

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 12th July 2021
at the Parish Hall, St Brelade.

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 19-22)
Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson
Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre (not present for items 15-22)
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 Jean - A. N. Jehan
Senior Procureur du Bien Public of St Clement - Mrs S. Pearmain representing the Parish in accordance with the rules of the Comité agreed at its meeting on 21st March 2011 owing to the vacancy in office of Connétable.

An apology for absence was received from the Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone.

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 14th June and 5th July 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

States
Assembly
sittings – 3-
week cycle

2. The Comité considered an invitation from the Privileges and Procedures Committee (PPC) to give its views about the success of the trial 3-week cycle for States Assembly sittings. PPC had surveyed all Members individually but also invited the collective view of the Comité. Having heard from Connétables, the Chairman was requested to reply that 4 Connétables considered the trial successful, 3 Connétables did not consider it should be a permanent change and 3 Connétables were undecided on the trial.

Dogs (Jersey)
Law 1961 and
dog walkers

3. The Comité considered correspondence about the code of practice for professional dog walkers (which set out guidelines for walking dogs safely) and the worrying of livestock by dogs. The correspondents had concluded that the code of practice for dog walkers was clearly totally ineffective and that the Dogs (Jersey) Law 1961 (the 1961 Law), which they understood was administered by the Comité, should be changed to require those in control of dogs to keep them on a lead when in public places and that there should also be some consideration given to protecting farmland.

The Comité recalled that the code of practice for dog walkers had been issued by the Infrastructure, Housing and Environment Department. The code included specific guidance relating to provisions in the 1961 Law, for example that dogs must not be allowed to worry livestock. The Comité heard from Connétables that significant damage could also be caused to the livelihood of growers as a result of dogs fouling agricultural

land and contaminating crops and pasture (the *Neospora* parasite carried by dogs was considered to be the major cause of abortions in cattle).

Having been reminded that, under Article 11B of the 1961 Law, any person might make a representation to the Magistrate's Court alleging that a dog was dangerously out of control or was otherwise not kept under proper control, the Comité agreed to inform the correspondent of the action they might take.

Visite Royale

4. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 5 of 22nd June 2020, noted that the Chairman had written to the Bailiff regarding the arrangements for the three Visites Royales in 2021 (there would also be three in 2022) to ensure that Parishes could make appropriate arrangements. The Comité noted that, prior to the Visite Royale, the Court required a copy of the most recent financial accounts, a list of the Parish officials, a list of the Voyeurs and the reserves, the report of the Chef de Police, and a map showing the route and details for the 'Visite'. The Comité recalled that as the Visites Royales scheduled for 2020 had been cancelled owing to the coronavirus pandemic, the Parishes of St Martin, St Lawrence and St John would host Visites in 2021 and the Parishes of St Saviour, St Peter and Grouville would host Visites in 2022.

Driving licences – exchange of foreign licences

5. The Comité considered a paper about the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Jersey) Order 2003 and the issue of a Jersey driving licence in exchange for a driving licence issued in certain other countries. Following a query from a driver who had recently exchanged a foreign licence, it had been confirmed by Driver and Vehicle Standards (DVS) that the category issue date should be the date from which that category had been held as shown on the foreign licence, and not the date the Jersey licence was first issued.

The Comité was informed that the date could be important if a driver was relying only on the licence to prove the length of experience as a driver, for example, some hire car companies required a hirer to have held a valid licence for a minimum period of time. To date, when queries had been received, a driver had been provided with a copy of the surrendered licence to use as proof of the length of driving experience and this had been acceptable.

Having discussed the situation the Comité agreed that, on renewal, the category dates on all licences granted in exchange for a foreign licence should be checked and, where necessary, corrected. This correction would be at no cost to the driver other than the usual cost of renewal. Every Parish would continue to offer, at no cost to the driver, a copy of the surrendered licence which might be used as proof of the length of driving experience. However, should a driver wish the licence to be corrected prior to renewal, a charge would be made (the Comité noted that the minimum charge e.g. where a new category was added, was £15). The Comité was informed that, following confirmation from DVS of the date to be recorded, all Parishes were now recording the category issue date on exchanged licences.

