

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 8th November 2021
in the Blampied Room, States Building.

Present:

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman
Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice Chairman
Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard (not present for items 8-11, 17)
Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson
Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre
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 (not present for item 17)
Connétable de St Jean - A. N. Jehan
Connétable de St Clément - M. O'D. Troy

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 11th October 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

PAC covid response review

2. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 8 of 11th October 2021, approved its response to the invitation to submit evidence to the Public Accounts Committee for its review of the Government of Jersey's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The response outlined how the work of the Comité des Connétables and Comité des Chefs de Police had continued throughout the pandemic, but had had to adapt, as the Connétables and Chefs de Police met to ensure services continued to be delivered to parishioners. Initially there was no provision for Parish meetings – required to be held by law – in the early Covid legislation though this was subsequently rectified when specific provision was made e.g. for Parish Assemblies (in response to the Comité's comments on P.157/2020 and P.158/2020).

In terms of key lessons the Government might learn for pandemic or emergency planning, the response highlighted that the Parishes were unique and differed from the many other organisations and bodies operating in Jersey. Whilst it would be difficult to ensure the needs of all were adequately addressed, the lack of consultation about legislation did cause uncertainty around how Parish business could continue to be conducted as required by law (the Parish was deemed to be a 'workplace'). The Government should give broader consideration to the Parishes, as local government, to ensure services could continue to be delivered. This included recognition of the many volunteers serving their Parish and the need to ensure Parishes could fulfil their legal obligations.

Public Elections - 2022

3. The Comité, in relation to the Appointed Day Act for the Elections law (which was still awaiting Privy Council approval), agreed to request the Privileges and Procedures Committee (PPC) not to bring into force the new Article 7ZA (electoral registers of property with no elector). The concerns raised included the risk of identifying properties

which might be empty and that some properties appearing to have no electors could have electors registered under Article 9. The Connétable of St Martin, as a member of the PPC, confirmed that PPC was comfortable with the idea of dropping this provision

The Comité, with partial reference to its minute no. 18 of 6th September 2021, also noted the following issues relating to the 2022 public elections for Connétables and Deputies:

The report of PPC notifying that the replacement ERS system was not proceeding (R.164/2021)

That the Infrastructure, Housing and Environment Department (IHE) had been asked for updated guidelines on roadside banners/advertising (the States Greffe had contacted parishes as they wished to book roadside advertising in parishes, to encourage Islanders to turn out and vote).

Civil parking penalties – introduction

4. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 11th October 2021, noted the proposed implementation date of 1st February 2022 for the change from criminal to civil penalties for parking infractions. The change would take effect in accordance with the provisions of the draft Road Traffic (Parking) (General Provisions and Penalties) Jersey Order 202- which would shortly be made by the Minister for Infrastructure. The Comité noted the action required of Parishes prior to implementation and that the Secretary was co-ordinating responses from Parishes.

JE Parish Earth Partnership

5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 2 of 11th October 2021, noted the November 2021 report from Jersey Electricity plc (JE) regarding the Parish Earth Partnership (micro forest project). The Comité noted that the revised Framework Agreement had been circulated and would need to be signed by the Connétable before funding was provided to a Parish by JE. The Comité received an update from Connétables on their individual projects and noted that the proposals for St Saviour had been withdrawn due to Planning requirements for parking provision which conflicted with the aims of the project to promote and improve carbon neutrality. The Comité was also mindful of the Queen's Canopy initiative (minute no. 9 of 11th October 2021 refers) and heard that some Parishes were reviewing how this might impact on the micro forest proposals and were also considering the opportunities for public sponsorship of these projects.

Commonwealth Games 2022 Baton relay

6. The Comité agreed that Connétables would respond individual to the Jersey Commonwealth Games Association regarding the arrangements for the proposed visit of the Queen's Baton to all 12 parishes on 11th June 2022.

Liberation 2022 and Platinum Jubilee 2022

7. The Comité, with reference to its minute nos. 10 of 6th September 2021 and 9 of 11th October 2021, received a report from the Chairman, as the Comité's representative on the Bailiff's Consultative Panel, regarding proposals to mark the 77th anniversary of the Liberation in May 2022. The Chairman reminded Connétables that Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee would also be celebrated in June 2022 and events in Jersey would take into account national events. The Comité agreed that the planning of island events should take into account and provide opportunities for Parish events and requested the Chairman to convey this to the Panel.

Fireworks demonstration

8. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 10 of 11th October 2021, noted that a fireworks demonstration, organised by the Home Affairs Department (Jersey Fire and Rescue) in conjunction with Starburst Fireworks, had been held on 14th October 2021. Having heard from several Connétables of complaints they had received about fireworks over the recent weekend, including about the distress caused to animals, the Comité agreed it might require a demonstration of 'silent' fireworks.

Church officers
swearing in 2022

9. The Comité noted the proposed date for the swearing-in of Church officers on 18th June 2022 following the elections which, in accordance with the Canons of the Church of England in Jersey, would be held by 31st May 2022.

JURAF meetings

10. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 11 of 11th October 2021, noted a meeting of the Jersey Utility and Road Authority Forum (JURAF) had been held on 3rd November 2021.

Next meeting

11. The Comité noted the next meeting would be on 6th December 2021.

Chairman Date