

# Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023**  
at the Public Hall, St Martin.

**Present:**

Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson, Chairman  
Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Vice Chairman (not present for item 15)  
Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft (not present for items 18-20)  
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur (present for items 14-17)  
Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert  
Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone  
Connétable de St Jean - A. N. Jehan  
Connétable de St Clément - M. O'D. Troy  
Connétable de Grouville - M. Labey  
Connétable de St Ouën - R. Honeycombe

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de Ste Marie - R. D. Johnson and 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**

Minutes

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Jersey Royal potato growing competition for Connétables and Occupation VIPs

2. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023, noted arrangements for the weigh-in of the Connétables' entries to the Jersey Royal potato growing competition on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at St Lawrence Parish Hall. The Comité also noted the arrangements for the weigh-in of entries from Occupation VIPs and was informed by the Vice Chairman of the offer of an Island tour in a vintage/classic car for the overall VIP winners in each of the heaviest crop and in the most tubers categories. It was agreed the respective Parish Connétable would join the tour and host an afternoon tea for the winners and guest should the VIP be a resident of their Parish.

Coronation and Liberation 2023

3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023, noted plans were progressing with arrangements to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and the 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Liberation Day on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Improving Residential Tenancies in Jersey - residential tenancy proposals

4. The Comité, with partial reference to its minute no. 26 of 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023, noted that the Minister for Housing and Communities had published a paper "Improving Residential Tenancies in Jersey - Residential Tenancy Law Reform proposals" which set out his plans to offer tenants and landlords in Jersey more rights and better protections through changes to the Residential Tenancy (Jersey) Law 2011. The eight-week consultation period would end on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and the paper would also be discussed by States Members during an In-Committee debate scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023. A briefing session for States Members had been scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023. The Comité decided that Connétables and Parishes should respond individually to the consultation.

Marriage and Civil Status legislation – amendments

5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 11 of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022, noted that amendments to the Marriage and Civil Status (Jersey) Law 2001 and the Marriage and Civil Status (Amendment) (Jersey) Order 2023 came into force on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The amendments related, in part, to the appointment of Parish Registrars.

Article 41A(1) provided that the relevant registration duties for those Parishes for which the Superintendent Registrar was, immediately before the commencement of this Article, acting in the capacity of Parish Registrar under Article 42(8), should be the duty of the Superintendent Registrar. It was understood the Superintendent Registrar currently acted for all Parishes and Article 4 of the Order inserted a new Article 45A (transfer of duties between Parish and Superintendent Registrar) which prescribed the periods of notice that the Connétable of a Parish must give the Superintendent Registrar if the Connétable wished the registration functions to be transferred from the Superintendent Registrar to the Parish, or from the Parish to the Superintendent Registrar. It also provided that the notice must be given in writing. The table of fees was also amended, some of which related to the Parish Registrar and others to the Parish in relation to an application for the approval of a location for a solemnisation of a marriage.

Gran Fondo cycling event 23 April 2023

6. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 8 of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023, received feedback from Connétables on the organisation and management of the Gran Fondo cycling event held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023. The Parish highway authorities had worked with the organiser to identify and agree a route that was safe and manageable, but the event proceeded without a licence under the Road Works and Events (Jersey) Law 2016 as the organiser had not met conditions imposed by the Infrastructure and Environment Department (I&E). These included that advance road signs would be put in place to give notice of the event and letter drops would be undertaken on roads of concern identified by parishes to inform residents of the event a minimum of 7 days before the event. Consequently, there were concerns about the lack of readiness and in relation to health and safety issues. Whilst disappointed at this outcome, the Comité noted that officers would meet to identify the issues and to ensure that, should a request for a licence be received in future, the organiser met the event licence requirements in a timely manner.

JURAF meeting minutes

7. The Comité noted the minutes of the quarterly Jersey Utility & Road Authority Forum (JURAF) meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 had recently been circulated.

