

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 5th June 2023
at the Parish Hall, St Lawrence.

Present:

Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson, Chairman
Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Vice Chairman (not present for items 7-8, 16-17)
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur
Connétable de St Jean - A. N. Jehan (present for items 7-10, 16-18)
Connétable de St Clément - M. O'D. Troy
Connétable de Grouville - M. Labey
Connétable de St Ouën - R. Honeycombe (present for items 1-16)
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; the Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert 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 24th April 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. 2 of 24th April 2023, noted the results of the Jersey Royal potato growing competition and confirmed arrangements for the overall Occupation VIPs winners in each of the heaviest crop (Mr Romeril, St Mary) and most tubers categories (joint winners Mrs Tingley, Trinity; Mrs Palmer, St Lawrence and Mr Vincent, St Saviour). Over 100 Occupation VIPs had taken part in the 2023 competition and the Vice Chairman would liaise with the winners' Connétables regarding arrangements for an Island tour in a vintage/classic car and afternoon tea. The Vice Chairman was congratulated on her success in both the Connétables categories.

Big Ride Out 2023

3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 14 of 24th April 2023, received feedback from Connétables following The Big Ride Out held on 28th May 2023. Whilst the organiser had reported the event was largely successful with an excellent turnout in support from both motorcyclists and the general public, a road traffic accident was reported and there were reports of riders not complying with road traffic legislation, including speeding on La Route du Marais (Hydrangea Avenue) in St Ouen. The Comité recalled that, at short notice, the organisation had been passed from The Mansell Collection to a representative of the charity, Holidays for Heroes, and it agreed it should invite the organiser to discuss the arrangements in 2023. The Connétables primary concern had to be for the general safety of all road users and ensuring the flow of traffic was not impeded, so issues must be addressed should it be hoped to hold a similar event in future.

Planning and Building (Caravans) (Jersey) Order 2023

4. The Comité discussed the changes to legislation relating to caravans and motorhomes which were brought to Jersey for short periods following the coming into force on 31st May 2023 of the Planning and Building (Caravans) (Jersey) Order 2023. The Order provided that those visitors staying for 31 days or fewer would no longer need to apply for and display a Caravan-Motorhome permit when bringing their caravans, motorhomes, campervans and trailer tents to Jersey. The existing rules which stipulated that caravans, motorhomes and campervans must not be used by visitors as overnight accommodation, unless stationed at a designated campsite, remained in place. Caravans, specifically, would also continue to be banned from public roads in Jersey, unless travelling from the harbour to a campsite. Visitors intending to keep their caravan, campervan or motorhome in Jersey for longer than 31 days would still need to apply for permission.

The Comité requested the Chairman to write to the Minister for Environment seeking clarification on the following issues which it did not consider had been fully explained in the press release which was issued about the changes. These related to the application of the P.30 permit scheme (over-width vehicles) and that such vehicles could only be used on a by-road with the consent of the Connétable, persons travelling speculatively to Jersey when all campsites were full and therefore unable to stay in a designated campsite, the publicity available at ports and to those booking through Condor Ferries and how the scheme would be policed.

Building a Safer Community – a new Strategy: workshop

5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 14th November 2022, noted that further to the initial partners workshop held on 25th October 2022, the Minister for Home Affairs had invited representatives to a follow up session on 7th June 2023 to discuss the Building a Safer Community Framework. The Comité recalled that the Connétables of St Martin and St John had agreed to represent it at the previous meeting and decided to ask that they also represent the Comité at the forthcoming meeting.

Maison des Landes Hotel and Community Hub

6. The Comité received an invitation for Connétables to visit the Maison des Landes Hotel, St Ouen, following its refurbishment and prior to its opening in late June 2023. Having been informed that there were facilities for meetings, and as several Connétables wished to visit, the Comité decided to enquire whether it might hold a meeting at the Hotel later in the year.

Play Strategy Steering Group

7. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 13 of 24th April 2023, received Mrs E Jennings, Playspace Consultant, who was acting in a voluntary capacity/advisory role seeking to inspire and facilitate natural playscapes and playspaces across the island. Mrs Jennings had spoken with several Connétables about Parish developments and was also working with the Play Strategy Steering Group, chaired by Deputy L Stephenson, in connection with the formation of the strategy outlined in the Bridging Island Plan which stated –

‘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’.

