



## PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL

Public Meeting Notes: Video Link with Governor Laura Clarke Held at the Square, commencing 1.00pm April 9<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Present:** 

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

General Community attendance

In attendance:

Apologies: Cr L Jaques, Cr L Brown

Welcome:

The Mayor and Administrator welcomed the Governor to the meeting

Agenda Item	
	The Governor greeted everyone and began by saying she is keeping in close contact with the Administrator regarding all things Pitcairn. She conveyed she is very impressed and appreciative as to how everyone in the community has come together to deal with the impact of Covid – 19. She acknowledged the effort that has gone into not only keeping the virus out of Pitcairn but also the work done on managing the local impact of the global pandemic She noted that Pitcairn's isolation is a strength in that we are able to implement border controls quickly and effectively and thanked all concerned. She said she is very focused on the impact the pandemic on French Polynesia's border controls and the knock-on impact of that on Pitcairn. She is doing all that she can to come up with a solution for medivac pathway going forward.
	She then spoke the situation in the UK and the prediction that the global recession will be worse than we have seen in over 100 years.
	Together we will have to focus on what we can do going forward to recover and rebuild and it feel like it will take a long time. She spoke of NZ's more recent quarantine requirements. i.e. 14 days self- isolation for all new arrivals and that fact that NZ is gaining on its intention to eliminate the virus not just control it.
	She advised here work has been entirely taken over by the 12,000 British Nationals stranded in NZ. They want to leave – but this is not easy. Flights are at only 6% capacity and the logistic are enormous.
	NZ is also looking at how it will support the island nations in the South Pacific. Adding that HMG, the FCO and all other stakeholders are committed to supporting Pitcairn, noting the recent discussions with Baroness Sugg (Minister of Overseas Territories) with regard to establishing a medivac pathway for critically ill Pitcairners.
	The Mayor conveyed that Pitcairn is anxious about the spread of the virus but is using this time to its best advantage. The DM Operation reported on EDF project progress and the need to manage the delay of material deliveries due to the pandemic. He added there is plenty of work to see us through for the next 6 to 9 months. The labour force is working half-days on projects so that people can also

focus on private activities as well and noted that work will be managed so as to mitigate risk in the work place until a pathway for medical evacuation is in place. The Governor agreed that at times like these people must accept what is beyond their control and focus on what they can do and how they choose to respond.
The Mayor and Administrator thanks everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Meeting Closed: 1:30pm Next Public Meeting: TBC

Date: 13 / 04 / 2020