

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 15th February 2021
(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 11th January 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.
- Diversity Forum – Connétables nominated 2. The Comité was invited by Deputy L Doublet, Chair of the States Assembly Diversity Forum, to nominate one or more Connétables to serve as members of the Forum. The Forum’s current focus was working with the States Greffe to encourage diverse candidates to stand for election to the States in 2022 and to improve the diversity of boards of States-funded and arms-length organisations. The Comité nominated the Connétables of St Ouen and St Martin to serve on the Forum.
- draft Road Traffic (No. 65) (Jersey) Regulations 202- P.6/2021: Comité comments 3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 16 of 7th December 2021, noted that the draft Road Traffic (No. 65) (Jersey) Regulations 202- (P.6/2021) had been lodged “au Greffe” for debate on 23rd March 2021. The Report made reference to the financial and manpower implications including that there would be financial costs arising from the necessary amendments to the Driving Licensing system (LICAR).
The Comité agreed that the amendments to LICAR should be budgeted in the next financial year (2021/2022) and that it should present comments to the States so that members were aware of the anticipated costs. The Comité decided that the driving licence fee, which was last increased on 1st May 2017, should be reviewed in 2022 (the funds raised were applied to cover the driving licence materials and system costs and also contributed to the maintenance and upkeep of the by-roads).
- Driving licences - renewal of provisional (Covid-19) 4. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 4 of 21st December 2020, received a further enquiry from the Jersey Consumer Council asking about renewal fees for provisional driving licences and suggesting that they should be waived (and refunds issued) where a person had to renew due to delays in taking practical or theory tests arising from Covid-19 restrictions. The Comité was informed of the current situation in relation

to taking theory and practical tests, as advised by the Driver and Vehicle Standards (DVS) Department, namely -

Practical motorbike tests – all outstanding tests were cleared by 5th February 2021 with the exception of those not wishing to bring the date forward; there would be one test session per week from mid-February 2021 onwards.

Theory tests – were limited to 4 persons per session so additional daily sessions were being offered, the same number of slots was therefore available. Slots could currently be obtained from 10th March 2021 (well within the usual service delivery timescale).

Car practical tests – the earliest likely resumption was the end of February 2021 but a lead-in time would be given; DVS currently had a month of previously booked tests to rearrange and these would take priority.

The Comité recalled a person must attempt a test during the validity of a 6-month provisional licence but noted that discretion continued to be exercised by Connétables if the applicant had been prevented by reason of absence or illness from attempting a test – in such circumstances the provisional licence was likely to be renewed. However the Comité did not consider it appropriate to waive renewal fees for provisional licences or to offer refunds although specific hardship might be considered on a case by case basis. It was for each person, when deciding to apply for a provisional licence, to consider their personal situation and the requirement to attempt a test during the validity of the licence. The Chairman was requested to reply accordingly.

Art House
Jersey memory
box project

5. The Comité considered the Art House Jersey memory box project which was described as “a unique and innovative arts initiative” that aimed to reach older members of the community who were lonely and socially isolated. The aim was to connect people and share memories through new media and sensory storytelling. Art House Jersey wanted to offer the opportunity to people across all 12 parishes and had requested that Parishes identify members of the community who would benefit from engaging with this project and also provide volunteers to assist with the delivery and collection of the memory boxes. The boxes would be delivered to 16 participants each day for 12 days across a 2 week period in March 2021.

The Comité agreed that each Connétable should respond individually to Art House Jersey with regard to the assistance which his/her Parish could offer but noted a number of general comments regarding the project. These included the Data Protection issues (personal data could not be shared with Art House Jersey if it had not been collected for that purpose), the need to minimise contact with vulnerable persons during the pandemic, the limited number of persons who would be able to engage with the project and the short time for which the box was available to each individual.

Honorary
Police Forum –
appreciation,
Bailiff’s Covid-
19 awards,
vaccinations,
Honorary
Police meetings
and PHE

6. The Comité received the notes of the Honorary Police Forum meeting held on 25th January 2021 and noted -

- (a) Honorary Police appreciation: a letter of thanks had been sent on behalf of the Comité (minute no. 4 of 9th November 2020 refers) and all Connétables were asked to ensure this was mentioned at monthly Parish Honorary Police meetings.
- (b) Bailiff’s Covid-19 award: it was noted that the citation had been received by Centeniers Scaife, Beaumont and Battrick. The Centeniers, together with Centenier Bougeard, had been members of the ‘Emergency Group’ formed at the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic and had met regularly to make recommendations to the Comité des Chefs de Police; the Comité’s appreciation was recorded for their work.
- (c) Covid-19 vaccinations: the Comité des Chefs de Police was working with the States of Jersey Police (SOJP) to ensure that Honorary Police officers were offered vaccinations as ‘front line’ officers along with SOJP officers.

