



PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held at the Public Hall
Commencing at 9.00am 15th December 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: During presentation by Hema Wi Hongi - FCA Mary Creagh, Dr Poppe, Mrs D Buzzard.

Welcome: The Mayor welcomed Council to the table. A moment of private reflection was taken.

Agenda Item	Tabled by
ACTIONS / Matters Arising from Regular Council Meeting of 17 th November 2021	<p>1. Financial Need In light of no further Covid package, council discussed financial needs. ACTION: Cr. M Christian to take the lead in Council's push to form a clear path for financial support for those in need. Ongoing. Cr M Christian working consistently with FCDO and Administrator to continue to look for a positive outcome. Administrator has written asking for a breakdown in costing but has had no reply as of today 15th December.</p> <p>2. Freight Charges for extra baggage charged on last Silver Supporter rotation. After further discussion at it was decided: - ACTION: The Administrator to approach PIO to check on the passenger charged regarding her/his freight and the new baggage regulations made in Council on the 11th of August 2021 and calculate if partial refund is able to be made. A letter to be written to the passenger concerned by the Administrator to advise. Completed: Administrator advised that between PIO and himself they have resolved issue that had been raised between the community member regarding freight. Action: Cr. H. Menzies to clarify whether these freight charges are for Pitcairn Island residents or for all – including tourist/independent traveller whether from NZ or Tahiti. Complete: Covered in Policy workshop.</p>

	<p>3. 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. To roll over until other issues are dealt with.</p> <p>4. GPI Loan Policy 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 Completed</p> <p>5. Progress on GPI Employment Contract Matters On-going: Administrator advised continued work with DM’s and GT and progress is being made. Information on progress to continue Ongoing. Council asked if there was anything they could do to assist the Administrator. Cr. S Young has offered and the Administrator has accepted. Work is set to be completed by the end of year. Point made that Council should not be involved in resolving the problem as they may be financially impacted, and this may be a conflict of interest. The Administrator advised that some work has been done – DMs and GT met with Administrator and public meeting discussing issues. Resolution by the end of the year.</p> <p>Standing Agenda Items</p> <p>1) Progress on Active Settlement Applications – Ongoing. Interviews were held for both outstanding applicants. Conclusions will be advised as they are available. Interview notes are to be given to council along with conclusion.</p> <p>2) Progress on GPI Employment Matters. Ongoing</p>
Approval of the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of 17 th November 2021	MOTION; Cr M Christian/Cr S Young “That the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of 17 th November as previously circulated, be approved. All in favour / Carried
Covid-19 Workshop Notes 15 th November 2021	Workshop notes Covid-19 15 th November 2021

All Councillors, Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Administrator attending. Dr Pope in attendance.

Dr M Pope spoke on the current situation around Covid-19. The discussion moved to the unvaccinated on island i.e.; children. The children on island are able to have the Pfizer vaccine and Dr Pope suggested he could arrange delivery to the ship. The Administrator advised that HMG and England Health are already working on a secondary delivery of vaccines for those unvaccinated and booster shots for those that are. Children 12 and over can be vaccinated by the Astra Zeneca brand.

Councillors agreed that although travel will be open more easily for the vaccinated versus unvaccinated, it is a matter of choice to the individual on Pitcairn whether they are vaccinated or not.

Pitcairn/Tahiti Medical Travel

At present Tahiti is only accepting those who are vaccinated. Unvaccinated may have issues travelling to Tahiti unless it is a definite medical emergency.

A confirmed procedure on medical track to Tahiti needs to be set in place. The policy is a procedural document.

A long discussion around medical travel between Tahiti and Pitcairn was had.

Shipping Schedule

With the many set trips for the Silver Supporter, it was asked how travel changes would affect the schedule already in place. It was advised that if change to the schedule was required for medical patients traveling to and from Tahiti, those trips would be factored in. It was agreed that the December ship medical evacuation would have to be set at a high level of consideration on the requirements of the patient. This delay could therefore allow boosters and vaccines to arrive and be administered. As always with medical issues it will rely on the condition of the patient i.e., if their health declines for example.

