

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 11th May 2020
(virtual meeting conducted online).

Present:

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman
Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice Chairman
Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman
Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard
Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson
Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre
Connétable de St Jean - C. H. Taylor
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur
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

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 5th May 2020, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Emergencies
Council and
Community
Task Force
Steering Group
meetings

2. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 2 of 5th May 2020, received a report from the Chairman on the recent Emergencies Council meeting. The Comité discussed the difficulties encountered by members of the Honorary Police in policing the revised lockdown restrictions, introduced to contain the risk of COVID-19 spreading throughout the population, and the importance of ensuring the guidelines were clearly communicated to all Islanders.

The Comité noted the Community Task Force Steering Group meeting had been cancelled and the next meeting would be on 15th May 2020.

Liberation 75 –
2020

3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 5th May 2020, discussed events to mark the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Jersey.

- a) States sitting: the Comité commended the Connétable of St Helier on his personal statement to the States Assembly at the special sitting on 9th May 2020.
- b) Commemorative coin for over 75s: the Comité was informed that the Chief Minister, in support of the Council of Ministers, would be issuing an exclusive, limited-edition 50 pence commemorative coin to every Islander over the age of 75 in Jersey, the gifts to be collected by parishioners from their Parish Hall. The Comité decided to seek further information about the arrangements for distribution as it would not wish senior citizens to make a journey to collect the gift whilst COVID-19 restrictions were in place.
- c) General arrangements: the Comité decided to invite the Bailiff and his Chief Officer to meet, in due course, for a debrief on the 2020 arrangements.

Census – data
for 2021

4. The Comité considered correspondence from the Data Analyst, Statistics Jersey, seeking access to property information which parishes held as part of the Parish Rates and Electoral Roll responsibilities. The information was required for the purpose of establishing the best possible foundation for the 2021 Census by building a list of all residential addresses on the Island prior to doing some ‘on the ground’ checking for the Census in March 2021. The Data Analyst advised that the Statistics and Census (Jersey) Law 2018 provided the lawful basis to receive the data and information was only required about the property; no personal data was required. The Comité agreed, in principle, to the provision of the data but requested clarification of the proposals in terms of compliance with the law, the manpower implications for parishes and the arrangements for the transfer of the data.

draft Policing
of Beaches
(Amendment
No. 12) (Jersey)
Regulations
202-

5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 4 of 5th May 2020, noted that the Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture had decided not to lodge the draft Policing of Beaches (Amendment No. 12) (Jersey) Regulations 202- which would have extended the winter hours for dog walking and horse riding on beaches. As the draft Regulations were not lodged the comments of the Comité had not been presented. A Government news release had subsequently been issued reminding that dog walkers and horse riders using the beaches would have to adhere to the usual restrictions under the Policing of Beaches (Jersey) Regulations 1959 from 10.30 a.m. on 13th May 2020.

Redress and
Accountability
Systems in
Jersey: Review

6. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 16th March 2020, considered a letter from the Chair of the Care of Children in Jersey Review Panel advising that whilst there was still no intention to publicly launch the review, due to COVID-19, the Panel was keen to begin gathering background information and asked what capacity the Comité had to provide the Panel with the information on the complaints systems and processes within the Parish Administrations. The Comité, while noting that few complaints were received by Connétables, discussed the range of issues about which a complaint might be made and requested the Secretary to collate information for its consideration at a future meeting.

COVID-19
coronavirus –
easing of
restrictions

7. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 7 of 5th May 2020, considered the following in relation to the easing of restrictions imposed to limit the spread of COVID-19:

- a) Choses Publique / ‘Al fresco’ licences: the Director, Digital and Telecoms Policy, Office of the Chief Executive, had asked parishes to confirm that where possible they would expedite ‘al fresco’ licences. This related to the Government’s phased strategy to progress a safe and orderly exit from the lock-down introduced to contain the risk of COVID-19 spreading throughout the population. Level 3 of the exit strategy provided for restaurants and cafes to provide ‘al fresco’ service only; guidelines were being drafted for establishments setting out the requirements to be observed.
- b) Visites du Branchage: the Comité discussed arrangements being considered by Connétables for the Visites so as to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 and agreed that advice should be sought from the Law Officers’ Department to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Loi (1914) sur la Voirie.
- c) Parish Halls: the Comité discussed arrangements being considered to enable premises to be open to the public whilst respecting the current restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Secretary was requested to circulate details for consideration at the next meeting.
- d) Children’s playgrounds: the Comité was informed that under the Safe Exit Level 3 Policy there were exceptions to the closing of outdoor recreational facilities subject to detailed guidelines; further information would be obtained.

- e) Ecclesiastical Assembly and elections: the Dean of Jersey had advised that the decision had been taken not to hold elections for churchwardens and almoners due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Any officer wishing to retire would remain in post, in accordance with the provisions of the Canons of the Church of England in Jersey, until a successor could be elected once meeting restrictions were lifted. The swearing in of churchwardens, scheduled for 6th June 2020, was therefore cancelled. Accounts would have to be completed, made available and properly scrutinized by an independent examiner and the Comité requested clarification as to how this would be managed.
- f) Driver and Vehicle Standards testing: the Comité noted that advice was awaited regarding the resumption of driver testing.

Cycling and EVie electric bicycles

8. The Comité discussed the increase in cycling and the provision made for cyclists. The Connétable of St Helier advised that at the next States sitting he would be addressing questions about potential conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians on the promenade to the Minister for Infrastructure. The Connétable of St Peter reported issues with the parking of EVie electric bikes outside the Parish Hall as these were not subsequently rented and so prevented others from using the cycle racks; he could foresee this becoming an issue in busier months as cycle racks provided by Parishes could be completely filled by bikes awaiting hire.

Next meeting

9. The Comité noted the next meeting would be on 18th May 2020.

Chairman Date

