

Supervisory Committee Connétables de Jersey

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 18th July 2016
at the Parish Hall, St John.

Present:

Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman, Chairman
Connétable de St Pierre - J. M. Refault, Vice Chairman
Connétable de St Héliér - A. S. Crowcroft
Connétable de Ste Marie - Mrs J. Gallichan (present for item 2)
Connétable de St Ouën - M. J. Paddock
Connétable de St Brélade - S. W. Pallett (present for items 3 and 4)
Connétable de St Martin - M. P. S. Le Troquer
Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre
Connétable de St Jean - C. H. Taylor
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian and the Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard.

In attendance: Mrs S. R. de Gruchy, Secretary

Non-exempt (public) under Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011

The Supervisory Committee confirmed that the Connétable of St Clement should preside at the meeting.

Minutes

1. The minutes of the meetings held on 20th and 28th June 2016, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Rates (Jersey)
Law 2005 –
approval of
Rates Lists

2. The Supervisory Committee, with reference to its minute no. 1 of 28th June 2016, in accordance with Article 11 of the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005, and having noted that no review applications were outstanding, received and approved the Rates List for the following parishes and three members of the Committee signed the form of declaration and certificate to be appended to each Approved Rate List certifying its approval as follows -

St Mary – Connétables of St Peter, St Ouen and Grouville

St Ouen – Connétables of St Peter, Trinity and St Martin

Draft Medium
Term Financial
Plan addition
for 2017-2019
(P.68/2016) -
States payment
of rates

3. The Supervisory Committee considered the proposals for the payment of rates by the States as outlined in the Draft Medium Term Financial Plan addition for 2017-2019 (P.68/2016). Having discussed the proposition, the Committee requested the Chairman write to the Minister for Treasury and Resources to draw attention to the following challenges which would need to be addressed:

- a) Exemptions from foncier and occupier's rates as set out in Articles 17(2) and 18(2) of the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005 would need to be amended.
- b) Whether the exemption for parochial property would change if the exemption for public authority property was removed.
- c) Levying of rates and whether an amendment to the law would be required if only the Parish rate was to be paid by the States.

- d) Rates Management System (RMS) - if the Law was amended so that only the Parish rate was paid by the States then changes would be required to the RMS as both rates were included in the rate demand.
- e) Revaluation of rateable values, as suggested in Part 12 of the draft MTFP Addition 2017-2019, would involve significant work but would not alter the amount raised (it would only redistribute the amount paid by ratepayers). The Committee recalled that prior to being fixed the rateable value had been based on the rental value and for certain properties, such as utility companies, this had had to be professionally assessed using the 'profit's method'. The Committee concluded that a revaluation should only be considered if it could be demonstrated that it would be beneficial but agreed it would not expect any costs to be met by parishes should it be decided to revalue rateable values.
- f) The apportionment of the Island-wide rate between domestic and non-domestic property was set in the Rates (Apportionment) (Jersey) Regulations 2006 (55:45 domestic/non-domestic) so that non-domestic ratepayers paid a higher rate than domestic ratepayers. Should the island-wide rate be levied on States property this would increase the number of non-domestic quarters thus reducing the rate per quarter unless the apportionment set in Regulations was also changed.

The Committee noted that whilst it was proposed that the States should pay rates from 2017 it was still intended to identify an income stream from 2018 in order to achieve the required cost neutral position. The Connétables remained of the view that ratepayers generally should not have to provide funds to enable States Departments to pay their rates but rather Departments should regard rates as a utility bill and seek savings, or raise funds, to meet its liabilities (minute no. 4 of 23rd May 2016 refers).

Office -
accounts
2015/16 and
budget 2016/17
*This is also
recorded in the
minutes of the
Comité des
Connétables*

4. The Supervisory Committee received the audited accounts for the Comité des Connétables/Supervisory Committee for the year ended 30th April 2016 and noted expenditure of £76,463 and income of £74,481 thus resulting in a deficit of £1,982 for the year. The Committee also noted the accounts for the Comité des Chefs de Police for the year ended 30th April 2016 showing income of £1,500 and expenditure of £1,739 resulting in a deficit of £239. The balance sheet showed net current assets of £17,859. 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 Committee approved the proposed office budget for 2016/17 estimating expenditure in a sum of £75,860 and decided that the costs would be shared equally between the Parishes (£6,250 per Parish).

Chairman*L Norman*..... Date*19/09/2016*.....