



PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held at the Public Hall
Commencing at 9.00am 29th September 2021

Present:

Mayor Charlene Warren, Temporary Deputy Mayor Shawn Christian, Administrator Mark Tomlinson, Cr Sue O'Keefe, Cr Lea Brown, Cr Michele Christian, Cr Heather Menzies and Cr Simon Young, Nadine Faulkner, Island Secretary

Apologies:

In attendance: Melva Evans

Welcome: The Mayor welcomed Council to the table and Cr M Christian opened with a prayer.

Agenda Item	Tabled by
ACTIONS / Matters Arising from Regular Council Meeting of 11 th August 2021	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="699 936 1382 1115">1. Covid-19 Support Package: Support package yet to be advised, with the Administrator working with London around possible options being discussed. On-going. Administrator advised an answer is due from FCDO before the end of the month.<li data-bbox="699 1151 1382 1688">2. Proposed letter to AG regarding summary court cases ACTION: Deputy Mayor to draft a letter asking the AG to consider no disruption to the community while any court cases are ongoing. On-going. Noted that the internet is the concern during the on-going court cases – before, during and after the session. Council asked for options to support the community internet usage instead of cutting them off entirely to support the required court case internet use. Administrator will approach the appropriate department to advise the issues of connectivity as described by Council and source an answer and or solution.<li data-bbox="699 1724 1382 1957">3. General Loan Query from the public regarding a loan issue. ACTION: Administrator and Mayor to follow up with the Division Manager and assist in clarifying for the community member's question. On the Agenda to discuss. To remove.<li data-bbox="699 1993 1382 2069">4. Freight Charges for extra baggage charged on last Silver Supporter rotation.

	<p>ACTION: Administrator to approach PIO regarding those who may have been charged previously and ask for a refund due to the “no charge” condition as set by the past Administrator. Administrator to check for an answer</p> <p>5. Vacant Council Seat ACTION: Island Secretary to put the Expression of Interest on the board and make a call to the community. Completed.</p> <p>6. Job Fulfilment regarding job-holders for those on Leave ACTION: Current council team working on policy update shall check employment policy and amend if applicable. Ongoing. With Policy Group, drafted and readied to supply to council for approval</p> <p>7. Proposed FNS Bougainville visit ACTION: The Administrator will advise of Council’s decision to decline due to Pitcairn’s Covid-19 Protocols. Completed. Visit cancelled.</p> <p>8. Remand Storage Room Door ACTION: The Administrator will liaise with DM Operations to organise for the lock to be changed. Completed. DM Operations followed up with the Island Police Officer and made a divisional decision regarding the issue.</p>
Approval of the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of 11 th August 2021	MOTION; Cr M Christian/Deputy Mayor S Christian “That the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of 11 th August 2021 as previously circulated, be approved. All in favour / Carried
Renewable Energy Project Tender Document	The tender document was circulated to all Councillors for their information. The document has been published, and the Mayor thanked all those involved for their hard work. The Mayor noted also that all tender documents must come to Council for approval before they are published.
JMC	The JMC is due to take place in London on 16-17 November. As it is directly after COP26, most OTs will be represented in person by their Premiers or another senior figure. No

	<p>representative from Pitcairn will attend in person due to our travel restrictions. We have three options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leslie represents by dialling in from NZ, to whichever sessions he can; 2. Somebody on Pitcairn – possibly Charlene? – dials in from here as appropriate (see point on agenda below); 3. Either Alasdair, Mark McGuinness or Stephen Thwaites dial in or attend, and report back. <p>Because of the time difference most of the JMC will happen in the early hours here. The sessions that take place in the UK afternoons are ‘Economic Resilience’ (06:30 on the 16th Pitcairn time), ‘Health’ (05:45 on the 17th) and ‘Inclusivity’ (07:45 on the 17th). The Administrator provided a copy of the full JMC Agenda for the Council’s perusal.</p> <p>There is also a proposal for possible bilateral sessions between the Minister and each OT leader on the Thursday and Friday, TBC</p> <p>Council decided that the appropriate representative for Pitcairn should be the Mayor Charlene Warren and the Deputy Mayor Shawn Christian, with the option of other Councillors sitting in if they wished.</p> <p>New minister for Pitcairn is Wendy Morton. Lord Armed has retired from the position.</p> <p>MOTION; Mayor Charlene Warren /Cr Michele Christian “Council decided that Mayor Charlene Warren and Deputy Mayor Shawn Christian will represent Pitcairn the JMC meeting with the option of other councillors sitting in if they wish. All in favour / Carried</p> <p>ACTION: Administrator to take care of technical requirements to action the meeting</p>
<p>HMG Queens Jubilee Beacon Initiative</p>	<p>Buckingham Palace have announced a programme of events for The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Weekend from 2nd to 5th June 2022. Part of this will be The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Beacons, which will take place on 2 June. Details can be found at: www.Queensjubileebeacons.com. The Governor has received a request from the Pageant master asking whether Pitcairn would consider lighting a Beacon at 9.15pm local time on 2 June next year in celebration of HMT Queen’s platinum jubilee.</p>

