

# Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022**  
at the Parish Hall, St Brelade.

## **Present:**

Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson, Chairman  
Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Vice Chairman  
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur (present for items 1-11, 14-15)  
Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert  
Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone  
Connétable de St Jean - A. N. Jehan  
Connétable de Grouville - M. Labey (present for items 1-11, 14-16)  
Connétable de St Ouën - R. Honeycombe  
Connétable de Ste Marie - R. D. Johnson  
Connétable de St Sauveur - K. C. Lewis

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft 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 meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Honorary  
Police -  
Platinum  
Jubilee Medals

2. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 7 of 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022, was informed by the Chairman that he had discussed with the Bailiff's Chief Officer and the Chief of Staff to H.E. Lieutenant Governor the arrangements they had made for the presentation of the Platinum Jubilee Medals to members of the Honorary Police which they said followed the format on previous occasions. The arrangements were for a presentation on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2022 by the Bailiff (who had been Acting Lieutenant Governor at the time of Her late Majesty's demise) at the Town Church (the venue being able to accommodate recipients and guests). The Comité recalled that on the occasions of the Golden and Diamond Jubilees the presentation of medals to members of the Honorary Police had been made by H.E. Lieutenant Governor at St Saviour's Parish Hall. Whilst it had not been consulted about the proposed arrangements for the Platinum Jubilee medals presentation, given the limited time before the event, the Comité agreed the Chairman should seek a practical solution including an option for any for whom the proposed arrangements might not be appropriate.

Prison  
Governor –  
working  
together to  
support ex-  
offenders

3. The Comité, with partial reference to its minute no. 6 of 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022, received the Prison Governor and the Head of Reducing Re-Offending, H.M. Prison La Moye, to discuss how the Prison and Parishes might work together to support ex-offenders to reintegrate into the community upon release.

The Prison Governor explained they were seeking a more seamless transition for offenders who were moving back into the community by tapping into other areas of Government to ensure offenders were supported on their release. The Parish links were also crucial to ensure settlement was successful and that the Parishes had all reasonable information to reduce the risk of harm and to build a safer society. The seven pathways that Prison staff were addressing covered accommodation; children and families; drugs

and alcohol dependency; employment, training and education; attitudes, thinking and behaviour; finance, benefits and debt; and health (mental and physical). These steps commenced at sentencing rather than when a prisoner was due to be released. Contact was made with a Parish when a prisoner was deemed suitable for conditional early release so that any concerns could be addressed prior to granting such a licence. A Ministerial Decision had approved the preparation of draft legislation for post custodial supervision to replace the current dated system which relied on voluntary arrangements.

The Comité discussed the areas in which Parishes had provided assistance and support to ex-offenders but Connétables reported they had not received contact from the Prison about forthcoming releases and agreed the process should be reviewed to ensure such information was provided. In reply to questions, the Prison Governor said that, in addition to other funds which might be accessed, a new charity was being established which would be able to assist with specific funding if required by an ex-offender and training was also delivered to prisoners taking into account the workplace skills required in Jersey. The Prison Governor emphasised the opportunity Jersey had, above and beyond many jurisdictions, to establish a structure to support prisoners and ex-offenders. The Comité welcomed the opportunity to improve communications and, following discussion, thanked the officers for attending and they then withdrew from the meeting.

Cultural  
Diversity  
Centre Steering  
Group

4. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 5 of 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022, received a report from the Connétable of St Martin and the Connétable of St Peter, in his capacity as Assistant Minister for Children and Education, on the recent meeting of the Cultural Diversity Centre Steering Group. The Group supported events being organised by the diverse communities in Jersey, including cultural and faith groups, and it was understood funding was to be provided for such events. There would be further dialogue with the Parishes to understand what assistance might be offered subject to resources being available.

P.30 permits

5. The Comité received a paper setting out the process for the issue of P.30 permits by Parishes. Article 77 of the Road Traffic (Jersey) Law 1956 required all motor vehicles and trailers used on the road to comply with Orders made under the law, which included the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Jersey) Order 1998 and the Road Traffic (Lighting) (Jersey) Order 1998. Article 78 of the Law allowed the Inspector of Motor Traffic to vary the requirements of either of the 1998 Orders and to grant a licence to a motor vehicle and trailer if he considered it desirable in the public interest so to do. Such licences were known as P.30 permits and were granted subject to the conditions specified on the licence. With few exceptions (i.e. Fire Service), one such condition was:

*“Prior permission must be obtained from the relevant Constable before using any minor roads. A copy of any letter of authority to use a Parish by-road is to be carried by the driver in the vehicle”.*

Failure to obtain the permission of the Connétable, or to carry the letter of authority when using a by-road, could result in the permit being suspended or revoked. It was an offence to use an oversize vehicle on roads without permission and the fine for such an offence was level 3 of the standard scale for a goods vehicle (Article 77(3) of the Road Traffic Law). A Parish might also impose conditions when issuing a letter of permission e.g. relating to repair of damage caused to property.