Dr to assess needs in the community and submit his recommendations to council via the Administrator and Mayor.

MOTION: Mayor Charlene Warren / Cr Sue O'Keefe

That Council requests Dr Poppe and the Administrator to liaise with Public Health England and FCDO regarding booster availability timeframes, and suitable brand of vaccines for children and/or those who wish an alternative to Astra Zeneca, for the proposed window of January 2022 delivery to Pitcairn.

All in favour

MOTION: Cr H Menzies / Cr S O'Keefe

	<p>“That Council requests that Dr Poppe undertake his assessment of patient needs over the next two weeks so as to ascertain the need for routine treatment in Tahiti and report back to Council by the end of November, via the Administrator.”</p> <p>All in favour</p> <p>ACTION: ISEC to forward motions made by Council to Dr Poppe, Registered Nurse Griffiths and Administrator to action Councils requests.</p> <p>Councillors discussed opening the borders. Current border opening decisions were delayed till 31st March 2022, so the option of opening 1st April 2022 was considered. With proposed boosters and vaccines for the unvaccinated and medical travel to Tahiti considered, April 1st seems feasible. This also gives Tourism time to advertise the opportunities to travellers. Public opinions on opening the borders can also be gathered via the Council newsletter.</p> <p>Council noted that any cruise ships, military vessels or yachts who wish to visit Pitcairn before April 1st will be advised Pitcairn’s Covid-19 will still stand i.e., borders still closed.</p> <p>Noted today, 15th December 2021, Council noted accurate reflection of the meeting.</p>
<p>Policy Workshop Notes 9th December 2021</p>	<p>Policy Workshop notes, 9th December 2021.</p> <p>Motions to be formally approved at Council 15th December 2021.</p> <p>Motion: Cr. Simon Young / Cr. Sue O’Keefe</p> <p>“That the GPI Partners Communications Policy, GPI Freight Policy and GPI Subsidised Travel and Baggage Allowance Policy are approved”</p> <p>All in favour/ Carried</p> <p>This motion following to be formally approved at a second sitting of Council due on Friday the 17th of December 2021.</p> <p>Motion: Cr. Simon Young / Cr. Sue O’Keefe</p> <p>“that the GPI Covid-19 Travel & Quarantine Policy are approved”</p> <p>All in favour/ Carried</p>
<p>Presentation of Taonga</p>	<p>Hema Wi Hongi was welcomed to the table by the Mayor. Ms Wi Hongi spoke on her ancestry, and her spiritual connection to Pitcairn. She represents Tahuri Whenua, The National Māori Vegetable Growers Collective, Tuia te Waiora Branch of Māori Women’s Welfare League, and Te Herenga, the Māori Advisory Group of the Environmental Protection Authority.</p>

	<p>She said: -</p> <p>“The impetus and inspiration for my decision to come to this beautiful island came from tribal oral history told and retold for over 1000 years.</p> <p>It is this whakapapa connection that on behalf of my beloved late mother and aunt whom I humbly represent today. On their behalf and with great love, I wish to present this Patu Pounamu (Greenstone patu) to the women of Pitcairn Island in recognition of our shared Polynesian heritage and to reconnect our ancestral DNA.</p> <p>This patu pounamu depicts the tohorā (Whale) and it is the shape of a patu, considered to be one of the most valuable greenstone items to Māori. This is a symbol of chieftainship, guardianship, and self-determination. This tāonga acknowledges the kinship of the Kauri tree and the tohorā, who are both critically endangered in the oceans and on our lands. These are some of the challenges and great responsibilities the patu pounamu carries for both Māori and Pitcairn women, in the protection of our lands, oceans, and cultural heritage for future generations.”</p> <p>She spoke briefly on her work with the environment and ways of monitoring the waters around the island, and passed around sample kits for testing the DNA of the seas around us.</p> <p>The Mayor spoke on behalf of the Council and community in thanking her and wishing her well, asking her to keep in touch.</p>
<p>UKOTA Support Role</p>	<p>Council discussed the request from Mr Jaques to support the Councillor who will be appointed to the International Relations role.</p> <p>Council was confused if Mr Jaques was requesting a paid role as he had suggested a figure of 20 hours would be needed. It was clarified that his handover notes were full and well explained, and that no paid position would be required.</p> <p>ACTION: Island Secretary to reply to Mr Jaques and thank him for his offer but to decline gratefully at this time.</p>
<p>Public Meeting Vote Result: Covid-19 Vaccine Mandate</p>	<p>Covid-19 Vaccine Mandate.</p> <p>Questions: -</p> <p>YES, should there be a mandate for everyone who comes to Pitcairn (from this point in time) to be Covid-19 vaccinated?</p> <p>NO Should there be NO mandate for everyone who comes to Pitcairn (from this point in time) to be Covid-19 vaccinated?</p>

