

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 6th July 2020
at the Town Hall, St Helier.

Present:

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman
Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice Chairman (present for items 1 and 12)
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

Green Lanes
and Quiet
Lanes: priority
to pedestrians,
cyclists and
horse riders
(P.79/2020)

1. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 7 of 22nd June 2020, received Deputy R.J. Ward and the Transport Planner, Department for Infrastructure, to discuss the proposition “Green Lanes and Quiet Lanes: priority to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders” (P.79/2020) which was listed for debate by the States at the sitting on 14th July 2020. The Chairman outlined the work currently being undertaken by Connétables to review the use of, and speed limits on, Parish roads arising from the Speed Limit review, the Sustainable Transport Policy and the work with the Minister for Infrastructure and a group including Deputy C Labey and Advocate C Scholefield (representing the community group Cycle4Jersey) on the development of cycle routes. The Connétables wished to work collaboratively with States departments and other groups to support and encourage better road safety and were therefore pleased to be able to meet with Deputy Ward to discuss his proposition and gain a better understanding of his aims and objectives.

Deputy Ward explained that the increased use of roads for walking and cycling during the COVID-19 lockdown should be encouraged and was supported by the Sustainable Transport Policy approved by the States. The Jersey Highway Code only suggested that priority should be given to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders in Green Lanes but Deputy Ward wished to see this designated in law for “essential travel”. The Green Lanes (maximum speed limit of 15 m.p.h.) could provide the basis for a network for safe travel across the island though ‘quiet lanes’ were an option as two parishes had no Green Lanes. The proposition was not intended to be a review of Green Lanes but rather adapting an existing network to provide routes without the prohibitive costs associated with major infrastructure projects. Deputy Ward said that endorsement of his proposition by the States Assembly would provide a cultural shift for legislative change and was therefore an important step. If approved, it would be for the Comité to determine which lanes were included in an “essential travel” scheme and a Parish might choose not to designate such lanes.

The Comité discussed the various parts of the proposition and queried what constituted ‘essential travel’, how would this be defined and policed. The Highway Code

specified the use of Green Lanes by motor vehicles as being “for access or for sightseeing”. The Comité queried whether sightseeing would be considered essential and referred to those islanders for whom the only mode of transport was vehicular and that their ability to enjoy the country lanes should not be prevented. Deputy Ward envisaged that road markings and education would assist with these queries and said the proposition was about enabling, not prohibiting, the use of lanes. It was not his intention that all ‘Green Lanes’ should be designated for ‘essential travel’ (part (a) of the proposition) nor was it necessarily the case that all ‘quiet lanes’ should have a 15 m.p.h. speed limit.

The Comité was informed by the Transport Planner that the 15 m.p.h. speed limit on Green Lanes was enforceable and that if the concern related to access it might be appropriate to update the signage to remind that use was for access and sightseeing. This, and a public awareness campaign, could be undertaken without new legislation and it was also possible, in law, to restrict access to a road. Enacting new legislation was a slow process and the timescale in the proposition would be challenging. Following discussion Deputy Ward and the Transport Planner were thanked for attending the meeting and then withdrew.

The Comité, having considered the information provided by Deputy Ward, agreed it should propose amendments to paragraphs (a), (b), (d) and (e) to amend references to Green Lanes and to ‘quiet lanes’ so that they referred instead to “designated roads” on which priority would be given, in law, to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. The Comité also agreed an amendment to paragraph (c) to provide some flexibility on the target date for the work as there would clearly be a need for consultation and the impact of COVID-19, and continuing restrictions on meetings, were likely to impact on the timing and method of that consultation. The difficulty remained, however, of defining “essential travel” and how “priority” should be given to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

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| Minutes | 2. The minutes of the meeting held on 22 nd June 2020, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed. |
| Emergencies Council meeting | 3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 2 of 8 th June 2020, received a report from the Chairman on the recent Emergencies Council meeting which had considered the Safer Travel policy. |
| COVID-19: lifting of restrictions | 4. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 22 nd June 2020, noted the following in relation to COVID-19 restrictions: |
| Driving tests | <u>Driving tests:</u> Driver and Vehicle Standards (DVS) had re-commenced theory and practical driving tests. |
| Parish Halls – letting of rooms | <u>Parish Halls – room hire:</u> having regard to the physical distancing requirements and the restrictions imposed on premises there were currently no plans to recommence lettings of rooms. |
| Littering – letter from Minister for Home Affairs | 5. The Comité considered a letter from the Minister for Home Affairs which highlighted States members’, and the wider public’s, legitimate concerns about littering, which was unpleasant and anti-social, and asked to know what the parishes were doing, if anything, to combat littering. The issue had been raised at a recent States sitting during which reference had also been made to the 2011 review by the Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel into policing of beaches and parks which looked in detail at littering and the enforcement of regulations which criminalised it. |