Comité des Chefs de Police – Chairman and Vice Chairman

8. The Comité noted that the rules of the Comité des Chefs de Police provided that it elected annually a Chef de Police to serve as Chairman and as Vice Chairman. Centenier J Camara – Chef de Police de Police, St Peter, had been elected as Chairman and Centenier M Bougeard – Chef de Police, St Brelade, as Vice Chairman for the coming year.

Honorary Police group insurance policies – renewal from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023

9. The Comité considered the recommendations of the Honorary Police Insurance Panel for the renewal of the group Honorary Police insurance policies from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023 covering the Connétables and members of the Honorary Police of all Parishes except St Helier (that Parish had its own cover). The Comité approved the following renewals -

- Public Liability and Torts Policy with the Insurance Corporation of the Channel Islands, noting an endorsement in relation to Parish of St Helier officers who were assisting one of the 11 parishes under Article 5A of the Honorary Police (Jersey) Law 1974, to mirror that under the Parish of St Helier policy.
- Public Liability Excess Layer Policy with Great Lakes Insurance SE via Incepta to increase the Insurance Corporation limit of indemnity from £10m to £15m.
- Legal protection policy with the DAS Group.
- Personal Accident dental top-up policy with the NFU Mutual.

In relation to the personal accident policy, the Comité was informed the current insurer proposed to reduce the temporary total disablement benefit and would not reduce the 7-day deferment period for such benefit. The Comité therefore decided to accept the quote from Aviva for a Group Personal Accident policy which offered substantially similar terms but with a nil deferment period for temporary total disablement benefit; and noted that negotiations were continuing to improve the terms, or to obtain a top-up policy, for benefits which were not the same.

The Comité agreed that the Insurance booklet should be updated accordingly for all Connétables and members of the Honorary Police of the 11 Parishes.

Honorary  
Police and GoJ  
volunteering  
program

10. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 12 of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023, received an overview of the Government of Jersey's (GoJ) new employee volunteering policy. The policy entitled employees to up to 22 hours per year paid volunteering time off, subject to this being pre-planned, and was in addition to the special leave policy for those elected to the Honorary Police. GoJ were seeking to link volunteers to charities and organisations in need of support. The Comité considered it should encourage GoJ employees to undertake voluntary service in the Honorary Police and asked that further details should be circulated.

Honorary  
Police Forum

11. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 13 of 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023, was informed that the Honorary Police Forum (representatives of the Comité, the Comité des Chefs de Police and the Honorary Police Association) had discussed a recruitment campaign as there were a number of vacancies across the Parishes. Members of the Honorary Police would be manning a stand at the forthcoming Jersey Boat Show, for recruitment and public relations purposes, and some Parishes had also printed leaflets for those interested in learning more about serving the Parish. The Comité suggested that greater use of social media should also be considered and agreed that the Forum should progress with this work whilst mindful of the need to avoid unnecessary costs.

Twinning

12. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 2 of 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023, received from the Chairman an outline of the programme for the twinnings' gathering (Twinning Games) to be held in Granville on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

Play Strategy  
Steering Group  
Representation

13. The Comité was informed that a Steering Group was being set up, to be chaired by Deputy L Stephenson, in connection with the formation of the strategy outlined in the Bridging Island Plan which stated that *"The Minister for the Environment will work with the Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture, and the Minister for Children and Education, to develop a play strategy for the Island, with a specific focus on play area provision in St. Helier. The Minister for the Environment will develop and publish supplementary planning guidance for developers in relation to the provision of play space."*

As the support of the Connétables would be vital to the project, the Comité had been invited to nominate a representative on the group. The Comité heard that several Connétables had recently spoken with a Consultant for Play Policy/Strategy about Parish developments and decided to invite the Consultant to a future meeting prior to nominating a representative to the Steering Group.

