

# Supervisory Committee Connétables de Jersey

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016**  
at the Parish Hall, Trinity.

## **Present:**

Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman, Chairman  
Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian  
Connétable de Ste Marie - Mrs J. Gallichan  
Connétable de St Ouën - M. J. Paddock  
Connétable de St Brélade - S. W. Pallett  
Connétable de St Martin - M. P. S. Le Troquer  
Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard  
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 Pierre - J. M. Refault, Vice Chairman and the Connétable de St Héliér - A. S. Crowcroft.

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 meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Island wide rates 2016

2. The Supervisory Committee, with reference to its minute no. 2 of 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016, recalled that the Annual Island-wide Rate Figure for 2016 was £12,076,803 with 55% to be raised from the domestic rate and 45% from the non-domestic rate in accordance with the Rates (Apportionment) (Jersey) Regulations 2006. The Committee considered a paper showing an estimated 955 million domestic quarters and 434 million non-domestic quarters across the Island.

The Committee accordingly calculated the Island-wide Domestic rate at 0.70 pence per quarter and the Island-wide Non-domestic rate at 1.25 pence per quarter for 2016, which would generate the Annual Island-wide Rate Figure. The Committee recalled that ratepayers would receive the account for the Island-wide rate as soon as the Parish rate had been set by parishioners. Rates were payable on demand and a surcharge of 10% would be added to all amounts not paid within 3 months of the date of the bill.

The Committee requested the Chairman of the Comité des Connétables to present a report to the States to advise of the rates for 2016.

Rates (Jersey) Law 2005 – approval of Rates Lists

3. The Supervisory Committee, 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 Lists 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 Brelade – Connétables of St Clement, St Lawrence and St John  
 St Clement – Connétables of St Lawrence, St Mary and St John  
 Grouville – Connétables of St Brelade, St Ouen and St Martin  
 St Helier – Connétables of St Brelade, St Ouen and St Martin  
 St John – Connétables of St Ouen, St Brelade and St Lawrence  
 St Martin – Connétables of St Mary, St John and Grouville  
 St Peter – Connétables of St Clement, St Brelade and St John  
 St Saviour – Connétables of St Lawrence, St Mary and St John  
 Trinity – Connétables of St Brelade, St Lawrence and St John

The Committee noted that the Rate Lists for the other Parishes would be approved in due course.

Housing  
 strategy -  
 vacant homes

4. The Supervisory Committee received the Minister for Housing, the Principal Planner, Planning and Environment Department, and the Policy Officer, Housing Department, to discuss a paper asking whether it would be feasible to gather information on the number of vacant homes by adding a question on the annual rates return. The Committee was informed that one of the objectives of the Housing Strategy was to make best use of available housing resources in order to meet the demand for housing. Bringing long-term vacant homes back into use helped to maximise housing resources to meet housing need and also minimised adverse environmental and social impacts, as well as improving the local built environment.

The meeting discussed the most accurate current source of information on the number of vacant homes in Jersey which was the 2011 Census. This showed that of the 44,698 private dwellings in the island, a total of 3,103 dwellings were vacant on the day of the Census (7% of total dwellings) with reasons for vacancy including being between tenants, second/holiday home, property being built or renovated and property for sale. The Minister explained that, in order to investigate possible policy solutions for long-term vacant homes, there was a need to collect up-to-date information to improve the evidence base regarding the extent of any problem. Depending on the extent of any problems identified, consideration might be given to using the Parish Rates system as a way of bringing long-term vacant properties back into use (for example, United Kingdom local authorities had the power to apply a premium of up to 50% on properties that had been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for two or more years).

Following discussion, and mindful that parishes did not have the resources to undertake additional work on behalf of the States, the Committee did agree to seek advice as to whether such information could be requested on the Annual Returns issued under the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005 and of the implications thereof. The delegation was thanked for attending the meeting and then withdrew.

Chairman .....*L Norman*..... Date .....18/07/2016.....