



Formal meeting of the Ascension Island Council
1215 on Friday 27th Sep 2019 at the Court House
MEETING SUMMARY

Present: HE Greg Gibson, Acting Governor
HH Steven Chandler, Administrator
Catherine Leo, Assistant Director (Finance)
Rob Cheeseman, Crown Counsel

Councillor Katharyn Chadwick
Councillor Andrew Ellick
Councillor Kitty George
Councillor Andrew Hobson
Councillor Alan Nicholls

In attendance: Jane Disley, Clerk of Council

Apologies:

This was the first meeting of the new Council, so before the meeting could begin each councillor was sworn in by the Administrator. The Acting Governor and Administrator offered their congratulations to the new councillors and the Administrator thanked all election officials for their work to deliver a successful election. The Administrator provided some statistics about participation in the election from each polling station and noted that the turnout was quite low (approx 29%). He asked for initial feedback from councillors about possible reasons for the low turnout and for initial views on how to improve engagement with the Island electorate and community.

The Administrator provided councillors with an information pack. This included the Code of Conduct for Elected Members of the Island Council and an indicative agenda for Council business which provided an initial set of AIG priorities. The Administrator also noted that councillors would shortly need to decide who would represent Ascension at the annual OTs/UK Joint Ministerial Council meeting to be held in London in late November. Councillors were also asked to consider which Council committees they might wish to set up in addition to the mandatory Finance Committee.

There were four items of other business: (i) the Administrator explained that work was underway to provide new councillors with a generic guide to support their introduction to Council work and commitments; (ii) Councillors were invited to dial into a Brexit update teleconference to be hosted by Lord Ahmad (FCO Minister responsible for the OTs) on 7 October; (iii) a councillor had been emailed by a Blue Marine Foundation employee working on St Helena who had offered his advice to aid the AIG Hydroponics operation (the email would be passed to AIG); and (iv) concern was raised about the AIG long term budget setting process and a proposal was made for a review of AIG provided services.

The meeting closed at 1310hrs.

J Disley

Jane Disley
Clerk of Council