The Comité discussed the administrative cost of issuing such permits and noted that permission could be declined or restricted to specific dates, if deemed appropriate, but the cost thereof was met by the Parish. The fee for a P.30 permit was received by the Inspector for Motor Traffic (currently £105.50). Concern was expressed about the damage caused to Parish by-roads by vehicles granted a P.30 permit, the policing of the use of such vehicles and about the increase in the number of such permits granted, particularly in relation to over-size campervans. Following discussion, the Comité agreed to invite the Minister for Infrastructure to discuss the issues at a future meeting.

Island Identity  
report

6. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 7 of 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022, received Deputy C Labey, Minister for International Development, and her Private Secretary who presented each Connétable with a copy of the ‘Consultation Summary of the Policy Development Board’s findings “What does ‘Jersey’ mean to you?”’. The Comité was reminded that the Island Identity programme of work began in 2019, with an aim to develop an action plan that would promote Jersey’s identity and international personality; lead to a stronger, more inclusive Island Identity; build on Jersey’s heritage and culture; provide common focal points for Jersey’s growing and increasingly diverse population and help the Island project its unique culture and varied talents as part of a positive international personality.

Deputy Labey had continued to meet with Ministers, organisations and individuals to understand their related priorities and to secure agreement that certain recommendations should be taken forward within their programmes of work. Deputy Labey wished to understand whether there were any ideas that Comité might like to progress that increased the visibility and inclusivity of Parish life or progressed the sentiment of the Island Identity project. Several Connétables gave examples of the information provided to welcome those moving into their Parish and of the work undertaken with Parish schools and youth clubs to increase knowledge and participation for young people. Deputy Labey thanked the Comité for its feedback and recognised that this was a ‘slow burn’ project.

## Cycle-lanes

7. The Comité received Deputy C Labey, Minister for International Development, and her Private Secretary. Deputy Labey reminded that she had initially met with the Comité on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to discuss the development of a cycle infrastructure and cycle route network; she enquired as to the progress as the subject was pertinent to the work of other groups such as those interested in carbon neutrality and the access strategy.

The Comité heard from Connétables of the work that had been undertaken but also recognised that subsequent related developments, for example the proposition of Deputy Ward (P.79/2022), had had an impact. The implementation of cycle routes included the challenge of retro fitting such routes on narrow roads, the limited resources within the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to effect legal changes, new road signage and markings, the on-going speed limit reviews within Parishes, and the lack of funding. The DfI requirement for a 3-metre width to install a dedicated cycle track was impractical on many of the island’s narrow roads.

Community  
support groups

8. The Comité received Deputy C Labey, Minister for International Development, and her Private Secretary. Deputy Labey informed the Comité that in a personal capacity she had worked to set up the Grouville Community Support Group using resources provided by the St Clement Community Support Group and she offered her personal assistance should any other Parish require help in setting up such a group.

Community  
work projects

9. The Comité received Deputy C Labey, Minister for International Development, and her Private Secretary, who delivered a copy of the programme of overseas volunteering opportunities in 2023 being offered by Jersey Overseas Aid. The Minister and her Private Secretary were thanked for attending the meeting and then withdrew.

## Roadside weeds

10. The Comité, with partial reference to its minute nos. 3 and 11 of 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022, discussed the action taken by Parishes to address the issue of roadside weeds and their removal and whether this was the responsibility of the Parish. The Comité recalled that the issue had been raised with the Minister for Infrastructure (minute no. 3 of 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 refers) and subsequently the Head of Transport, Highways and Infrastructure had advised of the challenges in 2022 of removing weeds between the edge of the road/footpath and roadside walls due to the good weather conditions and limited staffing. Maintenance was undertaken by strimming and the use of weedkiller, as

appropriate. The Comité was also reminded of the issue of debris on roads which had fallen from adjoining walls and hedges (minute no. 11 of 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 refers) and agreed to seek clarity of any deliberations of the Visites Royale which were pertinent to this issue.

Government of  
Jersey –  
External  
Relations  
London Office

11. The Comité noted information about the work of the Government of Jersey External Relations London Office and its key objectives on twinings between Jersey and Europe. Officers of the Government of Jersey External Relations London Office were seeking further information about the Parish twinning associations/groups and details were currently being compiled. The difficulties previously raised, namely the limited ferry service between Jersey and France and that French citizens could no longer travel on an identity card but required a passport were mentioned (minute no. 14 of 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 refers).

Arising from this the Comité recalled the discussion of the report to the States “Common Policy for External Relations” (R.160/2022) and noted that Connétables might wish to give some consideration to events to mark Liberation Day 78 – 2023 and the forthcoming coronation of His Majesty King Charles III on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

States  
Assembly  
WQ.284/2022 –  
Connétables  
expenses

12. The Comité noted the response issued to the States Written Question WQ.284/2022 regarding arrangements that allowed Connétables to claim allowances/expenses/special payments in addition to the States Assembly salary; how such amounts were set and agreed and how many Connétables were currently in receipt of such payments. Whilst some Parishes approved a direct payment to the Connétable, as part of the budgetary process agreed at a Parish Assembly, it was noted that other Parishes chose instead to reimburse expenses incurred by a Connétable on submission of a claim.

Next meeting

13. The Chairman extended the compliments of the season to all and was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

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

