**POLICE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Held at the Government House, Stanley

At 14:00 hrs on Monday, 29th March 2021

***These minutes are draft minutes until confirmed by resolution at the***

***next meeting of this Committee***

**In Attendance**: Nigel Phillips, His Excellency The Governor (HE)

Superintendent Jeff McMahon, Chief Police Officer (CPO)

Simon Young, Attorney General (AG)

MLA Leona Roberts (LR)

Janette Vincent, Justice of Peace (JV)

Andrew Brownlee, Justice of Peace (AB)

**Media:** Nick Roberts, Penguin News

Traighana Smith, FIRS

**Minutes**: Cress Thomas, PA to Chief Police Officer

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|  |  | **(Action)** |
|  | **Part I** |  |
|  | The meeting started at 14:00 hrs. |  |
| **1.0** | **Apologies** |  |
| 1.1 | Apologies for absence were received from the Chief Executive Barry Rowland. |  |
| **2.0** | **Declaration of Interest** |  |
| 2.1 | AB stated that Lifestyles Ltd. provide items to the RFIP from time-to-time. |  |
| **3.0** | **Confirmation of the Open Minutes of Meeting held on 31st July 2020** |  |
| 3.1 | The minutes were accepted as correct and accurate record of the meeting. |  |
| **4.0** | **Matters Arising from the Open Minutes of Meeting held on 31st July 2020** |  |
| 4.1 | JV raised a question in relation to Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) and if this could be put in place again to assist with minor road safety issues such as vehicles parked on the pavement etc. However, the AG advised that there is further work required with the legislation in relation to the FPNs. The AG also said that the FPNs will be put in place again in due course once the work required has been completed. |  |
| **5.0** | **Report of the Chief Police Officer (Open Session)** |  |
| 5.1 | The CPO introduced his report which covered the period from 1st July to 31st December 2020 (1st and 2nd quarter of 2020/21 Financial Year) |  |
| 5.2 | The CPO stated that a public meeting was held in Stanley on 10th March 2021 and had good engagement from the community. Members of the public raised various questions in relation to CSAE and road safety. The roles of the MASH Officer and Community Officer were explained to those present during the meeting. Another public meeting is due to be held at Goose Green Community Hall on 31st March 2021 to engage with camp residents and gives them a chance to raise any issues they may have; and for RFIP to understand how they may be able to assist camp residents and provide advice accordingly. |  |
| 5.3 | The CPO stated that the new Overseas Territories Regional Criminal Intelligence System (OTRCIS) was rolled out on 1st November 2020, with incident management being the first application used. This is now well embedded although there is still a lot of work to be done to migrate existing records from Cardbox to OTRCIS. Additionally, a UK Specialist Trainer is due to visit the Islands to provide training and support to RFIP during May 2021. The CPO added that once the training has been completed, RFIP will be using OTRCIS to greater capacity, including crime recording and intelligence management. |  |
| 5.4 | The CPO stated that the numbers of crimes recorded are returning to post Covid-19 levels. This has slowly increased over the last 12 months as the restrictions are being lifted. Additionally, solvent abuse appears to have fallen away as an issue however monitoring of the intelligence picture will continue. HE added that RFIP did a great job in raising awareness as soon as this issue arose during this period and sent a strong message to the community, especially to parents, advising them to be mindful of this problem and the importance of seeking help where necessary. |  |
| 5.5 | The CPO stated that the MPC surgeries have been reinstated, mainly by the Intel Officer. There are also regular meetings with the CMLO and JSPSU to maintain the good working relationship with RFIP. The CPO added that efforts are underway to recruit a Reserve Police Constable stationed at MPC – this has been done before and proved very useful. Additionally, RFIP recently took part in fire evacuation drill at the airport with Falklands Security and JSPSU which had gone well. |  |
| 5.6 | The CPO stated that the current radio system now requires replacement. Quotes are being sought from SURE with the option of utilising the 4G network instead of installing a new set of VHF masts and base stations. A couple of radio handsets have been secured to be tested in the Islands – these are currently awaited. An update to the Police Committee will be provided in due course. An EXCO paper will also be prepared by the CPO in due course. | **CPO** |
| 5.7 | The CPO stated that Inspector Barry Thacker took on the role of Deputy Chief Police Officer whilst he was on annual leave. The CPO wishes to place on record his thanks and the committee echoed these sentiments. |  |
