

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 27th April 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 (not present for items 10 – 13)
Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard (not present for items 11 - 13)
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 meetings held on 14th April 2020 and 20th April 2020, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.
- Emergencies
Council mtgs &
Community
Task Force
Steering Group
meetings 2. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 1 of 20th April 2020, received a report from the Chairman on the recent Emergency Council meeting. The issues addressed included an update on the construction of the Nightingale Hospital and the development of a safe exit strategy from the COVID-19 restrictions.

The Comité also received a report from the Connétable of Grouville on the recent Community Task Force Steering Group meeting.
- GoJ - Comms 3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 5 of 20th April 2020, received a report from the Chairman following her discussion with the newly appointed Director of Communications, Government of Jersey (GoJ), to outline the role of the parishes in Jersey. The Director-General had recently moved from the United Kingdom to take up the role on 1st March 2020.

Arising from this, the Comité was informed of the work undertaken by GoJ Communications Team during the COVID-19 pandemic (press releases/statements, press conferences, responding to queries etc.), was reminded of the invitation to contribute to Mediamasters publications (minute no. 6 of 14th April 2020 refers) and noted that Direct Input had also been in touch with regard to communications and PR support.
- Data Protection
(Jsy) Law 2018
- GoJ online
training course 4. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 14 of 20th April 2020, was reminded that Connétables had been provided with a link to the new online Government of Jersey (GoJ) data protection training course so they might view the content prior to making a decision whether or not to take up the offer of the module for parish staff, officers and volunteers. The Data Protection Officer (Interim), Government of Jersey, had clarified that the course was a basic, entry-level awareness module that had been designed to suit a wide variety of government roles. Any parish which wished to proceed was requested

to limit the number of initial users, where possible, to those who were deemed by the parish to be higher priority such as volunteers. It was a requirement that anyone dealing with personal data was trained in the principles of Data Protection and this course fulfilled that obligation. The Comité heard from two Connétables who had reviewed the module and considered it would be suitable for parish use.

Connétables (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Jersey) Law 2012 - Parishes business continuity: Connétable functions

5. The Comité considered business continuity for the parishes and was reminded that when a Connétable was unable to discharge the functions of office these were exercised by the senior Procureur du Bien Public under Article 4 of the Connétables (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Jersey) Law 2012. A Connétable either could, or could not, discharge the functions of office; a Connétable could not choose to delegate only some functions. Article 4 applied when a Connétable was unable to discharge the functions due to:

- a) illness or injury;
- b) being absent from Jersey except where the absence was for 7 days or less and the Connétable informed either or both of the Procureurs du Bien Public of the parish that the Connétable would discharge the functions of office during that period of absence; or
- c) no longer holding office for any reason pending that office being filled in accordance with any other enactment.

COVID-19: Parishes business continuity

6. The Comité noted that parishes had been invited to submit information to the Government of Jersey for inclusion on its website dashboard which helped Islanders understand what services were currently available and which were temporarily suspended.

COVID-19: Liberation 75 – 2020

7. The Comité considered correspondence from the Bailiff's Chief Officer regarding events to mark Liberation 75 – 2020 due to the social distancing restrictions under COVID-19. This included an online virtual States sitting on 9th May 2020, which would be publicly accessible online, and entertainment on the Liberation 75 Facebook page. A large quantity of bunting had also been acquired but as major events could no longer take place the Bailiff had agreed to make bunting available to the public free of charge.

The Comité heard from the Connétable of St Helier about the logistics for distribution (as making bunting available from shops could increase trips) and that the Dean would like to see the Parish churches decorated. The Comité considered that arrangements should be made so that bunting could be put up that week and noted that parish volunteers might be available to help with distribution. The Chairman was requested to contact the Bailiff's Chief Officer regarding the proposed arrangement for the distribution of bunting.

Policing of Beaches (Jersey) Regulations 1959: dogs on leads and dog fouling

8. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 6th April 2020, noted that an online petition had been started calling for dogs to be permitted off the lead after 1st May 2020. The petition had passed the 1,000 signature mark and a response was due from Ministers. The Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture had been advised of the Comité's decision on 6th April 2020 not to seek to relax the restrictions which applied from 1st May. The Minister had replied that he had asked officers to prepare a Proposition which would ask the States to consider extending the winter hours until the end of May or sooner if lockdown were to be relaxed.

