

# Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021**  
(virtual meeting conducted online).

## **Present:**

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman  
Connétable de St Héliier - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice Chairman (present for items 1-7, 12-15)  
Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman  
Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard  
Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson (not present for items 10-11)  
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 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Cycle networks  
– Deputy C  
Labey and  
Cycle4Jersey

2. The Comité, noting that its minute no. 5 of 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 recorded the view expressed by Deputy C Labey namely that “the ongoing development of the cycle network would be left with the Comité and IHE to progress”, agreed that it was the responsibility of the Minister for Infrastructure to progress the cycle network within the States sustainable transport policy. The Comité would support the Minister as he and the Infrastructure, Housing and Environment Department (IHE) progressed this initiative.

Parish Road  
Traffic Orders  
– process for  
amendments

3. The Comité received the Transport Planner, the Assistant Engineer – Infrastructure and the Senior Manager/Engineer, Infrastructure, Housing and Environment (IHE) who outlined the administrative process which had been put in place to manage requests from, and to ensure a more timely service to, Parishes for amendments to Parish Road Traffic Orders.

The Comité was informed that the Traffic Engineering section of IHE looked after the Road Traffic legislation on behalf of the Minister for Infrastructure. Article 62 of the Road Traffic (Jersey) Law 1956 permitted the Minister, after consultation with the Connétable of the Parish in which the road was situated, to make Orders restricting traffic on the road. Of the 24 traffic related Orders, twelve were the Parish Road Traffic Orders. The process to amend an Order required considerable administrative work and law drafting time and this, combined with staff changes within IHE, had led to significant delays in implementing recent change requests to Parish Road Traffic Orders.

The Comité was informed that a panel of IHE officers, including those with professional Traffic Engineer and Road Safety Auditor qualifications, now successfully managed change requests relating to main roads. All requests were logged, triaged by the panel and a record kept of all the action taken and that this had been communicated to all relevant parties. The panel would provide a written report to the Minister so that, where

changes to legislation were required, a Ministerial Decision authorising the production of draft amendments could be signed. On completion of the draft legislation, a second Ministerial Decision was signed by the Minister to make the Order amending the law.

IHE officers proposed that every request from a Parish highway authority should also be logged and managed by the panel thus ensuring there was a structured and accountable system in place to facilitate changes to the Road Traffic Orders. The panel would be supported by an Officer who would liaise with Parishes to ensure progress was made with change requests. It was hoped this would enable IHE to manage forthcoming staff changes and its recruitment process whilst still meeting the needs of the Parishes in a timely manner. It was expected that substantive changes would be dealt with as they were received but that minor changes which were not urgent might be batched together for cost effectiveness. Each Parish Road Traffic Order might therefore be amended every 12-18 months although urgent amendments would continue to be made using the provisions of Article 68 of the Law which related to temporary modifications of a Road Traffic Order.

Amendments to the Road Traffic (Speed Limits) (Jersey) Order 2000 were out of scope of this process as there was already a separate process in place to review and agree speed limits on Jersey (minute no. 5 of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017 referred).

The Comité discussed the proposals with the officers and said it expected decisions that had been democratically reached by the Parish highway authority or Parish Assembly to be processed promptly and without delay. Concern was expressed about an occasion when it had taken many months to amend legislation relating to parking restrictions. The Parish authorities were best placed to know and understand the Parish's needs and these should not be subject to further approval from the IHE panel. The IHE officers clarified their role was only to provide professional advice and support on safety and policy issues to the Minister and to Parishes to ensure consistent traffic regulation across the road network as a whole. They explained that the new process would ensure a more responsive and consistent process and avoid any delay which might arise if only one officer, rather than the panel, managed a request.

In relation to speed limits on Parish roads, the Comité was informed that reviews had been carried out in several parishes (amendments had been enacted or were in hand) and that IHE was currently working with a number of other parishes. However, impending staff changes would limit IHE resources and might delay further reviews. The Connétable of Trinity referred to the decision of the Parish Assembly (September 2020) to reduce the speed limit on several by-roads to provide safe walking and cycling routes to the school and he was of the opinion that these changes should not be delayed until a Parish-wide review had taken place. The Comité agreed it should invite the Minister for Infrastructure to attend a future meeting to discuss this matter.

Following discussion, IHE officers were thanked for their assistance with amendments to Parish Road Traffic Orders and with those speed reviews which had been carried out to date. The officers were thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

Road Works  
and Events  
(Jersey) Law  
2016 –  
reinstatement of  
trenches

4. The Comité received the Senior Manager/Engineer, Infrastructure, Housing and Environment (IHE), to discuss the Road Works and Events (Jersey) Law 2016 and the conditions which might be imposed on a permit to excavate a trench in a road.

