

# Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022**  
at the Parish Hall, St Mary.

## **Present:**

Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson, Chairman  
Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Vice Chairman  
Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft  
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur  
Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert  
Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone  
Connétable de St Jean - A. N. Jehan (not present for items 20-23)  
Connétable de St Clément - M. O'D. Troy  
Connétable de Grouville - M. A. Labey  
Connétable de St Ouën - R. A. K. Honeycombe  
Connétable de Ste Marie - R. D. Johnson

An apology for absence was received from the Connétable de St Sauveur - K. C. Lewis.

In attendance:

Mrs S. R. de Gruchy, Secretary

## **Non-exempt (public) under Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011**

Appointment of  
Chairman and  
Vice Chairman

1. The Comité received, for information, the rules of the Comité des Connétables which had been approved at the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011 and, in accordance with rules, appointed a Chairman and Vice Chairman.

The Connétable of St Brélade presented to the Comité orally his reasons for declaring as a candidate for Chairman and was proposed by the Connétable of St Lawrence. There being no other nominations the Connétable of St Brélade was appointed as Chairman and thanks were recorded to the Connétable of St Lawrence for her work as Chairman from 2018-2022.

The Connétable of St Lawrence presented to the Comité orally her reasons for declaring as a candidate for Vice Chairman having been proposed by the Connétable of St Helier. There being no other nominations the Connétable of St Lawrence was appointed as Vice Chairman.

The Comité authorised the bank mandates to be amended accordingly (two signatures were required for all transactions; the signatories were the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretaries of the Comité).

Minutes

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed following one minor amendment.

Refuse  
collection  
services and  
recycling

3. Arising from minute no. 11 of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022, the Comité heard from several Connétables of their concerns that refuse collection contractors were seeking to vary contractual terms with their Parish due to increased costs in relation to fuel, staffing and maintenance; the increases sought were significantly above the recent cost of living increase.

Comité  
representatives  
on other groups

4. The Comité appointed or confirmed representatives of the Comité des Connétables to the following positions:

Bailiff's Consultative Panel: the Chairman of the Comité was an ex officio member of the Panel.

Emergencies Council: in accordance with Article 1(1)(c) of the Emergency Powers and Planning (Jersey) Law 1990 the Connétable of St Lawrence was nominated to serve on the Council (the other members specified in law were the Chief Minister, the Minister for Home Affairs, the Minister for Economic Development, the Minister for Transport and Technical Services and the Minister for Health and Social Services).

Firearms Liaison Group (FLG): the Connétable of St Ouen was nominated as the representative on the Group (the FLG was a standing consultative group chaired by the Minister for Home Affairs).

Justice System Board: further information was requested in relation to the role and duties of the Board.

Early Learning Childcare Partnership: the Chairman would act as a representative.

Honorary Police (HP) group insurance: the Connétables of St Peter and St Mary were nominated to the Panel which oversaw and reviewed the HP group insurance policies with one representative each of the Comité des Chefs de Police (CCP) and of the Honorary Police Association (HPA).

Stray dogs: the appointment of a panel was deferred.

IT strategy: the Connétables of St Brelade, St Peter, St John and St Helier were reappointed to the sub-committee (the Connétable of St Helier advising that he delegated to the Senior Director, POSH).

Designated roads: priority for pedestrians, cyclists and horse rides (P.79/2020) – the former sub-committee was not reconstituted and the Comité agreed it should meet with the Minister for Infrastructure to hear more of the Government's transport policy.

Jersey Access Service Providers (JASP): the Connétable of St Helier asked that the Comité consider a representative on this group; further details would be sought to understand the relationship between this group and the Countryside Access Steering Group.

The Comité noted that the Chairman and Vice Chairman also met on a regular basis with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Comité des Chefs de Police (CCP) and the President and Vice Presidents of the Honorary Police Association (HPA).

Comité  
meetings –  
frequency and  
public  
attendance

5. The Comité discussed the frequency of meetings which were usually held monthly, except in August, on a Monday. The Comité decided to continue with this frequency but in addition to hold a meeting during a lunch recess in a week when the States Assembly was sitting to which guests wishing to address the Connétables might be invited. The Comité also recommended that the Secretary should meet with the Parish secretaries following, rather than prior to, the Comité's meetings to appraise them of decisions.