FINAL COUNT/RESULT

YES NO

22 4

Council discussed the results from the Public Meeting, and past Council sittings decisions.

A point was made that a decision was made for a permanent resident family to return back to the island before a mandated request for vaccine was put in place to all. At the Public Meeting, this decision was overturned with a clear community opinion in the opposite.

A long and wide-ranging discussion was had about the process of thought around the vaccine mandate between council meetings and public meeting and the best result for Pitcairn Island.

It was asked if a mandated request for returning permanent residents or passengers to be vaccinated against Covid-19 is legal.

Noted that if the Silver Supporter states that no one who is not vaccinated can board the ship, they are entitled to do so.

Cr. L Brown excused herself from the table.

Council was adjourned for a break. 10.00am

Council re-opened at 10.15am

Cr. L Brown did not re-join the meeting.

Council discussed other matters, reverting back to the covid-19 Agenda item at 12.20pm.

The Administrator advised that in preparation for any issues arising, he had already been in contact with the AG regarding just such intricate matters that had been raised around the Council table and Public Meeting. The reply received back from the AG have been less than concrete in respect to a firm stance either way, but gave guidelines which were discussed at length by those around the table.

Clarified term – Normally resident.

Normally resident means when you live on Pitcairn, leaving only for holiday or medical, not that you own a house or land on the island.

Based on information from PHE, the medical advice given on island, the Attorney General, and the community's opinion via its vote, the council has decided the following:

Motion: Cr. H Menzies / Mayor Charlene Warren

	<p>“that as of 15th of December 2021 unvaccinated, normally resident people who have previously booked to return to the island on the January 2022 ship will be permitted to board the Silver Supporter and land on Pitcairn in adherence with the GPI Covid-19 Travel & Quarantine Policy.”</p> <p>All in favour, carried. One Councillor absent.</p> <p>Action: Island Secretary to contact the normally resident community on and off island, to advise them of the above decision made by Council.</p> <p>Motion: Cr. S O’Keefe / Cr M Christian “that HMG seek to impose a requirement that all travellers must be vaccinated against Covid-19 prior to boarding a GPI Chartered Vessel, following the sailing of the January 2022 vessel.”</p> <p>All in favour/Carried. One Councillor absent.</p> <p>Action: The Administrator to approach the appropriate offices to action this request from Council.</p>
<p>General Store Policy Edition 5 Emergency Housing Policy</p>	<p>The Mayor asked if everyone had read the policy’s and council agreed that both policies be forwarded to the PRC for review.</p> <p>Motion: Cr H Menzies / Cr S Young “that the Policy Review Committee will review the General Store Policy Edition 5 and the Emergency Housing Policy and bring back to Council for approval.”</p> <p>All in favour</p>
<p>Proposed Visit by HMS Spey</p>	<p>The Administrator spoke briefly on the proposed visit from HMS Spey on the 23rd January 2021. The ships intentions are to circumnavigate all the Pitcairn Islands and arrive back at Pitcairn to visit and hopefully disembark crew on Bounty Day.</p> <p>Discussions around the good public relations that could be reaped from the British Navy’s visit and around the ship possibly being able to bring Pitcairn’s booster/vaccine shots with it, were had. Both the visit and impact on the naval assistance in Covid-19 vaccine delivery would be well received.</p> <p>Cr. S Young advised his disappointment that the naval visit had been discussed at the Public Meeting without Council being fully informed first.</p> <p>The Administrator apologised for the misunderstanding, and that he had thought that it had been discussed in a Policy Workshop a week previous.</p> <p>Cr. S O’Keefe noted that protocol for visiting ships – yachts, cruise ships etc – had already been put in place at the last Covid-19 workshop. She asked why was HMS Spey different, also</p>

