



THE PITCAIRN, HENDERSON, OENO AND DUCIE ISLANDS

ISLAND COUNCIL

MINUTES – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

10th January 2024 – The School House

PRESENT:

Mayor - Simon Young, Cr- Shawn Christian, Island Secretary – William Gordon, Cr. Heather Menzies, Cr. Kerry Young, Cr. Kevin Young, Cr. Melva Evans, Administrator Stephen Townsend.

Apologies: Deputy Mayor Charlene Warren Gallery Shirley Wainwright

AGENDA ITEM	
1. Opening	Meeting Opened: 09:00 hrs
2. Welcome and Moment of Reflection	The Mayor opened the meeting with a moment of reflection.
3. Call for General Business	The Mayor called for items of general business. The following items were presented: - Medical Certificate Issues, regarding disability - Emergency Housing / Elder Care - War Memorial Plaque - Introduction to the new FCA
4. Agreed Actions from the Regular Council Meeting of 13 th December 2023	<u>Marine Infrastructure Plan</u> No further action required regarding this particular action point as other events have since overtaken. <u>Immigration Interviews</u> Mayor and Deputy Mayor to conduct them, with the Island Secretary present to record notes. The Administrator will offer informal advice on immigration interview techniques.
5. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of 13 th December 2023.	Motion: "That the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of 13 th December 2023 are approved". Moved: Mayor / Cr. Heather Menzies

<p>6. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of 28th November 2023.</p>	<p>Motion: “That the minutes of Minutes of the Public Meeting of 3rd January 2024 are approved”.</p> <p>Moved: Mayor / Cr. Shawn Christian</p>
<p>STANDING ITEMS</p>	
<p>7. Mayor’s Report – December 2023</p>	<p>The Administrator queried if UKOTA had advised on the JMC date or not. The Mayor advised that they had not done so yet. The Administrator opined that it may not occur until 2025 due to the uncertainty that still surrounds UK election dates. It was agreed that travel costs are budgeted for.</p> <p>Cr. Melva Evans queried the use of the term “change manager”. The Mayor advised that this was the language used by the H.E. The Governor. Cr. Kerry Young queried what the issue is in terms of holding up the project from developing, and if it is a funding issue. The Administrator advised that he has the name of someone who has done such consulting for small islands in the past, but that there is no significant hope that it can be funding this financial year.</p> <p>Motion: “That the Island Council accept the Mayor’s Report of December 2023”.</p> <p>Moved: Mayor / Cr. Heather Menzies</p>
<p>8. Head of the Pitcairn Public Service Monthly Report – December 2023</p>	<p>There were no substantial queries with the report, and the Administrator introduced the new FCA, Shirley Wainwright, and advised that she is happy to suggest ways to reform the role.</p> <p>Cr. Melva Evans sought clarification as to whether or not the Plastic Odyssey expedition will be stopping at Pitcairn. The Administrator advised that it will be, that they won’t be taking anyone from Pitcairn due to budgetary constraints, and that the landing fees will be paid.</p> <p>Cr. Kerry Young asked about the current comms system, Speedcast. The Administrator invited Cr. Shawn Christian, as DM Operations, to speak to the question. He advised that the current issues are an Ersus issue, not a Speedcast issue, although that Speedcast are managing it. The issue centres around the microwave link between the satellite shed and the tower. He also advised that additional fuel cots for the generators are about 400l, at a cost of about 400-500 NZD, and that this is a good solution to hold over until when new generators arrive on-island in March.</p> <p>Cr. Shawn Christian spoke about utility charges for government buildings - the tariff difference between residential and government buildings. Cr. Heather Menzies proposed that Evan Dunn has a preliminary meeting regarding utility costs</p>

	<p>and budgets in general. The Administrator agreed to work out the true costs of power production.</p> <p>Motion: "That the Island Council accept the PPS Report of November 2023".</p> <p>Moved: Mayor / Cr. Melva Evans</p>
<p>9. Starlink - Update</p>	<p>Cr. Kerry Young spoke about the budget funding approved (OTD CapEx), hardware plus servicing for first 12 months. The mission critical hardware is now on order, enroute to Shuttle to make FV105. Some money is left over and is to be spend on additional accessories. He is currently drawing up the implementation action plan.</p> <p>Cr. Kevin Young advised, in respect of telephony, that Spark IT is back in the office on 15th January 2024 and will advise soon after. There is a possibility of developing Pitcairn numbers rather than using NZ ones.</p>
<p>10. Inflation Adjustment Proposal - Update</p>	<p>Cr. Kevin Young spoke to note that 45% increase has been factored into budgets, so it is for FCDO to approve. The Administrator advised that it was submitted before Christmas.</p> <p>Cr. Shawn Christian advised that we must be making sure that GST is removed, to reduce budgetary stress.</p> <p>Cr. Kevin Young queried what happens to Countdown GST reclaims? PIO is registered for GST returns.</p>
<p>11. Setting Date for Lands Court</p>	<p>Motion: "That the Lands Court shall next sit on 31st January 2024".</p> <p>Moved: Mayor / Cr. Shawn Christian</p>
<p>12. Visit from Marine Engineer</p>	<p>The Mayor advised that the Deputy Governor is in favour of the longboats replacement. The proposal consisted of a Marine Engineer visiting Pitcairn with a view to identifying which vessel should be designed/built going forward/ Cr. Kerry Young suggested that there may be some synergy with Tonkin and Taylor, or a similar firm, visiting alongside the Marine Engineer.</p> <p>A general discussion was had about DM Operations' proposal for a gantry crane Down the Landing, from Liebherr. Cr. Melva Evans queried EDF budgets and where all of the money has gone, as it was originally designated for a ship to shore vessel/s. Cr. Heather Menzies stressed the need for a budget meeting with Evan Dunn.</p>

