



PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL

Minutes of the Special Council Meeting – with The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Commencing at 2pm, 19th October 2023

Present:

Mayor Simon Young, Administrator Fiona Kilpatrick, Cr Kevin Young, Cr Kerry Young, Cr Charlene Warren, Cr Melva Evans

Apologies: Deputy Mayor Shawn Christian, Cr Heather Menziès

In attendance: William Gordon – Island Secretary, Andrew Callender (RSPB), David Kinchin-Smith(RSPB), Peter McClelland (Contracted Rat Eradicator)

Gallery: Gavin Cyprian, Sherlene Cyprian, Michelle Christian

Welcome: A moment of private reflection was taken.

Items	
1. Opening of the Meeting	Meeting Opened: 2pm
2. Welcome all along with moment of reflection.	Mayor Simon Young opened the meeting and welcomed the RSPB team to Pitcairn. Concern was expressed that Council were largely unaware of RSPB’s visit, and the reasons for their visit, and that this Special Council Meeting was to inform Council about the mission.
3. Introduction from RSPB Team and Peter McClelland	<p>Andrew advised Council that the rat eradication project is intended to cover both Henderson Island and Pitcairn Island, and would remain in the primary care of Andy Scofield. Unfortunately, Andy Scofield was unable to join this visit to Henderson and Pitcairn due to delays in South Africa with his return from Tristan da Cunha.</p> <p>It was explained that the purpose of this current visit is to do a brief preliminary study of both Henderson Island and Pitcairn Island. The logistics for Henderson Island are being provided by the Silver Supporter, out of the GPI budget. The team will spend two full days on Henderson, with a support team of Pitcairners. They will then spend a few days on Pitcairn undertaking feasibility studies and initial bait trials.</p> <p>David introduced Council to his role in logistical support.</p> <p>Peter informed Council about the lack of an agreed reason as to why the previous rat eradication on Henderson failed and went on to explain the developments in rat eradication, particularly in regard to baiting methods.</p> <p>It was agreed that the most suitable method to be implemented on Henderson would be aerial bating with two if</p>

	<p>not three helicopters. Part of the mission to Henderson was to establish whether or not this would best be done from a support ship, or if a land-based operation on the Southern Plateau would be feasible.</p> <p>Council was informed that the plan for Pitcairn would also involve aerial baiting, and that significant community consultation would be required to ensure the project has the greatest chance of success.</p> <p>Councillors raised concerns about how the baiting on Pitcairn may affect beekeeping operations, domestic and feral cats and other animals, as well as water supply. Peter advised that all of these concerns were raised by Andy Scofield's public consultation in January 2023, would be addressed at a community meeting upon the return from Henderson, and that many of these concerns are just perceived concerns.</p> <p>Andrew advised Council that RSPB intend to return in June or July 2024 to undertake a further feasibility study subject to funding.</p> <p>Peter went on to advise that the bait that will be used is not harmful to humans in almost all circumstances, that it is possible to do aerial baiting without the bait going into the sea, and that the impact on marine life is incredibly negligible.</p> <p>The expedition will depart for Henderson at around 5:30pm on 19th October 2023 and return to Pitcairn on the morning of 22nd October 2023. Landings will be attempted on the North, West and East beaches, and a full circumnavigation will be conducted, so as to observe the South Plateau. Drone footage will be obtained for publicity and strategic planning purposes.</p> <p>Council was in agreement with the motivations for the expedition.</p>
Meeting Closed –	2:47pm
Meeting Approved Mayor: <i>Simon Young</i> Date: <i>8th November 2023</i>	27 October 2023

