

# Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020**  
at the Parish Hall, St Clement.

## **Present:**

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman  
Connétable de St Héliér - 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**

Mr M Pollard –  
former  
Connétable of  
St Peter

1. The Comité recalled, with sadness, the death of Mr M Pollard and paid tribute to his service as Connétable of St Peter from 1992 to June 2001. Mr Pollard had also served as Vice Chairman of the Comité from February 2000 and then as Chairman from September 2000 to his retirement in 2001. One minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect.

Minutes

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Jersey  
Electricity/  
Parish "Micro-  
forest"  
Partnership

3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 11 of 14<sup>th</sup> September 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 presentation about the proposed 'micro-forest' partnership between all Parishes and the JEC. The Chief Executive explained that the JEC had, over the last 30 years, reduced carbon emissions by 40% but further progress could now only be achieved by engaging with the community. Protecting the environment and lessening the impact upon it were fundamental to the JEC's sustainable business responsibilities. The vision was to inspire a zero carbon future and the seven measures included the environment and decarbonising in conjunction with third parties. The JEC had undertaken work in conjunction with the National Trust for Jersey and Trees for Life at Le Mourier Valley, St Mary. The link between carbon and the climate crisis was well established and the JEC considered the parishes were critical to this work.

The Comité was informed that the JEC wished to contribute £5,000 per parish to establish micro-forests in each parish. The Connétables were asked to partner in this work by providing volunteers, a project co-ordinator and land for the micro-forests. Planting with indigenous species, even at a relatively small scale, could play a powerful role in sequestering carbon dioxide emissions. As a supplier and distributor of power, the JEC's

responsibility was three-fold: to act to reduce its impact on the drivers of climate change through its internal business activities; to reduce that of its customers by supplying them with low carbon power and to help customers and the Island as a whole use energy more efficiently.

The Comité discussed the proposal with the delegation and heard from Connétables on the possible availability of land for such a use. It was noted that several parishes might not have Parish owned land though might be able to identify areas including some belonging to the public and managed by the Minister for the Environment. Connétables, were supportive of this excellent initiative which met public concerns about climate change and agreed the Comité should write to the Minister to seek his support for the release of suitable areas of land for this project and, where necessary, to ask that he consider the rezoning of land to enable such areas to be planted as a micro-forest. The Comité also suggested H.M. Receiver General should be approached as there might be small pockets of unused Crown land which would be suitable for planting. The Chief Executive said it was hoped that sites could be planted by December 2021 and he offered to draft a press release to announce the partnership and to provide information for Parish magazines about the project.

The delegation was thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

Remembrance  
Day services  
2020 –  
COVID-19  
restrictions

4. The Comité was informed of the advice from the Bailiff's Chief Officer that, due to COVID-19 restrictions on 'gatherings', the usual Remembrance Day services should be scaled back. The event at the cenotaph in St Helier would be for 40 invited guests only, but 50 wreath bearers who were physically distanced would process past. There would be a short 20 minute service.

The Comité heard from Connétables of the various ways in which the services in their parishes would be managed following consultation with their respective Rectors and taking into account the COVID-19 restrictions on 'gatherings'. The Comité agreed that, on behalf of all parishes, a single notice should be placed under 'Public notices' in the Jersey Evening Post to advise the individual Parish arrangements and that parishes would notify of their arrangements in the Jersey Gazette.

Office accounts  
and budget

5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 13 of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020, and in accordance with its Rules approved the contribution by each Parish of £9,625 to the Comité office budget and of £125 to the Comité des Chefs de Police budget for 2020/2021 (total £9,700).

Public Records  
(Jersey) Law  
2002: retention  
schedule

6. The Comité, in accordance with the Public Records (Jersey) Law 2002, approved the retention schedule for all parishes which had been amended and updated in conjunction with the Jersey Archive. The Chairman was authorised to sign the schedule on behalf of all parishes.

Emergencies  
Council and  
Steering Group  
Task Force  
meetings

7. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020:

- a) received a report on the recent Emergencies Council meeting, and
- b) noted the recent Steering Group Task Force meeting had been postponed so there was no report.

