

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Tuesday 5th 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 27th April 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 27th April 2020, received a report from the Connétable of Grouville on the recent Community Task Force Steering Group meeting.

The Comité also received a report from the Chairman on the Emergencies Council meeting which had focussed on the framework for a phased and gradual lifting of the lockdown restrictions introduced to contain the risk of COVID-19 spreading throughout the population. The Comité heard from several Connétables regarding the difficulties encountered by members of the Honorary Police in policing the revised restrictions as groups of people had gathered in various places over the bank holiday weekend and there had also been a noticeable increase in traffic on the roads. The Comité noted that the Chairman would be speaking to the Chairman of the Comité des Chefs de Police and agreed that there was a need for clarity on the new guidelines so that members of the Honorary Police, and States of Jersey Police, could advise the public on the requirements. Whilst the information issued by Government had been clear it was considered that media reporting had been less than comprehensive and this had caused confusion for some members of the public.

COVID-19:
Liberation 75 –
2020

3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 7 of 27th April 2020, gave further consideration to arrangements to mark the 75th anniversary of the Liberation.

- a) Bunting acquired by the Bailiff's Chambers for island events which could no longer take place had been made available to the public free of charge. The Comité heard from Connétables that, despite the initial confusion, the supplies provided through parishes had all been quickly distributed; some supplies had also been made available through Waitrose supermarkets.

- b) Liberation 75 parcels: an islander proposed to distribute 500 Liberation celebration parcels to those who were in Jersey during the Occupation and the Bailiff's Chief Officer had enquired whether parishes might fund the cost of the Liberation 75 book (£9.99 per copy) which would be included in the parcel. Having heard from Connétables of other parish initiatives to present gifts, and that nominations for recipients were to be sent to the proposer so there would be no parish involvement, the Comité considered the funding could not be justified and it should reply that, though kind, it was an impractical offer. As parishes were unable to assist it was suggested the central budget for Liberation events might be considered should funding be required.
- c) 'Living with the enemy' documentary: the Comité noted parishes had been offered several gift bags to distribute to parishioners as the screening of the documentary at the Arts Centre had been cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- d) Poppy pin badges: the Poppy Appeal Organiser had asked if parishes would assist to ensure that older citizens who might have been in Jersey through the war, or returned shortly afterwards, could obtain a pin badge. A supply had been acquired in the expectation of selling through a pop-up shop with proceeds supporting the Poppy Appeal. As parishes might have made other plans, including the supply of Parish pin badges, the Comité agreed that any Connétable able to assist with Poppy pin badges should contact the organiser.
- e) Remembrance bracelet or pin badge: the Comité noted that the Parish of St Lawrence was selling these items in aid of the Red Cross and the Bailiff's Covid Fund.

The Chairman proposed that parishioners should be invited to submit their photographs of Liberation 75, showing homes decorated for the occasion and street parties (at a social distance) in 'lockdown' to their Parish so that these might be displayed for all to view following the lifting of COVID-19 movement restrictions. This was warmly supported by Connétables as an additional way to mark Liberation 75 without detracting from other events which parishes and other groups were proposing. It was agreed the Chairman should issue a news release inviting islanders to submit photographs to their Parish Hall.

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

4. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 8 of 27th April 2020, considered the draft Policing of Beaches (Amendment No. 12) (Jersey) Regulations 202- which it was understood would be lodged for debate by the States on 12th May 2020. The draft Regulations proposed the restrictions from 1st May 2020 of dogs being on a lead between 10.30 am and 6.00 pm should be relaxed while the movement of persons was restricted under Article 1 of the Covid-19 (Restricted Movement) (Jersey) Order 2020. The draft would also remove the restriction on riding a horse or pony on a beach during the same period.

The Report accompanying the draft Regulations explained that a petition requesting 'a continuation of winter hours' had received more than 1,300 signatures by the end of April 2020. The Covid-19 outbreak meant there would effectively be no tourism season in the summer of 2020 so the restrictions were not needed to the same degree. Also, the Stay At Home restrictions meant people off work had been spreading their dog-walking on beaches throughout the day. As the current Regulations came in to force on 1st May 2020, and the draft Regulations would not be debated until 12th May 2020, the Amendment proposed that it would not be an offence to walk dogs without a lead or ride horses on the beach between 1st and 12th May 2020. Concern was expressed that the draft Regulations had been brought so late in the COVID-19 pandemic situation; had earlier consideration been given to the summer restrictions under the Policing of Beaches (Jersey) Regulations 1959 it would have avoided the current situation of having legislation which would be ignored pending a States debate.

The Comité recalled that 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. There was some evidence that COVID-19 could remain live on a dog's coat or skin for a while and advice in the United Kingdom, during the pandemic, was to keep a dog on a lead. The Comité agreed it should present its comments to the States but noted the dissent of the Connétable of St Brelade who considered, particularly when tidal conditions were suitable, dogs should be permitted off the lead all year on certain designated beaches.

The Comité also noted concerns of Connétables about dog fouling on beaches, sand dunes, parks/open spaces and roads and agreed that dog owners should be reminded of their duty to remove faeces deposited by their dog as required under the Policing of Beaches (Jersey) Regulations 1959, the Policing of Roads (Jersey) Regulations 1959 and the Policing of Parks (Jersey) Regulations 2005.

COVID-19:
household
green waste
reception and
recycling
facilities

5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 12 of 27th April 2020, received a reply from the Minister for Infrastructure advising that as lockdown measures had been relaxed his Department would be re-opening the green waste and recycling facilities. This was being done in a phased approach with the La Collette Household Green Waste Reception open from 2nd May; the Island-wide network of mini-recycling centres reopening on 5th May and the Household Reuse and Recycling Centre at La Collette reopening on 6th May 2020. A very high demand, and queues, was anticipated and the Minister asked that Connétables should assist his Department in managing expectations.

Arising from this the Comité noted that the Parish of St Saviour had introduced a household green waste collection and this would continue until further notice; and that the Connétable of St Brelade was seeking costs for a green waste collection service in his parish.

Development of
cycle
infrastructure
and the cycle
route network –
Sustainable
Transport
Policy

6. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 4 of 10th February 2020, considered a letter which Deputy C Labey had sent to each Connétable reiterating the offer of assistance in developing cycle routes/network across the island. At that meeting Deputy Labey had asked for the assistance of the Connétables and their Roads Committee to help devise new routes through their parishes to achieve cycling lanes where car access would be limited and speed limits reduced to make them safe and to achieve the group's two objectives.

The Comité was informed by Connétables that the movement restrictions under COVID-19 had impacted on meetings of their Roads Committees and that there had been other priorities in recent weeks. Having discussed a cycle network, the Comité took the view that the development of an overall strategy and network must be centrally co-ordinated and was the responsibility of the Minister for Infrastructure. The Comité agreed that the delivery of an integrated cycling/walking strategy was long overdue and was reminded that Deputy Labey's group had said it was working with the Department for Infrastructure but wished to see faster progress. The Comité decided it should ask the Minister to consult with the parishes and produce an holistic integrated plan as a matter of urgency. The Chairman was requested to reply accordingly to Deputy Labey on behalf of all Connétables.

COVID-19:
parishes
reopening of
facilities

7. The Comité discussed the easing of the lockdown under the COVID-19 movement restrictions and the arrangements parishes might need to make to re-open facilities, including children's playgrounds, to the public. The Comité agreed to discuss this at its next meeting.

Next meeting

8. The Comité noted the next meeting would be on 11th May 2020.

Chairman Date

