

**ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT**

Clerk of Council's Office  
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**Informal meeting of the Ascension Island Council**

**1630 on Thursday 23 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 Kitty George  
Councillor Andrew Hobson  
Councillor Alan Nicholls

In attendance: Linda Hardiman, Head of Administrator's Office  
Graeme Knibbs, CSSF Project Surveyor  
Jane Disley, Clerk of Council  
Apologies:  
Councillor Andrew Ellick

The matters arising were addressed via the actions tracker and current topics discussed were as follows: **Hydroponics** (following his visit to StH, the Policy Officer would compile a report incorporating ANRD's analysis. Proposed date for a visit to the US hydroponics facility was 6 Feb); **Food security contingency plan** (work was underway on a plan which would be brought to Council in due course); **Fishing during ship to shore ops** (safe procedures had been agreed and these would be subject to a 3-month trial. Details would be shared with the public soon); **Births & Deaths Registration** (the new Ordinance had been published on the AIG noticeboard); **Optician survey** (distribution of the survey had begun. The reply deadline was the end of Feb); **Residency of A-level students** (AIG would discuss changes in legislation that would be needed to extend dependants' stay on Ascension in certain circumstances); **Island Council (Procedure) Rules** (these would be proposed to the Governor at the formal Council meeting on 6 Feb).

It was confirmed that the slightly amended **Firearms Ordinance** would be proposed to the Governor at the formal meeting on 6 Feb.

The CSSF Project Surveyor provided an **update on the CSSF Infrastructure Programme 2019/2020** following circulation of his written brief earlier in the week. Items included crane parts, pier refurbishment, forklift replacement, electrical rewires, property condition surveys, hospital feasibility study and corrosion control shelters.

The Administrator provided information about the **runway project**, in particular the successful contractor and the current proposed delivery timeline, including the arrival of personnel, plant and machinery. In order to monitor the impact on island residents and facilities, this would now be a standing agenda item for Council meetings.

Following discussion with all councillors, it was agreed that the **frequency of Council meetings** would be reduced. Formal Council meetings would henceforth take place on a six-weekly cycle with only one informal meeting two weeks before. Additional meetings could be programmed if required. There was also consensus to adopt the proposed **Councillor Enquiry Form**.

There were several items of **other business**: (i) the Administrator thanked councillors for their swift and positive consideration of the EU Withdrawal Agreement Ordinance which had now been enacted by the Governor; (ii) urgent work was taking place to fix the fuel station petrol pump; (iii) the new Administrator, Sean Burns, was due to arrive on 14 Mar. Steve Chandler would depart on 18 Mar; (iv) the temporary Head of Administrator's Office, Linda Hardiman, was due to leave the island on 31 Jan and the Administrator thanked her for her support. Her successor, Xander Halliwell, would arrive on 30 Jan for 2+ years.

The meeting closed at 1730.

**J Disley**  
J Disley  
Clerk of Council