

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 7th December 2020
(virtual meeting conducted online).

Present:

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman
Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice Chairman (present for items 1-6, 8-17)
Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman (not present for items 3, 4, 13, 15, 16)
Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard
Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson
Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre (present for items 1-5, 8-17)
Connétable de St Jean - C. H. Taylor
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur
Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert (present for items 1-6, 8-17)
Connétable de Ste Marie - J. M. Le Bailly (present for items 1-6, 8-17)
Connétable de St Ouën - R. A. Buchanan
Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone (present for items 1-6, 8-17)

In attendance:

Mrs S. R. de Gruchy, Secretary

Non-exempt (public) under Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011

H M Attorney
General and H
M Solicitor
General -
welcome

1. The Comité warmly welcomed H.M. Attorney General and H.M. Solicitor General to the meeting. The Comité had hoped to receive the Attorney General and the Solicitor General personally at a meeting soon after their appointments earlier in 2020 but this had not been possible to arrange due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The recent change in public health guidance and restrictions again prevented the Comité from personally welcoming the Attorney General and Solicitor General to its meeting but it nevertheless extended sincere congratulations to them on their appointments at this virtual meeting. The Attorney General and Solicitor General thanked the Comité for its welcome and looked forward to working with the Connétables and parishes.

Honorary
Police – group
Legal Expenses
policy

2. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 11 of 12th October 2020, was informed that a total of £11,889 had been paid under the group Legal Expenses Insurance in settlement of the claim submitted by the Connétable of St John for legal costs relating to the charge of dangerous driving.

Honorary
Police - Data
Sharing
Agreement with
Environmental
Health for
Covid-19
isolation checks

3. The Comité received the proposed Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) for the sharing of personal data to support the Government of Jersey Enforcement of Covid-19 (Screening, Assessment and Isolation) (Jersey) Regulations 2020 between Environment Health, Infrastructure, Housing and Environment, the States of Jersey Police, the Jersey Customs and Immigration Service and the Honorary Police of each of the Parishes. Having noted that the DSA had been reviewed by, and included amendments requested by, the Data Protection Officers of the Parishes the Comité confirmed that each Connétable would sign of behalf of his/her Parish.

Emergencies Council meeting and other COVID-19 issues

4. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 9th November 2020, and having been informed that there had been no meetings of the Emergencies Council, discussed the following matters relating to the Covid-19 pandemic:

- a) Wearing of masks – Connétables were asked to distribute at Parish Halls, on request only, the forms by which a person might self-declare they could not wear a mask. Whilst these might be made available the Comité noted that the recent increase in coronavirus infections was likely to impact the opening of Parish Halls (see (b) below).
- b) ‘Work from home’ – an advisory public health guideline had been issued from 7th December 2020 and the Comité noted that Connétables were consulting with staff on the continued opening of Parish Halls. Whilst services would continue to be provided it was likely that some would close to the public though would remain accessible by appointment.

Cycle networks – Deputy C Labey and Cycle4Jersey

5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 10 of 8th June 2020, received a delegation comprising Deputy C Labey, Senator K Moore, Messrs C Scholefield and G Jennings to discuss the development of a cycle infrastructure and cycle route network. The delegation had invited Connétables, in consultation with their Roads Committees, to propose a cycle infrastructure and cycle route network across the island, feeding into the sustainable transport policy, which would enable every child to access via safe and secure cycle routes the key services such as schools, main Parish hubs, youth centres, sports facilities etc., and would provide commuters with direct, safe routes from the Parishes into town. It was hoped to achieve cycling lanes where car access would be limited and speed limits reduced. Cycle4Jersey had also offered its members to assist with formulating a network. Subsequently, the States had approved the proposition of Deputy R Ward (P.79/2020 – priority on designated roads).

The Comité heard from individual Connétables of the progress made in identifying possible routes but also of the difficulties encountered. These included the response from the Infrastructure, Housing and Environment (IHE) Department that there was currently no funding available and the absence of a cycling strategy as part of the transport policy. The meeting identified the need for an holistic overarching philosophy for convenient and segregated cycle routes to enable the parishes to make progress. The Education and Planning Departments should also be involved to ensure school sites and planning issues considered cycling routes. Others reported that IHE had been very positive regarding the changes requested, of the work being done in conjunction with the speed limit review in their Parish and that further restrictions on by-roads, or granting priority to certain groups, was unlikely to receive support from parishioners.

Following discussion, Deputy Labey offered her continued support, and that of the delegation, to the Connétables but said the ongoing development of the cycle network would be left with the Comité and IHE to progress. The delegation was thanked for attending the meeting and then withdrew.

Jersey Electricity/ Parish “Micro forest” Partnership - update

6. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 7 of 9th November 2020, received the Chief Executive, the Head of Customer Services and Communications and the Digital Marketing Lead, Jersey Electricity Company plc (JEC) who gave a short presentation on the ‘micro-forest’ partnership between all Parishes and the JEC. The partnership had been reported in the media with interviews being provided by the Comité Chairman and the Chief Executive, JEC. Six parishes had, to date, identified areas of land which would be suitable for planting with a micro-forest subject, in some cases, to change of use consent being received. The JEC was liaising with Jersey Trees for Life and Connétables were thanked for being pro-active and for the excellent progress made to date.

The Chief Executive reported that the Government of Jersey was also working on a similar concept branded as 'tiny forest' though this was looking to urban locations so differed from the JEC/Parishes project.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Comité, thanked the JEC for initiating the project and for the progress report. The delegation was thanked for attending the meeting and then withdrew.

Winter Events
Group –
Comité
representative

7. The Comité noted that the Chief Minister had asked for a Winter Events Group to be set up, chaired by Deputy S Wickenden, to look at what could be done for islanders to support them during the winter months through to March 2021. The Chairman had agreed to join the group and the Comité was asked to nominate a second Connétable to join the group.

Next meeting

8. The Comité decided to meet on 21st December 2020 to consider outstanding items.

Chairman Date

