

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 11th October 2021
at the Parish Hall, St Saviour.

Present:

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman
Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard (not present: items 3-6,15-17)
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
Connétable de St Clément - M. O'D. Troy

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice Chairman and the Connétable de St Jean - A. N. Jehan.

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 6th September 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Parish-Earth
Partnership –
JE micro-forest
project

2. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 8 of 6th September 2021, received the Customer Experience Lead and the Head of Customer Experience and Communications, Jersey Electricity plc (JE), to discuss the JE Parish Earth Partnership (micro forest project). The Comité received a reply from the Chief Executive, JE, with an amended framework agreement which provided for a minimum of £3,000 of the £5,000 grant to be used for the purchase of plants, shrubs or trees. The framework agreement was non-binding but set out the respective roles and responsibilities of the Parish and of JE and each Connétable was invited to sign the agreement. The Comité also received a report from JE outlining progress to date in identifying sites in individual parishes for a micro-forest.

The Comité discussed the project and the following issues/concerns were raised –

- a) The framework agreement provided for a monthly report by the supplier/lead volunteer, the Comité considered this could not be required of a supplier and would be onerous for a volunteer and it agreed, instead, the Connétable should provide a 6-monthly report following planting.
- b) The framework agreement referred to Nurture Ecology undertaking reports but some parishes might wish to use other providers; JE accepted that this section could be amended to suit each parish.
- c) Ongoing maintenance for 5 years was required but a query was raised about the longer term, with reference to the Val de la Mare arboretum which had been abandoned for many years until Trees for Life reinstated the area. JE was asked if it would help in the longer term. The Comité was informed that 5 years was in the framework agreement as this was the Planning Department requirement.

- d) JE advised that Trees for Life were currently ordering stock for planning in January/February 2022 but parishes might order through other suppliers. Some parishes intended to plant standards rather than whips, there being a higher loss rate with whips. JE would pay invoices direct to the supplier subject to the framework agreement being signed.

JE would provide a step-by-step guide for those parishes which were still in the early stages of the project and would also provide information to build awareness of the project. JE thanked the Connétables for their sustained interest in the project, especially with Planning issues, and the Comité recognised the project was significantly more challenging than had been expected. Following discussion the JE officers were thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

eVie dockless
bike zones

3. The Comité received the Director and Chief Executive Officer of eVie who gave a presentation of the Company's Dockless bicycles and vehicles. The Company hoped to work more closely with the Parishes and the Infrastructure, Housing and Environment Department (IHE), in particular to mark up Dockless Bike parking zones (white marked-up areas in public places, no physical bike racks were required). The benefits would be to free up pressure on existing bike racks (reducing complaints from regular riders); reducing "bike litter" and demonstrating the Parishes and IHE support for Eco travel etc.

The Comité heard from Connétables about initiatives in their respective parishes and what opportunities there might be to provide facilities for Dockless bicycles and vehicles. The eVie cars were currently sited in areas where there was the highest demand and a minimum daily usage was required to breakeven, though alternative sites might be considered if costs were underwritten. Following discussion it was agreed that Connétables would discuss opportunities within their parishes individually with the Director and Chief Executive Officer and, having been thanked for attending, they then withdrew from the meeting.

Honorary
Police – vetting
process

4. The Comité considered the vetting process for those seeking election to the Honorary Police and whether or not this was sufficiently robust. The Chairman had questioned the Chief Minister about vetting at the States sitting on 5th October 2021 and the Connétable of St Brelade had asked a written question of the Minister for Home Affairs in relation to the vetting process for States of Jersey Police (WQ.391/2021) with particular reference to those who were of non-U.K. origin. The Minister had replied that the States of Jersey Police (SOJP) was monitoring very closely the developments in the U.K. associated with vetting and would adopt any emerging good practice. The Chief of Police had commissioned a peer review inspection of Counter Corruption measures within the SOJP in 2020. This was delayed due to Covid but, in August 2021, two U.K. experts had spent a week with the SOJP reviewing the organisation's Counter Corruption measures, including vetting. The final report, including recommendations, was delivered last month and work was now under way to address these points. The Comité requested the Chairman to write to the Chief Officer, SOJP, asking about the recommendations received so that it might consider this issue further at its next meeting.

Roads Law
review

5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 6th September 2021, gave further consideration to the formation of a small 'Parish Policy Group', comprising 4-6 persons, as requested by the Infrastructure, Housing and Environment (IHE) which would consider policy options and proposals, work closely with IHE Delivery Group(s) and report to the Comité about the Roads Law review. The role of the Parish Policy Group was to review issues emerging from the work, provide a critical 'sounding board' for issues and to consider policy options and proposals. It was proposed that this Group was the conduit for updating the Comité des Connétables and it would work closely, and in conjunction, with the Project Delivery Group. The Group would consider how to undertake an initial Parishes wide engagement to gather information on known operational issues and gaps

with the current road and traffic laws. More formal engagement with key groups and stakeholders would also be required so that all might understand and contribute to key decisions and policy options.

The Comité agreed the group size should be limited to 5 persons and, having received nominations for persons from four different parishes, appointed two Parish officials and three persons representing Roads Committees and the Honorary Police so that there was representation from those four parishes.

- Civil parking penalties – introduction 6. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 19 of 15th February 2021, considered progress with implementing the civil parking penalties scheme. All Connétables were reminded that parishes had been asked to determine the level of penalties proposed (to take into account the agreed prompt payment discount approved by the Comité), and who would adjudicate challenges to a penalty notice. The Chairman had been asked to meet with officers of the Infrastructure, Housing and Environment Department (IHE) so that the Minister might be briefed on progress.
- JCRA alcohol pricing and promotions market survey 7. The Comité noted that the impact of alcohol pricing strategies and promotions by licensed premises was to be examined by the JCRA (Jersey Competition and Regulatory Authority) at the request of H.M. Attorney General following changes in the market and in international best practice.
- PAC covid response review 8. The Comité noted that all Connétables had been invited to submit evidence to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) for its review of the Government of Jersey's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- The Queen's Canopy 9. The Comité noted information regarding the Queen's Canopy to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The island would be taking part in this United Kingdom National Trust initiative, and Jersey's involvement would be co-ordinated by the Bailiff's Chambers.
- Fireworks demonstration 10. The Comité noted that all Connétables had been invited to attend a fireworks demonstration on 14th October 2021 which was being organised by the Home Affairs Department (Jersey Fire and Rescue) in conjunction with Starburst Fireworks.
- JURAF meetings 11. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 17 of 12th July 2021, noted that the next meeting of the Jersey Utility and Road Authority Forum (JURAF) was on 3rd November 2021.
- Jersey Christmas Appeal – Parish as referral agency 12. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 25 of 12th July 2021, noted that the organisers of the Jersey Christmas Appeal (JCA) proposed to include "nominated Parish Official" on the 2021 form under the list of referring agencies. This would allow any Parishes who wished to act as referring agencies to do so (the Parish might nominate whomever they considered appropriate, for example a representative of a Parish support group, or an individual holding some other role within the Parish). The JCA asked to be provided with a list of the nominated officials so that referral forms could be checked and the Secretary was asked to collate and forward these details.
- The JCA had reiterated its wish to find a way to work with the Parishes to ensure that the assistance they could provide was reaching as many persons who were in need as possible. The JCA were also seeking to increase awareness of the Appeal and would be

arranging a presentation in due course but also offered to speak individually with Connétables.

Next meeting

13. The Connétable of St Saviour was thanked for her hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 8th November 2021, following the Electoral College meeting that day.

Chairman Date