Supervisory Committee Connétables de Jersey

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th July 2023 at the Parish Hall, Trinity.

Present:

Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson, Chairman Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone 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 the Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Vice Chairman; the Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft; the Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert 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 5th June 2023, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Approval of Rates Lists for 2023 2. The Supervisory Committee, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 5th June 2023, in accordance with Article 11(1) of the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005 and having noted that three appeals relating to domestic property in Grouville had yet to be determined, 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> :	Signed by:
Grouville	Connétables of St Brelade, St Saviour and Trinity
St Helier	Connétables of St Mary, St Saviour and Trinity
St Lawrence	Connétables of St Clement, St Martin and Grouville
St Martin	Connétables of St Brelade, St Ouen and St Clement
St Ouen	Connétables of St Mary, St Saviour and Trinity
St Saviour	Connétables of St Ouen, St Clement and St Martin
Trinity	Connétables of Grouville, St Martin and St Clement

Annual Islandwide Rate Figure 2023 3. The Supervisory Committee, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 5th June 2023, recalled the Chairman had written to the Minister for Treasury and Resources outlining its concerns at the impact the 2023 increase in the Annual Island-wide Rate Figure (AIRF) would have on ratepayers. The Committee received a reply from the Minister in which he agreed that the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005 gave no discretion to adjust the annual uprating factor. When action was taken in 2020 to freeze the AIRF using Covid powers (in the

Draft Covid-19 (Rates) (Jersey) Regulations 202- (P.85/2020)) it was reckoned to keep about £4 in the pockets of a family in an average 3-bed home, however interest rates had since escalated. The Minister said that the significant increase in tax allowances for 2023, along with other measures such as Income Support, provided more effective and responsive instruments to address the increase in the cost of the Island-wide rate.

The Minister also enquired whether, should any future abatement or freeze in the AIRF be possible, the Parishes would contemplate matching this in the Parish element of rates. The Committee heard from Connétables that they were always mindful of costs and the need to be prudent with expenditure, but it was the Parish Assembly that determined and approved the budget for the Parish and then set the Parish rate to fund that budget.

Setting of 2023 Annual Island Wide Rates – Domestic and Non-domestic 4. The Supervisory Committee, with reference to its minute no. 2 of 5th June 2023, recalled that the Annual Island Wide Rates Figure (AIRF) for 2022 was £16,428,720 and, in accordance with the Rates (Apportionment) (Jersey) Regulations 2006, 55% of the AIRF was to be met from the domestic rate (£9,035,796) and 45% of the AIRF was to be met from the non-domestic rate (£7,392,924).

The Committee considered a paper showing an estimated 1,024 million domestic quarters and 567 million non-domestic quarters across the Island. The Committee, in accordance with Article 20(4) of the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005, calculated the Island-wide Domestic rate at 0.89 pence per quarter and the Island-wide Non-domestic rate at 1.31 pence per quarter for 2023, which would generate the AIRF in the proportions prescribed by Regulations. The Committee recalled that ratepayers would receive the account for the Island-wide rate as soon as the Parish rate had been set by parishioners. Rates were payable on demand and a surcharge of 10% would be added to all amounts not paid within 3 months of the date of the bill. The Committee approved a report on the calculation of the 2023 rates and requested the Chairman of the Comité des Connétables to present the report to the States.

Accounts and budget

This is also recorded in the minutes of the Comité des Connétables

5. The Supervisory Committee, with reference to its minute no. 5 of 5^{th} June 2023, noted the draft unaudited accounts for the office for the year ended 30^{th} April 2023 and that the audited accounts would be available at the next meeting. The Committee approved the budget for 2023/2024, covering staff and office costs, and agreed that each Parish would contribute £11,420 towards the estimated expenditure of £137,140. The budget of £3,000 for the Comité des Chefs de Police was also approved and this would be shared equally (£250 per Parish).

Next meeting

6. The next meeting would be on 4th September 20	023.
Chairman	Date