



Informal meeting of the Ascension Island Council

1630 on Thursday 8th August 2019 at the Court House

MEETING SUMMARY

Present: Steven Chandler, HH Administrator
Gareth Morris, Director of Resources
Aine Hurley, A/Attorney General
Councillor Keturah George
Councillor Nicholas John
Councillor Alan Nicholls
Councillor Terence Young

In attendance: Nathan Millington, Director of Operations & Facilities
Jane Disley, Clerk of Council

3. Matters arising (from last informal meeting on 25 Jul 2019) covered: **Electoral Register** (*Update: The Governor's dissolution notice had been issued/displayed as required and an amended Electoral Register had been published & displayed, along with a public notice to advise people to check it*); **MPA Designation (with conditions)** (*Update: Work was ongoing to prepare the draft proposal & legislation. The plan was to circulate this by the end of next week to allow discussion at the formal meeting on 22 Aug*); **Distribution of meeting summaries** (*Action: To ensure the public was aware of minutes/meeting summaries, a public notice would be issued to explain their distribution: AIG website, noticeboards and via email to employers*).

4. Hydroponics: An information note had been circulated to Council members to explain the background and finances of the Hydroponics operation. A variety of factors had resulted in the operation making substantial year on year losses since its inception. Therefore, the time would come shortly where a decision would have to be made about its future considering its viability as a business, and the ability to contribute to food security. Council views were sought and after some discussion it was felt that before a decision could be made further exploration was needed. Council members agreed to seek public views and explore potential operational alternatives that may be on island.

5. Fire & Rescue Service: The Administrator offered some context to the recent suspension of the Fire element of the Fire & Rescue Service operations and explained that the future service might look somewhat different. He reassured councillors that the team members had received an honest explanation of the situation and uncertainty about the future. Work was ongoing to identify feasible and sustainable options for both Fire and Sea Rescue services on Ascension Island.

6. Any other business covered: (a) **Letter from Lord Ahmad** (*Action: Aspects of civilian travel on military aircraft would be confirmed*); (b) **Lack of potatoes after recent FIRS** (*Action: An explanation would be requested from the Chandlery*); (c) **Pier refurbishment** (*Update: Between now and Christmas the top slab of the pier would be removed and replaced. This would cause some disruption but would make the pier much safer, take much of the load off the walls and extend the pier's life substantially*); (d) **Street lighting** (*Update: The lamps had arrived and the trial*

could begin in order to test their illumination levels, optimal spacing, durability etc. Ops would allocate 10 sets in various combinations and councillors were asked to suggest locations for the remaining 10 sets); (e) **Georgetown swimming pool** (Update: A brine pump had been offered by Encompass; the second pump required refurbishment then both could be fitted. The ladders were still expected on the 20 Sep FIRS); (f) **Turtle Ponds** (Update: The small pond was now complete. Benches, a shelter and a barbecue were under construction and the aspiration was for a grand opening later this month); (g) **Repair of pot holes** (Update: Ops had a planned programme to repair pot holes based on categorisation of roads according to their use/criticality).

6. Date of next meetings: the following forthcoming dates have been agreed:

- Formal – 22 Aug 2019 at 1630
- No further meetings for current AI Council (dissolved on 1 Sep)

There was no further business and the meeting ended at 1805hrs.

J Disley

Jane Disley

Clerk of Council