

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 5th February 2018
at the Parish Hall, St Brelade.

Present:

Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman, Chairman
Connétable de St Pierre - J. M. Refault, Vice Chairman
Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian
Connétable de St Ouën - M. J. Paddock (present for items 1, 2 and 10)
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 la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de St Héliier - A. S. Crowcroft; the Connétable de Ste Marie - Mrs J. Gallichan and the Connétable de St Jean - C. H. Taylor.

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 15th January 2018, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Children's
Commissioner -
introductions

2. The Comité welcomed the Children's Commissioner and the Project Manager, Children's Commission, to the meeting. The Dean of Jersey was also present for this discussion. The Children's Commissioner outlined her role in Jersey which was about promoting and safeguarding children's rights; these were set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and related to things every child should have or be able to do. The Comité discussed with the Children's Commissioner her early views of the situation in Jersey and explained that the Connétables had, historically, administered welfare which was about social, emotional and practical support as well as financial support. Since welfare had been replaced by Income Support there was no longer a direct link with those in need. Several parishes were developing community support groups and some Connétables were able to offer limited financial assistance from charitable funds to meet specific needs. The Comité concurred with the Commissioner's view that information sharing was key to providing timely and appropriate support to prevent the risk of significant harm. The Comité thanked the Commissioner for the valuable and worthwhile discussion and invited her to meet each Connétable individually at the Parish Hall in the coming weeks.

Dean of Jersey
- introductions

3. The Comité welcomed the Dean of Jersey to the meeting. The Children's Commissioner and the Project Manager, Children's Commission, were also present for this discussion. The Dean outlined his role as the senior priest on Jersey in charge of the Church of England churches. The Dean said the parish and church had a partnership role and there should be a conduit to strengthen that partnership and to enable issues, should they arise, to be resolved. The Dean also had responsibility for safeguarding children and

vulnerable adults. The role was diverse and included representing the community at States functions and a role within the States Assembly. The Comité thanked the Dean for the valuable and worthwhile discussion and invited him to meet each Connétable individually in the coming weeks.

Public
Elections
(Jersey) Law
2002 and the
2018 elections

4. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 4 of 11th December 2017 and 9 of 15th January 2018, discussed matters relating to the Public Elections (Jersey) Law 2002 (“the 2002 Law”) and to the 2018 elections as follows:

- a) Notice of registered voters - in accordance with Article 7A of the 2002 Law the Comité approved the form of notice of registered voters to be sent between 1st – 15th March 2018 to every unit of dwelling accommodation. The notice contained the names of the persons (if any) whose names were included in respect of that unit of dwelling accommodation on the electoral register for the electoral district; if a person was registered under Article 5A, the date entered in the register in the person’s case, under Article 5A(6); explained where and how to inspect the electoral register; and explained when a person was entitled to be registered and how to register. The notice also contained other information pertinent to the forthcoming elections in May 2018.
- b) Online application to register as an elector – the Comité noted that the first prototype was being tested and the system would be ready to go live by the end of February 2018 subject to the States approving an amendment to the Public Elections (Jersey) Law 2002 (P.2/2018) to enable an application to be made “in such electronic form as may be provided by the electoral administrator for a parish”. The Connétables, as the electoral administrators in accordance with Article 17A of the 2002 Law, confirmed the provision of the electronic form in the online application to register as an elector as the form to be used.
- c) Electoral administrator for a parish – the Comité noted that Article 17A of the 2002 Law set out who was to be regarded as the electoral administrator for the parish in the event that a Connétable was a candidate for election.
- d) Nomination meetings – having noted that the Royal Court would, in due course, order elections for Senators, Connétables and Deputies to be held on 16th May 2018 in accordance with the Connétables (Jersey) Law 2008 and the States of Jersey Law 2005, the Comité,
 - i. pursuant to Article 19 of the 2002 Law, chose the Connétable of St Clement to convene the nomination meeting for the election of Senators and agreed this would be held at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall on 10th April 2018; and
 - ii. agreed that nomination meetings for the elections of Connétables and Deputies would be held on 11th April 2018.
- e) Planning for 2018 elections – the Comité noted that planning meetings had been arranged between staff of the parishes, Judicial Greffe and States Greffe and further information would be available in due course.

Online planning
applications

5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 11th December 2017, received further information on the proposal of the Planning Department to move to online planning applications. Officers from the Planning Department had confirmed with each Parish the device required to enable online applications to be viewed at the Parish Hall and once these had been installed, and training had been provided, the Planning Department would stop sending paper plans for minor schemes and would only send relevant paper plans for major schemes (but not the application forms, supporting statements or reports etc.). However should a Parish require paper plans it could obtain a copy from the Planning Department. Further information on the timescales for the launch would be confirmed in due course.

'Miss Battle'
competitions

6. The Comité considered correspondence from the Superintendent Minister of the Jersey Methodist Circuit asking whether the Island should review the Battle of Flowers 'Miss Parish' competitions given the growing concern about how women were still being objectified and abused in society. The Comité agreed that the correspondence should be passed to the Chairmen of each parochial Battle of Flowers association as it was the associations which organised the events. The Comité requested the Chairman to reply accordingly and to explain that the Miss Parish role was one of ambassador for the parish and the ambassadorial role need not be restricted to women as one Parish also selected a Mr Parish.

Shops
(Regulation of
Opening)
(Special
Occasions)
(Jersey) Order
2015 - Fete du
Noué opening
2018

7. The Comité recalled that the Minister for Economic Development had, by the Shops (Regulation of Opening) (Special Occasions) (Jersey) Order 2015, designated six Sundays (5 prior to and 1 after Christmas Day) as special occasions. Each Connétable might therefore issue a blanket permit enabling shops to open on some or all of these days and might impose conditions on such opening in addition to that specified in law which specified that where a shop was one that was open on weekdays as well as on a Sunday the commercial activities that were carried on at the shop pursuant to the permit should be substantially the same as those carried on at the shop on weekdays.

The Connétables confirmed the blanket permit each wished to issue for 2018 (the Sundays designated 'special occasions' being 25th November and 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th December 2018) and requested that a Gazette notice be prepared accordingly.

Governor's
Walks

8. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 12 of 16th October 2017, discussed whether there was interest in reviving the "Governor's Walks" with the proceeds from ticket sales subsidising the costs associated with organising and catering for the event. The Comité recalled that, on previous occasions, it had agreed that whilst it supported the principle of such walks and the use of the Parish Hall in connection with the event, the walks must not impose a financial cost or organisational demands on the parish. Having discussed the matter, it was agreed that the decision should be made by the Connétables elected in May 2018 and that detailed proposals should be put to a future meeting of the Comité.

Next meeting

9. The Connétable of St Brelade was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 5th March 2018.

Chairman*L Norman*..... Date5/3/2018.....