The Comité then discussed whether its meetings should be open to the public for items that would be non-exempt under the Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011 (FOI). The Comité recalled that, at its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021, it was supportive of greater transparency and openness, wherever possible, but was also mindful that the issues it considered were quite different to those discussed by a Roads Committee (the Connétable of St Helier having reported that the Parish of St Helier Roads Committee meetings had been open to the public for some years). The Comité minutes were published, following approval, unless exempt under the Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011, but publication of the agenda in separate parts (open and closed) would require additional resources. The Comité was also reminded that parliamentary privilege only applied within

the States Assembly so Connétables would need to be circumspect during discussion of items.

Following discussion, the Comité unanimously agreed that when items which would not be exempt under the FOI Law were considered it meetings should be open for any person to attend and that such meetings should be advertised, for example through its website or by the issue of a press release.

Recently retired  
Connétables

6. The Comité agreed arrangements to mark the retirement of the former Connétables of Grouville, St Ouen, and St Mary and requested the Secretary to ascertain suitable dates for an event.

Organised  
motorbike rides

7. The Comité was informed that the Parish of St Brelade had received a complaint about the actions of a motorbike rider at the Red Houses traffic junction, St Brelade, who had stopped traffic to allow other motorbikes to “go through the red light”. The Comité recalled that written permission of the Connétable of the Parish was required under Article 3(1)(b) of the Policing of Roads (Jersey) Regulations 1959 to organize or conduct any parade or procession and the policy of Connétables had been not to give permission for any cavalcade to travel as one without stopping (this included for the Big Ride Out held annually in May). The primary concern had to be for the general safety of all road users and ensuring the flow of traffic was not impeded. The advice to organisers was that they must ensure that riders taking part were reminded that all road laws must be obeyed including speed limits, road signs and traffic lights; that using motorbikes at junctions to stop oncoming traffic so that the cavalcade could ride through was an offence and that riders must have general consideration for other road users. The Comité, having been informed that regular motorbike rides were organised by a local company, agreed that the company and members of the public should be reminded that those taking part in motorbike rides must comply with all traffic requirements and that this information should be publicised through the media.

Article 5A of  
the Honorary  
Police (Jersey)  
Law 1974 –  
extension

8. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 13 of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022, noted that the Comité des Chefs de Police had extended until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 the agreement under Article 5A of the Honorary (Police Jersey) Law 1974 for joint working across all Parishes to meet a policing need as it understood that legislation enacted by the States to provide for the COVID-19 pandemic remained on the statute book.

Comité des  
Chefs de Police  
– accounts and  
budget

9. The Comité received the unaudited accounts for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and the proposed budget for 2022/2023 showing expenditure of £2,400. The Comité approved the proposed budget and agreed that this would be funded equally by parishes (£200 per Parish).

However, the Comité recalled its rules on voting required that where the matter would commit either the Comité or any of the members to any expenditure, the matter should be done and decided by 12 votes in favour on the first occasion and, as 12 members were not present, it agreed the matter should be considered again at the next meeting.

Office accounts  
and budget

*This is also  
recorded in the  
minutes of the  
Supervisory  
Committee*

10. The Comité received the unaudited accounts for the Comité des Connétables/ Supervisory Committee for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and noted that the audited accounts would be available at the next meeting. The Comité also considered the proposed office budget for 2022/2023 covering staff and office costs. Following questions about staffing and advertising costs, the Comité approved the budget and that each Parish would contribute £10,500 towards the estimated expenditure of £126,765.

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Dogs (Jersey)  
Law 1961 –  
stray dog  
collection and  
housing service  
extension of  
contract

11. The Comité received a paper regarding dogs and the Dogs (Jersey) Law 1961. The paper provided an overview of the Law which required a dog owner to purchase an annual licence for each dog and also provided for the seizure and detention of stray dogs. There were also provisions relating to dogs in other legislation, for example the Policing of Roads (Jersey) Regulations 1959, the Policing of Beaches (Jersey) Regulations 1959, the Policing of Parks (Jersey) Regulations 2005 and the Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 2004.

The Comité noted that responsibility for stray dogs rested with the Connétables. Following a successful tender in 2014, and again in 2019, the Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (JSPCA) had been responsible for the collection and housing services for stray dogs. The current Agreement (contract) was for the period 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and, subject to performance and annual increments, it might be extended at the Parishes discretion on an annual basis for up to a maximum of 2 years (to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024). The Comité agreed it would wish to extend the Agreement noting that the retainer for year 4 would be £7,250 p.a. rising to £7,500 p.a. for year 5; that the collection cost would be £36 per journey leg in year 4 and £37 per journey leg in year 5, and that the housing cost would be £21 per 24 hours or part thereof in years 4 and 5. The quarterly retainer for collection was paid by the Parishes with the journey and housing costs met by the dog owner.

