

# Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022**  
(virtual meeting conducted online).

## **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  
Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson  
Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre  
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur  
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 Jean - A. N. Jehan

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert and the 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 meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Explosives (Jersey) Law 1970 – dates permitted for retail sale of fireworks in 2022

2. The Comité considered correspondence from the Managing Director of Starburst Fireworks Ltd regarding the permits for the retail sale of fireworks issued pursuant to Article 8 of the Explosives (Jersey) Law 1970. The Managing Director proposed retail sales of fireworks be limited to 28<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022 inclusive. The Comité recalled the fireworks demonstration held in 2021 (minute no. 8 of 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 refers) and discussed the use of Category 2 (“garden”) and Category 3 (“display”) fireworks. It noted that the conditions attached, to date, to a licence for the retail sale of fireworks prohibited the sale of certain fireworks including Category 2 or Category 3 fireworks that exceeded maximum noise levels of 120 decibels.

The Comité agreed it did not wish to prevent families from enjoying smaller private displays at home. However, it was mindful of the complaints received when fireworks caused distress to neighbours (including those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder) and animals and that ‘noiseless’ fireworks (i.e. those that produced low or no noise) were now available as an alternative. The Comité was minded to approve the proposed retail sale dates but considered prohibiting the sale of Category 3 fireworks as these were intended for display purposes. The Chairman was requested to write to the Managing Director on this matter and the Comité would reach a decision thereon at its next meeting.

Don Balleine Will Trust – support for transfer of assets

3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 4 of 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021, authorised the Chairman to sign and transmit to Mr J Le Maistre, MBE, for him to lodge in the minute book of the trustees of the A E Balleine Will Trust, the following resolution relating to the transfer of the assets of the Trust to the Don Balleine Incorporated Association –

*The Connétables of the twelve parishes of Jersey at their meeting at St Martin's Public Hall on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021, having reviewed the trustees' position paper dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 supplied for their information and heard from Jean le Maistre one of the trustees of the A E Balleine Will Trust (the Trust) and from Christopher Scholefield legal advisor to and a member of the steering committee of the Don Balleine Incorporated Association (the LDBIA), RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY as follows;*

*That the Trustees of the A E Balleine Will Trust have the support of the Connétables of the island - sitting as envisaged in the Trust document as a committee able to formulate conditions for the carrying out of the wishes of the late A E Balleine - for the trustees' proposed decision to transfer the whole of the assets of the Trust to the LDBIA and thereafter to wind up the activities of the Trust.*

Carbon neutral  
roadmap  
consultation

4. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 4 of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021, noted the Carbon Neutral Roadmap Consultation had been sent to all parishes inviting a response by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022. The Comité heard from Connétables about initiatives in their respective Parishes to address climate issues, including some which had set up a group to consider and respond to specific areas of interest. The Connétable of St John had invited groups from other parishes to meet to share their knowledge and provide mutual support. The Comité noted the work being undertaken and decided it was more appropriate for each Parish to respond individually to the consultation.

Liberation 2022  
and Occupation  
VIPs - Jersey  
Royal potato  
growing  
competition

5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 4 of 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021, agreed to issue a press release to promote an "Occupation VIP" Jersey Royal potato growing competition to mark Liberation 77. The Connétables recognised that senior parishioners had missed out on celebrating Liberation 75 and 76 due to the coronavirus restrictions.

The Comité confirmed an "Occupation VIP" was a person who was resident in Jersey during the Occupation, evacuated, deported or who served in the forces at that time (i.e. those born on or before 9<sup>th</sup> May 1945). Those interested would be asked to register with their Parish so that an appropriate number of kits could be provided. Arrangements for the weigh-in would be decided once the number of entrants was known.

Platinum  
Jubilee 2022 &  
events/public  
entertainment

6. The Comité, with partial reference to its minute no. 7 of 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021, received a paper from the Bailiff's Chief Officer setting out proposals to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022.

The Comité then received the Chief Officer and the Head of Communications, Bailiff's Chambers, and Mr R Bryans, regarding the commemorative book to be produced for the Platinum Jubilee. Mr Bryans had been commissioned to take photographs and to work on the book and part of his remit was to work with the Connétables and Parishes. The book would focus on the three strands of tradition, youth and the environment and Mr Bryans wished to attend Parish events with such a focus for inclusion in the book. The Comité suggested that the book might be promoted in the Parish magazines and on websites and invited Mr Bryans to contact Connétables in person regarding forthcoming events.

The Comité also heard from the Chief Officer about the proposed celebrations and that an announcement was expected shortly about proposals for an extended bank holiday weekend from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022. There would also be a Platinum Jubilee medal for members of the emergency services who met the specified criteria. The local celebrations would be announced in due course but had been planned around events being held in London. It was proposed that H.E. Lieutenant Governor, the Bailiff and the Deputy Bailiff would each visit four Parishes to attend a Parish hosted event. Each Parish was asked to consider events which were accessible for residents but could be rescheduled should the

need arise, e.g. due to coronavirus, and Parishes were welcome to make other suggestions. Other initiatives included the Queen's Canopy and it was expected that the Government of Jersey would shortly be issuing its own tree strategy. Whilst there was no budget to share with the parishes for the Jubilee celebrations, there might be some funding from the Liberation budget.

