

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 16th September 2019
at the Parish Hall, St Saviour.

Present:

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman
Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice Chairman (not present for items 6-9)
Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman
Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard (not present for items 5-9)
Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson
Connétable de St Jean - C. H. Taylor
Connétable de Ste Marie - J. M. Le Bailly
Connétable de St Ouën - R. A. Buchanan
Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone (not present for items 10-12)

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre; the Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur and the Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert.

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 15th and 22nd July 2019, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Condolences

2. On behalf of the Comité the Chairman expressed sincere condolences to the Connétable of Grouville on the sad loss of his wife Jill who would be greatly missed.

Office –
accounts
2018/19 and
budget 2019/20

*This is also
recorded in the
minutes of the
Supervisory
Committee*

3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 9 of 15th July 2019, received the audited accounts for the Comité des Connétables/Supervisory Committee for the year ended 30th April 2019 and noted expenditure of £86,079 and income of £87,205 thus resulting in a surplus of £1,126 for the year. The balance sheet, which included the Comité des Chefs de Police, showed net current assets of £22,828. The auditors Alex Picot had reported that they would be issuing a clean audit report. Following discussion the accounts were adopted with all in favour.

The Comité recalled that it had approved the proposed office budget for 2019/2020 and had decided that the costs would be shared equally between the Parishes. However, the Comité recalled its rules on voting required that where the matter would commit either the Comité or any of the members to any expenditure, the matter should be done and decided by 10 votes in favour on the second occasion and, as 10 members were not present, it agreed the matter should be considered again at the next meeting.

Parish
Assemblies:
revised arrgmts
(P.92/2019)

4. The Comité noted that Senator S Y Mézec had lodged “au Greffe” a proposition “Parish Assemblies: revised arrangements” (P.92/2019) and agreed to invite Senator Mézec to its next meeting so he might outline his proposals.

- PPC proposition P.46/2019 – Reform of the composition and election of the States
5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 10 of 15th July 2019, noted that the Privileges and Procedures Committee (PPC) proposition ‘Reform of the composition and election of the States’ (P.46/2019) had been withdrawn but that PPC expected the proposition would be resubmitted before the end of the year, taking account of the results of the consultation process, which was still ongoing. The Connétable of St John reported briefly on the sub-committee’s meetings prior to the proposition being withdrawn.
- Best Start Children’s partnership
6. The Comité was asked by the Connétable of St Martin, as the Comité’s representative on the Early Learning and Childcare Partnership, about the process by which a parish would give a grant to vulnerable children attending private Early Years or Childhood settings and noted that enquiries should be made of the Connétable of the Parish, in the first instance, who could advise whether resources might be available to meet such needs.
- Public Services Ombudsman - consultation
7. The Comité considered the Jersey Public Services Ombudsman Consultation paper which proposed an independent Ombudsman to look into complaints against public services. The consultation was seeking views on which government departments, parish functions, arm’s length bodies and other providers of services to the public should be included within the remit of Ombudsman; what the Ombudsman should do and what methods should be used in regards to investigating complaints and overseeing public bodies; how the Ombudsman should work with other watchdogs and regulators already established in Jersey and what remedy the Ombudsman should be able to offer islanders. Having heard the views of Connétables, the Comité decided to consider its response at the next meeting.
- draft Shops (Regulation of Opening) (Amendment) (Jersey) Regulations 201- (P.93/2019)
8. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 21 of 15th July 2019, considered the draft Shops (Regulation of Opening) (Amendment) (Jersey) Regulations 201- (P.93/2019) which provided for a new ‘restricted hours permit’ and an increase in fees. The Comité noted that the draft Regulations were scheduled for debate on 22nd October 2019 and, if approved, would come into force 7 days later (29th October 2019). There would then be only three Sundays (3rd, 10th and 17th November 2019) for which a shop might apply for a ‘restricted hours’ permit before the blanket permit commenced on 24th November 2019. The Comité decided to invite the Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture to attend its next meeting to discuss the proposals but, having regard to the administrative process which would need to be put in place, was of the view that it would be preferable to commence the new scheme from 1st January 2020.
- Next meeting
9. The Connétable of St Saviour was thanked for her hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 14th October 2019.

Chairman Date

