



Extraordinary Formal meeting of the Ascension Island Council

16:30 on Wednesday 05 November 2025 at the Courthouse

MINUTES

Present:	HE Nigel Phillips CBE, Governor [remotely] HH Simon Minshull, Administrator Andrew Duncan, Attorney General Peter Thomas, Director of Resources	Councillor Thomas Barnes Councillor Eugene Bennett Councillor Michael Ellick Councillor Laura Shearer Councillor Alan Nicholls
In attendance:	Rowan Laxton, Administrator designate Martin Hogg, Head of Administrator's Office [remotely] Stephanie Sherrin, Policy and Comms Officer James Twigg, Crown Counsel Chrystele Todd, FCDO Desk Officer [remotely] Georgina Wilson, Clerk of Council	
Apologies:	Councillor Ethan Bally Councillor Thomas Hickling	

1. Welcome

HH the Administrator Simon Minshull welcomed all parties present and introduced those attending remotely.

2. Proposed Amendments to the Employment Ordinance - Introduction of the AIG Conservation Internship Policy

Crown Counsel James Twigg (JT) explained that the Employment Ordinance 2022 (EO 2022) as currently drafted lacked provision for the Ascension Island Government (AIG) Conservation Interns. The proposed amendment to the EO 2022 would bring Conservation Directorate Interns under the protection of the Ordinance. Councillor Nicholls questioned the urgency for the amendment. JT advised that the new interns were due to start shortly, and wanted to ensure these new arrivals were adequately protected. Councillor Nicholls asked if councillors were required to endorse the Conservation Internship Policy. The Administrator undertook to confirm this point. Subsequent to the Council meeting, the AIG have confirmed that the policy was internal and does not require endorsement by the Island Council.

Councillor Nicholls also asked for clarification on any financial implications or additional costs arising from this change. The Administrator confirmed that costs for the AIG Conservation Interns are funded by the Blue Marine Foundation. Councillor Nicholls asked if medical costs would be covered by the AIG or Blue Marine Foundation. The Administrator confirmed that there would be no additional financial costs to the AIG because the interns' medical costs were already covered by the AIG, in the same way that AIG employees' medical costs were.

Councillor Laura Shearer asked to be recused from the vote owing to a conflict in interest with her primary role in line managing the Conservation Interns. The Administrator agreed to the request.

Each councillor was asked in turn if they were happy to recommend to the Governor that the proposed amendment 'Employment Order, 2025' be approved, thereby amending the Employment Ordinance, 2022 by exempting Conservation Interns from the Ordinance.

	Proposal	Cllr Barnes	Cllr Bennett	Cllr Ellick	Cllr Nicholls	Cllr Shearer
1	Recommend that the proposed Employment Order, 2025 be approved, thereby amending the Employment Ordinance, 2022 to exempt Conservation Interns from the amendments to the employment ordinance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Recused

HE the Governor acknowledged councillors' recommendation and accepted, thanking councillors for their advice.

The Administrator advised they would clarify if the Conservation Internship policy required a review by councillors.

3. AOB: There were no AOB raised.

4. Proposed dates of next meetings:

Informal Council meeting – 15:00 Thursday 20 November 2025

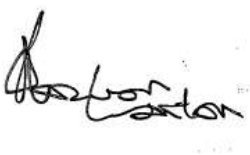
Formal Council meeting – 16:30 Thursday 04 December 2025

The Governor wished the departing Administrator Mr Simon Minshull farewell and congratulated the incoming Administrator Mr Rowan Laxton on his appointment.

There was no further business and the meeting ended at 16:50

Georgina Wilson
Clerk of Council

I certify that this is a true record of the meeting to which it relates.



Rowan Laxton

On behalf of HE the Governor, Mr Nigel Phillips CBE