

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 8th June 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 (present for items 1 - 5 and 13)
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 meetings held on 16 th March 2020 and 18 th May 2020, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.
Emergencies Council meetings and Community Task Force Steering Group meetings	2. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 9 of 18 th May 2020, received a report from the Chairman on the recent meeting of the Emergencies Council and discussion on the re-opening of schools, social distancing compliance and the COVID-19 testing regime. The Comité also received a report on the Community Task Force Steering Group meeting and noted the Group had made a presentation to all States members on its work. Suggestions had been invited on roles which volunteers might fill when the COVID-19 pandemic requirements eased.
COVID-19 coronavirus: lifting of restrictions – Opening of Parish Halls / letting of rooms Parish Hall Enquiries CBT and driving tests Children’s playgrounds Hand sanitisers	3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 2 of 11 th May 2020 and nos. 1, 3 and 5 of 18 th May 2020, considered the following: <u>Parish Halls - reopening of public offices:</u> with the move to Level 2 on the COVID-19 Exit Strategy on 12 th June 2020, the Comité discussed arrangements to enable Parish Halls to open to the public. The Comité was informed that Customer and Local Services (CLS) would open on an appointment only basis from 15 th June 2020 but otherwise would continue with online, phone and email as the primary interaction channels. The Comité heard from Connétables that they wished to see Parish Halls open again in June 2020 and that arrangements were being put in place to ensure the safety of staff and the public. The Secretary was requested to confirm with each Connétable the date he/she proposed to open so that a joint news release could be issued. <u>Parish Halls - letting/hire of rooms to outside groups/users:</u> the Comité was informed that requests were being received from groups wishing to recommence meetings at Parish Halls. Concern was expressed about the implications, including for cleaning requirements, should such use recommence. The Comité was informed that

Government advice and guidance was being prepared for community centres and similar premises and Connétables agreed they should consider this prior to making any decisions to open to outside groups and users.

Parish Hall Enquiry: the Comité noted work was in hand to restart these in late June/early July with appropriate arrangements to maintain physical distancing and to ensure the safety of both attendees and members of the Honorary Police.

CBT tests: the Comité noted that CBT tests had resumed and that first provisional driving licences for motorbike categories should now be issued.

DVS testing: the Comité was informed that the resumption of theory and practical driving tests was expected when Level 1 of the Exit Strategy from COVID-19 restrictions was reached as physical distancing would then reduce from 2m to 1m.

Children's playgrounds: advice was awaited on when playgrounds might reopen.

Hand sanitisers: the Comité noted advice was awaited from the Medical Officer of Health on the specification, if any, for hand sanitisers.

Visites Royales
2020

4. The Comité considered correspondence from the Bailiff advising that the 2020 Visites Royales would not take place in St Lawrence and St Martin as scheduled. The Bailiff proposed these would take place in the summer of 2021 but asked whether the Connétables of other parishes would prefer to maintain the schedule for Visites Royale (so that four, rather than two, would take place in 2021) or would be content to push back all Visites Royales by twelve months. Following discussion the Comité noted that the Connétable of St John would prefer the Visite to be held in 2021 as scheduled, but the Connétable of St Saviour would prefer the Visite was deferred to 2022. Having noted that this provided for three Visites Royales in each of 2021 and 2022, the Comité requested the Chairman to put this proposal to the Bailiff.

Visites du
Branchage
2020 –
COVID-19

5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 8 of 18th May 2020, discussed the advice of the Law Officers' Department on arrangements during COVID-19 restrictions for the Visites du Branchage which were held in accordance with the Loi (1914) sur la Voirie. Having noted that the minimum attendance required was the Connétable, two Centeniers, two members of the Roads Committee and a Vingtenier, the Comité heard from Connétables as to their proposals for transport arrangements to enable physical distancing requirements to be observed. Financial penalties could be served by post rather than in person.

Further to the request from the Jersey Farmers' Union to close roads whilst the cutting of branchage was undertaken, the Comité noted that clarification was being sought on the provision in Part 13 of the Road Works and Events (Jersey) Law 2016 relating to the restriction of use of a road in respect of works or events and its application to all road users including vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians.

