

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 15th March 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 15th February 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Roads issues –
Minister for
Infrastructure

2. The Comité received the Minister for Infrastructure, the Head of Transport, the Senior Transportation Planner, the Private Secretary to the Minister, the Senior Policy Officer - Strategic Policy, Performance and Population (SP3) and the Senior Transport Planner, Infrastructure, Housing and Environment Department (IHE), to discuss the following topics relating to roads.

*Sustainable
Transport
Policy
P.128/2019*

Sustainable Transport Policy P.128/2019: the Department's officers advised that work was progressing on the implementation of this Policy (minute no. 5 of 10th February 2020 refers). The Rapid Study Transport Plans were due to be published later in 2021. The Rapid Plan had 2 stages - the first, commissioned for June 2021, looked for opportunities for the active travel network across the island and this could work with local authorities (the Parishes). A key determining factor was the use of bicycles and this would fit in to the Active Travel Plan.

*Active Travel
Plan*

Active Travel Plan: the Comité was informed that a mobility plan had been commissioned and a report was expected in June 2021. This was a strategic requirement for the work on parking which would include research on the fiscal levers and parking.

*Cycle
infrastructure/
network*

Cycle infrastructure/cycle route network: the Comité referred to the approach by the Deputy of Grouville with a view to identifying a cycle infrastructure network across the island but considered it was the Minister's responsibility to bring forward a walking/cycling network (minute no. 2 of 11th January 2021 refers). This work should have been a priority and the Minister was asked what resources his Department had to deliver this work.

The Minister replied that he saw this as a shared responsibility and it would be coming to fruition soon but that matters had been knocked back by the coronavirus pandemic. The Comité was briefed on the strategic cycle network and creating cycle routes to

town and also the eastern cycle route to take vehicles off the roads. However, the Department was reliant on the local roads authorities to manage local access to these routes and suggested a working group with the Parishes. The Department's staffing had also been impacted by the Government of Jersey target operating model and retirements so staffing levels were depleted at present.

The Comité heard from Connétables of their willingness to work with the Minister and to be proactive to provide safe cycle routes but that the Parishes did not have the resources which were available to the Department to undertake assessments and develop schemes – such schemes might require approval of a Parish Assembly. A further comment was that, as much of the 'low hanging fruit' had been dealt with already, it was important to be more proactive with proposals taking into account Jersey's constraints rather than seek solutions which would be acceptable to a United Kingdom road engineer.

Improvements to Road Safety P.5/2021

"Improvements to Road Safety" P.5/2021 as amended: the Comité noted that this was adopted by the Sates Assembly on 3rd March 2021 (minute no. 9a of 15th February 2021 refers) and -

- (a) requested the Minister for Infrastructure to undertake a structural review of Road Safety in the Island in order to identify ways of improving road safety, with a focus on the needs of vulnerable road users, and to publish its initial findings with strategic policy recommendations by the end of 2021; and
- (b) requested the Minister for Infrastructure to review existing legislation and the Island's Highway Code to identify the benefits of introducing a hierarchy of responsibility for road users, based on the level of risk presented to road users in the event of a collision.

Trinity speed limits

Speed limit reduction on Trinity by-roads: the Comité noted that progress was now being made to implement the Trinity Parish Assembly decision to impose 20 mph limits on several by-roads to create safe routes to school.

Campervans/mobile homes

Campervans and mobile homes: the Comité noted that the Minister's proposals for an overnight stay permit scheme would be considered at the next meeting (minute no. 9 of 14th September 2020 refers).

The Comité thanked the Minister and his officers for attending the meeting and they then withdrew.

Honorary Police – various 2021 events

3. The Comité noted the following relating to the Honorary Police:

- Correspondence from the Bailiff's Chief Officer regarding the holding of events in 2021 and that the assistance which might be offered by the Honorary Police was limited (minute no. 4 of 9th November 2020 refers in part).
- States of Jersey Police Community Police Officers had requested access to some Parish Honorary Police offices/premises and that each Parish would consider its own arrangements and the terms on which this might be provided (minute no. 5 of 9th November 2020 refers in part).

SOJP Community officers

Liberation 75 – 2020 commemorative coins

4. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 18 of 12th October 2020, noted the Chief Minister had replied that distributing the Liberation 75 – 2020 commemorative coins to those over 75 years of age when they received their second Covid-19 vaccination appeared to cause some difficulties for the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme as it could have the potential to add undue risk to their infection control procedures. The Chief Minister suggested the Comité consider how it might wish to distribute these coins, at a parish level, once the island returned to a state of normality as this would fit nicely with any future Liberation events, should circumstances allow. The Connétable of St Helier suggested that the coins could be collected from the Town Hall.

