

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 17th June 2024
at the Parish Hall, Grouville.

Present:

Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson, Chairman
Connétable de St Héliier - A. S. Crowcroft (not present for item 4)
Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert
Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone
Connétable de St Jean - A. N. Jehan
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 la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur and 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 meetings held on 22nd April 2024 and on 13th May 2024, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Road Traffic
(Jersey) Law
1956 -
provisional
driving licences

2. The Comité received an enquiry from the Jersey Consumer Council asking why the Jersey provisional licence was only valid for 6 months as other jurisdictions, for example Guernsey, the Isle of Man and the United Kingdom, granted a provisional licence for a longer period. The short length had been queried as many learner drivers were teenagers still in education and fitting lessons and a test around examinations was sometimes difficult.

The Comité recalled that Article 11 of the Road Traffic (Jersey) Law 1956 permitted a provisional licence to be granted “*to learn to drive a motor vehicle with a view to passing a test*”. The tests assessed a person’s competence to drive and were important for the road safety of all road users, both vehicular and pedestrian. A provisional licence could be renewed though Article 11 provided that it might be refused if it appeared to the parochial authority that the applicant did not intend to submit (or had not submitted) to the test within a reasonable time. The tests comprised -

- Compulsory Basic Training (CBT) for motorbikes and mopeds (valid indefinitely)
- Theory test including hazard perception – category specific (pass certificate valid indefinitely but invalid if the holder was disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence to drive)
- Practical driving test – category specific (pass certificate enabled the holder for a period of 5 years from the date of issue to obtain a licence)

The Comité was informed that there was adequate availability for booking and sitting a test and that the Driver and Vehicle Standards Department now had three dedicated officers to assess practical driving. The current timescales and fees for test bookings were

3-4 weeks for CBT (fee of £153); 3 weeks for a theory test (fee £39.50) and 4-6 weeks for a practical test (fee £58.50).

As there appeared to be adequate availability to enable a provisional licence holder to take a relevant test (or, indeed, all tests for the category) within the validity period of the provisional licence, the Comité considered the 6-month validity period was appropriate and that a person should apply for a provisional licence at a time when they would be able to learn to drive and study for the tests rather than as soon as they reached the age to drive.

Infrastructure and Environment – highway maintenance; proposed Conservation Areas

3. The Comité received a presentation from the Principal Engineer – Highways and Coastal, and the Senior Engineer – Highways Asset Management, Infrastructure and Environment (I&E), Government of Jersey (GoJ), on the GoJ main roads resurfacing programme and highway maintenance. The Comité was informed that this information was available to the public on the GoJ website together with a map displaying the ownership of roads and details of road closures and delays. Other information related to applying for road works permits, information about branchage, advice about private work that affected roads, planning an event on the road or a public place, speed limits and the Jersey Highway Code.

The Comité was informed that asset management was both planned and reactive; highway maintenance was planned up to 5 years ahead so that utility companies had adequate time to schedule work. The technical standards for highway construction had evolved from the asset management policy and could be as detailed or simple as was wished. These might be of interest to the Roads Committees in each Parish who might wish to adopt class 3 as the standard for reinstatement. A risk assessment was included to enable the prioritising of work and the best use of funds etc. Regulations made under the Road Works and Events (Jersey) Law 2016 imposed a 3-year embargo on surface treatments and resurfacing schemes; there was a 5-year embargo on highway reconstruction schemes. Contractors must be assessed as competent and registered on the TrafficWorx system which was used to manage highways. In relation to the reporting of road issues, a recent review had determined that Love Jersey would be retained as a GoJ administered tool though it could be better publicised; some changes would be made to improve the user experience and better manage expectations. The Comité discussed various issues with the officers, including further staff training on TrafficWorx particularly in relation to applying an embargo, the administration of certain roads by Property Holdings and options to remedy the egress of water on to a road from an underground spring. Following discussion, the officers were thanked for the presentation and then withdrew from the meeting.

States of Jersey Police and community police

4. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 22 of 19th February 2024, received Chief Inspector M Hafey, and Inspector D Turnbull, States of Jersey Police (SOJP), who provided an update on the Community Police Team Parish officers, their duties and responsibilities and the objectives of the team from the 2024-2027 Policing Plan.

