



THE PITCAIRN, HENDERSON, OENO AND DUCIE ISLANDS

ISLAND COUNCIL

MEETING NOTES – PUBLIC MEETING

3rd January 2024 – TOWN HALL

PRESENT:

Mayor - Simon Young;
Island Secretary – William Gordon;
25 members of the Pitcairn Island Community;

Administrator – Stephen Townsend;
3 Expatriate Staff and Accompanying Partners;
2 Visitors.

APOLOGIES:

None

AGENDA ITEM	
i. Opening	The Mayor welcomed the community to the meeting, and thanked them for their attendance.
1. Plastics Odyssey Expedition to Pitcairn and Henderson – February 2024	The Mayor advised the community that Plastics Odyssey will be visiting in February. They have received permission from The Governor to conduct a plastic debris clean up operation on Henderson's East Beach. They intend to repurpose the plastic waste into useable building materials onboard their ship. This will be gifted to the Pitcairn Island community, if they perceive a benefit in having it. The Administrator advised that they will be sailing to Pitcairn Island first, and intend to take on a local guide.
2. Visit of the HMS Tamar – Royal Navy	The Mayor invited the Administrator to speak about the upcoming visit of the HMS Tamar, of the Royal Navy. The HMS Tamar is the sister ship of the HMS Spey, which has previously visited Pitcairn. The Administrator informed the community of the dates of her visit, and that she would be here for five days totally, two of which would likely be at Pitcairn with the remaining time spent patrolling Pitcairn's EEZ. Her crew will be 59 persons, and they will be assisting with getting rid of the current expired explosives on-island, as well as building work on the Health Centre. The Administrator invited any questions from the community.

	<p>The community asked if any specialists would be coming on HMS Tamar (such as with the dental visit with the HMS Spey). The Administrator advised that no specialists will be visiting onboard. This is because of costs (many thousands of pounds), and that most of the Navy's specialist medical personnel are currently tied up with deployments to emergencies around the world. The budgetary concerns for GPI were queried and the Administrator advised that we are charged the full rate of pay for their time.</p> <p>A member of the community offered his assistance with the removal of expired explosives, and advised of his experience in this field of work.</p> <p>The Mayor advised that the HMS Tamar intends to do the usual things for visiting Naval ships – a tour of the island, a community dinner on-island, a reciprocal community dinner onboard the ship, a tour of the ship, and sports games.</p>
<p>3. Flyover of New Zealand Air Force</p>	<p>The Mayor invited the Administrator to speak to the flyover of the New Zealand Airforce.</p> <p>The Administrator informed the community of the dates of the operation and that this is being done at the request of the UK Marine Maritime Organisation and is for general surveillance of the EEZ. They will be coming from New Zealand and landing in Tahiti. The operation in the Pitcairn EEZ will run over 2 days.</p>
<p>4. ANZAC Day / Remembrance Day Commemorations</p>	<p>The community was asked whether they would prefer to publicly commemorate Remembrance Day or ANZAC Day, or both.</p> <p>Some commented that both should be done, and that people can attend whichever of the two they prefer, or both. No particularly strong feelings were publicly voiced.</p> <p>The Mayor asked the community to provide feedback privately to the Island Secretary if they preferred to do so.</p>
<p>5. Location of new War Memorial plaque <i>(And discussion about the condition of the Town Hall)</i></p>	<p>The community were reminded of the new War Memorial Plaque which is on-island, and that a location for it to be displayed needs to be agreed on. No strong views were publicly voiced.</p> <p>The Mayor asked the community to provide feedback privately to the Island Secretary if they preferred to do so.</p> <p>The discussion moved on to the current condition of the Town Hall. It was agreed by all that it is in a state of disrepair and was previously condemned by Smiley. Several people voiced opinions as to</p>

	<p>whether it should be demolished and the site levelled, demolished and rebuilt, or sympathetically restored.</p>
<p>6. Inflation Adjustment Proposal</p>	<p>The Mayor informed the community of the Council proposal for a 45% Inflation Adjustment on Pitcairn, and that this was agreed and has been submitted to FCDO for authorisation.</p> <p>A discussion followed as to whether this was a wage increase or not. The Mayor explained to the community that this is not a wage increase, but rather a means of addressing the lack of inflation adjustment since 2009, and that a wage increase of 45% would be a consequence – if approved by FCDO.</p>
<p>7. Starlink Internet System</p>	<p>The community were informed of the Council proposal to change the internet provider from Speedcast to Starlink, and that it had been approved and funded by FCDO with units about to be ordered, hopefully to be onboard FV105.</p> <p>Some people asked questions about futureproofing the concept, and the Mayor advised that the concept includes holding a number of units permanently in reserve, allowing any defective units to be switched out very quickly and easily.</p>
<p>8. COVID-19 Update and Forward Planning</p>	<p>Dr Peter Adam addressed the community about COVID-19 and plans moving forward. He commended the community about the recent successful handling of the COVID-19 outbreak.</p> <p>Dr Adam advised that COVID is now considerably less virulent, and that remaining isolated in fear of contact with outsiders would not serve the community well in the long-term. To help with public health and immunity, there will be a booster clinic in due course.</p> <p>He went on to suggest that Pitcairn shouldn't impose restrictions on cruise ships, and there is currently a procedure in place for ships to notify the Medical Officer in advance of their arrival, should there be any disease onboard.</p> <p>He reassured the community that Pitcairn is well placed to provide good care for patients with COVID-19 at present and that it is unlikely to become a problem.</p>
<p>9. Elder Care Community Survey</p>	<p>The Mayor thanked the community for almost everybody completing and returning the survey.</p> <p>Cr. Heather Menzies spoke briefly to say that this was designed to help determine a whole community approach to elder care, and that it is relevant for everyone. There will be a meeting between Cr. Heather Menzies (Policy Review</p>

	Committee), the FCA, the Doctor, and the Nurse, to go through some of the data in order to be able to feedback to the community more fully in due course.
10. Trading Baskets on Visiting Ships	The Mayor requested that people remember to ensure that their trading baskets are clearly tagged with their names when going out to visiting ships. This is to ensure that they get to their allocated trading tables more easily.
11. Island Council Discretionary Fund	The community were invited to submit suggestions to the Island Secretary as to what may be purchased for community benefit.
12. Introduction to new FCA	<p>The Mayor invited Shirley Wainwright, the new FCA, to introduce herself.</p> <p>Shirley Wainwright introduced herself and her partner, Ado, and thanked the community for the warm welcome they had received. Shirley advised that she is the FCA, does not wish to be passive with her role, does not wish to interfere, but has ideas she wishes to implement. She informed the community that her partner is a former helicopter engineer for the Dutch Royal Navy, and is willing to volunteer and help if required.</p>
13. Gift to Nurse Darralyn Griffiths from Tonga	Nurse Darralyn Griffiths unveiled the gifts she received from the Kingdom of Tonga on her visit last year to attend the Pacific Health Ministers Meeting (PHMM). She was gifted a carved wooden bowl and a commemorative mat. She handed to them to the Island Secretary for safekeeping on behalf of the community.
14. NZ Seconded Police Officer	The Administrator informed that community that Special Constable William Paniora would be returning on 4 th January 2024 onboard the Silver Supporter and that he will be replacing Gavin Cyprian for approximately 6 weeks. Shelley Paniora will unfortunately not be accompanying him.
ii. Meeting Closed	10:06hr