	<p>The website provides details of various beacons that can be ordered. However, getting something delivered here will be a bit of an ordeal and I understand from informal conversations with islanders that we have in the past used a beacon of our own rather than ordering something to be sent to Pitcairn.</p> <p>Pitcairn has lit a beacon in the past and Council is mostly in favour of lighting one again with more information.</p> <p>It was suggested if a Beacon programme is going to become a regular occurrence then an investment into a Beacon purchase should be considered. Council suggested that this purchase should come out of the Governors discretionary budget.</p> <p>ACTION: The Administrator to look into exact requirements and advise council, including looking into what would be an appropriate purchase.</p>
<p>GPI Loan Policy</p>	<p>Discussed this briefly in a previous Council session. In that discussion someone mentioned they thought GPI loans (formally housing loans) could now be used for anything. However, I have looked at the policy, and Leslie has confirmed, that the GPI Loan policy agreed by the Council last year still applies. The <u>policy</u> states that the loan is only for housing (or business enterprise) related purchases:</p> <p><i>“The object of the Pitcairn Islands Loan Scheme is to meet the needs of the Pitcairn community by providing funding for home loans, home improvements, business loans and facilitating the development of private enterprise.”</i> And it goes on to state that <i>“The provisional amount of the loan to be granted shall be the estimated cost of materials for construction or renovation or improvements and related items.”</i></p> <p>A member of the community would like to take out a substantial loan to purchase a quad bike. Leslie declined the loan application as it was not in accordance with the policy. The individual concerned is aware of the Personal Loan facility but this is limited to \$5,000 and he wishes to spend considerably more than that on a new quad bike. The member of the community has therefore written a letter</p>

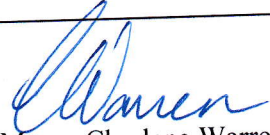
	<p>suggesting that the GPI (housing) loan be changed to permit it to be used to purchase a quad bike.</p> <p>The Administrator said the GPI Loan Policy was agreed as recently as last year and he saw no reason to change it, but had agreed to raise it at Council.</p> <p>After a long discussion around loans, processes and past decisions made, Council recommended that a review of the current Loan Policy is discussed by the Policy Review committee and the Division Manager to consider revision and present to Council for approval.</p> <p>MOTION; Cr Michele Christian/Cr Heather Menzies “Council recommended that a review of the current Loan Policy is discussed by the Policy Review committee and the Division Manager to consider revision in an expeditious and timely manner. All in favour / Carried</p> <p>ACTION: Administrator to approach the Policy Review Committee and Division Manager to advise of the motion made in Council, and request information from the DM if the process was followed in a specifically referenced loan request.</p>
<p>Booster Vaccinations for PI Residents. MO& Public Health England Recommendations</p>	<p>To be deferred until after a workshop to be held at 9am on Monday the 4th of October, 2021.</p> <p>Four passengers booked to travel on the next Supply Ship run have been booked for one week isolation and two PCR tests.</p>
<p>International Dark Sky Sanctuary Draft 2020/2021 Annual Report</p>	<p>The report was supplied for Council’s perusal and feedback. Council felt the report was informational and acceptable.</p> <p>Approved: Cr Sue O’Keefe Seconded: Cr M Christian All in favour.</p>
<p>Council Digital Newsletter Proposal</p>	<p>A mock-up of a digital newsletter was circulated to all councillors with a request for feedback.</p> <p>The motivation for this newsletter is to ensure that information from Council is fed back to the community in a timely and efficient manner. This can also supply information and responses for digitally run surveys to bring back community feedback on issues raised.</p> <p>Island Secretary or a nominated person to collate information into the suggested newsletter from the minutes and meeting results.</p>