Countryside  
Access project

12. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 14 of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022, received the Head of Land Resource Management and the Senior Natural Environment Officer - Access, Natural Environment, Government of Jersey who provided an update on the Countryside Access Project. The officers explained that during the COVID-19 pandemic, more people had accessed the countryside, which had benefited well-being, and there had also been an increase in volunteering. The project was intended to draw on these two positives and the aim was to create an Island wide network of linked routes which made use of existing paths, roads, green lanes, farm tracks and field margins and other areas in private ownership as set out in the aims of the Countryside Access Strategy for Jersey 2016.

Funding of £750,000 would be available over 2 years but would end in December 2023 and applications were welcome both for the creation of new access paths and for bringing former paths, e.g. historic *chemins*, back into use. There was no funding available for ongoing maintenance so the Jersey Access Service Providers (JASP) to join up routes and the Connétable of St Helier was on this group. The criteria had been considered and the target was to get people, including those with restricted mobility, into the countryside and for linked access with a community aspect so volunteers could be included. A map was provided which showed the current routes but also the gaps which it was hoped could be joined up. Ecological impact was also an important consideration as was the need for the landowner's permission where the path crossed private land. Projects which had volunteer engagement, provided for long-term maintenance obligations and presented a real, and relatively low-cost opportunity, to positively impact on Islander's lives and the countryside would be assessed against the cost and prioritised.

The Comité commented that there should not be an over reliance on volunteers as it was more difficult to find people willing to commit. The officers said the Government had introduced a corporate responsibility policy whereby public sector employees could take 20 hours a year for volunteering. The Steering Group role was to decide on the criteria and score individual schemes by cost and potential use; there would be a cut-off date (for the Connétables to advise). The relationship between the Steering Group and JASP was queried but the officers explained the Steering Group was for this project only. The Connétables of St Helier and St Martin volunteered to be on the Steering Group.

Following discussion, the officers were thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

- 2022 elections - reviews 13. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 12 of 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022, noted that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association BIMR election observers' mission had published their interim report on the 2022 elections and that the Electoral Administrators were also preparing a report with their review and recommendations on the 2022 elections.
- Japanese knotweed 14. The Comité considered correspondence with the Invasive Species Coordinator, Government of Jersey, regarding Japanese Knotweed which asked that owners of land where there were such plants might be granted some "dispensation" during the Visites du Branchage to avoid the further spread of this invasive non-native species. The Comité noted that Connétables were dealing individually with the Coordinator with regard to areas within their Parish.
- Jersey Parish in Bloom 2022 & Scenic Lanes 2022 15. The Comité noted arrangements for the Jersey Parish in Bloom event (the programme was for 18<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022) and for the Scenic Lanes competition 2022 (entries to be submitted by 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022).
- JURAF meetings 16. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 14 of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022, noted the next meeting of JURAF (Jersey Utility and Road Authority Forum) would be on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022. All Parishes were encouraged to have a representative at these meetings which were to improve communications between highway authorities and the utility companies.
- Covid-19 Review Panel - Briefing 17. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 4 of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022, noted the invitation to attend the Covid-19 Review Panel Briefing on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022.
- Climate Liaison Group 18. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022, was reminded that the next meeting of the Climate Liaison Group would be on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022.
- Report 2018-2022 and issues to consider 19. The Comité received a report summarising its work during 2018-2022 and identifying issues to be addressed at forthcoming meetings.
- Deputy K Moore - Chief Minister Vision Statement 20. The Comité discussed the Vision Statement which had been circulated to all members by Deputy K Moore when seeking election as Chief Minister. The Vision Statement explained that to strengthen the relationship between the government, States and the Parishes, as Chief Minister she would ask the Chair of the Comité to be an ex-officio member of the Council of Ministers (COM) and COM would also meet once a month in one of the 12 parishes and undertake public meetings with voters. If elected as Chief Minister, in the first 100 days Deputy Moore proposed to open constituency offices. The Comité noted that all Parishes had a schedule of charges which were imposed for room hire and it decided to invite the Connétable of St John, recently appointed as Assistant Chief Minister, to outline how it was envisaged that such meetings would be arranged.
- Next meeting 21. The Connétable of St Mary was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

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

