

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 8th April 2019
at the Parish Hall, St Peter.

Present:

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman
Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice Chairman (not present for 11-12, 16)
Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman (not present for items 11, 12, 16)
Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard
Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson (not present for items 1-7)
Connétable de St Jean - C. H. Taylor
Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert
Connétable de Ste Marie - J. M. Le Bailly
Connétable de St Ouën - R. A. Buchanan
Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre and the Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur.

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 4th March 2019, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Big Ride Out –
discussion of
traffic
management

2. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 4th March 2019, received Messrs L Butler and D McIntyre, to discuss the proposed Big Ride Out in support of Holidays for Heroes Jersey planned for 26th May 2019. The Vice Chairman of the Comité des Chefs de Police (CCP) and Secretary, and the President of the Honorary Police Association, were present for this item.

The Comité was informed that the motorcycle event had been held for the past eight years but had grown from about 250, in 2011, to over 1,000 motorcyclists last year; this had raised just over £10,000 in 2018. Whilst a number of bikers travelled from the United Kingdom and Europe for the event, Mr Butler thought it unlikely that numbers would grow much more.

The Comité explained that Connétables had indicated they could not give permission for the event as a ‘parade’ or ‘procession’ and, whilst wishing the organisers success with the event, they would be asked to ensure that riders taking part were reminded that all road laws must be obeyed including speed limits, road signs and traffic lights; that using motorbikes at junctions to stop oncoming traffic so that the cavalcade could ride through was an offence and that riders must have general consideration for other road users. The primary concern had to be for the general safety of all road users and ensuring the flow of traffic was not impeded.

The Comité was informed that there was no compulsory registration prior to the event, which was publicised on social media, but this year Islands Insurance were a ‘corporate partner’ and would assist with media including raising awareness of the route to minimise disruption. All participants would be reminded to observe the rules of the road. Assistance would be provided by the Honorary Police, with limited assistance from the States of

Jersey Police, and this would include management at traffic junctions without impeding emergency vehicles. The organisers hoped that greater publicity would avoid adverse impact on other road users. Following discussion Messrs Butler and McIntyre were thanked for attending the meeting and then withdrew.

Honorary
Police (Jersey)
Law 1974 –
assistance at
events in other
parishes
Article 5A

3. The Comité considered a paper setting out the events in 2019 for which Connétables of various parishes requested the assistance of the Honorary Police of other parishes in accordance with the Honorary Police (Jersey) Law 1974. The Connétables, pursuant to Article 5A of the 1974 Law, signed a document to confirm their permission for members of the Honorary Police 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. The Vice Chairman and Secretary of the Comité des Chefs de Police and the President of the Honorary Police Association were present for this item.

Honorary
Police – group
insurance
policies

4. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 16 of 15th October 2019, received the recommendation of the panel on the renewal of the Honorary Police group insurance policies from 1st May 2019. The policies covered all parishes except St Helier which had separate cover. The Comité approved the renewal of the policies from 1st May 2019, with the stabilisation / long term agreements where offered, to cover personal accident, public liability and torts and legal expenses claims. The Vice Chairman and Secretary of the Comité des Chefs de Police and the President of the Honorary Police Association were present for this item.

Honorary
Police Medal
for Long and
Meritorious
Service

5. The Comité was informed that the award of the Honorary Police Medal for Long and Meritorious Service, instituted by Warrant of Her Majesty the Queen dated 1st December 2014, and registered in the Royal Court on 12th December 2014, to several officers has been approved by the Bailiff and His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor. The Royal Warrant ordained that the name of each recipient be recorded in the minutes of the Assemblée Paroissiale of the Parish in which the officer last served or is serving, as the case may be, and also ordained that the names of all recipients be recorded in the minutes of the Comité des Connétables.

Honorary Police Medal for Long and Meritorious Service with Bar (21 years' service)

George Paul May

Norman Edward Le Maistre

Honorary Police Medal for Long and Meritorious Service with Bar and additional Bar (30 years' service)

Michel Claude Roger Bougeard

Centenier Bougeard (who was present for this item together with the Secretary of the Comité des Chefs de Police and the President of the Honorary Police Association) was congratulated by the Comité and thanked for his many years' service to his parish and to the Honorary Police.

