

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 4th September 2023
at the Parish Hall, St John.

Present:

Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson, Chairman
Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Vice Chairman
Connétable de St Héliier - A. S. Crowcroft
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur (not present for item 13)
Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert
Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone (not present for items 6-11 and 23-25)
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
Connétable de Ste Marie - R. D. Johnson
Connétable de St Sauveur - K. C. Lewis

An apology for absence was received from the Connétable de St Clément - M. O'D. Troy.

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 10th July 2023, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

High Value
Residency
(2(1)(E)
residency
regime)

2. The Comité received the Head of High Value Residency Engagement, Locate Jersey, Department for the Economy, Government of Jersey, who outlined his role in seeking to attract and retain families to become residents of Jersey under the 2(1)(E) residency regime. The criteria were amended by the States Assembly in July 2023 when adopting the Draft Income Tax (High Value Residents – Amendment) (Jersey) Law 202-(P.29/2023). The role extended to providing assistance to families after their move to Jersey and to encourage their investment in the island including through business and philanthropic opportunities. Post arrival, families received an information pack with welcome letters and details of their Parish of residence. The Connétables welcomed the opportunity to include a letter on behalf of their respective Parish and for the offer to facilitate introductions. Following further discussion, the Head was thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

Firearms
(Jersey) Law
2000 -
Approved
Shooting Clubs

3. The Comité recalled it had been informed that the Minister for Home Affairs had received applications from the under-mentioned clubs for renewal of the approval as a shooting club under Article 15 of the Firearms (Jersey) Law 2000, the current approvals expiring 31st August 2023. Before granting or refusing to grant an approval or varying or withdrawing an approval, the Minister was required to consult the Comité in accordance with Article 15(3) of the law. The Minister had been informed that, subject to the conditions for approval as a shooting club being met, the Comité had no comments to make on the renewals of approval as a shooting club of the following:

Regent Shooting Club	St Ouen's Rifle Club
St John Shooting Club	Jersey Air Rifle Club
St Mary's Rifle Club	Jersey Crabbe Clay Pigeon Shooting Club
Jersey Small Bore Rifle Club	Jersey Muzzle Loaders
St Helier Miniature Rifle Club	Jersey Practical Shooting Club
Western Miniature Rifle Club	Jersey Rifle Association
Vintage Arms Association	Lecq Clay Target Club
St Lawrence Miniature Rifle Club	St Brelade Small-Bore Rifle Club
St Ouen's Shooting Club	Leoville Sports and Miniature Rifle Club
Eastern Air Rifle Club	Vinchelez Sports and Miniature Rifle Club
St John's Rifle Club	Modern and Military Arms Association
Grouville Miniature Rifle Club	Channel Island Practical Shooting Association
Jersey Pistol Club	

Parish
Assemblies –
recording of
votes

4. The Comité heard from Connétables of the various practices followed when recording votes on items discussed at a Parish Assembly. The *Loi (1804) au sujet des assemblées paroissiales*, at Article 12, required that at any Parish Assembly, duly convened and held, the President should be required to put for debate each motion proposed by a member and seconded by another member of the Assembly, and to elicit opinions on the subject concerned. The Comité heard from Connétables that, when votes were counted, the number voting for or against the motion was recorded in the minutes. Several Connétables also offered the option to abstain from voting, the number of abstentions also being recorded and noted in the minutes.

Accounts and
budget

*This is also
record in the
minutes of the
Supervisory
Committee*

5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 4 of 10th July 2023, received and approved the audited accounts for the Comité des Connétables/Supervisory Committee for the year ended 30th April 2023 and noted expenditure of £129,052 (2022 - £121,565) and income of £127,303 (2022 - £118,204) thus resulting in a deficit of £1,749 for the year (2022 - deficit of £3,361). The balance sheet, which included the Comité des Chefs de Police, showed net current assets of £22,882 (2022 - £24,550). The auditors, Alex Picot, had reported they would be issuing a clean audit report.