	<p>The Administrator advised on reasonable needs, and that the boat should be fit for purpose, and without significant bells and whistles.</p> <p>Motion: “That the Draft Overview Action Plan be accepted as a strategy for moving forward with, and that the Mayor continue to lead the project, and that a site visit utilising EDF funds be arranged”</p> <p>Moved: Mayor / Cr. Shawn Christian</p>
<p>13. Legislation Review – Voting Law</p>	<p>The Mayor sought feedback about reviewing voting legislation and whether it should it be reviewed before the next election. Cr. Heather Menzies said legislation review needs to come not in isolation, but with other items for law reform.</p> <p>Cr. Shawn Christian commented that any voting law reform should eradicate ability for off islanders to vote on Pitcairn.</p> <p>Cr. Heather Menzies advised that she is happy to represent the wishes of the Island Council in New Zealand in March.</p>
<p>14. GPI Budgets</p>	<p>The Administrator advised that the Island Council can only set the budgets for the on-island “envelope” of funds, not for the rest of the GPI Budget, and that he does not have insight into other costs. Cr. Kevin Young queried the PIO consultancy costs, and that it is hard to do meaningful costings without this information.</p>
<p>15. Organising Island Archives</p>	<p>A general discussion was had about the proposal, the hourly rate, and the value of digitization. Cr. Shawn Christian suggested that in the future, the archive room should be air conditioned. It was agreed that the proposal would be rewritten to reflect the above.</p>
<p>16. Town Hall</p>	<p>It was agreed that it would be useful to slowly examine the building to determine if it’s a lost cause or not. An examination of foundations is needed. It was further agreed that there is a need for the new community centre to be completed before any action is taken. It would be meaningful to attempt to verify whether it is built on a cemetery. In the interim, the Island Council is to meet at the School House.</p>
<p>17. Shipping Schedule 2024/25</p>	<p>Cr. Heather Menzies spoke about the utility of the schedule for Pitcairn, HMG and their expeditions. It is now clear that the Island Council must be consulted about these matters at the front end not the back end. February 2025 has a 2 week marine expedition scheduled. This is in Pitcairn’s peak cruise ship period, and the expedition has no benefit to Pitcairn. Cr. Heather Menzies advised that she is happy to discuss this concern further when she is in New Zealand in March.</p>

	<p>Cr. Shawn Christian commented that the ocean doesn't change annually so there is no need to do it each year, cost of shipping is too high and this is not offset by charging researches the true cost of utilising Pitcairn's ship.</p>
<p>18. New Settler Land</p>	<p>Cr. Heather Menzies advised that some years ago during an immigration review, there was a plan for a few blocks of land to be identified as being suitable for new settler first homes. It would be useful to identify a few for the Island Council to now apply for. Cr. Melva Evans wished to note for the record that she disagreed with such a plan.</p> <p>Motion: That Council will, in association with the Land Registrar, identify 3 plots of land suitable for new Settler house land. This work will be undertaken before the next Regular Council meeting.</p> <p>Moved: Cr. Heather Menzies / Mayor</p> <p>Action: The Land Registrar will identify 3 Plots of land suitable for new Settler house land and report back to Council.</p>
<p>19. Health Centre Operational Policy</p>	<p>Twelve small changes were agreed. The Mayor wished to note his disagreement about the second opinion clause.</p>
<p>20. Elder Care</p>	<p>Cr. Heather Menzies advised that there will be a meeting of the Elder Care Action Group, with the immediate focus being on activities with elders. Additionally, plans are being developed for a pilot scheme for a community nurse and also for a respite house.</p> <p>Motion: That the 3-phase concept document for Elder Care Services on Pitcairn be accepted as a strategy for Council moving forward and that the Elder Care Action group will be opened to the community for broader representation.</p> <p>Moved: Cr. Heather Menzies / Mayor</p> <p>Action: Cr Heather Menzies will continue to work with onisland stakeholders and the community members to further develop each of the phases for a more detailed plan over the next month.</p>
<p>21. Environment Committee – Appointments</p>	<p>The Island Council made the following appointment recommendations to H.E. The Governor:</p> <p><i>Members:</i> William Gordon and Michele Christian (in her capacity as DM Natural Resources);</p> <p><i>Reserve Members:</i> Shawn Christian and Melva Evans.</p>

<p>22. HMS Tamar</p>	<p>The Administrator went over the schedule and advised that Graham Lawton, a journalist from the New Scientist, would be onboard.</p>
<p>GENERAL BUSINESS</p>	
<p>23. Medical Certificates</p>	<p>A general discussion would be had about current irregularities with about the current disability certificates. It was agreed that this should be addressed by the next Council meeting otherwise the Island Council will need to take further action.</p>
<p>24. Emergency Housing / Elder Care</p>	<p>The Council housing should have basic equipment going forward and double standards need to end.</p>
<p>25. War Memorial Plaque</p>	<p>The Island Secretary to note down feedback of proposed locations</p>
<p>26. Introduction to the new FCA</p>	<p>The FCA told the Island Council that the role is not monitored, not evaluated, with no defined tasks or roles set, and is generally not accountable. Objectives need to be agreed with clear responsibilities.</p>
<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2024</p>
<p>MEETING CLOSED:</p>	<p>12:20 hrs</p>
<p>MEETING APPROVED: BY: Mayor – Simon Young SIGNED: <i>Simon Young</i> DATE: 16th May 2024</p>	