

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 9th November 2015
at the Parish Hall, St Mary.

Present:

Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman, Chairman
Connétable de St Pierre - J. M. Refault, Vice Chairman
Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft (present for items 1 - 7 inclusive)
Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian
Connétable de Ste Marie - Mrs J. Gallichan
Connétable de St Ouën - M. J. Paddock
Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre (present for items 1 - 6 inclusive)
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; the Connétable de St Martin - M. P. S. Le Troquer; and the Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard.

In attendance:

Mrs S. R. de Gruchy, Secretary

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

Minutes

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2015, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Mental Health
strategy

2. The Comité received the Director - System Redesign & Delivery, and the Deputy Director - Commissioning, Health and Social Services (HSS), who gave a presentation on the mental health strategy. The Comité was informed that improving mental health and treating mental illness were two of the biggest public health challenges in Jersey. One in four people would experience a mental health problem at some point in their lifetime and awareness and understanding of mental ill health had grown. The most common mental illness for adults was depression and anxiety but many other people had mental illnesses connected with drugs and alcohol and a growing number of people were now living with some form of dementia.

The Comité noted that, following a comprehensive review involving service users, carers and front line staff, the “Mental Health Strategy (2016 – 2020): planning together, for our future” had been prepared for presentation to the States. This described the priorities for improvement to, and set out how, mental health services would be delivered to Islanders no matter what their need. The review considered prevention and recovery services, as well as clinical services which assessed, diagnosed and treated mental illness and followed from the States approval of the proposition “Health and social services: a new way forward” (P.82/2012).

In response to questions, the officers informed the Comité of the provisions being made to assist young people, including those at school and whilst at university, and of the ‘first aid course’ offered by Mind Jersey. Following discussion the officers were thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011

3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 12th October 2015, noted a report summarising the requests received by parishes during September and October 2015 under the Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011.

The Comité also noted that the Director – Corporate Policy, Chief Minister’s Office, had confirmed that the position of FOI Supervisor (Parishes) ended on 31st December 2015 and would not be extended, nor did the number of requests justify an extension (minute no. 2d of 23rd June 2015 refers).

Licensing (Jersey) Law 1974 – annual report to Licensing Assembly

4. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 4 of 12th October 2015, recalled that it had supported the proposed changes to the format of the report presented annually to the Licensing Assembly (to provide a consistent reporting style with the information being made available to the Assembly 2 or 3 days before the sitting) but was awaiting final approval from the Judicial Greffier. In the absence of such approval, Connétables were mindful that it might not be possible at this late stage to make significant changes to the report for 2015.

2015 budget – vehicle emissions / registration duty

5. The Comité received correspondence from the Jersey Old Motor Club Limited, the Jersey Farmers’ Union and an individual concerning the draft Budget Statement 2016 (P.127/2015) which included proposals regarding vehicle emissions duty. The proposed removal of the current exemption given to vehicles more than 25 years old when first registered in Jersey, and the significant increase in the duty, would adversely impact both motoring enthusiasts (whose hobby of collecting old cars was often used to benefit local charities) and the agricultural industry and the correspondents asked Connétables to consider proposing amendments to reduce the impact. The Comité, having heard from individual Connétables on the likely impact of the proposals, agreed that it was for each Connétable to consider what action he/she might wish to take on this matter.

Visit Jersey

6. The Comité received the Chief Executive Officer, Visit Jersey, who outlined the background to the creation in 2015 by the States of “Visit Jersey” and its aim to build a sustainable tourist economy. This would be achieved by focusing on the four areas of market (who to attract), image (how to describe the island to visitors), destination (the visitor experience) and accessibility (the ease of reaching Jersey). Recommendations would also be made around partnership and connectivity with the broader parts of the island economy.

Having been informed of the funding for the 2016 marketing campaign and statistics on visitor numbers to Jersey, the Connétables discussed with the Chief Executive issues relating to transport routes, the link between Events Jersey and Visit Jersey, the logo and branding. The Chief Executive spoke of research which had been undertaken and the need for emotional engagement with visitors to create a successful brand. Following further discussion the Comité thanked the Chief Executive for attending, wished him success in developing Visit Jersey and confirmed its willingness to consider assistance with stakeholder engagement. The Chief Executive then withdrew from the meeting.

Fire & Rescue - volunteering and the use of Honorary Police Officers

7. The Comité received the Director, Prevention and Protection, States of Jersey Fire and Rescue Service, who gave a presentation on volunteering and the use of Honorary Police Officers. The Chairman of the Comité des Chefs de Police and the President of the Honorary Police Association were present for this item.

The Director outlined the search by Jersey Fire and Rescue for volunteers who could be trained in aspects of fire safety to provide a community asset. Statistics indicated only a small proportion of the community were prepared to volunteer and thus all organisations were seeking to tap into the same limited pool. Jersey Fire and Rescue were therefore proposing that training might be provided for Honorary Police officers to

add to their skills base so that when undertaking home visits, attending incidents etc., they would be able to offer advice and guidance or escalate to Fire and Rescue any matters of concern. Officers would receive training (over 4 days) and all equipment, support and specialist response would be provided by Jersey Fire and Rescue.

The Comité reminded the Director that Honorary Police officers were volunteers and many were in full-time employment so were not able to respond immediately to an incident. Concern was expressed that the proposal was a result of Departments having to seek free resources because of States budget cuts, the implications should officers give the wrong advice and that officers might not be willing to undertake further training in addition to that required for the Honorary Police role. The Director replied that Fire Service Watchers would also be undertaking the community role, that there was no expectation on officers to assist in this way and that assistance even with distributing leaflets and installing a smoke detector, if one was not present, when making a home visit would be helpful. Following discussion it was agreed that the Director would attend the monthly Parish Honorary Police meetings at which some basic training and information could be provided to officers which they might use in their general Honorary Police duties. The Director was thanked for attending and then withdrew.

Jersey Police
Authority –
2016 policing
plan

8. The Comité approved a contribution on behalf of the Honorary Police to the States of Jersey Police Plan for 2016 which was being finalised by the Jersey Police Authority. The Chairman of the Comité des Chefs de Police and the President of the Honorary Police Association were present for this item and were requested to forward any comments on the contribution as soon as possible.

Next meeting

9. The Connétable de Ste Marie was thanked for her hospitality. The Comité noted the next meeting would be on 7th December 2015 and agreed dates for Comité meetings in 2016.

Chairman*J Refault*..... Date07/12/2015.....