

ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

Clerk of Council's Office
Ascension Island
South Atlantic Ocean
ASCN 1ZZ



jane.disley@ascension.gov.ac

+ (247) 67000 ext 116

www.ascension.gov.ac

Informal meeting of the Ascension Island Council

1000 on Thursday 9 January 2020 at the Court House

MEETING SUMMARY

Present: Steven Chandler, Administrator
Gareth Morris, Director of Resources
Rob Cheeseman, Crown Counsel

Councillor Katharyn Chadwick
Councillor Andrew Ellick
Councillor Alan Nicholls

In attendance: Linda Hardiman, Head of Administrator's Office
Jane Disley, Clerk of Council

Apologies:
Councillor Andrew Hobson [off island]
Councillor Kitty George [unwell]

The matters arising were addressed via the actions tracker and current topics discussed were as follows: **Hydroponics** (SHG's ANRD officer who visited in December would compile a report which would be finalised during AIG's Policy Officer's visit to St Helena next week, after which this subject would be brought back onto the agenda. Dates needed to be arranged for a visit to the US hydroponics facility.) **Employment law reform away day** (Wed 22 Jan at 0900 had been proposed and would be confirmed once all councillors had advised their availability.) **Islander updates** (Councillors needed to determine the format and frequency of their regular Islander update.) **Firearms** (This would be discussed at the next informal meeting before the amended Ordinance could be proposed at the formal meeting on 6 Feb.) **Street lighting trial** (An update would be provided by email.) **CSSF update** (The CSSF Project Mgr would circulate a written update on ongoing projects, would offer councillors the opportunity to tour the Pier Refurbishment project, and would be invited to the next Council meeting.) **Residency of A-level students** (AIG would need to explore options for extending dependants' stay on Ascension in certain circumstances.)

The new draft **Island Council (Procedure) Rules, 2020** had been circulated together with a draft ordinance which corrects a minor anomaly in the Island Government (Ascension) Ordinance. Subject to minor amendments to the Rules, councillors present were content for the Rules and draft Ordinance to be proposed to the Governor at the next formal meeting.

A **Councillor Enquiry Form** that had been in use previously by elected councillors had been circulated ahead of the meeting for review by current Council members. It was proposed the form might be a useful vehicle for raising and dealing with routine questions or concerns raised by members of the community with a councillor(s). A standardised format would allow questions to be raised, tracked and answered speedily, efficiently and consistently without eating into valuable discussion time at Council meetings. Such written records would enhance AIG's and the Council's corporate memory and, where appropriate, answers could be made public. It was broadly supported as one useful method for councillors to use, alongside other methods of communication, between councillors and AIG. Further discussion was required with those councillors not present.

There were two significant items of other business: (i) a question was raised about the frequency of Council meetings which prompted some discussion about both Council and committee meetings. Discussion would continue; and (ii) some good news for local businesses was announced: PCA members had agreed to allow business to business purchases of certain fresh produce to be transported 'freight cost-free' and AIG was to waive the sea freight handling fees on retail stock for tax-paying retail outlets up until April 2022, to help island businesses.

The meeting closed at 1120.

J Disley
J Disley
Clerk of Council