	<p>bringing up a recent smaller vessel that had stopped over for passport control.</p> <p>Noted that protocol set has been followed thus far, including the smaller vessel visit. The HMS Spey has come to Council now for clarification.</p> <p>A silent vote from all Councillors were taken to clarify if YES, they agreed that the HMS Spey crew were allowed to land, or NO landing of crew at all.</p> <p>The result from Council was unanimous -- YES to crew disembarkation. This also reflected the result of the Public Meeting vote which was: --</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>YES</td> <td>NO</td> <td>UNDECIDED</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table> <p>Council proposed a ten day at sea isolation period, PCR tests before they leave Tahiti, a Lateral Flow test before they arrive at Pitcairn, and masks will be required from the Naval Vessel and islanders with close contact.</p> <p>Motion: Mayor Charlene Warren / Cr. M Christian “that an exemption be granted for the HMS Spey to land it’s crew at Pitcairn on the 23rd of January based on Council decision and reflecting the Communities view. All in favour, carried. / One councillor absent</p> <p>Council to reconvene on Friday at 8.30 on the 17th of December to knock out a programme for the visit. Ideas/bullet points to be sent to Cr. Simon Young for collation and presentation.</p>	YES	NO	UNDECIDED	15	5	1
YES	NO	UNDECIDED					
15	5	1					
<p>Passenger Service between Pitcairn and French Polynesia</p>	<p>Cr. H Menzies spoke on a return to the regular proposed passenger service between Pitcairn and French Polynesian. At this time, it was understood that there is no appetite from the FCDO or HMG to return to this service other than medical trips between countries, or to facilitate returning residents coming through Tahiti back to Pitcairn. Tourists conceivably may board the ship at Tahiti to come to Pitcairn if there is a medical trip returning back to the island.</p> <p>The only passenger or tourist service at this time will be through NZ to Pitcairn, and the focus will be on HMG consultants, ex-pats or Pitcairners going on or off.</p> <p>Administrator noted that costings showed a tourism based routine passenger service from Papeete is not feasible.</p> <p>It was asked that the key development aims for Pitcairn continue to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To build an economy based on tourism. This could create increased income for residents and revenue for the 						

Government, and reduce reliance on budgetary support from the EU and UK;

- To increase the population;
- To develop a sustainable and secure economic future for Pitcairn;
- To further develop good governance and promote greater self-reliance, transparency and accountability.

Under the principles of the 2012 Overseas Territories White Paper, the establishment of regular, reliable passenger services between Pitcairn and FP was to:

- to promote self-determination
- develop a visitor-based, domestic economy
- to stimulate private enterprise whilst enabling personal debt recovery
- to positively impact social-cultural development in a remote, previously neglected and isolated community
- to consolidate and build upon our Tahitian cultural heritage and relations with French Polynesia
- to offset our UK budgetary aid spend
- to meet lucrative international demand for visitor access to Pitcairn the outer islands
- to enable the practice and principles sustainable island heritage tourism to add value to Pitcairn

It must be noted that at no time was the establishment of a regular passenger service between PI and FP conceived, by either GPI/HMG and DFID (at that time) to be profitable. To expect the successful implementation of a profit base service, whilst Pitcairn is the recipient of budgetary aid is both unrealistic and problematic.

If HMG and the FCDO no longer intend to reinstate this essential service and reinstate it at the earliest most practicable opportunity it will impact:

- Our ability to meet our obligations to the EU. All investment has hinged upon improving Pitcairn's tourism infrastructure and its domestic, visitor-based economy.
- Our ability to repay personal debt
- Our ability to attract and retain new migrants
- Our ability to meet objective Management Strategy 4 within the MPA Management Plan through the establishment of sustainable, professional ecotourism businesses which will provide jobs and increase economic benefits to the whole island community in an equitable way. PI Tourism considers this to be an overreach within the scope of the project.
- of the MPA Management plan

Cr. S O'Keefe noted that she had been approached by community members saying they thought tourists would be coming – i.e., their homestays would be in use again.