The Comité was reminded of the duty and the powers of a highway authority under the 2016 law including the need to protect the structure of the road (Article 9(2)(c)). In granting a 'road works permit' a highway authority might, having regard to the particular circumstances of the proposed works to which the permit related, make a permit subject to such other conditions as it thought fit to the extent that such other conditions did not conflict with the standard conditions (Article 15(5)). Part 7 of the law dealt with damage and reinstatement, with Article 34 permitting notice of enhanced reinstatement or making good works to be given by a highway authority. Such a notice might be served if either or both of the following applied –

- (a) the relevant highway authority reasonably considered that, by reason of carrying out the undertaker works, or as the case might be, the reinstatement or making good works, such works as were specified in the notice were required in order to preserve any existing features (including visual benefits) in or adjacent to the part of the road to which the duty to reinstate or make good applied;
- (b) the relevant highway authority reasonably considered that more stringent requirements than those determined by the Minister under Article 33(1)(a) were needed in order to minimise the risk of defects occurring in the reinstatement or making good works.

The Comité heard from Connétables of examples where full-width reinstatement had been a condition imposed on the excavation of a by-road. It was agreed that each highway authority should consider the appropriate action and conditions it considered reasonable to impose when determining an application for road works on a by-road. Following discussion, the Senior Manager/Engineer was thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

Jersey  
Electricity/  
Parish “Micro-  
forest”  
Partnership

5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 7<sup>th</sup> December 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 progress with developing the ‘micro-forest’ partnership between all Parishes and the JEC. To date six Parishes had identified potential sites, which were at varying stages of approval, and the Comité heard from other Connétables of the steps taken to identify suitable sites in their parishes. The proposed process from identification of site to completion of planting was outlined by the JEC. The involvement of Jersey Trees for Life (JTFL) in developing the planting plan was noted and it was hoped that a couple of sites would be planted by the spring with the remainder planted in the second planting season later in 2021.

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.

COVID-19  
issues –  
vaccinations  
and driving  
licences/tests

6. The Comité noted the following issues relating to Covid-19:
- a) COVID-19 vaccinations: at the request of the Government of Jersey, parishes were providing assistance to the elderly, when requested, so they might book their Covid-19 vaccinations.
  - b) Driving licences and tests: arrangements for the resumption of CBT tests (compulsory basic training), theory and practical tests and driving instruction following the cessation of such activities in December 2020. CBT tests would resume on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2021; theory testing would re commence on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (numbers would be limited to ensure physical distancing was maintained) but practical testing in vehicles remained suspended whilst driving instructors were unable to teach under the Covid-19 (Workplace Restrictions) (Jersey) Order 2020.

Winter Events  
Group

7. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 2 of 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020, received a report from the Chairman and Connétable of Trinity on the first meeting of the Winter Events Group set up by the Chief Minister, chaired by Deputy Scott Wickenden, to look at what could be done for islanders to support them during the winter months through to March 2021. The Group had expressed concern about promoting events in the coming weeks when the public was being asked to stay at home but it would be meeting again late January to review the situation.

- Around the Island Walk 2021 sponsored by TMF Group
8. The Comité noted correspondence advising that, subject to Covid-19 being under control and there being no restrictions, the Around the Island Walk 2021 sponsored by TMF Group would take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2021 commencing at the Elizabeth Terminal and circling the Island anticlockwise. The Lieutenant Governor's Challenge would start from St Catherine's Breakwater and would conclude at the Link Road at Les Fontaines, St John.
- Big Ride Out 2021
9. The Comité noted that Connétables had been contacted by the organiser of the Big Ride Out in aid of Holidays for Heroes advising that plans were being made for this to take place on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Connétables agreed they did not permit the event as a 'convoy' under the Policing of Roads (Jersey) Regulations 1959 and asked the organisers to provide signage to advise the public of delays (minute no. 5 of 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 refers). Assistance had also been provided in previous years by members of the Honorary Police but the Comité was informed that the Chairman of the Comité des Chefs de Police had informed the organiser, on behalf of the Parishes, that no commitment could be given for this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. The organiser had replied that off-island participants were not expected this year and no action would be taken which would aggravate the situation in relation to Covid-19.
- Fiscal Stimulus Fund
10. The Comité noted that the Fiscal Stimulus Fund (FSF) had opened its second tranche of funding for applications; £25 million of funding was available for projects that aimed to stimulate the economy, to help the Island recover from the impact of Covid-19. The Comité noted that Connétables were considering applications for a number of Parish projects. Expressions of interest must be submitted before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 and, if accepted, a full Business Case should be submitted by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
- Next meeting
11. The Comité noted the next meeting would be held, virtually, on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

Chairman ..... Date .....