The Comité discussed the issue and was mindful that it was very hard to catch a person in the act of littering thus there had seldom been a prosecution or Parish Hall Enquiry. The Comité concurred with the Minister’s comments that the police had to prioritise their efforts within the resources available but Connétables nevertheless had no doubt that if a

member of the Honorary Police caught a person littering they would take appropriate action. The Comité was also informed by the Connétable of St Brelade, in his capacity as Chairman of the Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel, that the Panel had recently received a presentation from officers of the Department for Infrastructure which had included the subject of littering. The Comité requested the Chairman to reply accordingly to the Minister for Home Affairs.

Redress and
Accountability
Systems in
Jersey - review

6. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 11th May 2020, noted that the Redress and Accountability Systems in Jersey Review had now been launched and the Chairman of the Review Panel had written to advise that it would like to be in a position to conduct public hearings in September 2020, with a view to reporting in early November. It was likely that the Review Panel would seek to hold a public hearing with the Chairman and other members of the Comité (if deemed appropriate) in order to discuss any submission and information further. To that end, the Panel had requested the submission was received by 31st August 2020. The Comité recalled that, having regard to the resources available, it had previously advised the Panel that it hoped to collate the information over the summer months and finalise a response for the Panel in early autumn. The Chairman was asked to reply that it therefore expected to make a submission in mid-September 2020 and to request that a public hearing be scheduled for late September or early October 2020.

Warrant/ID
cards - printer

7. The Comité was informed by the Connétable of St Brelade that the printer used for printing warrant and identity cards was no longer supported and the software was out of date. The Comité, having noted the cost of a new printer, agreed the equipment should be replaced and that the cost would be shared equally by parishes.

Loi (1928) sur
la Voirie
(Emprunts
paroissiaux)

8. The Comité was informed that the Legislative Drafting Office had asked whether the Loi (1928) sur la Voirie (Emprunts paroissiaux) could safely be repealed. The Law could be repealed without adverse effect as Article 17(2) of the Interpretation (Jersey) Law 1954 provided that repeal did not revive anything not in force or not existing at the time at which the repeal took effect. The Comité noted that the Law authorised the Connétable and Procureurs du Bien Public of each Parish to contract to borrow, on behalf of the Parish, up to £50,000 (St Helier) and £5,000 (the other Parishes). The Law was referred to in Article 7(2) of the Roads Administration (Jersey) Law 1960. Having considered the provisions, the Comité was of the view that the Law should remain but the value of borrowing should be increased to reflect current costs. The Secretary was requested to reply accordingly.

draft COVID-
19 (Rates)
(Jersey) Regs
202-: comments
P.85/2020

9. The Comité, with reference to the Supervisory Committee minute no. 1 of 6th July 2020, approved comments on the draft COVID-19 (Rates) (Jersey) Regulations 202- (P.85/2020) and requested that they be presented to the States prior to the debate at the sitting scheduled for 14th July 2020.

COVID-19
restrictions:
2020 events –
music festivals

10. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 11 of 22nd June 2020, was informed by the Connétable of St Peter that he had contacted the Minister for Health and Social Services following enquires about music events in 2020. The Minister's response was that the principal difficulty related to social distancing. Until any requirement for social distancing was removed from public health guidance, it was apparent that an event organiser would not confidently be able to manage an event requiring social distancing (this was the policing, management and enforcement of social distancing within an event site). Social distancing was the principal mitigation the island had against the spread of the COVID-19 infection and if festivals were planned for July or August, the Minister's view was that social distancing would very likely still be in place, giving rise to the

problems highlighted above. The Secretary was requested to ascertain whether this advice had been conveyed to event organisers.

Next meeting

11. The Connétable of St Helier was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 14th September 2020.

Chairman Date