Big Ride Out  
2023

14. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 9 of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023, welcomed Messrs G Mansell and V L van Halm, representing The Mansell Collection, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Comité des Chefs de Police (CCP) to discuss proposals for The Big Ride Out in 2023. The Comité had received correspondence from Mr Mansell outlining the proposal to replace the single event with a series of rides each

accommodating 300 riders over three weekends from 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023. These would be run within the same structure as the bi-weekly rides run by the company with groups led by ride captains, each group to be 100 riders or smaller that could easily navigate through the island without blocking traffic or requiring marshalled junctions. The proposed route would be from St Catherine's Breakwater to The Watersplash in St Peter. Riders would be required to register online and make pre-payment for the event which was to support a local charity, Holidays for Heroes.

The Comité was then informed by Mr Mansell that a majority of Jersey bikers did not support the proposal to split The Big Rideout over three weekends and he now wished to hold a single event on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023 accommodating 1,000 motorcyclists. He estimated 30-40 minutes for that number of motorcyclists to pass any point on the route (based on 5-10 minutes per 100) and 1.5 hours to complete the route. Riders would obey all road laws (speed limits, road signs and traffic lights etc.) and the opportunity for spectators to watch was also important and must not be lost. Whilst, in previous years, charity donations had been collected on the day Mr Mansell said the company's other events required pre-registration and payment (so charity donations were regulated) though he accepted there would be some who joined the event on the day.

The Comité discussed the proposals and the potential impact on other road users and members of the public, noting that motorcyclists from off-island also attended and the event had grown in number each year. The Connétables of St Peter and St Ouen outlined the action taken in previous years to accommodate the arrival of motorbikes at The Watersplash, which included the temporary closing of the road and diverting traffic. The Comité asked for firm proposals which it could consider and reminded that Connétables had consistently declined permission to shut roads for this event, required that adequate advance notice should be given to other road users and that all road laws must be obeyed. Mr Mansell confirmed he would send a proposal and the event would be self-regulated as far as possible and recorded on camera. Following discussion, Messrs Mansell and van Halm, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the CCP were thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

#### Community compass – presentation

15. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023, received a presentation from the Sector Lead: Culture, Arts and Heritage, Department for the Economy and the Local Services Manager, Local Services, Government of Jersey on the proposed Community Compass project, which aimed to make life enhancing connections for everyone, and how this might impact Parishes.

The Comité was reminded that the health and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic had highlighted the need for interventions to aid recovery as loneliness and isolation was known to have serious negative health impacts. There was also a growing body of evidence to support the link between increased participation in arts, group physical activity and improved physical and mental health outcomes and long-term wellbeing. There were significant potential cost saving and healthcare resourcing benefits of community-based approaches to health and social care.

The 'Culture and physical activity for wellbeing' proposal had received funding over two years from the Social Recovery Fund for a 'social prescribing' project. In Phase 1, over 40 micro grants of up to £5,000 had been awarded to an eclectic mix of projects targeting a diverse range of participants. Phase 2, Community Compass, would include building a more interconnected system and thus resilient, engaged and healthy communities. At the core of the service was a network of Community Connectors who would be employed by charities, community organisations and other service providers for a fixed number of hours per month, for a fixed period (currently up to the end of 2023) and commissioned by the Community Compass Board to engage with key communities, building relationships between different groups, identifying areas of overlap and facilitating collaboration and joint working. By understanding communities and what activities would be of most use it would be possible to provide new activity for difficult to access groups and those groups most in need. Several Connétables expressed an interest

in receiving funding for a Parish Community Connector and asked that details be circulated. Following discussion, the officers were thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

Tree strategy –  
consultation/  
new legislation

16. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 10 of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023, received a report from the Chairman who had attended a meeting to discuss the public consultation on proposals for new legislation to better protect Jersey’s trees. The meeting had been attended by a number of tree surgeons and a number of concerns had been raised. The Comité noted the deadline for responses to the public consultation had been extended to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Next meeting

17. The Connétable of St Martin was thanked for her hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

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