| 5.8 | Community Policing  The CPO stated that a drive around North Camp roads was conducted to engage with the farm residents which received great feedback. A further trip to the West took place in November and was an overwhelming success. The CPO stated that RFIP will aim to visit camp residents regularly during the year.  The CPO stated that PC Scott Smith commenced in his role as the Stanley beat officer, as discussed at the last Police Committee Meeting. PC Smith has been dealing with daily community related issues including policing the road by FICS. PC Smith remains the FICS Liaison Officer and has engaged with students on a regular basis. Additionally, PC Mark Dalton who is the IJS Liaison Officer also engaged with IJS students and did informative sessions for the students relating to road safety and also includes visits to the Police Station. Both IJS and FICS benefit from work done by the respective officers.  The CPO stated that RFIP identified an address along Hebe Street which saw a number of noise complaints during early hours of the morning. This was made the subject of tasking and repeat checks to monitor the situation. This resulted in the problem being eliminated. |  |
| 5.9 | Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation  The CPO stated that despite the delay caused by Covid-19 the training since re-commenced by DC Helen Taylor and Dr Neti Murphy. The training was offered to all FIG employees and also members of the public, especially to those who deal with children in their roles. This included inputs at MPC, with bespoke material to ensure that it is relevant to the Falkland Islands. The training has received great feedback. HE added that officers involved in organising the CSAE Training are to be commended for raising awareness on this topic. HE stated that DC Helen Taylor and Dr Neti Murphy did very well.  The CPO stated that the sex offender register has been streamlined and brought up to date. Additionally a new notification form for sex offenders has been introduced and is working well. The MASH Officer, DC Helen Taylor works very closely with Social Services and manages this process as part of her duties.  The CPO stated that he continues to chair monthly MAPPA meetings to closely monitor identified individuals prior to and after release from HMP. The CPO said he works alongside the MASH Officer, HMP, Social Services, CPNs and Probation Officer. |  |
| 5.10 | Domestic Abuse  The CPO stated that the lead for the domestic abuse campaign was handed-over to Social Services who did some work to launch the ‘Call Ida’ campaign. The CPO stated that RFIP continues to work with Social Services regarding this; but here were no calls had been made to the helpline. In the meantime RFIP will be looking into raising the profile of the helpline and improve the reporting options for victims. There were no significant events to report from RFIP during this reporting period.  Domestic abuse is often a hidden crime. Therefore any data produced by the Police will only tell a partial story about the true extent of abuse being suffered by victims. RFIP therefore investigates cases; notwithstanding that often a victim will retract their complaint This is a common theme and requires careful management to ensure a victim is protected. Victims come under a variety of pressures to retract statements. The role of the criminal justice system is to consider all aspects of a case and make decisions based on well researched victimology.  The CPO stated that during this period there were 4 domestic assault related crimes which have all been investigated but only 1 was detected. The other 3 have been marked: No Crime, Insufficient Evidence and Victim refused to give evidence. |  |
| 5.11 | Night Time Economy  The CPO stated that issues with the people blocking the road outside The Globe Tavern on the Friday and Saturday nights are on-going. Further efforts at engaging with the licensee are also on-going. All other pubs offer little in the way of problems requiring police attention. |  |
| 5.12 | Road Safety  The CPO stated that there have been a number of discussions around this and is always a ‘hot topic’ for the community. One of the issues is around Pencil Lane; it is not something that the police can resolve, hence additional police presence during the key times such as lunch times and after school times are done to assist the students as well as the parents collecting/dropping off their children. LR echoed this and indeed the schools have expressed their concern for the safety of the children especially with a number of inconsiderate parking of vehicles (i.e. parking on the pavement which means children have to walk on the road instead of the foot path).  The CPO met with one of the parents recently and discussed prosecution; although the CPO explained that RFIP’s main objective is to maintain road safety and to engage, explain and encourage drivers to work with the authorities by following the advice given. JV stated that students crossing the road from IJS do not seem to be a big problem as there is a designated ‘lollipop man’ that stops incoming vehicles to allow children safely across the road. However, at FICS there is none and as a result of this the children run across the road, whether they are at the zebra crossing or not. JV said that the children need to be aware of certain things before crossing the road; whilst road users’ needs to slowdown and lookout for children trying to cross. The CPO stated that FICS has certainly been the focus of the community officer recently and he had been present outside of the school to assist the children. PWD has also been contacted regarding measures that can be put in place on the approaches to the zebra crossing, for example traffic calming measure and better signage.  