



PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL
Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held at the Public Hall
Commencing at 2pm, 20th 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: Dr Morgens Poppe, Nurse Darralyn Griffiths

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

Agenda Item	Tabled by
Spey Visit / Dentist visit	<p>The Administrator advised that at this point the dentist is on route to board the HMS Spey to travel to Pitcairn, however the vessel has not left Tahiti as yet. The vaccines and boosters are on board and under correct temperatures.</p> <p>The Mayor invited Dr Poppe to speak to the table. Dr Poppe advised he had some issues around the Dentist and/or his assistant disembarking on island with a very short time of quarantine between Tahiti and Pitcairn. He noted that he had been told that there would be only a five-day travel time. Doctor Poppe suggests therefore, that allowing the medical professional to come ashore breaks Pitcairn's Covid-19 policy, and due to the rising Omicron surge he has serious concerns. He noted figures of spikes in 24 hours in both England where the dentist has traveled from and in Tahiti. He quoted NZ's modification from 7 days isolation being raised to 10 after some Omicron cases were found.</p> <p>He reiterated his strongest concerns to this breach of Pitcairn Policy as there are still unvaccinated on island especially the children who are due to receive the vaccine once the HMS Spey arrives.</p> <p>Dr Poppe continued and spoke on testing and which were better to diagnose patients and his belief on the best path to protect the community.</p> <p>He noted that he is also concerned with his own health and fear of contracting the virus himself. Dr Poppe noted that if indeed he did contract the virus, he would have no choice but to sue the government for putting his life in danger. He also noted his contacts in the Pitcairn Supreme Court, in particular a judge on the bench.</p> <p>The doctor felt that at this time any travel to Tahiti for non-urgent or routine dental treatment can be done on the March and April rotations if required, not the ship in January.</p> <p>The Administrator spoke briefly to Dr Poppe and Council on the plans that the HMS Spey had undertaken to support Pitcairn's Covid-19 requirements, as told to council at the meeting held 19th of January 2022.</p>

Councilors asked if PHE's correspondence regarding the dentist's visit was shared with the Clinic. It had not been done at this point but will be made available.

The Administrator noted that at this point in time the HMS Spey may not even leave Tahiti for another few days as it may be called to another situation, this means the 10-day isolation period may be covered and there may be a risk of the Dentist being offloaded and not coming to Pitcairn at all.

Noted that if the dentist cannot be onshore to see patients then the need still arises for patients to be booked onto the ship to Tahiti on Voyage 50.

The Administrator will continue to liaise with the naval vessel and keep Council advised

Councillors asked if Omicron is on the rise in Tahiti, then should routine medical passengers attempt the trip there, or continue the NZ destination path.

Doctor advised will not recommend any other appointment for travel to Tahiti for patients unless it is acute. Doctor Poppe noted that if you are an acute patient, and you really need to go to Tahiti, then he advised there is no other option, despite the added risk of contracting Covid-19. Routine non-NZ passport holding medical patients could be delayed to a lower risk time to travel into Polynesia, or await a visa to NZ.

Patients need to be assured that if they are medevac'd to Tahiti then there is a confirmed path back to Pitcairn – even if the worst happened and they contracted Covid-19.

Noted that after the Omicron variant, there is almost assuredly going to be another variant.

Due to the delay in HMS Spey leaving the public meeting to clarify the visit and advise relevant information to the public is no longer needed and will be rescheduled.

Vaccines can stay onboard the ship as long as kept in a stable refrigerated status until able to be dropped off.

Councilors asked if a person did contract Covid-19 (either in Tahiti or NZ), when was it safe to bring a person home to Pitcairn. The doctor advised that as soon as you get a negative Covid-19 test you are able to travel.

Council, realizing that there is a change of administration on island, asked if processes – such as medical pathway and route to getting passengers through the Tahitian medical path etc. – can be written down so continued information can be followed. It was also asked if logistics regarding patients staying in a hotel in Tahiti or New Zealand whilst getting treatment – and they contracted Covid.

Council, Administrator and the Medical Centre to continue to work together to ensure a healthy community as all acknowledged that the decision-making situation with the Covid-19 pandemic is to be fluid and bend as the situation demands.

	<p>Council asked if the doctor could clear up miscommunication – i.e., community gossip saying people who do contract Covid-19 could be contagious (shedding virus particles) for over a year. The doctor said he can clear up some miscommunication, but others are not so easy to clarify or give a 100% secure answer. Council advised that some answer needs to be given to clarify otherwise continued misinformation.</p> <p>Council asked if a dentist could come to the island for a visit supporting patient care from NZ. It was a consideration that could be had.</p> <p>Doctor recommended and proposed that Nurse Darralyn Griffiths is supported in training as a dental assistant to support her nursing qualifications.</p> <p>Council went into closed session 2.57pm</p>
Meeting Closed	Meeting closed at 10.00am
Next Meeting.	Public meeting Friday, 21 st January 2022, 9am CANCELLED Closed Council rescheduled to 9am 21 st January 2022.
Approved <u>16/02/2022</u> .	Mayor Charlene Warren 

Approved