Deputy Mayor S Christian asked what the protocols for interisland travel will be regarding opening to Mangareva instead of Papeete. Would this be a better service than from Papeete?

Cr. S Young stated that he feels that although there has been a true upheaval to Tourism with Covid related borders being closed, that planning for a return to pushing the tourism service could only be beneficial to Pitcairn. He also asked to get costings on Mangareva/Pitcairn vs Papeete/Pitcairn.

Cr. M Christian advised that any service from Pitcairn to Tahiti is essential, both for routine medical (not just emergency situations) and for tourism purposes. This service should be determined not only by HMG or FCDO, but with consultation with Council. Tourist money has been a proven income for debt repayment and Council should support a balanced outlook to support the community.

Cr. H Menzies suggested strongly that Council is pro-active in planning for a return to proposed passenger service between Pitcairn and French Polynesia.

Mayor Charlene Warren can see both sides of the argument – HMG's financial outlook and Tourism/Community's push for a regular service.

Motion: Cr. H Menzies / Cr S O'Keefe

“That, in order to maximise GPI's existing resources' and reinvigorate its visitor economy, Council requires HMG/PIO & FCDO to reinstate its regular passenger service, between Pitcairn and French Polynesia, at the earliest opportunity, within the 2022/23 shipping contract. That this activity will be undertaken in consultation with Council and PI Tourism,”

All in favour / Carried One Councillor absent

Action: The Mayor to write a letter expressing the views of Council reflecting the motion made.

The Administrator noted that the HMG does recognize that Tourism is an economic boost, but at this point in time that HMG is not wishing to spend taxpayer's money for an endeavor that will prove a loss i.e.: the supply ship breakdown proves that regular passenger service does not cover costs.

	<p>Council added that there has always been a loss to the government with the regular passenger runs, but the knock-on effect to that regular passenger service despite the loss to the government was a financial boom to the local tourism situation on Pitcairn.</p> <p>A long discussion around passenger's services, objectives, financial scenarios and past and future plans for tourism was had.</p>
<p>Draft border-opening Trade Press Release</p>	<p>The Trade Press Release was presented to Council as follows for their review.</p> <p><i>Legendary Pitcairn Island will resume welcoming cruise ships, yachts and other international visitors from 31 March 2022. With its community fully vaccinated (or with 86% of its community fully vaccinated), remote Pitcairn Island is ready to welcome international tourists back to its shores after a near two-year border closure to protect its vulnerable population.</i></p> <p><i>Pitcairn's supply ship, MV Silver Supporter, will operate 3 direct services between Tauranga, New Zealand and Pitcairn from April through to August 2022. The first service is scheduled to depart April 3rd 2022. In addition to carrying essential supplies to and from Pitcairn, the MV Silver Supporter will carry Pitcairn Islanders, contracted workers and a limited number of visitors. Strict COVID-safe protocols have been introduced, which include proof of vaccination at time of booking, returning a negative PCR test within 72-hours prior to boarding and self-isolating for 7-days (except for COVID test) before departure.</i></p> <p><i>Announcing the re-commencement of passenger services, Pitcairn Islands Tourism Travel Coordinator, Heather Menzies, said "We are excited to once again share our warm hospitality, unique culture, and pristine land and sea environments with those lucky few who will have the opportunity to visit in 2022. Whilst we hope resume regular passenger services between French Polynesia and Pitcairn later in the year, this interim service provides pent-up travellers with a unique opportunity to experience an epic sea voyage, on a working cargo ship and spend a week on Pitcairn. The 5-week tour package starts at \$NZD6,400 per person and includes the round-trip sea voyage aboard the MV Silver Supporter from New Zealand, all meals and accommodation on Pitcairn".</i></p> <p>Council approved the press release formulated by Tourism.</p> <p>Motion: Mayor Charlene Warren / Cr S O'Keefe "that Council approves the Tourism Press Release as circulated." All in favour / Carried</p>

Divisional Update

The Administrator spoke on the Divisional activities for the month.