The AG stated that the traffic issues around Pencil Lane means the road is extremely congested especially during school drop-off/collection times. This can makes it safer for the children as the drivers are moving very slowly and the children are able to cross more easily. LR echoed this and said that the issues around road safety do not just occur outside of FICS and Pencil Lane and indeed it extends across in Stanley (i.e. John Street). LR also said that a working group has been formed to tackle and discuss these issues in detail and make necessary changes within the legislation – this is a broader issue and there is no easy and quick way to resolve this matter but it is being looked at and monitored very closely. |  |
| 5.13 | Cyber Crime  The CPO stated that the WhatsApp scam issues are still on-going and there is no easy fix to this. RFIP continues to encourage members of the public to report scam messages as the CPO issues a regular public messaging via FIRS around this. There is not a lot RFIP can do to stop this and SURE as well as the Communications Regulator are very well aware of this island-wide issue. |  |
| 5.14 | Drugs  The CPO stated RFIP executed one arrest during this period and recovered a small amount of Cannabis. Apart from this there is not a lot to report in relation to drugs possibly due to the Covid-19 restrictions being applied to fishing boats and suspension of LATAM flights. |  |
| 5.15 | Force Inspection Development Plan  The CPO stated that 30 out of 37 recommendations have been completed. The press were allowed to ask questions during the meeting and requested more information as to what the recommendations were and what the outstanding actions are. The CPO will run through the outstanding actions at the next Police Committee meeting. | **CPO** |
| 5.16 | The CPO stated that in terms of budget, there are no major issues highlighted and that RFIP’s budget is controlled effectively. Funds have been moved across budget lines to cover short falls but this is anticipated and has been done during previous financial years. |  |
| 5.17 | Staffing  The CPO stated that during this period RFIP received 7 appreciations which is a great feedback from the community; while there was only 1 complaint and was dealt with accordingly.  The CPO stated that the 3 new Senior Constables seem to be settling in well with their roles; whilst Alex Douglas and Molly Jaffray have since left RFIP. |  |
| 5.18 | Training  The CPO stated that despite the Covid-19 restrictions the RFIP has been able to conduct in-house training. The AG acknowledged this and said that this shows how much commitment the RFIP has to serve the Falkland Islands; it is also good to recognise that RFIP has officers who are qualified to pass on their skills and knowledge and this is beneficial to local officers. HE and the Committee echoed this. AB asked if there are officers trained for Domestic Abuse and the CPO confirmed that RFIP does not have a specific officer trained for domestic abuse but that this role is being incorporated with the MASH Officer role along with Social Services. There was also domestic abuse awareness sessions delivered in the Islands previously.  The CPO stated that a local police constable started a sixteen week CID attachment in January 2021. This will assist local officers in gaining experience and knowledge towards promotion and lateral development in the future. The aim is to have continuous professional development and get local officers to take national test in the UK for trainee detective. LR stated that this is an excellent route for local officers and will hopefully increase the interest of local residents to join and work for RFIP. |  |
| 5.19 | The CPO stated that RFIP continues to improve methods of contact with community and reporting methods – the Facebook and website are regularly updated and checked on a daily basis to ensure that any enquires or messages received are dealt with in a timely manner. The CPO added, however, that there were 0 calls received on the confidential line during this period. |  |
| 5.20 | The CPO stated that a total of 233 intelligence reports were received during this period, some of which related to supply/usage of drugs in the Islands. It is to note, however, that during the next period (January to March 2021) there has been a reduction in intelligence reporting; more details around this will be discussed at the next meeting. The CPO stated that RFIP now conducts daily briefings which are led by the Intelligence Officer to ensure that duty officers for the day are up-to-date with intelligence; specific taskings are also issued to duty officers at the briefings. | **CPO** |
