

Supervisory Committee Connétables de Jersey

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
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur
Connétable de St Clément - M. O'D. Troy
Connétable de Grouville - M. Labey
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 Connétable de St Héliier - A. S. Crowcroft; the Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert; the Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone and the Connétable de St Jean - A. N. Jehan.

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.

2023 Annual
Island Wide
Rate Figure
(AIRF)

2. The Supervisory Committee recalled that Article 20(1) of the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005 provided that:

“The sum to be levied from the Island-wide rate for any rateable year, known as the Annual Island-wide Rates Figure, shall be the Annual Island-wide Rates Figure for the previous year adjusted by the percentage change in the Jersey Retail Prices Index calculated by comparing the annual figure compiled for the quarter ending in March of that year with the annual figure compiled for the quarter ending in March of the previous year.”

Noting the headline increase in the Retail Price Index (RPI) at March 2023 was 12.7% (2022 - 6%), and that the Annual Island Wide Rates Figure (AIRF) for 2022 was £14,578,335, the Committee confirmed the 2023 AIRF was £16,428,720; the calculation being -

$$2022 \text{ AIRF} \times 2023 \text{ March index} / 2022 \text{ March index} = 2023 \text{ AIRF}$$

$$£14,578,335 \times 219.3 \div 194.6 = £16,428,720$$

In accordance with the Rates (Apportionment) (Jersey) Regulations 2006 -

(1) 55% of the Annual Island-wide Rates Figure shall be met from the domestic rate i.e. £9,035,796 (2022 - £8,018,084).

(2) 45% of the Annual Island-wide Rates Figure shall be met from the non-domestic rate i.e. £7,392,924 (2022 - £6,560,251).

The Domestic and Non-domestic rates would be calculated when the Rates Lists for all Parishes had been finalised and would be approved at a future meeting of the Committee.

The Committee discussed the headline RPI increase and the challenging economic circumstances that many islanders were facing. The increase in the Island-wide rates for domestic and non-domestic ratepayers would be in addition to likely increases in Parish rates, with Connétables commenting on the significant increased costs their Parishes were facing and anticipating that Parish rates would have to increase in 2023. The Committee also recalled that in 2020, the States Assembly had approved the COVID-19 (Rates) (Jersey) Regulations 2020 to maintain the AIRF at the 2019 level – this took into account the assistance being offered by the Government to support the economy during the coronavirus pandemic and the impact of the pandemic on ratepayers. However, there was now no ability to make such emergency legislation and the AIRF was therefore as prescribed by the Law.

The Committee requested the Chairman to write to the Minister for Treasury and resources outlining its concerns at the impact the 2023 increase would have on ratepayers and the likelihood that there would be an increase in the number of those unable to meet such costs. Mindful that the housing component of Income Support provided for the cost of rent and rates, the Committee agreed this matter should also be drawn to the attention of the Minister for Social Security.

Approval of Rates Lists for 2023

3. The Supervisory Committee, in accordance with Article 11(1) of the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005, approved the Rates Lists for 2023 for the following parishes. 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. Three members of the Committee signed the form of declaration and certificate to be appended to each Approved Rates List certifying its approval as follows –

<u>Parish:</u>	<u>Signed by:</u>
St Brelade	Connétables of St Mary, Grouville and St Clement
St Clement	Connétables of Grouville, St Mary and St Ouen
St John	Connétables of St Clement, St Ouen and St Saviour
St Mary	Connétables of St Brelade, St John and St Ouen
St Peter	Connétables of St John, St Brelade and Trinity

Office accommodation – rent review

4. The Supervisory Committee, with partial reference to its minute no. 4 of 14th September 2020, approved the renewal of the lease for office premises at the RJA&HS for 3 years from 1st May 2023 to 30th April 2026 at an annual rate of £9,597.91 being a 12% increase.

Accounts and budget

5. The Supervisory Committee received the draft unaudited accounts for the Comité des Connétables/Supervisory Committee for the year ending 30th April 2023 and noted that the audited accounts would be available in due course. The Committee also considered the draft office budget for 2023/2024 covering staff and office costs (minute no. 4 of this meeting refers) and noted, based on the costs being shared equally, the Parishes contribution would increase by c. 8% for the coming year.

Next meeting

6. The Supervisory Committee noted the next meeting would be on 10th July 2023.

Chairman Date