Cats:
additional
protection
when involved
in road traffic
accidents
(P.30/2019)

6. The Comité considered the proposition of Deputy J Macon (Cats: additional protection when involved in road traffic accidents (P.30/2019)) following a petition calling for a law change to reduce the suffering of cats which were victims of RTAs (road traffic accidents) by getting them to a vet quickly. The petition suggested that "a RTA with a cat should be 'reportable' just like other animals; the driver must inform the (Honorary) Police only if other notifiable parties can't be reached; the owner and/or the JSPCA." The Vice

Chairman and Secretary of the Comité des Chefs de Police and the President of the Honorary Police Association were present for this item.

The Comité was informed by the Connétable of St Clement, in his capacity as the Minister for Home Affairs, that the proposition and petition had been discussed at a meeting which he and the Ministers for Infrastructure and for the Environment had attended but the proposal was not considered practical as it would require an owner to keep a cat under control. The Vice Chairman of the CCP concurred that the proposal was impractical from a policing perspective.

The Comité recalled that cats were already provided for in the Jersey Highway Code and the Animal Welfare Law; since 2015 the Jersey Highway Code (which could be referred to in Court) had been updated to reduce the suffering of cats which were the victims of RTAs by stipulating that, if there was an incident or accident involving a cat, the Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (JSPCA) should be contacted as soon as possible and that they would dispatch a pet ambulance to the scene. The Comité agreed it should present comments to the States on the proposition and requested that a draft be circulated for approval.

The delegation was thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

Liberation
2019;
Liberation 75 –
2020 and Fort
Regent

7. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 2 of 4th March 2019, received the Chief Officer, Bailiff's Chambers, to discuss the arrangements for Liberation Day 2019. The Chief Officer said that Liberation Day 2019 would follow a similar format to Liberation Day 2018 but there would also be a theme for the event celebrating 'women' of the past, present and future as 2019 celebrated a number of anniversaries including the centenary of Women's suffrage and of the Jersey Girl Guides, 130th anniversary of Helvetia House School, 75th anniversary of the Jersey Netball Association and the 25th anniversary of ordained women. These anniversaries would underpin and support the Occupation and Liberation theme that would draw attention to the Ladies who were present on Liberation Day 1945. The Comité agreed it was for each Connétable to select a chosen female senior citizen and a young person to represent their parish on the staging and to notify the Chief Officer within two weeks. The Bailiff's Office would assist with arrangements for these representatives.

The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 4th March 2019, then discussed with the Chief Officer the planning of events for Liberation 75 – 2020 on 9th May 2020.

The Chief Officer also informed the Comité of arrangements being co-ordinated through the Bailiff's Entertainment Panel for events which could no longer be held at Fort Regent following the restriction on numbers for safety reasons. A forthcoming event would now be held at the Watersplash in St Peter.

Following discussion, the Comité thanked the Chief Officer for attending the meeting and he then withdrew.

Government of
Jersey – Chief
Executive

8. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 11 of 4th February 2019, received the Chief Executive of the Government of Jersey who had been invited to update the Connétables on the "one Government" vision and to learn a little about the parish system which was fundamental to Jersey. The Chief Executive's 2nd 6-month report had been published and had several references to parishes including in relation to 'Customer and Local Services' and to 'Improving community and voluntary sector partnerships'.

The Chief Executive thanked the Comité for the invitation and outlined the vision for future service delivery. This included 'local services' which recognised that not everything need be centred in St Helier as people interacted with the parishes and this should be quite important to government. The new department was bringing together the operation of services for islanders from across government, through face-to-face, phone and online channels, to provide a seamless, one-stop-shop for customer services. It was also developing local service delivery in partnership with Parishes, the voluntary sector and

community groups. This work included the ‘Closer to Home’ initiative now being piloted at Communicare which, with the agreement of the Connétables, could provide a blueprint for a similar initiative in the north, east, and even south, of the island. This was an important area to grow and develop over the coming 3-4 years and was intended to strengthen the relationship with voluntary services and the 3rd sector to meet the needs of local communities in local areas thus utilising the infrastructure of the parishes without undermining the parishes.

