests. The Mayor asked for a show of hands as to how many people preferred 1 test. 2 people raised their hands.

The Mayor asked for a show of hands as to how many people preferred 2 tests. The majority of those present raised their hands.

The Mayor noted the community's preference for double testing is noted and this will be implemented. She advised the next Covid-19 Management Protocols booklet will be circulated toward the end of next week.

The Mayor advised that Council/HMG/PIO have agreed Pitcairn's current border controls will remain in place as is until 31st March 2021.

It was noted that Pitcairn's COVID-19 management Protocols will continue to be reviewed by Council on a monthly basis.

Meeting Closed:
Next Public Meeting: TBC

Signature
Mayor Charlene Warren-Peu: *Warren*

Date: *11* / *08* / *2020*



APPROVED