



**Informal meeting of the Ascension Island Council**  
**1630 on Tuesday 18th June 2019 at the Court House**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

Present: Sarah Roberts-Favell, HH Administrator (Acting)      Councillor Nicholas John  
Gareth Morris, Director of Resources      Councillor Terence Young  
Councillor Samantha Arms-Lawrence (from 16.55)

In attendance: Helen Tyte, Clerk of Council (Acting)      Apologies:  
Councillor Alan Nicholls  
Allen Cansick, Acting Attorney General  
Councillor Keturah George

**1. Welcome**

Three apologies for absence were received and an apology for an expected late arrival from Councillor Samantha Arms-Lawrence. As it was an informal meeting it was agreed that there was no need to be quorate on this occasion, meaning that the meeting could go ahead with those present. The Administrator explained that HT was standing in for the Clerk To Council (CTC) whilst she is off island, in order to ensure continuity.

**2./3. Approval of summary and Matters arising** (from last informal meeting on 30th May 2019 – updates in italics).

Before CTC went off island she circulated the summary from the last meeting and gave a deadline of 10<sup>th</sup> June for amendments. The updated summary had been issued and Councillors John and Young both agreed the summary from 30th May 2019 could be approved and published.

**2a) Summary of council protocols.**

As the Crown Counsel doesn't arrive until September, it was agreed that this would be held over until then.

**Action: Clerk to bring this to the attention of the CC on their arrival.**

**2c) Firearms ordinance.**

Acting Attorney General Allen Cansick is currently unable to update the council on the proposed new firearms ordinance, as he was unable to discuss this with Insp Kewley during his time in St Helena.

**Action: A/AG will discuss this with Insp Kewley and will report back as soon as possible.**

### **3. Animal health and welfare**

Update: The P&P officer continues to work on his paper regarding the issues raised by this matter. This will be available in the next two weeks, in time for it to be raised at the next informal meeting on 11th July.

Action: P&P Officer to finalise his paper for presentation.

#### **3c) Operations update – Street lighting**

Update: Councillor John asked for an update on the street lighting, as residents of Two Boats have been raising the issue for some time. The solar lights for the trial were expected on the last ship, but their delivery has yet to be confirmed. This will be investigated before the next informal meeting. Once it has been confirmed that the required equipment is on the island, and is working correctly, operations will then be asked to put a plan together.

Action: The Administrator will email an update to Councillors before the next informal meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> July.

#### **4) Income tax rates and allowances ordinance.**

Update: Dir Res issued copies of the ordinance that would be presented at the next formal meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

Action: Dir Res will present this information at the next formal meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **6c) CSSF review**

Update: The information regarding the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund programme review had already been issued to Councillors, prior to the teleconference that took place at 12pm on 18<sup>th</sup> June. Councillors John and Young confirmed that the meeting had taken place.

#### **6e) Care for Georgetown greenery**

Update: AIG provided an informal update to say that there is a process in place for the removal of trees, following requests from residents. AIG positively promotes the maintenance of Georgetown's greenery. A tree management/greenery policy is being drawn up to help prioritise workload and provide procedures to follow.

Action: The relevant teams should be included in the drawing-up of a tree management/greenery policy.

### **4. Medical Complaints Policy**

Update: This final draft had been sent to the Attorney General's Chambers and the amendments and additions had been accepted. It was agreed that this could now move forward.

The Administrator thanked the Councillors for their input and comments, and asked for the Council's agreement to bring the policy to the next formal meeting to be approved. Councillors John and Young both agreed. Councillor John wanted to add that he thought that there might be something missing from the policy, which would link the companies with the hospital or medical company. The Administrator pointed out that the hospital belongs to AIG and the policy can be put in place as soon as it is approved. It is up to individual companies to decide whether their employees access the hospital's facilities, and that this decision can be made with the full understanding of the policies in place. She also said that the policy could be sent out to all heads of employing organisations for their consideration, if that was felt to be necessary. It was discussed whether an employer should be kept updated if a complaint had been made by one of its employees against the hospital. As it would relate to an individual's personal medical report it was believed to be confidential, so it was unlikely that details would be approved to be shared by the medical officer. It was also discussed whether an employer should be able to access medical

records if the employee has to go off island for medical reasons, as the employer would pick up the costs. The Administrator indicated it is likely that, due to patient confidentiality, employers would only be party to this information if explicit consent had been given by the patient, although she will run this past the AG Chambers before the policy is approved.

**Action:** The Administrator will follow this up with the AG Chambers before the medical complaints policy goes forward. The policy is to be raised for approval at the next formal meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

## 5. Draft Memo for Dissolution and Election of the Island's Council

*Update:* The draft memorandum had been sent to the Attorney General's Chambers and was updated with the changes before it had been sent to Councillors.

Councillors John and Young agreed for this to be taken forward for approval at the next formal meeting. The Council will be dissolved on 1<sup>st</sup> September and the election will take place on 26th September, with nominations of candidates by 11th September. These dates would allow a new Council to be in place before the arrival of the new Administrator, ensuring that Councillors are confident in their role. It will also allow eligible voters returning on the mid-September Airlink flight to vote. Councillor Arms-Lawrence asked for a reminder of how long people needed to be on the island for before they were entitled to vote, and this was confirmed as 6 months.

**Action:** Clerk to Council is to update the electoral register upon her return from the UK. The Administrator to seek approval of the memo at the next formal meeting.

## 6. Looking ahead to the next formal meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 1630 and will be a formal meeting.

**Action:** HT and the Administrator to produce the agenda and email it and all relevant documents as soon as possible.

## 7. Any other business

a) The Administrator informed the meeting that a letter had been received from Lord Ahmad in reply to the Councillors' letter regarding access to aircraft. The Administrator had emailed copies to the Councillors prior to this meeting, but gave a brief outline of the main points. The Administrator expressed the view that the criteria were very good news for the government, and for the island. Councillor John said that he was very pleased with the outcome and asked if seats would be made available on the same basis as they currently are. The Administrator explained that it doesn't give a set seat-allocation, but does give access to seats on these flights for people essential to the safe running of the island. In addition to this a trial of a 48 hour lay-over in Ascension is planned, which would give wider scope for bringing trainers, inspectors, etc. to the island.

b) Dir Res explained that he had circulated the school governors' induction pack and code of conduct following a request in a previous meeting. Councillor John asked about the constitution that is mentioned and the Dir Res indicated it possibly referred to the induction pack. Councillor John expressed his view that there should be a better connection between the Councillors and the school, Councillor Arms-Lawrence agreed with this and added that it would mean that the two bodies could swap information more quickly. Dir Res then explained that the governing body contains a community governor, who would represent the needs and interests of the community, and that this could be a Councillor.

**Action:** Dir Res to investigate the role of community governor.

c) Councillor John raised the issue of the new net that is needed for the MUGA. He believes the costs to be around £800. Dir Res asked if everybody was in favour of having the nets, as he said that people had questioned whether it was necessary and that some people had expressed that a net might block their view of games. Maybe an opinion poll is needed, although the Dir Res understands that it would save the balls being lost. Putting a net all the way around the sides was another option, but would be much more expensive. Councillor John was awaiting a response from Resources, but noted that new balls had been ordered to replace those already lost.

**Action: Dir Res to follow this up with Resources for the next informal meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> July.**

## **8. Date of next meetings**

The following forthcoming dates have been agreed:

- Formal – 27 Jun 2019 at 1630
- Informal – 11 July 2019 at 1630
- Informal – 25 Jul 2019 at 1630

There was no further business and the meeting ended at 1710hrs.

Helen Tyte  
Clerk of Council (Acting)