



PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held at the Town Square
Commencing at 9.00am 12 July 2023

Present:

Mayor Simon Young, Cr Kevin Young, Cr Kerry Young, Cr Heather Menzies, Cr Charlene Warren, Deputy Mayor Shawn Christian, Administrator Fiona Kilpatrick.

In attendance: Shirley Young (ISEC),

Gallery Stephen Townsend

Welcome: A moment of private reflection was taken.

Items	
1. Opening of the Meeting of 12 July 2023	Meeting Opened: 9.00am
2. Welcome all along with moment of reflection.	
3. Call for items in General Business	IT e-mail Migration – Cr Kerry Young Solar Units – Freight Charge – Cr Kevin Young Marine Infrastructure Development – Administrator Passports – Administrator Tenders Nat Geo Orion - Mayor
4. Actions Undertaken from the Regular Council Meeting of 21 June 2023	Action Register updated #56 – Fruit for Nat Geo Orion – When the cruise ship Nat Geo last visited locals provided fruit and vegetables and expected to receive payment from the ship. The Deputy Mayor donated the local providers fruit and veg as a thank you for the unexpected donation of a second tender. The ripple effect of this decision is that the local providers were not paid by the cruise ship as they should have been, and Council will now honour the payments due to locals for the fruit and veg. It was noted that this would not be common practice and to bring the matter to a close, a one-off payment from the discretionary fund would be made. Motion: <i>“That we approve payment from the discretionary fund of \$1,492.65 to local providers for the fruit and vegetable supplied to the Nat Geo Orion.”</i> Moved: Mayor/Cr H Menzies Note: Cr Kevin Young and C Warren abstained Action: Mayor to ensure payment is made to local providers. Closed #63 – The Administrator confirmed that Bill Haigh is still being contracted for service. Closed #69 – Administrator report covers this item. Closed
5. Minutes of previous meetings	The Administrator, as Head of PPS, requested that the title ‘Administrator’ be removed from the minutes as raised under performance issue, by the Mayor.

	<p>There ensued general discussion, with the majority of Council deciding to use Council's existing naming convention, and that the minutes will stand as recorded.</p> <p>For the record the Administrator stated she did not agree with Council's decision.</p> <p>Motion: <i>"That the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting 21 June 2023 be approved, with the retention of 'Administrator, as Head of PPS', as a title."</i></p> <p>Moved: Cr H Menzies / Cr C Warren</p>
Standing Items	
<p>6. Mayor's Report</p>	<p>Circulated with Agenda.</p> <p>Moved: Mayor / Cr H Menzies</p> <p>Questions asked regarding development of proposal for PPS wage increase. Mayor informed Council that he is in preliminary talks with Administrator and gathering relevant information that is evidence based.</p> <p>Report covered general issues such as, public meeting held and judgements received from Supreme Court with direction for local Land Court.</p> <p>Motion: <i>"That the Mayors Report for June 2023 Council Meeting be accepted"</i></p> <p>Moved: Mayor / Cr H Menzies</p>
<p>7. PPS Report</p>	<p>Circulated with Agenda</p> <p><u>Starlink</u></p> <p>The Administrator advised the Starlink trial period has ended, and they are reluctant to extend and maintain the access to the Hotspot in the square. Administrator has a meeting with Starlink on the 17th July to discuss this and rollout issues. Under discussion are how this rollout will make Starlink available to the community, nothing has yet been decided.</p> <p>Action: Administrator will report back to council once a proposal has been formulated.</p> <p><u>Glass recycling plant</u> – Administrator stated that the glass recycling project should be transitioned from Government to the Community. Kerry raised that in the budget for DM Nature sits a pocket of money for \$10,000 for the glass recycling project. General discussion that we are unclear what the \$10,000 is doing in the budget.</p> <p>Action: Administrator will investigate and report back.</p> <p><u>Community debts</u> – Discussion around the significant debts that exist within the community. The total debt sits at over NZ \$1m. Some is historical debt. Community debts are located across all available areas, that is Store, Freight and General Accounts, Medical and Government Loans. Discussion and general agreement that this is counterproductive for a healthy community. Additionally, we need to be fiscally responsible.</p> <p>Motion: <i>"That the Island Council works with GPI partners to develop a debt recovery plan in parallel with the development of the salary wage increase proposal for PPS employees."</i></p>

