



## Informal meeting of the Ascension Island Council

1630 on Thursday 5 Dec 2019 at the Court House

### MEETING SUMMARY

Present: Gareth Morris, Director of Resources  
Rob Cheeseman, Crown Council  
Councillor Katharyn Chadwick  
Councillor Andrew Ellick  
Councillor Kitty George  
Councillor Alan Nicholls

In attendance: Linda Hardiman, Head of Administrator's Office  
Alasdair Bain, Policy Officer  
Jane Disley, Clerk of Council  
Apologies:  
Councillor Andrew Hobson

The matters arising were addressed via the actions tracker and current topics discussed were as follows: **Firearms Ordinance** (some feedback was outstanding before Crown Counsel could finalise the proposed ordinance ready for the 18 Dec meeting); **Facebook group** (more information was needed on the Council's aspirations for this group); **Employment law reform away day** (owing to councillors' limited availability before Christmas, a date in the New Year would need to be agreed).

The Policy Officer provided an update on the upcoming visit of an SHG ANRD colleague with expertise in farm management, crop growing and business planning. The historical and current information being collated about Ascension's **hydroponics** farm would be provided to him in advance of his visit. The visit will enable him to offer advice and support to the team and also to make an independent assessment of the operation in order to offer recommendations as to its likely future potential and possible alternative models/options. In particular, an independent analysis of potential farm production and yield against investment would be a critical factor in any future funding decisions. Once all pertinent information had been gathered, more meaningful discussions could take place about future options and models for a hydroponics operation on Ascension, with AIG to report back to the Council in the new year. In the meantime, the recent increase in fresh supplies had been noted and so Mr Gannon's efforts were commended.

A revision to the **Births & Deaths Ordinance** had been prepared by Crown Counsel in order to formalise current practices for the registration of births and deaths on Ascension. A draft had been circulated to councillors for comment and feedback points were addressed. There was some discussion about the requirement for the father's occupation to be recorded but not the mother's and a suggestion was made that the wording be amended. Given that there was a pressing need for this legislation, councillors accepted the proposed draft which could now be presented at the next formal meeting. However, there was consensus about the desire to review the wording of the Births Register at a future date.

Further to the discussion at the previous meeting about the need for **Council committee purposes** to be clear, the Governor had approved the proposed committee purposes and these would be published. Terms of reference could now be created for each committee.

There was only one item of other business. There was some concern about pot holes between One Boat and Two Boats and so it was agreed this would be raised with the AIG Operations and Facilities Directorate. Clerk's note: this work was scheduled for the weekend of 7-8 Dec.

The meeting closed at 1725.

J Disley

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Clerk of Council