

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 9th January 2023
at the Parish Hall, St Saviour and virtually.

Present:

Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson, Chairman
Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft
Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert
Connétable de St Jean - A. N. Jehan
Connétable de St Clément - M. O'D. Troy
Connétable de Grouville - M. Labey (attended virtually)
Connétable de St Ouën - R. Honeycombe
Connétable de Ste Marie - R. D. Johnson (not present for items 1-2)
Connétable de St Sauveur - K. C. Lewis

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Vice Chairman; the Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur and 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 meeting held on 5th December 2022, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Explosives
(Jersey) Law
1970 – dates
retail sale of
fireworks 2023

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 that the retail sales of fireworks be limited from 27th October to 5th November 2023 inclusive.

The Comité recalled that when considering the retail sale dates for 2022, it had also considered the categories of fireworks which should be permitted for retail sale and, in relation to the availability of silent or quiet fireworks, considered there was merit in seeking independent advice (minute no. 8 of 14th February 2022 refers). The Comité was informed that the Area Commander, Jersey Fire and Rescue, had been asked about independent advice, and had referred to the Minister's response to the petition on the States Assembly website 'Make fireworks with a 'bang' illegal in Jersey to prevent the stress of animals'. The response from the Minister for Home Affairs explained "There is no standardised labelling or categorisation to distinguish between loud, quieter and silent fireworks" and "... 'quiet', 'low noise' and 'silent' are not recognised terms in the relevant legislation in the UK or Jersey ...".

Following discussion and having noted that the proposed retail sale dates followed the practice of covering two weekends whilst limiting the sales to 10 days, the Comité confirmed that permits for the retail sale of fireworks in 2023 should include a condition restricting sales to the period Friday 27th October to Sunday 5th November 2023 inclusive.

The Managing Director had also mentioned that 2023 was looking more positive for public displays and several Connétables commented that, whilst the organisers of such displays advertised these using social media, they should be notified directly of such events as complaints were often directed to the Parish. The Chairman confirmed he would

write to the Managing Director to request that Parishes be notified directly of proposed public displays in addition to the general advertising that was undertaken.

Governance of
the Parishes of
Jersey

3. The Comité considered correspondence proposing a full review of governance in relation to Island Parish affairs and administration. The correspondent suggested that whilst, historically, it might have suited the limited population, in their opinion there was a lack of transparency and inadequate factors included the notice and quorum for Parish Assemblies, the governance of meetings such as the Roads Committee, Rate Assessment Committee and accounts committee and outdated financial governance for Parish accounts. The correspondence had also been sent to the Bailiff, H. M. Attorney General, the Chief Minister and the Chief Executive, Government of Jersey.

The Comité heard that Connétables disagreed with the comments about the governance of meetings and were concerned at the suggestion that challenges to the reappointment of long-standing officers was unwelcome. Contested elections for positions were welcomed and the vote would be by secret ballot. As the Parishes were already seeking to modernise there was concern about the cost of undertaking a 'full review'. Various issues, for example raising awareness of Parish meetings (minute no. 11 of 14th November 2022 refers), were raised and reviewed on an on-going basis. The Connétable of St Helier spoke of the St Helier Roads Committee meetings which were held in public, for items not exempt under Freedom of Information legislation. The Comité agreed that it should provide a response on behalf of all Connétables and requested the Chairman to circulate a reply.

Comité des
Connétables –
timing of
meetings

4. The Comité considered correspondence regarding the timing of the Comité's meetings and whether this should change "in order to increase the opportunity for enhanced engagement from parishioners". The correspondent suggested meetings might be held in the evening when members of the public, particularly those who worked during the traditional working day, could attend. The Comité did not consider an evening meeting would be practical given the length of meetings required to conduct its business. However, it continued to review the arrangements for its meetings and agreed it should explore the options, including for streaming meetings online, as such technology was now more easily accessible. The minutes of the Comité's meetings were published, following approval, (provided the item was not exempt under the Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011). The Chairman was requested to reply accordingly.

Twinning
Games 2023

5. The Comité, with partial reference to its minute no. 14 of 5th September 2022, noted the proposed twinings' gathering (Twinning Games) which would take place in Granville on 24th June 2023. Ferry crossings with Manche Iles Express were suitable for a day-trip from Jersey and the proposed programme included some games which would be accessible to all. Granville would have a programme of events that day as the town would celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Marité fishing boat and the 30th Anniversary of the Jersey Normandy Association would also be celebrated. The Comité asked Connétables to confirm as soon as possible with the organisers about their Parish's participation in these 14th Twinning Games so that plans could be made.