The Comité recalled its decision to maintain the current restrictions took into account that these did not prevent dogs being exercised on the beach but the restriction requiring the use of a lead between certain hours of the day would ensure that social distancing was observed at times when the beaches would be at their busiest. The Comité was also informed that there was some evidence that COVID-19 could remain live on a dog's coat or skin for a while. Further, advice in the United Kingdom included the importance of dog owners keeping their dogs under control at all times and that keeping a dog on a lead would ensure people could safely stay 2 metres away from others. The Comité considered

a suggestion that certain beaches might be designated for walking dogs off the lead throughout the year and requested the Connétable of St Brelade to discuss this with the Minister and to report back to Connétables.

The Comité heard from Connétables of complaints that some dog owners were not removing faeces deposited by their dog, as required under the Policing of Beaches, Roads and Parks Regulations. The Comité requested the Chairman to issue a media statement reminding all dog owners of their duty.

Parish roads –
amendments to
legislation

9. The Comité was informed by the Connétable of St Saviour that she had written to the Minister for Infrastructure regarding the delay in the Minister making changes to legislation following decisions of a Parish Assembly or Roads Committee with regard to speed limits, parking restrictions ('yellow lines') etc. on parish by-roads. Several Connétables reported a delay of a year or more in the Minister enacting legislation.

The Connétable of St Brelade reported that the Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel had raised this with the Minister for Infrastructure at the quarterly hearing on 28th January 2020. The Panel had been informed that due to the various constraints and resources within the Growth, Housing and Environment Department and also within the Law Officers Department, requests were batched for efficiency. However, it was recognised that this could be managed better so the Department had a project to review all of the highway laws and how they could be improved to make the process as efficient as possible. The Comité agreed that Connétables should notify the Secretary of the outstanding changes to legislation for their parish so that the Chairman might write to the Minister with regard to the process.

Honorary
Police
recruitment
campaign

10. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 10th February 2020, received an update on the Honorary Police recruitment campaign which was launched in February 2020. The Comité was reminded that the social media campaign was on a microsite "yourparishneedsyou.je" and had achieved excellent community engagement with, to date, almost 200 responses expressing interest in serving in the Honorary Police. Whilst the number varied considerably across the parishes, each Parish was following up the expressions of interest and a number of persons had recently been elected as members to the Honorary Police. Funding of the campaign was from funds in the Honorary Police Association account from Parishes' subscriptions in previous years towards advertising and recruitment and from Parish contributions. Following discussion, and recognising the wider benefits of the campaign for all parishes, the Comité decided the balance should be met from the office budget.

HPA accounts
and budget

11. The Comité received the Honorary Police Association unaudited accounts for the year ended 29th February 2020 and the proposed budget for 2020/2021. The Comité noted the accounts for 2019/2020 showed income of £3,670 and expenditure of £11,200 (including funding for the Honorary Police recruitment campaign) resulting in a deficit of £7,529 with a balance carried forward of £2,036. The Comité then approved the proposed budget expenditure for 2020/2021 of £3,800, noting that this included provision of £2,000 for recruitment and training expenses which had still to be determined, and decided that the parishes would fund a subscription of £17 per officer (based on the number of officers at 1st May).

COVID-19 –
household
green waste and
recycling

12. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 10 of 14th April 2020, heard from Connétables of their concern at the continued closure of the Household Green Waste Reception at La Collette and also the recycling services and bring banks. An increasing amount of green waste had been noticed in domestic refuse collections and fly-tipping was also becoming more evident. The 'Stay at Home' instructions designated essential work as waste management and recycling services and, following the introduction of

COVID-19 restrictions, the sites had initially remained open with staff exercising appropriate social distancing. The Comité requested the Chairman to write to the Minister for Infrastructure asking that he revisit the decision to close all the sites as a matter of urgency and, if sites could not be reopened immediately, of the reason they would remain closed.

Next meeting

13. The Comité noted the next meeting would be on 5th May 2020.

Chairman Date