Parish insurance – legal costs	<p>5. The Comité’s attention was drawn to the need to check the insurance policies held by a Parish to ensure the cover offered was as required. This arose from the representation to the Royal Court (a civil action) involving the Connétable and Procureurs du Bien Public of St John. The policies held by that Parish did not cover the Parish for such civil actions even though members of the Municipality swore an oath before the Royal Court and might be summoned by H. M. Attorney General to appear before the Court.</p>
Draft legislation – progress	<p>6. The Comité noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Draft Police (Complaints and Conduct) (Jersey) Law 202- and subordinate legislation would be passed to Scrutiny but the Minister for Home Affairs intended to lodge “au Greffe” as soon as was feasible (minute no. 5 of 16th December 2019 refers). • A response to the public consultation on the Draft Crime (Prejudice and Public Disorder) (Jersey) Law 202- would be published shortly, following this the Minister for Home Affairs intended to lodge “au Greffe” as soon as was feasible (minute no. 13 of 13th January 2020 refers).
Home Time – Parish events	<p>7. The Comité noted the request of the Marketing Manager, Office of the Chief Executive, for Parish assistance with the Home Time activities for Easter 2021 and that Connétables would respond individually.</p>
Arts Strategy development	<p>8. The Comité welcomed an officer of the Tom Fleming Creative Consultancy (TFCC) who outlined the Government of Jersey commission to develop a 5-year vision and strategic plan for the arts sector in Jersey, collaborating closely with existing industry partners and Government officials. There was a separate Heritage Strategy and Island Identity Strategy being developed that would sit alongside this piece of work, all of which would form the Culture Strategy for Jersey. The Jersey Arts Strategy would also outline how arts had a central role to play in health and wellbeing, tourism, inward investment, education and innovation. As part of the research exercise TFCC were consulting with a wide range of people from all sectors across the island to help to re-frame and re-imagine the role of arts and culture in Jersey. The Connétables noted the key research questions and were invited to discuss these further with TFCC when its officers visited the island later in the year. The officer was thanked for attending the meeting and then withdrew.</p>
draft Road Traffic (No. 65) (Jersey) Regs 202- P.6/2021 (Re-issue) - comments	<p>9. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 15th February 2021, considered draft comments on the draft Road Traffic (No. 65) (Jersey) Regulations 202- P.6/2021 (Re-issue) for presentation to the States Assembly.</p> <p>The Comité agreed amendments to the draft and requested that the comments be presented prior to the debate on 23rd March 2021.</p>
Government Plan 2021–2024 (P.130/2020): tenth amendment	<p>10. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 21st December 2020, received a letter from the Minister for Treasury and Resources on the 10th amendment to the Government Plan 2021–2024 (P.130/2020), the Plan having been approved by the States Assembly on 17th December 2020. The 10th amendment had been amended by the Council of Ministers and the Minister for Treasury and Resources was requested to work with the Minister for Infrastructure and the Comité des Connétables to agree the Terms of Reference for a review into the funding of public services by the Parishes, as agreed in the Common Strategic Policy, to carry out that work and then to bring forward any recommendations. The Minister invited the Comité to nominate officers to assist with drafting the Terms of Reference for political consideration and the Comité agreed the</p>

Secretary and an officer of the Parish of St Helier, to be nominated by the Connétable, should assist with this work.

Jersey
Electricity/
Parish “Micro-
forest”
Partnership

11. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 10 of 15th February 2021, received from the Jersey Electricity Company plc (JEC) a draft framework agreement for each Parish and the JEC to sign to formalise the “Micro forest” partnership together with the proposed timetable for the work. The Comité recalled the original scheme proposals and reference to the involvement of Trees for Life (TfL) (minutes no. 3 of 12th October 2020 and no. 7 of 9th November 2020 refer) but noted that the framework agreement referred now to Nurture Ecology and not to TfL. The Comité deferred consideration of the item so that queries could be addressed.

Next meeting

12. The Comité noted the next meeting would be on 12th April 2021 at St Mary’s Parish Hall (subject to this being permissible under the coronavirus ‘gatherings’ restrictions in force at that time).

Chairman Date