JE Parish Earth Partnership

7. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 13 of 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021, discussed the Parishes participation in the Jersey Electricity plc (JE) Parish Earth Partnership. The Comité heard from Connétables that, since JE's original proposal, the Parishes had also been asked to support the Queen's Canopy initiative which would mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. A number of the micro forest proposals were therefore evolving to include opportunities for public sponsorship and, where sites had been identified, some might now be developed for this wider purpose with private donations rather than solely under the sponsorship of the Parish Earth Partnership.

The Comité agreed the Chairman should write to the Chief Executive, JE, to acknowledge the company's support in developing micro forests and planting schemes which had been a springboard for the broader initiative in some Parishes and, given the significant time and effort already invested by JE staff, to invite the company's continued support and sponsorship for these carbon neutral projects.

Covid restrictions and impact - update

8. The Comité, having regard to the compulsory wearing of masks in public places and the advisory work from home issued by the Government of Jersey in late 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic, heard from Connétables of the measures put in place at Parish Halls so that services could continue to be delivered.

Covid – sheltered housing and rent increases

9. The Comité discussed the Covid-19 (Residential Tenancy) (Temporary Amendment of Law) (Jersey) Regulations 2020 which had suspended rent increases before 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 (Article 7C(1) had prohibited a landlord from increasing the rent due under any residential tenancy agreement, or making a variation of a residential tenancy agreement subject to an increase in the rent, for a period before 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020). The legislation was repealed on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (under the Covid-19 (Amendments – Extension, Suspension and Repeal) (Jersey) Regulations 2020) and the Comité heard from Connétables about the changes made to rents for sheltered housing over the last two years.

Rent safe proposition P.121/2021

10. The Comité discussed the "Rent Safe Scheme" proposition (P.121/2021) of Senator K Moore which, if approved, would request the Minister for the Environment to bring forward such legislative amendments as were necessary to make it legally mandatory that all landlords registered with the current Rent Safe scheme; and to develop a process for the regular renewal of Rent Safe registration based on a risk rating approach to determine the frequency and order of inspections of rental dwellings. The intention of the proposition was to ensure that landlords must register with the Rent Safe scheme, to promote the application of minimum accommodation standards, and to improve visibility for tenants of the standard of property they were renting.

The Comité discussed the implications for Parishes which had sheltered housing, noting that the proposition was about best practice and that Connétables already sought to comply with the minimum rental standards. The Comité also heard from a Connétable contacted by a parishioner who had expressed concern that Rent Safe inspections had gone beyond assessing compliance and had required work that was not necessary and that the proposition was therefore a licensing scheme and inspection regime by the backdoor.

Safety for  
States  
members: PPC  
correspondence

11. The Comité noted that the Privileges and Procedures Committee had reminded Members that they should be alert with regards to their own safety when meeting individually with constituents. Following discussion with the Chief of Police and Community Policing Team, a presentation would be organised for all States Members on this very important topic. In addition, the Police had provided an advice document which was issued to United Kingdom Members of Parliament on how to run a safe surgery. The Committee intended to use this document to inform a Jersey specific guide which Members could use.

Civil parking  
penalties –  
introduction

12. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021, noted the Minister for Infrastructure had made the Road Traffic (Parking) (General Provisions and Penalties) (Repeal) (Jersey) Order 2021 thus postponing the introduction of the change from criminal to civil parking penalties which had been due to come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 under the Road Traffic (Parking) (General Provisions and Penalties) (Jersey) Order 2021.

Honorary  
Police (Jersey)  
Law 1974 and  
Criminal  
Procedure  
(Centeniers)  
(Jersey) Law  
1996 – use of  
'sectors'

13. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 17 of 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021, received the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Comité des Chefs de Police (CCP) to discuss that Comité's decision, due to the situation with the Omicron variant, to extend the agreements for joint working across all Parishes until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The agreements were -

- a. The Connétable or Centenier of a Parish could request and accede to a request to provide policing assistance to any other Parish, in accordance with Article 5A of the Honorary Police (Jersey) Law 1974, to meet a policing need; and
- b. Any Centenier could charge an offender for any other Parish under the Criminal Procedure (Centeniers) (Jersey) Law 1996.

The Comité was informed of the reasoning for these decisions namely that the Omicron variant of coronavirus was highly transmissible and, potentially, could affect a significant number of Officers of all ranks. Those with even mild symptoms would have to self-isolate, if fully vaccinated, for seven days and this could have an impact on Centeniers charging and on general operational policing. It was not intended to operate within the sectors, as previously established, but across the island and only as a backstop to ensure that assistance was lawfully in place and available at short notice if Parishes did encounter high infection issues. At the present time it was intended to continue to conduct Parish Hall Enquiries in a safe environment with relevant PPE (personal protection equipment).

Next meeting

14. The Comité noted the next meeting would be on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

Chairman ..... Date .....