Jersey National Park – Management Committee Parish representative

6. The Comité was invited to nominate a Connétable to represent the Comité and Parishes' interests on the Jersey National Park Management Committee (the former Connétable of St John having previously been its representative; minute no. 6 of 14th September 2015 refers). The Park governance would continue to evolve and was now established as a Registered Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee. This precluded politicians and officers from sitting on the Board but, as it operated as a Management Committee currently it had the option of having political representation as participating observers to add to the officer involvement (which included representatives of the Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture and the Planning and Environment Departments). The Comité nominated the Connétables of St Ouen and St Peter as its representatives on the Management Committee.

- Tree Strategy - stakeholder workshop invitation
7. The Comité was invited to nominate a representative as ‘a voice for Community stakeholders on behalf of the Comité des Connétables to share the knowledge and express views for this stakeholder group’ as part of the “Species and Habitat Protection” project aiming to protect, maintain and enhance Jersey’s current and future trees. The project was being undertaken by the Government of Jersey, in conjunction with its project consultants Dialogue Matters, working with local stakeholders to develop a blue-print and draft Tree Strategy. The Comité nominated the Connétable of St Brelade as its representative.
- Emergencies Council
8. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 4 of 7th December 2020, received a brief report from the Connétable of St Ouen who had represented the Comité at the Emergencies Council meeting on 7th July 2021.
- Office accounts and budget
- This is also recorded in the minutes of the Supervisory Committee*
9. The Comité received the audited accounts for the Comité des Connétables/ Supervisory Committee for the year ended 30th April 2021 and noted expenditure of £113,414 and income of £115,508 thus resulting in a surplus of £2,094 for the year. The balance sheet, which included the Comité des Chefs de Police, showed net current assets of £27,420. The auditors Alex Picot had reported that they would be issuing a clean audit report. The accounts were adopted with all in favour.
- The Comité also considered the proposed office budget for 2021/2022 covering staff and office costs. Following discussion, the Comité approved the budget and that each Parish would contribute £9,850 towards the expenditure estimated at £118,220.
- Comité des Chefs de Police – budget and accounts
10. The Comité, with reference to minute no. 9 of this meeting, approved the accounts for the Comité des Chefs de Police for 2020/2021 and the budget for 2021/2022 showing expenditure of £1,500. The Comité approved the proposed budget and agreed that this would be funded equally by parishes (£125 per Parish).
- Honorary Police – support for island events
11. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 8 of 14th June 2021, noted a reply from the Chief Minister to the Chairman and the Chairman of the Comité des Chefs de Police about island events and the reconnection route. In relation to larger indoor and outdoor events, the Chief Minister had advised that the transmission risk would depend on individual key factors within the event itself. STAC (the Scientific and Technical Cell) had given consideration to the issue of a threshold for any potential circuit break but this could not be determined in advance due to the uncertainties associated with a number of factors including emerging variants of concern and levels of vaccine take-up amongst younger age groups.
- Honorary Police – sectors during Covid-19 pandemic
12. The Comité noted that the Comité des Chefs de Police had decided to extend the arrangements under Article 5A of the Honorary Police (Jersey) Law 1974 so that the agreement to assist with a policing need in another Parish continued from 1st July to 30th September 2021 due to the on-going Covid-19 situation.
- Honorary Police Forum
13. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 15th February 2021, received, for information, the notes of the meeting held on 15th June 2021.
- Honorary Police – LSGCM
14. The Comité was informed that the award to several officers of the Honorary Police Medal for Long and Meritorious Service, instituted by Warrant of Her Majesty the Queen dated 1st December 2014, and registered in the Royal Court on 12th December 2014, had been approved by the Bailiff and His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor. The Royal Warrant ordained that the name of each recipient be recorded in the minutes of the Assemblée Paroissiale of the Parish in which the officer last served or was serving, as the

case might be, and also ordained that the names of all recipients be recorded in the minutes of the Comité des Connétables.