	<p>Moved: Mayor /Cr C Warren</p> <p>Action: Mayor and Administrator set up a workshop to work on solutions to this problem.</p> <p><u>Dark Sky proposal/Budgets</u> - Mayor requested permission as DM Finance to speak to his report. Mayor clarified that the proposal had been a provisional meeting, and that the Division continues to investigate if funding can be sourced within the existing budgets. Cr H Menzies raised the question that previously within budgets was allocation of funding for training and development. These seem to have been stripped out of the budgets. It was requested of the Administrator to investigate if any of the 4 Divisions still held training and development budgets.</p> <p>Motion: <i>“That the June 2023 Head of PPS monthly report be accepted”</i></p> <p>Moved: Mayor / Cr C Warren</p>
8. Update on Starlink Trial	Covered in the PPS report.
New Items	
9. LTV Application Robert Merriam	<p>Motion: <i>“That Council approves the Long Term Visitor Application for Robert Merriam to visit Pitcairn Island from December 2023 until March 2024.”</i></p> <p>Moved: Mayor / Cr H Menzies</p>
10. Picton Castle	<p>Mayor explained that Council had informally discussed ideas that we could utilize the crew of the Picton Castle to assist us in working alongside the community on outstanding projects. That potentially we could provide the host with financial assistance, and potentially the Chief Immigration Officer could waive the landing fees. To this end the Mayor had corresponded with Captain Moreland of the Picton Castle to explore this idea. Captain Moreland confirmed that his entire crew were very supportive of this council initiative. Council has not formally spoken about this issue, and that this was now being raised.</p> <p>Concern was raised by the Deputy Mayor who felt that perhaps, (though he was unsure) up to 6 families did not wish to have crew whom they are hosting participating in government projects, and that they may wish to utilize the crew for jobs around their own home.</p> <p>Community members have now spoken directly with the Picton Castle and believes that the Captain is sending conflicting messages. The majority of Council had not heard that such a large proportion of families felt this way. The majority of council felt that if this was accurate then the council initiative is being undermined and that perhaps we should discontinue any further planning. Before Council reach that point it was agreed that the Deputy Mayor would check the accuracy of his statements and report back to the Mayor with specific numbers of who is not supportive of the plans.</p>

	<p>Potentially this can be raised in the next public meeting before any final decision is made. There was still general agreement that we should where possible utilize certain individuals. The Mayor confirmed that the ISEC had received enough expressions of interest to house all individuals on both watches.</p> <p>Action: Deputy Mayor will report back to the Mayor with regards to is the information he presented is accurate and how many families do not wish crew members who they host to work on government projects.</p>
11. Revised Plan of Works	<p>General discussion regarding the revised plan of works. The one item that needed to be incorporated was the "H&S Front of store flooding, mud, No drainage". It was agreed that this item should sit at number 2 on the list.</p> <p>Motion: <i>"Th at the revised plan of works be approved."</i></p> <p>Moved: Mayor / Cr C Warren</p> <p>Action: Mayor to amend and send to all council members.</p>
12. Miscellany Trial – Report from Tourism Sales and Marketing	<p>Cr H Menzies presented the report and covered the following areas, challenges and opportunities: IT provider problems, budget can be utilized without further expenditure, future stories can be provided through fee for service. If council wish to privatize then the challenges and procedure were set out.</p> <p>Cr H Menzies acknowledged her thanks to the supportive and hard working team of Tourism S & M which have delivered this publication. The council had no issues of concern and has accepted the 3 month trial report, and the proposed direction going forward.</p> <p>Motion: <i>"That Council accepts the report and supports it continuance of the Miscellany as being delivered by The Tourism S&M team."</i></p> <p>Moved: Cr H Menzies / Cr C Warren</p> <p>Action: Tourism S&M will liaise going forward.</p>
13. Draft 2024/2025 Passenger Freight Shipping Schedule	<p>Motion: <i>"That Council approves the Draft 2024/2025 Passenger Freight Shipping Schedule as submitted as FC Evan Dunn."</i></p> <p>Moved: Cr H Menzies / Mayor</p> <p>Action: Cr H Menzies to liaise with Partners to get an agreed date for publication, and report back to Council.</p>
14. Accept PPS report May	<p>Motion: <i>"That the May 2023 Head of Pitcairn Public Service Monthly Report be accepted."</i></p> <p>Moved: Mayor/Cr C Warren</p>
15. Approval of Coins	<p>MOTION: <i>"That the Draft Coins Designs as circulated at June 2023 regular council meeting be approved."</i></p> <p>Moved: Mayor / Cr C Warren</p>
Information Items	
16. European Union – VAT Information	Tower Mint obtaining permission to produce gold coins.
17. Leave of Absence Cr M Evans	Leave of absence taken from 9 th July to 27 th July. Mayor informed council that he had emailed Cr M Evans and invited her to participate remotely in this council meeting if wanted.
General Business	