Mrs Jennings outlined her interest in play and natural playscapes, and displayed maps of the island showing housing density and available play areas. Creating community hubs around play would provide access for all ages, including teenagers, and a natural environment reconnected children with nature. Where there was no budget, a felled tree or a mound/slope could provide a play area and would be in keeping with the environment; it was also inclusive for those with disabilities, including hidden disabilities such as autism, PDA, sensory processing disorder etc. Mrs Jennings said she understood concerns

about health and safety but explained that grass was a suitable surface for felled trees with a fall height up to 1m but, depending upon how soft the grass was, this could be up to 1.2m-1.5m. There were plenty of felled trees available through the Government of Jersey and tree surgeons though she appreciated that access to some sites could be difficult. Developing a natural playscape also minimised the investment required, enabled a play area to be developed on a trial basis and items to be swapped/replaced as required. In reply to questions, Mrs Jennings said she was also in touch with Andium Homes about opportunities on their land and had offers of help from persons across the island who could assist Parishes. Following discussion, the Comité thanked Mrs Jennings for attending and she then withdrew from the meeting.

In relation to the Play Strategy Steering Group, the Comité decided to ask the Connétables of St Martin and St Helier to be its representatives, and that the Chairman should attend if they were not available.

Twinning links
with France –
Assemblée
Parlementaire
de la
Francophonie
& Deputy M
Tadier

8. The Comité, with partial reference to its minute no. 12 of 24th April 2023, received Deputy M Tadier, President of Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF), and the Deputy Greffier of the States to discuss the twinning associations and the desire to do more local outreach formally, or informally, to support these associations. This would be in line with the core values of the APF, which included to promote Francophonie, and the twinning associations were seen as fundamental to keeping strong and vibrant links with France and the language being spoken in Jersey. Deputy Tadier enquired about the Parishes' twinning organisations and took the opportunity to discuss some of the ongoing work of local organisations such as La Maison de la Normandie et de la Manche and L'Alliance Française, including the forthcoming bi-annual French Festival.

The Comité heard from Connétables about their Parish twinning organisations and the challenge of arranging events and functions. This was due to the limited opportunities for day trips as ferry services were infrequent and those to St Malo provided only a short time in France but were, at times, unreliable. In previous years there had been regular sailings from Gorey to Normandy (most Parishes were twinned with that region) and Deputy Tadier explained that the Manche Ile ferry service was heavily subsidised. Other transport links included Blue Islands flights to Rennes and the possibility of a charter ferry if Parishes joined together. French nationals could now travel to Jersey with an identity card rather than a passport and Deputy Tadier offered to arrange a meeting with relevant parties to consider the frequency of services, including to Gorey.

The meeting also discussed the membership of the twinning organisations, the age demographic and the need to encourage new members. Suggestions included approaching the Youth Service and schools, in particular teachers and those studying French at 'A' level, and the forthcoming events to mark 14th July which could appeal to the younger generation. It was noted that safeguarding and child protection issues limited the opportunity to host visitors but accommodation such as the Scout Centre and Crabbe Youth Centre could be options. Following discussion, Deputy Tadier and the Deputy Greffier of the States were thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

Coronation and
Liberation 2023

9. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 24th April 2023, received feedback from Connétables on Parish and Island events to mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III in May 2023 and Liberation Day 78 – 2023. In relation to the events on Liberation Day, the Service of Thanksgiving held in Liberation Square had concluded, as in previous years, with the march past and motorcade as befitted the period. However, several Connétables had received adverse feedback from attendees, which they supported, about the inclusion of the Jersey Reds rugby team in the motorcade. Whilst recognising the Jersey Reds team success in winning the RFU (Rugby Football Union) Championship, this was not related to the Liberation and it would have been more appropriate for this – and the success of other Jersey sportspersons and teams – to be celebrated at a different event, for example at the Battle of Flowers. The Comité requested the Chairman to write

to the Bailiff to express these views and to ask how Liberation Day celebrations might evolve in the future.

Next meeting 10. The Vice Chairman was thanked for her hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 10th July 2023.

Chairman Date