The Comité heard from Connétables of the arrangements being made for monthly Honorary Police meetings in their Parish so these might be held taking into account the public health restrictions. The Comité also noted that Parish Hall Enquiries, which had been suspended by H. M. Attorney General from 12th December 2020 until 26th February 2021 so that officers and members of the public were not exposed to the risk of infection from Covid-19, would resume after that date (minute no. 12b of 7th December 2020 refers).

Visites Royales
in 2021

7. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 5 of 22nd June 2020, noted that the Bailiff had written to advise of the dates for the 2021 Visites Royales which were due to be held in St Martin and St Lawrence (deferred from 2020) and in St John.

Age Concern –
mobile charity
shop operating
from Parish
property

8. The Comité note the request from Age Concern who were in the planning stages of a new initiative and were approaching all of the parishes to find out if it would be possible to operate a Mobile Charity Shop from the Parish car park or another area. The Comité decided it was for each Connétable to reply according to whether or not this was feasible. In relation to ‘public parking places’ listed in the Road Traffic (Public Parking Places) (Jersey) Order 2006 the Comité noted that written permission of the controlling body of the parking place was required, under Article 7(5), including for attaching advertising material to a parking place or a vehicle in a parking place; displaying advertising material in a parking place; using a vehicle in connection with a trade or business while it was parked in a parking place; and soliciting or collecting alms, contributions, donations or subscriptions in a parking place.

Roads issues:
P.5/2021 and
WQ.4/2021

9. The Comité noted –

- a) The proposition “Improvements to Road Safety” P.5/2021 lodged by the Connétable of St Martin for debate on 2nd March 2021. The Connétable of St Martin reported she had had a useful discussion with the Minister for Infrastructure and that he was considering an amendment to the proposition.
- b) The response of the Minister for Infrastructure to the Written Question submitted by Deputy R Ward on road safety improvements and schools (WQ.4/2021).

Jersey
Electricity/
Parish “Micro-
forest”
Partnership

10. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 5 of 11th January 2021, noted an update from the Jersey Electricity Company Limited (JE) on the ‘micro-forest’ partnership between all Parishes and JE. In particular, Parishes were asked to note the process to be followed with the Environment Department where change of use from agricultural land to forestry was required.

FOI request –
gifts and
hospitality
register for
Parishes

11. The Comité noted a recent FOI (Freedom of Information) request to all Parishes asking for a disclosure of the gift and hospitality register for each Parish from 2014 to 2019. The Comité was reminded that, in relation to each Connétable, there was a declaration of interests on the States Assembly website which related to membership of the States and listed any gift, hospitality or other benefit which had a monetary value greater than 1% of the current remuneration figure for elected members (disregarding any expense allowances) if the giving of the gift, hospitality or benefit was, in any way, related to their membership of the States.

Jersey’s historic
stonewalls and
banks

12. The Comité noted a recent article in Bailiwick Express and the “call to action” to repair Jersey’s historic crumbling stonewalls and banks. Many of Jersey’s distinctive countryside dry stonewalls, banques and fossés were being damaged and were in urgent need of repair and funding. The National Trust for Jersey had again called for action to be taken to preserve the unique character of Jersey’s countryside and these had been echoed

by the Environment Minister and the Comité Chairman though all conceded that funding had to be found to ensure that action could be taken.

Minister for
Housing and
Communities

13. The Comité noted the election of Deputy R Labey as the “Minister for Housing and Communities”. The remit was expected to be set out in a Ministerial Decision (still to be published) but the press release had said the person elected would work closely with other Ministers as part of delivering homes within strong communities and would “*promote the role of the third sector, to focus on the needs of the elderly, recognising that we are ageing as a society, and also applying the relevant lessons learnt from our experience of the COVID-19 pandemic*”.

Weeds (Jersey)
Law 1961 –
Minister for
Environment
reply

14. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 8 of 22nd June 2020, noted correspondence with the Minister for the Environment following the concerns raised about the dangers to livestock from certain injurious weeds which should be controlled under the Weeds (Jersey) Law 1961. The Minister had outlined the resources available to his Department to take action when injurious weeds were reported and the control policy adopted when such reports were received.

RHS
Community
Awards –
Parish in
Bloom

15. The Comité noted that the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) had cancelled all plans for Britain in Bloom for 2021. Natural Jersey had also taken a similar position with regard to Jersey in Bloom which would not take place in its usual form in 2021. However, the RHS intended to present Community Awards and were inviting nominations via Natural Jersey for any project or worthy endeavour in a Parish which fell into the designated categories and Connétables should forward nominations to Natural Jersey.

St Clement –
Mr T Perkins
(Procureur du
Bien Public)

16. The Comité was informed by the Connétable of St Clement that Mr A Perkins, Procureur du Bien Public, had recently passed away and he paid tribute to him as a great servant to his Parish.

Next meeting

17. The Comité noted that the next meeting would be held, virtually, on 15th March 2021.

Chairman Date