



22 April 2024

Request

1. It is understood that Grouville's Constable is inevitably Chairman/President of the Tenants of the Communes of both Grouville Common and Marais à la Cocque. Is this right and if it is, is it under the written rules of the two Communes or by way of traditional practice?
2. It is on public record that the President of the Chefs Tenants for the Fief de L'Abesse de Caen in the Constable of Trinity. Again, is this under the written rules of the commune or by way of traditional practice?
3. Under the Rules of St Peter's Marsh the Constable of St Peter is President of the Commune. Are there any other examples where there is a direct relationship between Parish and/or Constable and Commune? If so, is this by convention or under the relevant Commune's written rules?
4. It is understood that the Parish of Grouville controls a bank balance for the Commune of Marais à la Cocque, but this is not disclosed in the Parish's accounts. Please list any other examples of where a Parish holds funds for the Tenants of a surviving Commune. If there are any other similar cases, is this disclosed in the relevant Parish's accounts?

5. There have been recent transactions involving the Commune of Marais à la Cocque:

- The contractor working last year along La Grande Route des Sablons took over part of the Commune for parking and it seems vehicles continue to park on the Commune.
- Following damage to the hedge edging the Commune/Comon Land on Rue du Marais à la Cocque large stones, some painted white, were placed on the side of the road.

Were these transactions notified in advance to the Commune's tenants. Were they undertaken by the Constable or Parish without prior approval by the Tenants?

Response

Information is available on the Jersey Law website in the paper [Communes And Common Land In Jersey \(jerseylaw.je\)](#) which notes, at paragraph 8:

The lack of registration of *communes* in Jersey means that it is difficult to establish where they existed historically and where they continue to exist. If there are no recorded conveyancing transactions in relation to a particular *commune*, the Land Registry cannot assist. Those feudal records that still exist are typically in private hands and there is no central record of those who hold such documents. Furthermore, de Gruchy is of the view that many *communes* were lost to enclosure and/or encroachment.

1. Grouville Common and Marais à la Cocque – tradition.
2. The Parish of Trinity does not hold information on the rules of the commune on the Fief de L'Abesse de Caen.
3. The responses for each Parish are:

Parish	Are there any other examples where there is a direct relationship between Parish and/or Constable and Commune? If so, is this by convention or under the relevant Commune's written rules?
St Brelade	No information is held.
St Clement	No information is held. Note – paragraph 49 of the paper Communes And Common Land In Jersey (jerseylaw.je) refers to a gift in 1969 to the parish of St Clement, part of which became the site of the Parish Hall, the gift brought to an end the <i>commune</i> at Le Hocq.
Grouville	Tradition, no information is held.
St Helier	No information is held.

St John	No information is held.
St Lawrence	No information is held.
St Martin	No information is held.
St Mary	No information is held.
St Ouen	No information is held.
St Peter	No information is held.
St Saviour	No information is held.
Trinity	<p>The Parish collects rental income on behalf of the Tenants for the Fief de L'Abesse de Caen.</p> <p>FOI exemption applied:</p> <p>Article 23 - Information accessible to applicant by other means</p> <p>Information is absolutely exempt information if it is reasonably available to the applicant, otherwise than under this Law, whether or not free of charge. A scheduled public authority that refuses an application for information on this ground must make reasonable efforts to inform the applicant where the applicant may obtain the information.</p> <p>Justification - Details can be found in the contract lease at the Public Registry.</p>

4. The responses for each Parish are:

Parish	Please list any other examples of where a Parish holds funds for the Tenants of a surviving Commune. If there are any other similar cases, is this disclosed in the relevant Parish's accounts?
St Brelade	No information is held.
St Clement	No information is held.
Grouville	See response to Q5 below, no other information is held.
St Helier	The Parish does not hold any funds for a surviving Commune.
St John	No information is held.
St Lawrence	No information is held.
St Martin	No information is held.
St Mary	No information is held.
St Ouen	No information is held.
St Peter	No information is held.
St Saviour	No information is held.
Trinity	Following a meeting of the Tenants for the Fief de L'Abesse de Caen in 2019, the Parish does not hold any funds on behalf of the Tenants.

5. Recent transactions involving the Commune of Marais à la Cocque – the Parish does not know who are the tenants of this Commune and so could not give advance notice of the work undertaken along La Grande Route des Sablons. This work related to highway maintenance by the Department for Infrastructure and Environment and, to ensure the road could be opened at weekends, the Connétable took the decision to allow the contractor to park plant and vehicles on part of the Commune land. The stones have been placed on private land by a landowner (and not by the Parish).