The Comité then considered the budgets for 2023/2024 including for the Comité des Chefs de Police. These had been approved at its previous meeting, but a decision could not be reached on the funding as 12 members of the Comité were not present on the first occasion. The Comité recalled its rules on voting required that where the matter would commit either the Comité or any of its members to any expenditure, the matter should be done and decided by 10 votes in favour on the second occasion and, as 10 members were present, it confirmed the office 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; and the Comité des Chefs de Police budget for 2023/2024 showing expenditure of £3,000 and that this would be funded equally by parishes (£250 per Parish).

Elections
(Jersey) Law
2002 – Annual
Statements and
electoral spends
(WQ.318/2023)

6. The Comité noted the response to the States Assembly written question WQ.318/2023 regarding Parish spends in respect of electoral registrations during the last two electoral periods. The Comité agreed that notices would next be sent by all Parishes in spring 2024 to those who had not, for a period of 3 consecutive years, been included in and signed a statement returned under Article 7(3) of the Elections (Jersey) Law 2002.

The Comité then approved the Annual Statement to be sent out prior to 1st November 2023 (Article 7(2) of the Elections Law) and agreed that there should be appropriate publicity reminding parishioners of the need to complete and return the Annual Statement by 1st December 2023 as this would minimise the number of Notices to be sent the following year.

- Jersey Harley Owners Group Chapter – Island ride out Sunday 10th Sept 2023
7. The Comité noted correspondence from the Jersey Chapter of the Harley Owners Group regarding the proposed ride around the Island’s main roads on Sunday 10th September 2023 (10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. from the Steam Clock, St Helier). The Group welcomed the Connétables support and that of the Parish Honorary Police but were not requesting any special assistance (or permissions) whilst on the route to cross junctions or temporarily hold up traffic as they planned to ride within the Law and to observe all traffic lights, including give way and filter in turn signage together with all yellow lines. About 85 Harley Davidson motorcycles, in total, were expected on the ride (the event was not open to any other motorcyclists) and the proceeds from the event would support the Jersey Holidays for Heroes charity.
- The Comité welcomed the assurance that all riders taking part would obey all road laws including speed limits, road signs and traffic lights; and motorbikes would not be used at junctions to stop oncoming traffic (this was an offence). Its primary concern was for the general safety of all road users and ensuring the flow of traffic was not impeded, and the motorcyclists must have general consideration for other road users.
- H.M. Attorney General
directive on PHEs
8. The Comité was informed that H.M. Attorney General had updated a directive on ‘The Conduct of Parish Hall Enquiries’ which would replace the directive 4/2019 (directives were published on the Law Officers’ website).
- Provisional driving licence – renewal
9. The Comité discussed the guidelines for the renewal of provisional driving licences having heard from the Connétable of St Peter that he had recently offered either a third moped provisional or a provisional car licence to a person who had only made one attempt at the theory test in twelve months. This had generated social media comments suggesting that some Parishes were stricter than others when renewing provisional licences. Having discussed the matter, the Comité confirmed that the policy adopted, having regard to Article 11 of the Road Traffic (Jersey) Law 1956, was that a provisional licence would not be renewed unless the applicant had attempted a test during the validity of that licence and this condition was set out in the letter sent to all persons to whom a provisional driving licence was granted (discretion, however, being exercised by the Connétable if the applicant had been prevented by reason of absence or illness from attempting a test).
- Le Congrès des Parlers Normands et Jèrriais - funding request
10. The Comité considered correspondence from the Président du Congrès des Parlers Normands et Jèrriais regarding the annual “afternoon of fun” for elderly Jèrriais speakers which had been organised, with wonderful support from each Parish, over many years. This event brought people together for a social occasion with various forms of entertainment, all in Jèrriais. Whilst it had not been possible to arrange this for the last three years (as the age group of those who participated was in the “vulnerable” category for Covid) it was hoped to hold the event in 2023 and that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and Dr Kydd, would be able to attend. “Le Congrès” supported La Fête Normande which was hosted every third year (in rotation in Jersey, Normandy (La Manche) and Guernsey). The Connétables agreed that each would sponsor a table of 10 persons for £60 and noted that Le Congrès would seek to fill each table with Jèrriais speakers from each of the Parishes.
- Next meeting
11. The Connétable of St John was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 9th October 2023 at St Mary.

Chairman Date

