

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 16th March 2015
at the Public Hall, St Martin.

Present:

Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman, Chairman
Connétable de St Pierre - J. M. Refault, Vice Chairman
Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft
Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian
Connétable de Ste Marie - Mrs J. Gallichan (present for items 9 – 16 inclusive)
Connétable de St Ouën - M. J. Paddock
Connétable de St Martin - M. P. S. Le Troquer
Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard (not present for items 9 – 16)
Connétable de St Jean - C. H. Taylor
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de St Brélade - S. W. Pallett and the Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre.

In attendance: Mrs S. R. de Gruchy, Secretary

Non-exempt (public) under Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011

Liberation 70 -
programme

1. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 5 of 9th February 2015, received the Chief Officer, Bailiff's Chambers, who outlined proposals to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Liberation of Jersey on 9th May 2015. The Comité discussed arrangements for the attendance of Parish groups (parishioners who were present in Jersey during the occupation, or who were evacuated or interned and who subsequently returned, or who served in the Armed Forces during this period) at the afternoon celebrations in People's Park and for those taking part in the Parish parade. The Chief Officer was asked to provide an outline of the programme to each Parish.

The Chief Officer outlined suggestions for bell ringing and for a seasonal art installation in each parish and said that the possibility of a beacon was also being considered in conjunction with Guernsey. The Comité, having noted some funding might be available towards the art installation, was generally supportive of these proposals but suggested the bell-ringing should be linked, if possible, to a specific time and said this would be for Rectors to arrange. The Connétables outlined the proposed events being organised in each parish, most being held on 10th May 2015.

The Comité recalled that only shops granted a permit to open pursuant to the Shops (Regulation of Opening) (Jersey) Regulations 2011 might open on Liberation Day and agreed that the Connétable of St Helier should liaise with the Secretary so that a general reminder might be issued. Following discussion the Chief Officer was thanked for attending and then withdrew.

Minutes

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2015, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

draft
Connétables
(Amendment –
Declaration of

3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 10 of 9th February 2015, considered the draft Connétables (Amendment – Declaration of Convictions) (Jersey) Law 201- and report. The draft prescribed the form of declaration and provided for the law to come into force 7 days after registration. Subject to confirmation that the provisions of the

- Convictions) (Jersey) Law 201-
- draft Law were compatible with the Convention on Human Rights, the Comité approved the draft Law and report and the Chairman was requested to make the necessary statement in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 of the Human Rights (Jersey) Law 2000 so that it might be lodged “au Greffe” for debate.
- Parish Halls - office space for HSS staff
4. The Comité considered a letter to the Chairman from the Head of Service, Adult Social Work Team, Health and Social Services (HSS), asking whether space was available at Parish Halls for HSS staff to work remotely. The Connétable of St Peter, in his capacity as Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services, outlined the requirements which would enable staff to update records whilst working in the community. Although capacity within the confines of many Parish Halls was limited, the Chairman was requested to reply that if there were specific requirements in certain parts of the island the Head of Service should write to the relevant Connétable who would advise whether any provision could be made.
- Honorary Police – assistance at funerals
5. The Comité, having received the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Comité des Chefs de Police (CCP) and the President and Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Police Association (HPA), noted the concern of the Connétable of St Lawrence that some parishes were not being notified of potential high attendance at funerals and therefore were unable to arrange Honorary Police support with traffic control etc. which had recently caused some problems. The Chairman, CCP, agreed to ask funeral directors to liaise with the Duty Centenier on those occasions when assistance might be required.
- HPA accounts and budget
6. The Comité discussed with the President and Honorary Treasurer of the Honorary Police Association (HPA) the Association’s accounts for 2014/15 and budget for 2015/16. The Chairman and Vice Chairman, Comité des Chefs de Police (CCP) were also present. The Comité noted the accounts for 2014/15 showed income of £4,015 and expenditure of £6,203 (including £2,451 accrued for replacing the public website) resulting in a deficit of £2,188 with a balance carried forward of £512. The budget for 2015/16 included expenditure totalling £3,000 or, alternatively, totalling £4,750 if funding was required for development of a secure website for Honorary Police officers (the requirements and specification for which were currently being reviewed).
- The Comité approved the proposed budget expenditure of £3,000 and decided that the parishes would fund a subscription of £17 per officer (based on the number of officers at 1st May) but, as this committed members of the Comité to expenditure and its rules required the assent of all members on the first occasion, the Comité agreed it should be further considered at the next meeting.
- Honorary Police – 2015 events and requests for assistance under Article 5A
7. The Comité considered a paper setting out the events for which Connétables of various parishes requested the assistance of the Honorary Police of other parishes in accordance with Article 5A of the Honorary Police (Jersey) Law 1974. The events ranged from those which were parochial to those which would involve several parishes. The Chairman and Vice Chairman, Comité des Chefs de Police (CCP) and the President and Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Police Association (HPA) were present for this item.
- The Connétables, pursuant to Article 5A of the Honorary Police (Jersey) Law 1974, signed a document to confirm their permission for Honorary Police officers of their Parish, subject to the operational requirements of their home Parish as determined by the Chef de Police or the Duty Centenier, to assist at any of the events and requested that a copy of the document should be circulated for the information of the Honorary Police in all parishes.

