

# Supervisory Committee Connétables de Jersey

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020**  
(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 Clément - L. Norman  
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 St Jean - C. H. Taylor  
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur  
Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert  
Connétable de Ste Marie - J. M. Le Bailly  
Connétable de St Ouën - R. A. Buchanan  
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 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Approval of  
Rates Lists -  
2020

2. The Supervisory Committee, in accordance with Article 11(1) of the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005, approved the Rates Lists for 2020 for the following parishes noting that there were some applications for review of rateable values still to be determined. The Committee noted that all Connétables had had the opportunity to view the rateable values in each Parish, as contained in the Rates Lists, using the Rates Online service. Pursuant to Article 12(1) of the Electronic Communications (Jersey) Law 2000, Connétables confirmed their agreement to sign Rates Lists electronically in accordance with Article 11(5) of the 2005 Law as follows –

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Signed by:</u>
St Helier	Connétables of St Brélade, St Mary and St Peter
St John	Connétables of St Mary, St Peter and St Lawrence
St Brélade	Connétables of St Peter, St Lawrence and St Martin (two reviews to be determined)
St Mary	Connétables of St Lawrence, St Martin and Trinity
St Peter	Connétables of St Martin, Trinity and St Clément
St Lawrence	Connétables of Trinity, St Clément and Grouville
St Martin	Connétables of St Clément, Grouville and St Ouen
Trinity	Connétables of Grouville, St Ouen and St Helier
St Saviour	Connétables of St Ouen, St Helier and St John
St Clément	Connétables of St Helier, St John and Grouville (three reviews to be determined)
Grouville	Connétables of St John, St Mary and St Lawrence (one review to be determined)
St Ouen	Connétables of Trinity, St John and Grouville

Setting of 2020 Annual Island Wide Rate – Domestic and Non-domestic rates

3. The Supervisory Committee, with reference to its minute no. 2 of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020, recalled that it had written to the Minister for Treasury and Resources proposing that, notwithstanding the requirements of Article 20 of the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005, the AIRF (annual island-wide rate figure) should be maintained at the 2019 level rather than increase by the March 2020 RPI (retail price index). This would result in a reduction of £358,732 in the sum paid to the States in 2020 (£197,303 from domestic ratepayers and £161,429 from non-domestic ratepayers). Pending a reply from the Minister, the Committee was informed that the Law Draftsman’s office had advised that there was no provision or ability in the Rates Law to vary the AIRF and that, in accordance with Article 20, the AIRF “shall be adjusted” by the change in the RPI and that the island wide rate “shall be set” to raise the AIRF. Further, Article 25(6) would not enable the ‘blanket’ reduction or remittance of rates to all ratepayers on grounds of hardship as this would have to assume that everyone had suffered hardship and that their level of hardship was identical in every case. An amendment might, however, be proposed using the Covid Enabling Law powers.

The Committee again heard that all Connétables would be taking steps to prune their respective Parish budgets so that it would, subject to ratepayers’ agreement, be possible to maintain the 2019 Parish rates. Though this would not be easy, the Parishes were prepared to limit budgets in this way to assist all ratepayers and Connétables considered the Government should set a similar example given the exceptional circumstances faced in 2020 due to COVID-19. The Committee, noting that if the 2019 AIRF was used the 2020 rates would remain at 0.74 p/qr domestic and 1.05 p/qr non-domestic, decided that in the event the Minister did not propose to amend the 2020 AIRF it should lodge a proposition to achieve that outcome. The Chairman was requested to write to the Minister asking that the proposal be considered by the Council of Ministers.

The Committee was reminded that the States debate would most likely be on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and it therefore deferred setting the Island-wide rate for 2020 until after that sitting. Rate demands could not be issued until the domestic and non-domestic rates were set.

Arising from this the Committee noted the provisions of Article 25(6) of the law, relating to hardship, which might enable some flexibility in the amount of surcharge due from a ratepayer where a payment plan existed but the rates had not been paid in full within three months after the rate demand was issued.

COVID-19: Rates Assemblies

4. The Supervisory Committee, with reference to its minute no. 4 of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020, discussed arrangements for the holding of a Parish Assembly to set the rates having regard to COVID-19 restrictions applying at that time. Whilst physical distancing of 2 metres was currently required between persons not of the same household this was expected to reduce to 1 metre by early July 2020. The Committee heard that all parishes had taken steps to ensure adequate provision for those expected to attend the Assembly and discussed the requirement to record those attending in the event a person was subsequently diagnosed with coronavirus and it was deemed necessary to trace all other persons with whom they had been in contact. The Connétable of St Helier outlined the arrangements for recent St Helier Parish Assemblies to consider licencing applications whereby persons had been able to hear and ask questions online, though not vote, and a similar arrangement would be offered (those wishing to vote would be encouraged to attend in person).

Office and IT budgets

5. The Supervisory Committee received the unaudited accounts for the office to April 2020 and a draft budget for 2020/2021. The Committee discussed the proposed replacement of the photocopier and agreed that, whilst it preferred to purchase rather than lease such equipment, if possible the cost should be deferred to the following year. The Committee, mindful that all Connétables would be taking steps to prune their respective Parish budgets (minute no. 3 of this meeting refers), requested that the budget be reviewed to ensure all proposed expenditure was essential and that a revised budget and audited accounts should be presented at a future meeting.

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

