

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 13th July 2015
at the Parish Hall, St Peter.

Present:

Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman, Chairman
Connétable de St Pierre - J. M. Refault, Vice Chairman
Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft (not present for items 1 – 3 or 11)
Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian
Connétable de Ste Marie - Mrs J. Gallichan
Connétable de St Brélade - S. W. Pallett
Connétable de St Martin - M. P. S. Le Troquer
Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard
Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre
Connétable de St Jean - C. H. Taylor
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur

An apology for absence was received from the Connétable de St Ouën - M. J. Paddock.

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

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

Minutes

1. The minutes of the meetings held on 15th June and 23rd June 2015, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Freedom of
Information
(Jersey) Law
2011 –
Ecclesiastical
Assembly and
Roads Cttee

2. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 2 of 23rd June 2015, noted that for the purposes of the Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011 certain information held by the Church would be caught by the provisions of the Law because the definition of ‘a Parish’ included the Ecclesiastical Assembly and the Roads Committee (the Rector chairing the Assembly and being a member of the Roads Committee). The extent to which particular information was caught by the Law would need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis and might necessitate legal advice to clarify the issues as and when they arose. The Comité requested the Chairman to write accordingly to the Dean and to ask that he draw this to the attention of all Rectors.

Kerbside
Recycling:
feasibility study
P.121/2014

3. The Comité received the Chief Officer and Recycling Manager, Transport and Technical Services Department (TTS), who wished to commence discussion with Connétables in response to the proposition “Kerbside Recycling: feasibility study” (P.121/2014) approved by the States on 9th September 2014 which agreed to request the Minister for Transport and Technical Services, in liaison with the Parish Connétables, to investigate the feasibility of bringing forward a scheme for the Island-wide collection of household recyclables of selected materials (‘kerbside recycling’) and to report to the States with recommendations by the end of 2015.

The Connétables considered the framework proposed by TTS for preparing a response to the proposition and received information specific to their own parish which would facilitate discussion with the officers about an island-wide collection. The Comité sought clarification on whether this required an island-wide scheme or if each parish might make its own arrangements, and on the whole-life cost of recycling including the environmental impacts and additional costs which would arise for the island and the parishes. Following discussion the officers were thanked for attending and then

withdrew.

Beaches and
inshore waters
– reporting of
incidents

4. The Comité received the Minister for Economic Development and the Strategic Development Officer, Economic Development Department (EDD), to discuss a paper which sought to encourage a joined up approach to safety on the beaches and inshore waters. The Comité was reminded that EDD was responsible for the RNLI contract and looked after the relationship with the Lifeguards who patrolled the beaches in the west of the Island (St. Brelade, St. Ouen and Greve de Lecq).

Following discussions with the Lifeguards it had become apparent that there was a need for a more joined up approach in order to maintain the safety of the general public on the beaches, slipways and inshore waters. The Lifeguards were a consistent presence on the beaches throughout the summer months and, by default, became the main point of contact for a variety of issues which were not within their remit to resolve. Accordingly the Comité's views were invited on a 'contact list' (so that the Lifeguards knew who to call for appropriate assistance) and a marine incident report form (the Coastguard had agreed to log any marine incidents in order that an accurate picture could be built up of the volume and frequency of incidents, particularly involving watercraft).

Following discussion the Comité gave its support to the proposed approach and agreed that each Connétable should discuss the documents with his/her Honorary Police at the monthly police meeting.

Shops
(Regulation of
Opening and
Deliveries)
(Jersey) Law
2010 and
special
occasions

5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 8 of 20th April 2015, received the Minister for Economic Development and the Strategic Development Officer, Economic Development Department (EDD), to discuss Sunday trading in the period around Christmas. The Shops (Regulation of Opening) (Special Occasions) (Jersey) Order 2012 prescribed the four Sundays prior to Christmas Day as special occasions on which a Connétable might grant a blanket permit for shops to open.

The Minister advised that he intended to replace the 2012 Order with an Order prescribing 5 Sundays prior to Christmas Day and the Sunday immediately after Christmas Day as special occasions. His reasons for doing so were that there was strong support from the industry bodies for such a change and it would particularly help the retail sector to compete with internet shopping in the run up to Christmas. It would be for each Connétable to determine whether or not to grant a blanket permit for some or all of those days and whether or not to impose conditions on any shop permitted to open on those days.

The Comité asked that an assessment be made to determine whether the change did, in fact, lead to a reduction in online shopping and an increase in local retail trade and the Minister undertook to contact the Statistics Unit on this matter. The justification for food shops to open so far in advance of Christmas Day was queried given that the opening of larger supermarkets situated in densely populated areas had, in the past, caused nuisance for residents. Following discussion the Minister and Strategic Development Officer were thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

Office –
2014/15
accounts and
2015/16 budget

6. The Comité received the audited accounts for the Comité des Connétables/ Supervisory Committee for the year ended 30th April 2015 and noted expenditure of £78,576 (including office equipment and refurbishment) and income of £74,174 thus resulting in a deficit of £4,402 for the year. The Comité also noted the accounts for the Comité des Chefs de Police for the year ended 30th April 2015 showing income of £1,800 and expenditure of £1,095 resulting in a net surplus of £705 (minute no. 8 of this meeting refers). The balance sheet showed net current assets of £20,080. The auditors Alex Picot had reported that they would be issuing a clean audit report. Following discussion the accounts were adopted with all in favour.

*This is also
recorded in the
minutes of the
Supervisory*

The Committee considered the proposed office budget for 2015/16 estimating

- Committee* expenditure in a sum of £74,450 (a small increase on the previous year's budget). The Comité agreed that parishes should contribute £74,400 and that this should be funded equally by parishes (£6,200 per parish compared to £6,175 the previous year). However, the Comité recalled its rules on voting required that where the matter would commit either the Comité or any of the members to any expenditure, the matter should be done and decided by 12 votes in favour on the first occasion and, as 12 members were not present, it agreed the matter should be considered again at the next meeting.
- Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011* 7. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 2 of 23rd June 2015, received the Head of Information Management and the FOI Supervisor (Parishes), Chief Minister's Department, to discuss a briefing paper concerning the implementation of the Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011 for the parishes. The Comité noted progress to date including the preparation of communication material and a review of individual parish preparations to assess their level of readiness. Training had been delivered to parish staff and officers and an additional session could be offered and tailored specifically for each of community support group volunteers and for the Dean and other Rectors.
- The Comité noted that the process for handling parish FOI requests would be documented and decided that this should include reference to assistance from the FOI Supervisor (Parishes), for the duration of her contract, and should also address internal reviews. Following discussion the Comité thanked the officers for their work and they withdrew from the meeting.
- Honorary Police – Comité des Chefs de Police accounts and budget* 8. The Comité received the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Comité des Chefs de Police and discussed the accounts for the year ended 30th April 2015 (income of £1,800, expenditure of £1,095, net surplus of £705 and accumulated balance of £2,294) and the budget for 2015/16 expenditure of £1,500. The Comité agreed that parishes should contribute £1,500 and that this should be funded equally by parishes (£125 per parish) but recalled its rules on voting required that where the matter would commit either the Comité or any of the members to any expenditure, the matter should be done and decided by 12 votes in favour on the first occasion and, as 12 members were not present, it agreed the matter should be considered again at the next meeting. The officers were thanked for attending and then withdrew.
- Parish in bloom* 9. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 11 of 18th May 2015, congratulated the Connétable of St Brelade on the successful Parish in Bloom competition which had been held recently.
- Next meeting* 10. The Connétable of St Peter was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 14th September 2015.

Chairman Date