Honorary Police Medal for Long and Meritorious Service (12 years' service)

Maxine Fergusson

Sharnie Olliver

David Ward

Alan Cabot

Adam Hall

Susan Pace

Amanda Le Brocq

Philip Heard

Parish officials
– Standards in
PARISH
service

15. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 16 of 14th June 2021, reminded all Connétables to ensure that they had written to elected officers to make them aware of the recently approved Standards in PARISH Service, that the Standards and the Comments, Compliments and Complaints Policy had been published on the Parish's website and that every Parish was, with effect from 1st July 2021, maintaining a register of formal complaints.

Road Law:
legislation
review - IHE
presentation

16. The Comité received a presentation from the Principal Engineer – (Road) Network Management and the Legislative Drafter (Roads and Transport), Infrastructure, Housing and Environment (IHE), and the Senior Project Manager, IPM Limited, on proposals to revise and rewrite all Jersey legislation relating to roads. A Ministerial Decision dated 7th April 2021 had been issued authorising the work which would ensure that roads legislation was future-proofed, that funding was provided and that the legislation was accessible to the public (some legislation, for example the *Loi (1914) sur la Voirie* was still in the French language). The Comité was asked to support the need for changes to legislation, to identify any issues and concerns and to agree the approach to ensure Parish engagement with the project.

The Comité agreed that IHE officers should make a presentation to members of the Parishes Roads Committees, to Parish Secretaries and to the Chefs de Police so that it might agree, at its next meeting, the Parishes representation for the project. The issues to be addressed should include the extent to which legislation might cover private roads in public ownership, the riding of horses against the flow of traffic on one-way roads and asset management including responsibility for painting road markings and providing road signs. Following discussion the delegation was thanked for attending the meeting and then withdrew.

JURAF
meetings

17. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 10 of 14th June 2021, noted that the next meeting of the Jersey Utility and Road Authority Forum (JURAF) would now be held on 27th July 2021 and the minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2021 would be circulated shortly.

JE micro-forest
projects

18. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 11 of 14th June 2021, noted the monthly highlights report from Jersey Electricity plc (JE) for the micro-forest project which it was proposed would be known as the 'Parish Earth Partnership'. It was agreed that Connétables would reply individually to JE to advise the proposed timeline for planning applications and for the various reports required (these could be provided by Nurture Ecology). The Comité recalled that JE had offered £5,000 to each Parish for the purchase of plants but, mindful of other costs relating to the project including for environmental reports, it decided to propose that the draft Framework Agreement should

permit the funds to be used for any cost relating to the project. The Chairman was requested to write accordingly.

States questions 19. The Comité noted a response had been submitted to a recent question of the Comité about “Mental health training for parish officials” (WQ.247/2021).

Lions Club of Jersey – letter of thanks 20. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 15 of 12th April 2021, noted a letter of thanks to the Parishes which had nominated guests for the four Lions Club Tea Parties held during June 2021. For those who had been unable to socialise due to the coronavirus lockdown, the tea parties had provided an opportunity to reconnect and make new friends and had been enjoyed by all who attended.

States of Jersey Police – Problem Orientated Policing (POP) 21. The Comité received Inspector H Williams, Community Policing Team, States of Jersey Police (SOJP), and Ms S Chenery, Managing Associate of the Applied Criminology Associates, who gave a presentation on Problem Orientated Policing (POP) which was about developing a strategy and training officers in problem solving in partnership. The SOJP had introduced community policing in early 2021 which was all about solving people’s problems. Ms Chenery said that, as a criminologist, she was passionate about problem solving and understanding why a problem was occurring. Problems were often symptoms of an issue rather than a cause and POP was about identifying those who had influence to be able to make changes. It was an integrated approach and by identifying underlying causes the partner agencies could work together to decide how to treat the problem. Training was being provided to representatives of various agencies including the Honorary Police.

The Connétables referred to specific problems currently encountered including anti-social behaviour by small groups including children. For some of those involved it was a generational issue with similar behaviour having been exhibited by parents and grandparents. There must be a balance between keeping children out of the criminal justice system and prosecuting those who repeatedly offended. Following discussion, Inspector Williams and Ms Chenery were thanked for attending the meeting and then withdrew.

Next meeting 22. The Connétable of St Brelade was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting was on 6th September 2021.

Chairman Date