| **6.0** | **2020/21 1st and 2nd Quarter Statistics** |  |
| 6.1 | The CPO introduced the statistical report which covered the period from 1st July to 31st December 2020 (1st and 2nd quarter of 2020/21 Financial Year). The CPO stated that RFIP is still in the process of transitioning from the old command and control system to the new (OTRCIS). The statistical report is a public document and is on the FIG website. It is also shared with JSPSU and will be shared with the Criminal Justice Council in due course. |  |
| 6.2 | The CPO stated that during this period a total of 85 crimes had been dealt with and investigated; 16 of which have been marked as ‘No Crime’. The CPO explained that this means certain incidents reported to the Police Station turn out not to be crimes but are still recorded to ensure that the investigations are conducted and recorded appropriately. The CPO stated that there are currently 9 crimes that remain open, as the officer in case continues enquiries. The AG added that it is important for members of the public to report crimes despite no known suspect (i.e. criminal damage cases) as it would be better to record them and makes the police aware that crimes have taken place. This helps to provide a complete picture of crime levels in the islands. |  |
| 6.3 | The CPO stated that RFIP continue to assist KEMH with Covid-19 quarantine checks. |  |
| 6.4 | The CPO stated that during this period there was 7 ‘driving whilst over the prescribed limit’ incidents recorded and processed which has increased compared to 2020. AB asked if there are other options to analyse the person apart from a roadside breath test – the CPO stated, no but in other cases, for example suspected drug driving, RFIP would still submit a file of evidence to the Attorney Generals chambers. This would be based on observation of the driver and the manner of driving at the time of arrest. |  |
| 6.5 | The CPO stated that false 999 calls continue to be an issue. While these are not done intentionally the do take up time, with call backs by control staff to ensure there is not a real emergency. |  |
| **7.0** | **Annual Delivery Plan and National Strategic Plan 2021/22** |  |
| 7.1 | The CPO introduced the proposed annual delivery plan and national strategic plan for 2021/22 financial year. |  |
| 7.2 | The CPO stated that both plans have the same content as the current one and there are no major changes apart from adding 2 additional identified priorities: 1) Cyber Crime; and 2) Public Confidence. The CPO stated public confidence emerged from the public perception survey. RFIP also possesses the equipment and skills to extract data from various electronic devices that may be linked with CSAE crimes. |  |
| 7.3 | The CPO stated that there are regular meetings with JSPSU, CMLO and Command-Secretary to ensure that we are all aware of any potential threats. Customs are also involved with this although with the restrictions in air and sea traffic there has been no issues highlighted recently. This may well change once flights and cruise ships return. |  |
| 7.4 | LR stated that it is great to see public confidence as it also links with community policing, especially now that there is a designated community officer. HE echoed LR’s comments and that there are still challenges to police various communities in the Islands. AB also added that it is important to try and actively encourage everyone from various communities in the Islands in terms of recruitment, provided they are suitable for the role being offered. HE stated that AB’s point is well made and all applicants are assessed individually and accordingly to the standards they have to meet. |  |
| 7.5 | The document is due to be submitted to HE and EXCO for formal approval; No concerns have been raised and all members of the Police Committee agreed the Annual Delivery Plan and National Strategic Plan as proposed by the CPO. |  |
| **8.0** | **Confirmation of Date of Next Meeting** |  |
| 8.1 | The date of next Police Committee Meeting is on 7th May 2021 from 1500 to 1630 hrs. This is to be held at the Government House. |  |
| 8.2 | The Committee requested to invite the incoming Chief Executive Andy Keeling as a guest of the Committee. |  |
| **9.0** | **Exclusion of Press and Public** |  |
| 9.1 | The Committee resolved to exclude the press and public on the grounds that the next items of business to be considered were exempt within the terms of paragraph 7 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012 relating to information about individuals. |  |
| **10.0** | **Part II** |  |
| 10.1 | **Confirmation of the Exempt Minutes of Meeting held on 31st July 2020**  *(Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 7 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012, relating to information about individuals)* |  |
| **11.0** | **Report of the Chief Police Officer (Closed Session)**  *(Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 7 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012, relating to information about individuals)* |  |
|  | The meeting ended at 15:00 hrs. |  |

**~Ends**