



**PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held at the Public Hall**  
**Commencing at 8am, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**Present:**

Mayor Charlene Warren, Deputy Mayor Shawn Christian, Administrator Mark Tomlinson, Cr Michele Christian, Cr Heather Menzies and Cr Simon Young, Island Secretary Nadine Faulkner.

**Apologies:** Cr Sue O’Keefe, Cr Torika Christian

**In attendance:**

**Welcome:** The Mayor welcomed Council to the table. A moment of private reflection was taken.

Agenda Item	Tabled by
HMS Spey Update	<p>The Administrator updated the Council on the COVID protection measures now being proposed by the captain of HMS Spey given the ship’s stop in Tahiti had now been reduced to one day and the crew were being confined to the ship. The captain said all members of the crew had been PCR tested in UK previously when they first left the UK. Since departing Hawaii (about 12 days ago) the entire crew were tested (LFD) every day for the first five days. They were then tested again the day before arriving in Tahiti. All tests have been negative and the Captain is confident there was no Covid aboard when they reached Tahiti. The two-person dental team being flown out from the UK for Pitcairn, plus an additional crewman, would join the ship at Tahiti. All three would be PCR tested before departing the UK and would be LFD tested on arrival on board. Nobody else would be allowed on board during the ship’s 24-hour stop in Tahiti, and none of the crew would be allowed off the ship. The dental team would be required to isolate in their cabins for the journey between Tahiti and Pitcairn. The Captain would carry out the LuminaDX test (a more accurate test than the LFD test) on the 22nd, the day before arriving at Pitcairn.</p> <p>The ship’s doctor has been specially trained in administering Covid vaccines and would be keen to assist the island in administering the Moderna vaccines when the ship arrived in Pitcairn. The Captain was content for the dental team to also come ashore on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> to commence their dental work on Pitcairn, if the Council would like them to do so. The dental team would then continue their work on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> when the Spey returned from patrolling the outer islands. The Administrator has spoken to the island medical officer who said he was comfortable with the ship’s doctor coming ashore on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, given the length of time he had</p>

	<p>been isolated on the ship, but did not recommend that the dental team come ashore until the 2<sup>nd</sup> visit on the 29<sup>th</sup>. The Administrator had contacted PHE separately. The PHE advise was that it was, as always, a balance of risk but to their mind the small risk of introduction of Covid infection was considerably outweighed by the need to conduct the immunisation and dental programmes for the Pitcairn community.</p> <p>Council recommended that there is a public meeting so that the Administrator can explain to the community the process and work behind the visit and advise the inform the appropriate work done to confirm adherence to our Covid-19 regulations.</p> <p>Council upholds its current recommendation for no community members or Island Officials to go onboard the vessel during its visit.</p> <p>Updates to all will be advised to council and community as able and applicable.</p>
Leave Entitlement	<p>The Administrator spoke on the Leave Entitlement issue. He requested once Council approved of the proposed plan to resolve the issue, he would request the assistance of the Island Secretary to assist approach GPI Employees requesting appointments for the Administrator to discuss and review and finalise with each privately.</p> <p>He briefly outlined the work done, and advised he had created a plan to clarify and settle issues with GPI employees on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Council requested that the proposal come to the table in writing that can confirm what the Administrator, Division Managers, FCDO and HMG have agreed is feasible (suggested proposal be discussed in a closed council) so it may be signed off to confirm Councils support and create closure for this issue.</p> <p>The Administrator advised he will have further conversation with DMs this afternoon and then supply information to Council for agreement in a closed council as noted. Council discussed what would be needed in a meeting with employees and processes to ensure fairness and clarity in their understanding in all points of closing the issue.</p>
Update on medical travel to Tahiti	<p>Cr H Menzies asked if the medical travel to Tahiti still was in progress for those seeking routine medical treatment who do not have NZ passports i.e., British passports only. The Administrator advised he had spoken to the doctor and outlined the requirements Council had required. He will have a follow-up meeting with the doctor on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January.</p>

Response to Governors Letter	<p>The Council wished noted their disappointment in the letter written by the Governor dated 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 regarding the Harding family. Council recognised that the Governor has the right to overrule any decision made by the governing body, however, considered that the overturning of the decisions made by Council was saddening.</p> <p>Council felt that they had taken every consideration to ensure that the Harding family could return as per their confirmed bookings on the Silver Supporter, even without being fully vaccinated against Covid-19.</p> <p>All decisions made by council surrounding any future passenger travelling to the island was made in tandem with advice from PHE, Island Doctor, and advice from the Governor herself regarding the importance of vaccinations in a letter in 2021 to the public.</p> <p>Ultimately the decision to only allow fully covid-19 vaccinated persons travelling was not made to discriminate or prevent anyone from returning, and in fact Council had gone against the wider community to ensure the Harding family could return before the mandate or new regulations were imposed.</p> <p>Council recommended that the Governors statement be communicated in some form to the Community as the letter, although not circulated, had already been a topic of conversation and Councillors were getting verbal complaints.</p> <p>The Administrator advised that there has already been a document prepared to communicate the Governor's decision to the public and he would put on the noticeboard as soon as possible.</p> <p>Council looks forward to working with the Governor and AG to put Covid-19 requirements as per Council decision in place. Council would like to express their wishes to continue to enhance and promote consultation and communication with the Governors office, HMG, FCDO and the Administrator.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> ISEC to prompt Council to reach out to AG and the Governor continue discussions around Covid-19 policy.</p>
Acknowledgements of Governors letter regarding tourism and the Silver Supporter Schedule	Cr. H Menzies noted her thanks on the response from the Governor regarding the re-establishment of a shipping route between French Polynesia and Pitcairn. Council felt that the letter was positive as a whole.
Meeting Closed	Meeting closed at 10.00am
Next Meeting.	<p>Public meeting Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022, 9am</p> <p>Special Closed Council Meeting, Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022, Time TBA (after the public meeting)</p>
Approved 16/01/2022.	

  
Mayor Charlene Warren.



Approved