<p>IT email migration</p>	<p>Cr Kerry Young Discussion regarding the company All Systems Go approaching Pitcairn government departments requesting data to upload into the cloud. A stop has been initiated. Council have not been involved in any discussions or dialogue with PIO or this company regarding this technical shift of our information. This raises security concerns and a lack of genuine partnership.</p> <p>MOTION: <i>“That the Mayor, Administrator, as Head of the Public Service, PIO, alongside Council, to call a TEAMS meeting with ‘All Systems Go’ to establish a working relationship”</i></p> <p>Moved: Cr Kerry Young / Cr C Warren</p> <p>Action: Mayor and Administrator to set up this meeting.</p>
<p>Solar Units – Freight Charge</p>	<p>Cr Kevin Young Mayor discussed that he had received confirmation from the TRON foundation that Mr Steve Christian could represent on Island their interest in clarifying the freight charges they have been invoiced for. The Mayor stated that no one around the table should enter into discussions on this issue as we all have solar units donated from TRON on our roofs. Mayor passed over to Cr Kevin Young who presented a motion to eliminate any need for council members to speak on the issue.</p> <p>Motion: <i>“That in the matter of the freight costs levied to the TRON foundation will be referred to PIO, including the Financial Controller and the Deputy Governor for a formal explanation as to why the GPI freight policy, developed in consultation with HMG, and PIO, was not followed in these instances.”</i></p> <p>Moved: Cr Kevin Young / Cr H Menzies</p> <p>Action: Mayor to write a letter to PIO as per motion.</p>
<p>Marine Infrastructure Development Plan</p>	<p>DM Shawn Christian From the discussions from all council members there was unified agreement on all aspects which are herewith explained. Thanks were conveyed to DM Operations and the Administrator for the work done in preparing this plan and the proposal. It was acknowledged that the original anticipated provisional thoughts on costings quoted in the November 2022 workshop were significantly underestimated.</p> <p>The anticipated purchase price for the crane was NZ \$70,000 but the reality is NZ \$500,000, the boat originally estimated at NZ \$200,000 also now is NZ \$500,000. It was acknowledged that EDF funds remaining of approximately \$1.5M would be stretched to breaking point if purchasing these 2 items, and that the community and our responsibility is to complete the outstanding projects.</p> <p>Discussion followed with agreement that we have also shifted our position with regards to ensuring any replacement boat is fit for purpose, and that it would be financially irresponsible to invest heavily in the Marine Infrastructure Development Plan without first obtaining specialist expertise in addressing key issues.</p>

General agreement was that the barge type construction would not be necessarily suitable for our waters, and that we simply do not know accurately how much it would cost to repair our current longboats, or should we be focussing on a new longboat, and what would it cost. Within this discussion it was agreed that decisions regarding our Marine Development Plans with regards to future longboats and Bounty Bay are critical, that there is no room for error and a wrong decision could have dire consequence.

Our 3 longboats, in various physical conditions, are in need of external professional expertise to visit Pitcairn Island and physically appraise their condition with recommendations for the planning and future of our longboats, which are the lifeblood of our community. It was further acknowledged we similarly require external professional expertise to visit Pitcairn to provide expert opinions on a Marine Infrastructure Development Plan at Bounty Bay. This is imperative to ensure that our plans are fit for purpose for our future sustainability.

It was acknowledged that only emergency work and repairs should be conducted at Bounty Bay until this external assistance and report are finalised.

Motion: *“That it was agreed that employing experts to undertake the assessment of all GPI vessels, the Landing area and Slipway, be undertaken with urgency.”*

Moved: Mayor / Cr H Menzies

Action:

18. Meet with the Administrator and collaborate on this action. Report back to Council.
19. Administrator will explore technical expertise options within her existing contacts.
20. An update needed for Marine Infrastructure Development Plan. Will be included in Agenda for next Public Meeting.

Passports – Administrator

For information purposes Administrator informed council that in the future British passports will refer to His Majesty, and that there is no requirement to change passports for those with Her Majesty written in.

Nat Geo Orion Tenders – Mayor

General discussion regarding normal problems encountering on Pitcairn around maintenance and servicing issues. Should they be leased, with money returning to a community fund that could be set up, should they be sold. How will they be maintained. Perhaps hiring by research scientists, then to a community fund. Perhaps using one of the tenders to make it available to pick up personnel from the Silver Supporter or from yachts, or as an emergency support vehicle.

	<p>Potentially the government to purchase them and let the money go to the community. One to be utilized for government workers, one for the community.</p> <p>Action: General Agreement that we should take this back to the public meeting, and raise the following ideas. Should we set up a community fund. Should we utilize one for the community and one for government use to pick up small numbers from the Silver Supporter or yachts, or as an emergency boat. See if we can get a general steer and agreement from the community with a show of hands, and then bring back to the council for decision.</p>
Date of next Regular Council meeting	23 rd August 2023 – 9am
Meeting Closed –	12.12pm
<p>Meeting Approved</p> <p>Mayor: <i>Simon Young</i></p> <p>Date: <i>24th August 2023</i></p>	