



PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meeting held in The Square - Public Hall
Commencing at 10.30am on Thursday 18th Nov 2015
Regular**

Present:

Mayor Shawn Christian, Acting Deputy Mayor Cr Charlene Warren-Peu, Cr David Brown, Cr Darralyn Griffiths, Cr Michele Christian, Cr Leslie Jaques, Acting Councillor Melva Evans and Administrator, Alan Richmond

Temp Island Secretary – Heather Menzies

Apologies: Deputy Mayor Brenda Christian

Gallery: None

In attendance: Web Designer, Andrew Christian and Community Police Officer, John Singer

Opening Prayer: Cr Charlene Warren-Peu.

Welcome: Mayor Shawn Christian

Item	Discussion
Minutes of Council Meeting Nov 12 th	Motion: Mayor / Cr Griffiths Amendment: ISec to note the abstained vote was due to Cr Michele Christian role as DM Natural Resources. “That the Council minutes, as amended be approved and recorded as true and correct.” All in favour Carried.
RSG Recommendation: Amendment to Section 10. Child Safeguarding Statement as approved in Council on Nov 12 th 2015.	Motions: Cr Warren-Peu / Cr Jaques “That the final sentence of the statement be removed as it may be considered misleading” All in favour Carried Cr Michele Christian asked the Administrator as to whether there is something Pitcairn might be able to do to assist other overseas territories faced with dealing with Child safeguarding issues. The Administrator thanks Cr Christian and explained that a new unit has been set up to deal with these issues and that the unit is drawing on the progress made by Pitcairn. There ensued general discussion about the Pitcairn’s commitment to its child safeguarding policies and practices and Mr Leslie Jaques told the group that he will provide

	<p>Council with his draft intervention for the JMC, on Child Safeguarding on Pitcairn, next week for Council's input.</p>
<p>Family and Community Advisor's letter to Council in support of a Pensions review for the elderly/</p>	<p>Cr Jaques shared that the FCA has recently undertaken a review of senior citizens well-being and has written a letter to Council in support of senior citizens' pension increases.</p> <p>The Mayor added that pensioners who live with family often feel obligated to work/produce curio and go out to cruise ships in order to make extra money for themselves and family, given that their pensions low. This put Pitcairn's elderly at real risk and has serious health and safety implications for Pitcairn's elderly care.</p> <p>The Administrator added that Cr Jaques is in a good position take this conversation to the JMC. However, he added that whilst the concept of subsidising costs for the elderly is worthy it is unlikely HMG will fund pension increases. Further, he said that not all pensioners were financially disadvantaged or struggling to make ends meet. Though one of two of them may need a little help from time to time DFID will be disinclined to subsidise pension increases. He said Council should think 'outside the box' if it wished to increase pensions for the elderly. He said setting up voluntary contributions from money made on cruise ships or the broader community donating money to a community fund as examples of what might be done.</p> <p>Cr Jaques acknowledged the administrator's position and said that FCA letter did not have to be used and that the collective position of the Overseas Territory group was not to request subsidies as such but rather to request increased pensions. The lowest amount paid to a NZ pensioner is NZ\$1,400 whereby the lowest amount paid to a Pitcairn pensioner is NZ\$380.00. Also, Pitcairn Pensions are not transportable. A senior citizen who leave Pitcairn will lose their pension after 6 months. He went on to say that other OTs will be lobby the Minister to 'up rate', OT citizen's pensions. This entails application of a formula based on the CPI and inflation.</p> <p>The Administrator said it is misleading to compare NZ pensions to Pitcairn pensions particularly because Pitcairners do not pay tax. Cr Jaques responded that there is counter argument to this point in that the UK tax threshold is £11,000.</p> <p>Most Pitcairners would be more than happy to pay tax should if they could earn £11,000.</p> <p>The Mayor said that this discussion will be added to the 2016 Council workshop agenda. Cr Jacques will draft the discussion paper for the JMC and submit it to Council for approval prior to delivery.</p> <p>ACTION:</p>

	Cr Jaques will report back after JMC and DFID meeting
Cultural Advisor – Memo to Council	<p>Motion: Cr Griffiths “That Council agrees to add the following statement to the education section of general background, on page 8, of the Strategic Development Plan</p> <p>“Pitcairn recognizes its unique Polynesian and Bounty history and heritage and must do everything it can to preserve this legacy for future generations. Culture and Pitkern language forms an important part of the school curriculum.”</p> <p>Council also agreed to add the following statement, under the heading of Economic Development, point 5, to note the importance of preserving the oral history of Pitcairn.</p> <p>“...and preserving the Pitkern language”. All in Favour</p> <p>Carried</p>
Acknowledgements	The Mayor congratulated those Councillors who have been re-elected and welcomed new councillor Lea Brown.
Allocating tasks and titles to Councillors	It was agreed that tasks allocated to particular councillors, as required and from time to time, will be noted and known as Advisory roles to Council.
Active Settlement Applications	<p>The Mayor advised that Mr Mekat’s application was still with the Deputy Governor and in process.</p> <p>Marcus & Nadine Haupt’s applications were progressing. They have had a skype meeting with the Deputy Governor.</p> <p>ACTION: The Administrator will ask the Deputy Governor for an update on both applications.</p>
General Business	
JMC	<p>Cr Jaques – Email for Leslie Reid conveying that Deputy Governor and he will be meeting with DIFD. Cr Jaques asked the Mayor and Administrator whether DFIDs annual review has been sent to the island.</p> <p>ACTION: The Mayor will look into this and provide Councillor Jaques with the report.</p>
MAP	The Administrator shared a letter from the Minister of Overseas Territories to Sukey Cameron, Chairman of the Overseas Territories Association, which outlined the manifesto commitment to establishing a blue belt around the UK’s 14 overseas territories. The Blue Belt policy will follow a two track process. One being the focus on Pitcairn Island and Ascension, as specifically highlighted in the manifesto, warranting the highest projection, and the other looking at all the other overseas territories with the intention that each consider designating at least some percentage of their marine zones as highly protected.

Provisions	It was agreed that: That Cr Warren Peu and the Mayor will handle ship provision management, whilst Steve and Olive Christian are off-island - should the need arise.
Note of appreciation	The Mayor thanked and acknowledged temporary Councillor Melva Evans for her time on Council.

Council adjourned: 11.00am for RSG information sharing, a VTC with the Governor and a conference call with Evan Dunn and Mark Watson re EDF 11.

Council resumed: 1.45pm

Council Meeting Closed: 2.30pm

Next Regular Council Meeting: Wednesday Dec 16th2015 8.30am

Mayor Shawn Christian.....

Date...../...../.....

Approved