Cycle paths and
pavements

6. The Comité discussed correspondence from Ms J White to all Connétables and the Minister for the Environment regarding novice cycle riders, signposting of roads/paths and the use of electric scooters asking that signage be addressed to clearly indicate the footpath and cycle networks; misuse of paths and pavements should be enforced with the application of penalties and the basic messages should be re-enforced. Consideration should also be given to the use of electric scooters. Ms White had also written in similar terms to the Editor of the Jersey Evening Post (letter published on 21st May 2020).

The Comité heard from Connétables on specific issues in their parish relating to inconsiderate road users, including some cyclists, which risked injury to pedestrians. Whilst the Minister for Infrastructure had publicly stated the issue was one of policing, the Comité was reminded that evidence was required to achieve a successful prosecution. Following discussion, the Comité noted that Ms White had received a reply from the

Transport Planner, Growth Housing and Environment, addressing the various points raised and agreed it should thank her for her suggestions and comments which would be considered by Connétables in due course as road and footpath issues were addressed.

Dog mess and litter

7. The Comité discussed correspondence between States members about the problems of dog mess and litter on beaches. The Minister for the Environment had commented that the best way to improve the rate of enforcement was the introduction of fixed penalty notices for environmental offences generally with the option of prosecuting repeat offenders for more serious offences and the option of challenging through the usual channels. Reference had been made to the Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel Policing of Beaches and Parks Review (S.R.10/2011) which recommended a zero tolerance approach and on the spot fines.

The Comité was reminded that the issue was not the mechanism by which a person was fined or prosecuted but obtaining proof of who had committed an offence. Following discussion the Comité decided to invite the Minister and Assistant Minister for the Environment to a future meeting to outline the environmental offences which they considered should be addressed.

Liberation 75 – 2020: commemorative coins for those 75+ years of age

8. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 11th May 2020, received further information from the Private Secretary to the Chief Minister on the issue of Liberation 75 – 2020 commemorative coins for those 75+ years of age. The Comité noted that the details of the distribution had not been finalised, due to COVID-19, however the earliest this would likely be was the autumn and an update would be provided in due course.

Liberation 75 – 2020: funding for parishes

9. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 15 of 11th November 2019, was informed by the Chairman that the funding to support parish events to mark Liberation 75 – 2020 would be made available but that each Connétable would be asked to provide a short narrative outlining its use for inclusion in the Liberation 75 report that would be produced later in the year. The Connétable of St Helier expressed the hope that funding for St Helier events, which was not used as events were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions, might be available for celebrations in 2021. The Chairman was asked to write to the Bailiff's Chief Officer regarding proposals.

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

10. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 5th May 2020, recalled it had written to Deputy C Labey regarding the work she and her colleagues were undertaking on the development of cycle routes within the Parishes. The Comité had informed Deputy Labey that whilst it had agreed to meet again with her in September, with the COVID-19 delays this might need to be put back and the Comité would expect that meeting to include the Minister for Infrastructure and his team so Connétables could hear of the progress they had jointly made.

The Comité received a reply from Deputy Labey agreeing that her group must continue to work with the Minister for Infrastructure and his department in the delivery of any sustainable transport developments and enclosing notes of a meeting that her group held with the Minister on 20th August 2019. At that meeting it was agreed that Deputy Labey's group would meet with the Comité. Whilst acknowledging the difficulties and impact of COVID-19, Deputy Labey wished to meet as planned in September, perhaps with officers from the Department for Infrastructure. Having heard from Connétables that their Roads Committees had not yet had the opportunity to consider the development of cycle routes, and that proposals might also need to be considered by Parish Assemblies, the Comité agreed this work would not be progressed whilst restrictions due to COVID-19 continued and that it would postpone the meeting with Deputy Labey until December 2020.

Next meeting

11. The Comité agreed the next meetings would be on 22nd June and 6th July 2020.

Chairman Date