In terms of government, the business was moving from the launch of the new target operating model to a period of stabilisation and then to recovery. The Chief Executive outlined the difficulties and issues to be addressed including in areas such as IT, career and succession planning etc. There had been a lack of investment over the last 10-15 years so there were too many manual processes; the scale of the issue was a big challenge but by focusing on the foundations this year improvements could be made in the future. Going forward, plans must be improved so that services could be provided cheaper, better and more transparently.

The Comité raised with the Chief Executive the parishes’ need to undertake remediation under the Data Protection (Jersey) Law 2018 in relation to the States IT acting as processor for various parish systems. The Chief Executive undertook to raise this with his team and report back to ensure the parishes could complete this work. In response to questions from Connétables, the Chief Executive also outlined the proposal to establish an infrastructure fund for the island to ensure funding was available for energy security, property maintenance and other infrastructure work such as drainage. A discussion paper would be ready later in 2019 and the Infrastructure Fund was likely to be referenced in the Government Plan. “Team Jersey” (minute no. 5 of 7th January 2019 refers) would be presenting a report by the end of April and other larger departments should have finished their consultations by the autumn. This would provide a yardstick for the future.

The Chief Executive recognised that the Connétables had different roles and he said he would make himself available to meet with each Connétable or individuals/groups in the parishes as it was important local services were designed with, rather than for, the parishes. The Comité reminded the Chief Executive it was important his team also heard this message and referred to the proposal to replace LICAR, which had recently been shelved, after considerable resources had been expended by the parishes. The Chief Executive offered to arrange for the Director Generals to each meet with the Comité and this was welcomed by the Connétables.

Following discussion, the Comité extended an invitation to the Chief Executive to attend a meeting in the autumn and, having been thanked for attending, he withdrew from the meeting.

St Helier
municipal
reform –
working group
proposal

9. The Comité was informed by the Connétable of St Helier that the Parish was establishing a working group to consider issues relating to the parish as the capital of the island and the main commercial, retail and nightlife centre for the island. St Helier had some unique challenges and the municipality had identified that it was currently unable to meet some of its objectives as effectively as it would wish because of the complexity of the approval processes and differing permissions required depending on whether the activity related to a Parish or States road. The purpose of the Working Group was to identify the full range of issues that hampered delivery of its objectives, and then consider how a revised or new municipal structure could best address the issues identified. The Group would be asked to consider options to address the identified issues and recommend a way forward that recognised and respected the existing Parish system and retained the current processes that worked well. The Connétable would chair the Working Group and it would comprise members of the municipality, a Parish Deputy and ideally, a member of the Comité. The Terms of Reference would set out the operation and objective of the Group in more detail.

The Comité agreed that the Connétable of St Brelade, or in his absence the Connétable of St Peter, should represent it on the Working Group and asked that, in its deliberations,

the Working Group should also consider the implications of any recommendations for other parishes.

Climate
Change
Emergency -
carbon neutral
proposal

10. The Comité discussed the following propositions of Deputy R J Ward relating to carbon neutrality –

- a) Climate Change Emergency: Actions To Be Taken By The Government Of Jersey (P.27/2019) lodged for debate by the States on 30th April 2019, and
- b) The report presented to the St Helier Parish Assembly on 27th March 2019 which asked the Parish to declare a climate change emergency and aim to be carbon-neutral by 2030.

The Connétable of St Helier explained that he would be setting up a working group to consider actions which the Parish might undertake to aim to be carbon-neutral by 2025-2030 and the Comité asked that he provide feedback and information on any report prepared. The Comité also considered that, should a similar proposal be adopted by other Parish Assemblies, there might be merit in a single working group to investigate the issues.

Draft
Amendment
(No. 39) of the
Standing
Orders of the
States of Jersey
(P.29/2019)

11. The Comité noted the proposition, lodged by Senator L Farnham, entitled “draft Amendment (No. 39) of the Standing Orders of the States of Jersey (P.29/2019)” which, if approved, would amend the Standing Orders of the States of Jersey to change the number of votes that were required under standing order 89A for a proposition to be adopted that –

- a) altered in any way the membership of the States;
- b) lengthened or shortened the term of office of any class of elected member; or
- c) altered, added or extinguished the constituencies of any class of elected member,

so that any such proposition should not be adopted unless at least 32 members of the States vote in favour of it.

Next meeting

12. The Connétable of St Peter was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 13th May 2019.

Chairman Date