Honorary
Police – age
criteria for
election

8. The Comité considered a report and correspondence, including from H M Attorney General, the Chairman of the Comité des Chefs de Police (CCP) and the President of the Honorary Police Association (HPA), concerning the age criteria for election as an Honorary Police officer. The Chairman and Vice Chairman, CCP, and the President and Honorary Treasurer, HPA, were present for this item. The age criteria was set in the Honorary Police (Jersey) Regulations 2005 and provided that a person was only qualified for election if, on the day of nomination as a candidate for election, the person had attained 20 years of age but had not attained 70 years of age.

The Comité discussed the views expressed which were in favour of maintaining the lower age limit but varied with regard to the upper age limit for election – the options proposed included permitting a person to serve until 75 years of age and permitting only existing officers to continue in office until that age. The Comité considered that the role of the Honorary Police was to provide community policing within their parish and whilst this could be delivered by older officers, particularly if the duties were during the day when other officers might be in employment, the view was expressed that they were not the same as the States Police and should not be regarded as ‘front line’ officers. Following discussion, and in the absence of a majority in favour of change, the Comité decided that as not all Connétables were present it would give the matter further consideration at its next meeting. The Chairman and Vice Chairman, CCP and the President and Honorary Treasurer, HPA were thanked for attending and then withdrew.

Freedom of
Information
(Jersey) Law
2011

9. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 12th January 2015, and with the FOI Supervisor (Parishes), Chief Minister’s Department (CMD), in attendance, considered a briefing paper concerning the implementation of the Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011. The Comité noted the training being provided to Parish staff and that the FOI Supervisor (Parishes) had met with staff in all parishes to ascertain the current position and provide information on preparatory work required including the audit of information held (paper and electronic records) so that responses could be prepared efficiently and within the statutory timescale. The information in a public authority’s possession included that held by the authority or by another person on behalf of the authority and extended to business-related information held on a personal device not owned by the public authority. The Comité agreed to seek the assistance of the FOI officers, CMD, in delivering training sessions for all elected (honorary) officers and that this might then identify additional specific training which might be required. The FOI Supervisor (Parishes) was thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

Firearms
(Jersey) Law
2000 - FLLG

10. The Comité received a report from the Connétable of St Martin on the recent meeting of the Firearms Law Liaison Group.

Draft Air and
Sea Ports
(Incorporation)
(Jersey) Law
201- (P.5/2015)

11. The Comité noted that the Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel had begun contacting potential stakeholders to ask for their views of the proposals for incorporation and how they might be affected. The Chairman of the Panel extended the invitation to any Connétables who might wish to comment on the proposed draft Air and Sea Ports (Incorporation) (Jersey) Law 201- (P.5/2015) to contact the Panel. Bearing in mind the very tight timescale to complete the review prior to the debate on 28th April 2015 it would assist the Panel if initial comments could be received as soon as possible.

Silkworth Team
Challenge

12. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 9th February 2015, noted that following comments from Connétables on the additional information provided by Silkworth about the Extreme Team Challenge proposed to be held on 5th September 2015, the Chairman had replied advising that the Connétables were more content with the holding of the proposed event but, in view of Jersey Live, were unlikely to be able to offer any Honorary Police assistance at stages within their parishes and requested that the organisers liaise directly with each Connétable about the specific routes through

his/her parish as the Connétable might wish to make further comment, offer advice or impose conditions.

- Parish Cemeteries 13. The Comité noted that, following an enquiry from the Connétable of Grouville about the provision of interment facilities, a summary of the charges made by each parish had been circulated for information.
- Roads – debris / leaves 14. The Comité reviewed a draft press release prepared by the Environmental Protection Officer, Department of the Environment, concerning the use of leaf blowers to discard garden waste from private driveways on to the road where parishes or the Transport and Technical Services Department had to clean it up. The Comité gave its support to the press release being issued to remind the public that it was not acceptable to discard garden waste on a road or on any land other than a licensed or exempt site.
- e-government – Tell Us Once (TOU) and Parish Registrars 15. The Comité received the Director, Business Change, Chief Minister’s Department; the Project Manager: Tell Us Once (TOU) and the Superintendent Registrar to discuss the application of e-government to improve the registration of births and deaths and to consider the implications for parishes and Parish Registrars of this method of registration.
- The Director provided an overview of the e-government program which would result in a more effective public sector and was integral to public sector reform. He confirmed that the parishes might be able to benefit from the funding available and welcomed the opportunity to work on a shared agenda. The Project Manager explained the TUO program which would involve the Parish Registrars who played a key role in the registration of births and deaths. Whilst some details had yet to be finalised it was proposed this would be delivered and accessed by Registrars through the Parish Hall. The Comité, having been assured that the proposed notification process would not undermine the role of the Parish Registrar, supported the proposal subject to the necessary training and support being provided for the Registrars. Following discussion the delegation were thanked for attending and then withdrew.
- Next meeting 16. The Connétable of St Martin was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 20th April 2015.

Chairman Date

