

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 18th July 2016
at the Parish Hall, St John.

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 Ste Marie - Mrs J. Gallichan (present for items 6 – 10)
Connétable de St Ouën - M. J. Paddock
Connétable de St Brélade - S. W. Pallett
Connétable de St Martin - M. P. S. Le Troquer
Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre
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 Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian and the Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard.

In attendance:

Mrs S. R. de Gruchy, Secretary
Mrs D L Wootton, Secretary Honorary Police (present for items 4 – 10)

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

Minutes

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2016, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Tell Us Once
(TUO) – births
and deaths

2. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 15 of 16th March 2015, considered a report from the Superintendent Registrar outlining the initial trial and work to date on the ‘Tell Us Once’ (TUO) process for the registration of births and deaths, together with the number of births and deaths by parish in recent years. The Comité recalled that it had been assured the process would not undermine the role of the Parish Registrar and had supported the proposed delivery of TUO and access by Registrars through the Parish Hall subject to the necessary training and support being provided for the Registrars.

The Comité noted the facilities provided by six parishes but that the number of births and deaths in the other six parishes was very low (c. 50-60 total each year). An alternative to providing a facility at these parish halls was for the information to be entered by another parish and it was understood the St Helier Registrar might offer such a service for a charge. The Comité noted the offer and agreed it was for each Connétable to make arrangements for his/her Registrar to enter information about births and deaths which best suited his/her Parish.

Littering and
dog fouling
consultation –
feedback

3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 4 of 23rd May 2016, recalled that Eco-active had launched a new campaign to coincide with World Environment Day which would be the start for a multi-agency approach to target litter / dog fouling hotspots. The Comité, having been informed that very few “hotspots” had been nominated in response to the Eco-active campaign, compared with 2015, nevertheless decided that a number of areas should be targeted and requested Eco-active to coordinate this activity.

Jersey Police
Authority

4. The Comité received the Chairman and Executive Officer of the Jersey Police Authority (JPA) for a general discussion on policing issues. The Comité was informed that the relationship between the States of Jersey Police (SOJP) and the Honorary Police was as strong as it had ever been and the JPA considered the situation very positive but wished to address specifically Operation Thrive and the Medium Term Financial Plan 2 (MTFP2). The Chairman of the Comité des Chefs de Police (CCP) and the President of the Honorary Police Association (HPA) were present for this discussion.

In relation to the MTFP2, the Chairman of the JPA reported that the SOJP was suffering fairly substantial budget cuts but believed that it could continue to deliver an efficient and effective police force although the impact was still being reviewed. Policing of events would place more pressure on both the SOJP and the Honorary Police and the increase in these should be monitored. The Comité queried the impact of funding cuts on the community policing established by the SOJP and commented on the effectiveness of this unit. The Chairman of the JPA understood that the SOJP remained committed to proactive policing and community policing was an essential part of this, however there were budgetary tensions and the SOJP was itself undertaking work which could be better dealt with elsewhere.

The Comité was informed of Operation Thrive which was reviewing potential changes to the SOJP organisational structure and the impact, if any, on the Honorary Police. Regular SOJP meetings were being held and the Chairman of the CCP and the President of the HPA had been actively briefed and it was expected that they would communicate with the Connétables. The work to date had focussed on the internal working of the SOJP and would then look at the stakeholders affected by changes – the Honorary Police were a key stakeholder and when the SOJP were clear as to the implications there would be a more detailed briefing. The Chairman of the CCP added that the review to date had included the SOJP response to minor incidents and events but it was likely that the SOJP would be unable to attend an incident in a northern parish and would seek assistance from the Honorary Police. The Comité said that Connétables were nervous as States departments frequently looked to achieve budget savings by transferring responsibilities to the parishes thus impacting on parish financial and manpower resources. The Honorary Police officers were volunteers and many were in full-time employment so there should be no expectation that they would be able to respond immediately to an incident.

Following further discussion the Chairman and Executive Officer of the JPA were thanked for attending and then withdrew.

Honorary
Police –
equipment

5. The Comité received the Chairman of the Comité des Chefs de Police (CCP) and the President of the Honorary Police Association (HPA) to discuss a paper prepared jointly by the CCP and HPA recommending equipment which might be provided for Honorary Police officers. The paper summarised the range of clothing, equipment and tools currently available in different parishes and the justification for its provision and use. The Comité accepted the paper as setting out recommendations but recognised that each parish had different priorities and the Connétable and Chef de Police would determine the requirements of their own parish. The Chairman of the CCP and the President of the HPA were thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

Public
Elections
(Jersey) Law
2002 – by-
election for
Senator

6. The Comité noted that the Royal Court had ordered that an election for Senator be held on 7th September 2016 and, in accordance with Article 19(3) of the Public Elections (Jersey) Law 2002, decided that the Chairman should convene and chair a nomination meeting at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 9th August 2016 at the Town Hall to receive nominations of candidates wishing to stand for election as Senator following the resignation of Senator Z Cameron. The Comité further decided that, in the usual tradition, Connétables (or senior Procureur du Bien Public if the Connétable was not able to attend) would be seated on the dais/platform and that candidates would be offered the opportunity of holding a hustings

meeting in each parish, should they wish to do so, and a provisional timetable of dates would be prepared in consultation with parishes.

The Comité further agreed that notices under Article 8(4) of the law (to give notice to every person who had not returned an Annual Statement for the last 3 years that their name would be removed from the Electoral Register in 28 days unless they contacted the Parish to confirm they were still eligible to be on the Register) would not be sent until after the election.

Office –
2015/16
accounts and
2016/17 budget

*This is also
recorded in the
minutes of the
Comité des
Connétables*

7. The Comité received the audited accounts for the Comité des Connétables/Supervisory Committee for the year ended 30th April 2016 and noted expenditure of £76,463 and income of £74,481 thus resulting in a deficit of £1,982 for the year. The Comité also noted the accounts for the Comité des Chefs de Police for the year ended 30th April 2016 showing income of £1,500 and expenditure of £1,739 resulting in a deficit of £239. The balance sheet showed net current assets of £17,859. 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.

The Comité approved the proposed office budget for 2016/17 estimating expenditure in a sum of £75,860 and decided that the costs would be shared equally between the Parishes (£6,250 per parish compared to £6,200 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.

Next meeting

8. The Connétable of St John was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 19th September 2016.

Chairman*L Norman*..... Date*19/09/2016*.....