COVID-19: use  
of Parish Halls  
by groups;  
Parish

8. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 4 of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020, discussed the following in relation to COVID-19:

- a) Parish Hall room hire/lettings: the Comité noted that a limited number of *ad hoc* meetings had been permitted where these were able to meet the COVID-19

Assemblies and elections	<p>restrictions which applied to gatherings. The Comité agreed it was for each Connétable to determine which groups/users might be permitted to use Parish facilities.</p> <p>b) Parish Assemblies and elections: the Comité noted that advice was being sought in relation to the holding of Parish Assemblies to ensure compliance with public health restrictions whilst not adversely impacting the democratic process (Parish Assemblies for the election of members of the Roads Committee, Roads Inspectors and Rates Assessors would be held in the coming weeks).</p>
Loi (1804) au sujet des Assemblées Paroissiales - Requête (Article 9)	<p>9. The Comité discussed the recent Parish Assembly convened by the Connétable of St Brelade under Article 9 of the <i>Loi (1804) au sujet des Assemblées Paroissiales</i> following receipt of a requête in relation to the Hideout Café at La Pulente. In relation to the limit on attendance, the Comité was informed that this was set out in the COVID-19 guidelines on ‘gatherings’ and limited attendance to 40 persons (the guidelines replaced the previous advice that a Parish Assembly meeting was governed by statute and therefore exempt under the Covid-19 (Restricted Movement) (Jersey) Order 2020).</p> <p>The Connétable of St Brelade outlined the steps taken to live-stream the meeting so that those unable to attend in person could hear the discussion. A number of representations were received from Parishioners suggesting that a vote from such a small number of people could not be fair and the Connétable had therefore interpreted the instruction ‘<i>de recueillir les opinions sur le sujet</i>’ (gather opinions) and had taken an indicative vote.</p>
Mobile Speed Cameras P.91/2020	<p>10. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020, recalled that the States, on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020, had approved the proposition of the Connétable of St John “Mobile Speed Cameras” P.91/2020 and had requested the Minister for Infrastructure to bring forward legislation to –</p> <p>a) enable the Honorary Police to use unattended mobile speed cameras; and</p> <p>b) permit the data recorded by such cameras to be admissible as evidence in any criminal case.</p> <p>The Comité discussed the next steps and also considered correspondence on the subject of “Automatic electronic speed limit enforcement and much else”. Mindful that the States had asked the Minister for Infrastructure to take appropriate action, the Comité decided to refer the correspondence to the Minister.</p>
Honorary Police insurance – complaint	<p>11. The Comité received a letter from Islands Insurance regarding the investigation of a complaint about the service provided in relation to the claim for legal expenses by the Connétable of St John. The claim was made under the group Honorary Police Legal Expenses Policy. Islands Insurance advised that the letter closed the complaint unless it was referred to the Channel Islands Financial Ombudsman (CIFO).</p>
Honorary Police – HM Attorney General Direction on conduct and other ancillary matters	<p>12. The Comité received, for information, H.M. Attorney General’s Direction ‘Honorary Police – conduct and other ancillary matters’ issued in December 2019. This covered alcohol, dress, training, Parish police vehicles and the security of documents. The Comité agreed it should invite H.M. Attorney General and H.M. Solicitor General to attend a future meeting. This would provide an opportunity to formally welcome the Attorney General and the Solicitor General following their appointments earlier in 2020 to discuss the Connétables responsibility for the efficient and effective policing of their parishes and to ensure appropriate arrangements for consultation on matters relating to the Honorary Police.</p>

Hate Crime Awareness Week 10-17 October 2020

13. The Comité noted correspondence from the States of Jersey Police raising awareness of this year's National Hate Crime Awareness Week from 10<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

Honorary Police Medal for Long and Meritorious Service

14. The Comité was informed that the award of the Honorary Police Medal for Long and Meritorious Service, instituted by Warrant of Her Majesty the Queen dated 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014, and registered in the Royal Court on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014, to several officers had been approved by the Bailiff and His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor. The Royal Warrant ordained that the name of each recipient be recorded in the minutes of the Assemblée Paroissiale of the Parish in which the officer last served or was serving, as the case might be, and also ordained that the names of all recipients be recorded in the minutes of the Comité des Connétables.