The Comité was informed that the team was being rebuilt following officers being redeployed to assist with major incidents in 2022/2023. The team currently comprised nine officers but should reach twelve in the coming months. Inspector Turnbull was the SOJP lead for the Honorary Police; the SOJP policing plan was the document against which they were held to account and the whole team had received crime prevention training. Their relationship with the Honorary Police was very important and they were in regular contact with the Chefs de Police of the Parishes to which they were assigned to undertake joint patrols. Monthly community impact days were now arranged and led by each SOJP officer, specific to their Parish and including the Honorary Police, and C.I. Hafey outlined areas where they sought to make improvements and quick wins. Following discussion, the Connétables thanked the SOJP for all they did and spoke positively of the very effective links with their respective community police officers. C.I. Hafey and Inspector Turnbull were thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

His Majesty King Charles III and Queen Camilla - visit on 15th July 2024

5. The Comité discussed the forthcoming visit of His Majesty King Charles III and Queen Camilla who would travel to Jersey on the morning of 15th July 2024, before visiting Guernsey the following day. As announced by the Bailiff, their visit would include a special sitting of the States Assembly and the Royal Court. The Bailiff's Chambers would also be coordinating a tea party in Liberation Square and the Bailiff had asked each Connétable to nominate 20 parishioners to attend; it was hoped this would ensure that Their Majesties had the opportunity to meet some of the key groups in Jersey. The Comité heard from Connétables with regard to the arrangements each was making and noted that the Bailiff's Chambers would issue formal invitations and further details in due course.

The Comité was also informed that the Official Portrait of His Majesty the King was now available and the Bailiff's Chambers would provide a portrait to each Parish.

Statistics Jersey – Data Sharing Agreement for dog licence data

6. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 25th March 2024, approved and all Connétables signed a Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) between each Parish and Statistics Jersey to share dog licence owner data pursuant to the Statistics and Census (Jersey) Law 2018 which required Statistics Jersey to “*consider the statistical potential of the records maintained by public authorities and, in conjunction with them, to facilitate the realising of this potential in so far as resources permit*”. Statistics Jersey would use the data to deliver planned statistical publications on Jersey population characteristics.

Armed Forces Steering Group – report from recent meeting

7. The Comité, with partial reference to its minute no. 4 of 20th February 2023, noted a meeting of the Armed Forces Steering Group was held on 3rd June 2024. The Connétables noted the suggestion that Parish newsletters might be used to connect with veterans. The next meeting was scheduled for 23rd September 2024.

Bergerac filming – closing of roads

8. The Comité was informed that, further to the announcement of the filming of the first new series of Bergerac in Jersey in July 2024, the Arts, Culture and Heritage section of the Government of Jersey had corresponded to say the production crew would be filming at various sites including on the roads (both major and minor roads) and discussions would therefore need to be held with the Connétables and Chefs de Police. Details of when and where the filming would take place were still to be decided and it would not necessarily affect all Parishes. The Comité noted the involvement of officers from Road Works and Events, Infrastructure and Environment, Government of Jersey who would co-ordinate requests relating to roads.

Elemental – an online social prescribing solution

9. The Comité, with partial reference to its minute no. 15 of 24th April 2023, received a paper provided by the Arts, Culture and Heritage section of the Government of Jersey (GoJ) about Elemental, a new project (within the Customer and Local Services Department) with the plan being to rollout on the island at the beginning of July. It was an online social prescribing solution designed for General Practitioners (GPs) and other frontline healthcare professionals so that people with social, emotional, or practical needs were empowered to engage in local programmes and services to improve their health and wellbeing. Whilst it was anticipated the majority of referrals would come via GPs and healthcare professionals, GoJ was very aware that there were many workers who came in contact with people in need in the Parishes and they wished to connect with the Connétables and Parish Secretaries in order to explain exactly what Elemental was and how it was hoped it would improve the lives of islanders who found themselves isolated, lonely or in need of help. The Comité noted that the overall aim was that, through the participation in social activities, GPs and other healthcare professionals would not be over-burdened and people would find fulfilment in engaging with local groups and programmes to improve their mental and physical health.

Gran Fondo
cycle event
2024

10. The Comité, with partial reference to its minute no. 6 of 24th April 2023, noted the proposed Gran Fondo cycle event on Sunday 8th September 2024 with routes of 110km and 70km. The aim of the event was to raise money for a local charity and at the same time help to promote an active and healthy lifestyle for the population of Jersey whilst encouraging Cyclo-tourism to the island in a shoulder month. The organiser was liaising with Infrastructure and Environment, Government of Jersey, regarding the event plan, risk assessment, details of timing, advanced warning, marshalling and signage. Riders would be required to display numbers on the front and rear of the bicycle. The proposed route included Parish roads in St Brelade, St John, Trinity, St Mary, St Lawrence and St Helier.

Society of
Local Council
Clerks/De
Montfort
University
Study trip

11. The Comité noted that as part of the Community Governance BA course run by De Montfort University and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), a small group of students on the course (predominantly town and parish clerks from across England and Wales) would undertake a field trip to Jersey from 2nd-4th July 2024 to learn from governance in other settings. Arrangements were being made to include experience of both the Parish system and the States Assembly.

Next meeting

12. The Connétable of Grouville was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité decided the next meeting would be on 12th July 2024.

Chairman Date