	<p>Councillors felt that it was a good concept and felt that a three-month trial run could be put in place to get an idea of how it would work.</p> <p>ACTION: Cr Heather Menzies to work with Island Secretary with format.</p> <p>Approved: Cr Sue O’Keefe Seconded: Cr M Christian All in favour.</p>
<p>Follow up on Back to the Future Paper – NZ/Pitcairn Travel Corridor & Procedures and Pricing Recommendations</p>	<p>The Back to the Future paper which was circulated to Council regarding issues such as visitors coming to the island via the Silver Supporter and details such as pricing recommendations was discussed. Cr. H Menzies advised that she had approached PIO for their recommendations for passage prices, and a flat fee of \$3500 NZD for return passed on the Silver Supporter was given.</p> <p>It was asked if Council supported the passage cost proposed was acceptable. The Administrator advised that he would have to approach the Governor’s office for approval.</p> <p>MOTION; Cr Heather Menzies/Cr Sue O’Keefe “That Council agrees with the costings, as submitted the Tourism Department, for PI/NZ Travel i.e., as a temporary discounted rate of \$NZ\$3500 plus costs. All in favour / Carried</p>
<p>Covid-19 Protocols & Input from MO</p>	<p>To be deferred until after a workshop to be held on Monday the 4th of October, 2021.</p>
<p>Progress on renewing Shipping Contract</p>	<p>The Administrator advised Council that nothing has been decided as yet, but the recommendation is that the Silver Supporter remains for another year at least. Discussions are ongoing with HMG for a final sign off.</p> <p>December will be the deadline for negotiations on the existing Supply Ship contract, which was renewed for one-year last year. Options for an alternative are being explored.</p> <p>ACTION: The Administrator to continue to keep Council up to date with progress.</p>
<p>Progress on GPI Employment Contract Matters</p>	<p>The Administrator advised some information has come in from some Division Managers that he has requested, but not all. Figures are being gathered and collated to investigate the questions raised by the petitioners. No timeline for completion has been set as yet, but work is being done with an ultimate decision being made by the Governor after all relevant data has been consolidated.</p> <p>The Administrator advised he would like a workshop with any councillors to work on the issue, around the end of October 2021.</p> <p>ACITION: Cr Heather Menzies to advise the Petition Signatory group of the status thus far of the investigation by the Administrator.</p>

<p>Marine Science Base Proposal – Councils stance on visiting researchers staying at Registered PI Accommodation Providers</p>	<p>Cr H Menzies noted that Cr S Young had raised the importance of ensuring that the Marine Research Lab does not discourage HMG/FCDO and NGOs from accessing Pitcairn’s Registered Accommodation Provider group.</p> <p>In support of this position, she noted that the Pitcairn Registered Accommodation Provider group was established in 2011. Since that time, it has generated over \$500,000NZD for the local economy. It has 13 members i.e. that 65% of local home owners. Accommodation provision is pivotal to both Pitcairn’s private enterprise development and its local economy.</p> <p>Since 2011 a great many researchers have been accommodated by Accommodation Provider group members, including Darwin Plus, PEW and others. Almost all researchers and NGOs are in favour of ensuring local communities are supported, stimulated and empowered via engagement with social and scientific researchers and this should continue.</p> <p>MOTION; Cr Heather Menzies/Cr Sue O’Keefe “On behalf of the Accommodation Provider group, I would like to move that costing for the use of the Marine Research Lab facility and related services are commensurate with Accommodation Providers Group and that all related marketing and promotion of the facility also includes Accommodation Provider Group listed options All in favour / Carried</p>
<p>Discretionary fund proposal for Gym Equipment addition</p>	<p>Cr S Young and the ISEC provided a proposal for the purchase of a new treadmill for the gym. Council discussed the proposal put forth. Another quote was asked to be sought for the machine to support such a purchase.</p> <p>ACTION: Cr S Young and ISEC to seek another couple of quotes for a proposed machine.</p> <p>MOTION; Cr Simon Young/Cr Heather Menzies “To approve provisionally upon the receipt of another quote to procure a good price for purchase. All in favour / Carried</p>
<p>Shipping Schedule Updates/Changes</p>	<p>The Mayor asked the Administrator to advise Council as soon as possible if there were any changes or updates of the Silver Supporter.</p> <p>The Administrator advised there have or may be some amendments to support the new doctor and Teacher for the Supply Ship in the early new year.</p>

	<p>The October rotation is as advised. The December rotation has been requested to come early for unloading can be completed before Christmas.</p>
Acknowledgement of Pitcairn Science Expedition and Planning ahead	<p>The Mayor formally thanked HMG and Blue Belt for the funding the expedition. She also wished to thank the Silver Supporter and crew, the on island and boat crews who managed the expedition. She also acknowledged those who stayed behind on island to keep the normal day to day requirements continued with a smaller community base. She felt it was a valuable trip to have taken to support the environment. The Administrator also acknowledged that the response upon reports from the Expedition team from HMG has been excellent. There are plans for a presentation of the expedition to present to the community by the Administrator and Natural Resources Division Manager. This could possibly be done in the next few weeks.</p>
Date for Policy Review Workshop	<p>The Policy review Committee has been working hard on review of all outstanding policies. If councillors would like to see the progress there is a whiteboard in the ISEC office tracking the work done. Policies, a memo explaining work will be forwarded to all in the next few days. Date set for a Policy Review Workshops 9am on the 12th of October 2021 and the second workshop on the 21st of October 2021.</p>
Complaints Received	<p>The Mayor advised that four complaints have been received and forwarded to the relevant Line Managers for action.</p>
Recommendation to Review Pitcairn Road Code and Drivers Test	<p>MOTION; Cr Heather Menzies/Cr Sue O'Keefe "To the Mayor write a letter to the NZ Police and Local Police requesting a review of the Road Code and Driver Test to clearly define the use of the new paved roads. All in favour</p> <p>ACTION: Mayor to write letter</p>
Archaeological Proposal Update from Public Meeting	<p>Results of votes from the Public Meeting which discussed whether to proposal for the Archaeological Proposal would or should go ahead was tabled. The Nays had a lead over the Yes. Noted that the GPI Policy now in place regarding such proposals is quite strict to what can and cannot be done and if this had been followed the proposals would not have even be considered. Council took this policy into account and the strong feelings of the community, and decided that the proposals should be put aside at this time.</p> <p>MOTION; Mayor Charlene Warren/Cr Sue O'Keefe "Community feedback has advised Council that the majority of those surveyed they do not support the concept of an archaeological dig under the Pitcairn Community Hall.</p>