Jersey Royal
competition and
Occupation
VIPs

6. The Comité agreed that Occupation VIPs should again be invited to take part in the Jersey Royal potato growing competition organised by Genuine Jersey. An event for Occupation VIPs was held for the first time in 2022 following a proposal from the Parish Connétables as part of the Liberation events and was well received. An 'Occupation VIP' was a person who was either resident in Jersey during the Occupation, evacuated, deported or who served in the forces at that time and applied to anyone born on or before 9th May 1945 who met one of these criteria. The Comité agreed publicity should be given to the

event and those wishing to take part should be asked to register with their Parish by 27th January 2023.

Community
compass –
breakfast
meeting

7. The Comité noted that a stakeholder event would be held on 18th January 2023 to further develop the ‘Community Compass’ project. Through the Social Recovery Fund for the Arts and Physical Activity for Wellbeing initiative, the Government of Jersey (GoJ) had established a programme of community grants - the Connect Me: Connecting Our Communities programme. To link people to that community support, and to maximise the benefit from the grants programme and other initiatives, GoJ was proposing to co-design a new community connection programme for Jersey – the Community Compass. The outline aims of the programme were to map the assets on the island in an updated Jersey Online Directory; to develop a network of community connectors and social prescribers, to ensure individuals could identify and access the support that mattered to them and to build the culture of community-first approaches to health and wellbeing.

Arising from this the Comité discussed the Parish community support groups and emergency teams. The issues raised included how these might be better co-ordinated, ensuring that appropriate operating standards were followed, including in relation to safeguarding, and how Parishes might learn from each other.

Honorary
Police Platinum
Jubilee medals
– presentation

8. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 2 of 5th December 2022, recalled that the presentation of the Platinum Jubilee Medals to members of the Honorary Police planned for 17th December 2022 had been postponed due to the tragic events experienced in the island in the preceding week. The Comité noted that information on the revised arrangements were awaited from the Bailiff’s Chambers but suggested an alternative venue might be Hautlieu School.

Coronation and
Liberation 2023

9. The Comité, with partial reference to its minute no. 11 of 5th December 2022, discussed events which Parishes might be planning to mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III in May 2023 and Liberation Day 78 – 2023. Subject to approval by the States Assembly, Monday 8th May 2023 would be a bank holiday to mark the Coronation followed by Liberation Day on 9th May 2023.

States Oral
Question
OQ.131/2022
Green Lanes
and Quiet
Lanes

10. The Comité noted the response given to the States Assembly by the Chairman in reply to the oral question (OQ.131/2022) from Deputy R Ward on 12th December 2022 about the progress in implementing Green Lanes and Quiet Lanes: Priority to Pedestrians, Cyclists and Horse Riders (P.79/2020). The Chairman had replied that the Comité was keen to progress this but in a practical manner that was policeable. Deputy R.S. Kovacs had asked a similar question of the Minister for Infrastructure regarding the adoption of P.79/2020 (OQ.127/2022).

P.79/2020

The Comité discussed the proposition and recalled that subsequent developments clearly impacted upon the States decision on P.79/2020. These included the adoption of the proposition of the Connétable of St. Martin “Improvements to Road Safety” P.5/2021 as amended (referenced in the reply to written question WQ.356/2021 in September 2021) and amendments to the Highway Code from 29th January 2022 which introduced a new hierarchy of road users to make sure those who could do the greatest harm had the greatest responsibility to reduce the danger or threat they might pose to others.

The Comité also heard from Connétables about plans in various Parishes to identify more roads as Green Lanes (these being roads restricted to a maximum speed limit of 15 m.p.h.) and to seek funding for the creation of paths under the Countryside Access Strategy (minute no. 4 of 5th September 2022 refers). The Comité decided, in relation to P.79/2020, that the Connétables of St Peter, St Helier, St John and Grouville should discuss the issue further and bring forward proposals to a future meeting.

The Comité noted that correspondence had also been received on this matter and requested the Chairman to reply accordingly.

Licensing
(Jersey) Law
1974 – Lic.
Assembly
sitting

11. The Comité noted that the Connétables had presented their annual reports to the sitting of the Licensing Assembly in December 2022. It was noted that, in relation to a licence granted to premises comprising a complex, the Licensing (Jersey) Law 1974 required the name of the licence holder to be displayed at the entrance to the complex.

Rotary Club –
gift sale

12. The Comité considered a request from the Rotary Club for Parish Halls to be used as a drop off point for unwanted Christmas gifts to be sold at an event on 5th February 2023 to raise funds for the Christmas Appeal and for Beresford Kitchen. The Connétables agreed to receive such gifts, for collection by Rotarians, and requested that details be circulated to all Parishes.

Next meeting

13. The Connétable of St Saviour was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 20th February 2023.

Chairman Date