Honorary Police Medal for Long and Meritorious Service (12 years' service)

Nigel Tanner

Johanna Hartigan

Philip Heard

Honorary Police Medal for Long and Meritorious Service with Bar and additional Bar (30 years' service)

Michael Arthur Rondel

David Henry Webber

Draft Shops (Reg. of Opn'g) (Amdmt – GP Surgeries & Pharmacies) (Jsy) Regs 202- P112/ 2020

15. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 15 of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020, noted that the Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture had deferred the States debate scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 of the Draft Shops (Regulation of Opening) (Amendment – General Practitioner Surgeries and Pharmacies) (Jersey) Regulations 202- P.112/2020 (re-issue). The Minister had spoken with the Chairman to apologise for not consulting with the Comité before lodging the amendment to the Regulations.

States Assembly - Schools visits

16. The Comité received, for information, the dates of the Year 6 schools visits to the States Assembly which had been provided by the Deputy Greffier of the States. Connétables were encouraged to attend with the schools from their respective Parish.

Redress and Accountability Systems in Jersey - review

17. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 5 of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020, noted thanks from the Review Panel for the Comité's submission in response to the Redress and Accountability Systems in Jersey Review and that this would be uploaded to the States Assembly website in due course.

Liberation 75 – 2020

18. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 8 of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020, was reminded that the funding offered by the Bailiff's Office to each Parish towards Liberation 75 - 2020 events, though these had been cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions, was on receipt of a 'narrative' from each Parish outlining how the funds had been used.

Funding for parishes

Commemorative coins

The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 9 of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020, was informed that there was no information yet from the Chief Minister's Office regarding the plans to distribute Liberation commemorative coins to those aged 75 years and above.

- 2021 Census 19. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 4 of 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020, in relation to the 2021 Census:
- a) noted that, if approved by the States on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020, the draft Census (Appointed Day) Act 202- would set the date for the next Census as 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021; and
  - b) noted email correspondence from the Senior Statistician, Statistics Jersey, to all parishes to notify that they currently had census fieldworkers working around the Island to check residential addresses ahead of the 2021 Jersey Census. A small team was in the process of checking every address in the Island and this was expected to run until the end of November 2020 (staff would be carrying an identification badge).

Joint Christmas Appeal – referrals from parishes no longer accepted 20. The Comité considered correspondence from the Treasurer, Jersey Christmas Appeal, advising that the charity’s registration with the Charity Commission had brought about a review of its transparency and perceived independence. The charity had found it necessary to make some changes to the Appeal process for 2020, primarily to ensure its processes were both in line with and supportive of its constitutional aims which were to provide help based upon financial need to those who most needed it at Christmas. As a result, it had shortened its list of referring agencies and had removed the Parishes from that list. However, the Parishes might refer any applicants to one of the other agencies from which referrals were still being accepted.

The Comité requested the Chairman to write, as a matter of priority, to the Appeal expressing its gravest concern that many needy people who had, in the past, been referred by Parishes would now not receive the support they required at Christmas. The Appeal should be asked to reinstate the Parishes as a referral agency and to provide full disclosure of the advice it had received which had resulted in the Parishes being removed.

Government of Jersey plan – presentation 21. The Comité requested the Chairman to write to the Chief Minister regarding the Council of Ministers (CoM) decision to arrange the briefing on the future government plan that morning. Connétables considered this most discourteous as the date of the Comité’s meeting had been arranged since the start of 2020 and as a result they had been unable to attend the CoM briefing.

Next meeting 22. The Connétable of St Clement was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meetings would be on 9<sup>th</sup> November and 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020. The Comité approved dates for meetings in 2021 as follows:

11 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
15 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
15 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	6 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
12 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	6 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	

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