	<p>All in favour</p> <p>ACTION: Mayor to write to the authors of the Proposals that at this time they have not been successful.</p>
Status of the Pitcairn Island Land Court	<p>Cr L Brown asked if Land Court has been reopened. The Mayor advised that Land Court can now resume. The Land Registrar and LMO have been working together to proceed with new applications.</p>
General Business Matters	
Standing Agenda Items -- Recommendations	<p>Cr H Menzies recommended the following items being a standing Agenda item for Council to reflect on each meeting.</p> <p>1) Progress on Active Settlement Applications 2) Progress on GPI Employment Matters Progress on Shipping Contract negotiations</p> <p>Cr M Christian has approached FCDO for a response on the Cost of Living Basket information.</p>
New Appointments	<p>The Administrator advised of the new Doctor and Police. ACTION: Administrator to forward information of new appointments to ISEC to advise the public.</p>
Banking Issue	<p>Cr M Christian asked for a review on the banking processes in the PI Office due to some recent errors. Also, it was noted that if staff went on holiday or was away from the office banking was not done in a timely matter.</p> <p>Approved: Cr M Christian. Seconded: Cr H Menzies All in favour</p> <p>ACTION: Administrator and the Mayor to investigate and review the banking issues and advise.</p>
Child Safeguarding Update	<p>Cr M Christian asked on an updated on the Hampshire review. The Policy needed reviewing before it could be forwarded to be looked at by the Hampshire team.</p>
Darwin Plus Initiative	<p>Rat eradication data and information forwarded to all councillors. The proposal is for a feasibility study including consultation with the island.</p> <p>MOTION: Mayor Charlene Warren /Cr H Menzies "Council approve the Darwin Plus Round feasibility proposal: All in favour</p> <p>ACTION: Mark will inform of council decision</p>
International Relations/Renewable Energy	<p>The Administrator asked if Council was happy for Leslie Jaques to continue to handle the International Relations and Renewable Energy project while he was away in NZ.</p>

	<p>Councillors felt that COP6 / OCTA, Renewable Energy and International Relations are a councillor related function and should stay within a councillor's role.</p> <p>Terms of reference and specific roles that are required need to be given to Mr Jaques for his information and remuneration if he is to work for Pitcairn whilst off island as he is no longer an acting Councillor member being that he is on leave from the position.</p> <p>ACTION: The Mayor to contact SPC and PIO to contact her in the first instance for any correspondence regarding the Renewable Energy Project.</p>
Assessor Selection Payment	<p>Cr S Young excused himself from the Council table.</p> <p>Cr S O'Keefe requested discussion of payment for those sitting as assessors or those summonsed to court to be considered as assessors.</p> <p>She advised that as the assessors will have to sit and hear deliberations and conceivably lose employment/wages they should be remunerated.</p> <p>MOTION: Sue O'Keefe / Cr H Menzies All those that were summonsed to appear at court on the 19th of September for the Assessor Selection process be paid \$20 for their time in attendance All in favour / 1 Abstention (Cr S Young)</p> <p>MOTION: Sue O'Keefe / H Menzies Also, that those selected as assessors and alternatives be paid \$10 an hour for their attendance in court and for any period of deliberations. All in favour / 1 Abstention (Cr S Young)</p> <p>ACTION: Mayor to advise GT of payments required.</p>
Meeting Closed	Meeting closed at 12.00 pm
Next Meeting.	Next Regular Council meeting set for 9.00 am Wednesday 13 th October 2021.
	<p>Workshop 12th and 21st of October 2021 Policy Review Workshop 4th October 2021 Covid Response Public Meeting None set</p>
Approved 13 / 10 / 2021.	<p> Mayor Charlene Warren.</p> 