Environment

- Darwin Application by Terry Dawson - theme Humpback Whales of the Pitcairn Islands. Council will receive the full Darwin application prior to submissions in January. ECNR Division and Tourism have met and to provide feedback.
- Coastal Conservation Regulations - timeline has been delayed a new timeline has been suggested for receiving documentation by the end of January 2022.
- MPA Officer – new appointment has been made, training is now underway, relevant introductions have been sent and scheduled calls will take place.
- Bluebelt/SPC fisheries training - Carried out over the past 5 weeks and being completed this month. The training has been a success and has demonstrated that virtual training is the way forward.
- MPA Management Plan - in the new year Bluebelt will be developing an Annual Operational Plan containing Pitcairn's objective. The plan will list the objectives, timeline and who is responsible.
- Blue Belt strategy meetings – BB team in UK held a planning workshop with OT's to work through priorities for the next 3 years. Pitcairn also joined a BB Steering Group in November.
- Blue Shield - Bluebelt is announcing a new initiative called Blue Shield programme which is extending monitoring and surveillance activities to all OT's who don't have MPA's.
- RSPB Bio Security Project - RSPB are renewing Wayne Hartley (Bio Security NZ Consultant) to provide assistance in developing Bio Security practises.

Operations

- Roads - All aggregate cleared from Bounty Bay and stored at locations within Adamstown ready for concreting once cement arrives on island. A shortage of cement in New Zealand has caused a delay to our cement order. At present Shuttle Express is looking to source cement for the March supply ship.
- Community & Health Centre: Shortage and limit on building supplies in New Zealand, but the bulk of remaining materials to complete the Community and Health Centre should be arriving on the supply ship (allowing work to re-commence after the Christmas holidays).
- Public toilets and Scenic lookouts: Public toilets framing completed, stained and ready to be erected onsite. Scenic lookout platforms will be prefabricated and erected on site along with the public toilets. At this

	<p>stage aiming for completion late February or early March.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Research Building - The design and ordering of materials for the marine research building is underway with the first lot of materials arriving on the December supply ship. • Bounty Bay development & Ship-to-Shore vessel – Joint visit proposed to Tauranga with Evan Dunn, Grant Pierce and Randy Christian to view vessel and allow Grant to complete the slipway design options that would accommodate the new vessel. <p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID vaccine boosters – Pfizer ruled out. UK working on possibilities for getting Moderna to Pitcairn, preferably for January / February. • Crisis Group meetings – two meetings held, one on October one in November. • School concert – Thursday 2pm • Auctions – auction of Nola's effects. Date tbd but possibly Friday 17th <p>Finance & Economics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store policy - reviewed and being tabled for sign off at Council. • Stamps & coins – 2 x new stamp issues due to arrive on supply ship. DM looking to improve communication with Tower Mint • Gallery - Hoping for a good month of gallery sales. Working on a new JD for Gallery Manager. • Tourism - proposals for opening borders under consideration. • Miscellany - provided an article on the Post Office for inclusion in an International stamp magazine.
General Business Matters	
Silver Supplier update	Arrival time due 21 st December 2021. Unloading, barring weather and sea conditions should be complete within two days.
Question in the Public Meeting	A councillor suggested that a question raised in the audience at the Public Meeting around freight was unanswered. Suggested that the freight policy and complaints procedure could be given to the community member and should be advised to approach the Administrator with any questions.
	Cr. H Menzies thanked the Council for having her at the table and wanted to convey that she had enjoyed working with the team. She advised that going forward she is available and always open to support the Island Council as required. The Mayor acknowledged Cr H Menzies for her input and appreciated both her and <i>all</i> the sitting council for their hard work over the last two years.

Meeting Closed	Meeting closed at 2.50pm
Next Meeting.	Special Council meeting 8.30, 17 th December 2021. Next Regular Council meeting set for 9.00 am Wednesday 12 th January 2022.
Approved <i>16/04</i> 2022	Mayor Charlene Warren. <i>Charlene Warren</i>



Approved