



8 October 2024

Request

Can I please have a copy of the three Requêtees dated 2017 and the notice of the Assembly held on 26 February 2018 and any relevant minutes or correspondence.

I also understand that there may have been other civil or ecclesiastical assemblies covering the proposed Church alternations held before filing of the three Requêtees, if there were, can I please have copies of the notices, minutes and any relevant correspondence.

Whilst I understand that the Commission* ruled that the three Requêtees had been properly refused based on legal advice, please let me know if there is any relevant correspondence that can be disclosed to me.

* Jersey Office of the Information Commissioner - Parish of St. Lawrence (jerseyoic.org)

Response

FOI exemption applied:

Article 25(2) - Personal Information - Personal data, applicant not subject but supply contravenes data protection principles

Information is absolutely exempt information if – (a) it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is not the data subject as defined in the Data Protection (Jersey) Law 2018; and (b) its supply to a member of the public would contravene any of the data protection principles, as defined in that Law.

Requête signed 6-10 November 2017 and correspondence

November 10, 2017

Dear Deidre

Following my call this morning I am sending this letter by way of background to accompany the enclosed requete and signatures.

We have taken advice on the wording from two lawyers and another colleague well-versed in parish affairs.

You have explained you will take you will take your own legal advice and we wait to hear of the result.

This requete is based on what the signatories perceive ass growing support for our concerns about the proposed extension to the church. This comes from a wideranging group of residents who are concerned both about the adverse architectural impact and the expenditure of ratepayers' money.

We and they feel the most appropriate forum for a discussion and vote on this matter is a civil parish assembly in the parish hall. That is – not an ecclesiastical assembly.

We are concerned, as you will be, about this urgency of this atter and ask therefore for one meeting in the parish hall to bote on these motions. Given the parish funds that have been voted for this project we urge that no further parish monies be spent, of financial commitments be entered into, until this debate and vote has taken place.

Kind regards

Requête:

Whereas:

- A) On the 8th July 2015 a Parish Assembly approved the giving of a maximum sum of £80,000 towards the extension of the Parish Church of Saint Lawrence,
- B) Having now learned more about this extension a number of Parishioners are of the view that the proposed works will harm the historic fabric of the Parish Church out of proportion to such advantage as may be obtained from undertaking them,

Therefore:

The undersigned Parishioners call upon their Connétable to convene a Parish Assembly in order that her parishioners may vote upon the following motions:

- 1. To rescind the parish approval for the construction of the proposed extension
- 2. That the decision of the Parish Assembly held on 8th July 2015 to give a maximum sum of £80,000 towards the proposed extension of the Parish Church be rescinded.
- 3. To instruct the Connétable and the Procureurs du Bien Public to ensure that no further parish expenditure towards the proposed extension of the Parish Church be incurred.



The Parish Hall
La Grande Route de St Laurent
St Lawrence
Jersey
JE3 1NG

Telephone : 01534 861672
email: stlawrence@posl.gov.je
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24th November 2017

Dear

On Thursday 23rd November 2017 at 10.00am, you presented to me a Requête (copy attached for ease of reference).

Having taken legal advice, I am writing to you on behalf of the other signatories, to advise that the Requête is not within my competency as required by Law.

Accordingly, I am unable to hold a Parish Assembly.

Yours sincerely



Deidre Mezbourian
Connétable de St Laurent

Requête signed 30 November 2017 and correspondence

1st December 2017

Connétable D W Mezbourian
Parish Hall
La Grande Route de St Laurent
St Lawrence
JE3 1NG

Dear Mme La Connétable

(We are responding to your letter of November 24 stating that our Requête was not within your competence.

(We understand this to be because you consider the decision taken, and therefore any review of it, to be a matter for an Ecclesiastical Assembly not a (Civil) Parish Assembly.

Having researched the matter in Le Hérissier (pages attached) and taken our own legal advice we consider that it is the Parish Assembly which must formally decide on a project to carry out improvements to the Church. It follows that if the Ecclesiastical Assembly alone approved the extension it was acting beyond its remit which, as defined at Art 8 of the law of 1804, lists only repairs and says nothing of improvements or extensions.

We consider therefore that it is entirely legitimate to call for a Parish Assembly to discuss this matter as set out in this new Requête. There is no record in the Minutes of the Parish Assembly of it having formally approved the project and this is one reason for calling the Meeting.

However, it might be asserted that by approving funds for the extension the Parish Assembly was *implicitly* approving the project. In that case it makes perfect sense for a Parish Assembly to review what it did, implicitly if not formally.

We also don't accept that it is in any event too late to change agreements since made. The questions of where the money is and who has now agreed what and with whom and on what terms are shrouded in mystery. We don't accept that such speculative matters can be used to nip in the bud a proper review of this affair.

Furthermore Art 9 of the law of 1804 says you are if so requested *tenu de convoquer* a meeting. This means you are bound or obliged to do so. By all means make known your

reservations if that is where you think your duty lies, but do so at the meeting, not by denying us one.

Thus we assert the Parish Assembly is the right and proper place for a Requête on this matter to be heard. Accordingly I herewith present you with a new Requête in the manner prescribed by Law.

As this is a matter of some urgency we request a prompt reply. I brought the previous Requête, with the required signatures to you on Friday November 11 and you took a copy so you could seek advice. The Requête was presented on Thursday November 23. It is now December 1.

(We and the signatories of the new Requête believe that it must be brought before a Parish Assembly in the first two weeks of December.

Yours sincerely



REQUETE

WHEREAS:

- A. On the 8th July 2015 a Parish Assembly approved the giving of a maximum sum of £80,000 towards a scheme involving the extension of the Parish Church of St Lawrence,
- B. At no time has the Parish Assembly given formal approval to any detailed plans of the proposed extension
- C. Having now learned more about this scheme a number of Parishioners are of the view that the proposed works will harm the historic fabric of the Parish Church out of proportion to such advantage as may be obtained from undertaking them,
- D. An alternative scheme has been devised that could achieve similar advantages without harming the historic fabric of the Church.

THEREFORE

The Undersigned Parishioners call upon their Connetable to convene a Parish Assembly in order that her Parishioners may vote upon the following issue and motions:

- 1. To call a halt to such work as may be in progress which might affect the external structure of the Parish Church.
- 2. To convene a further Parish Assembly within a period of six weeks, at which full details of the alternative scheme shall be presented in order that a fully informed decision be reached by the said Assembly.

PARISH OF
ST. LAWRENCE



The Parish Hall
La Grande Route de St Laurent
St Lawrence
Jersey
JE3 1NG

Telephone : 01534 861672
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www.parish.gov.je/st_lawrence

15th December 2017

Dear

On Friday 1st December 2017 at 10.30am you presented to me a Requete (copy attached for ease of reference).

Having taken legal advice, I am writing to advise that as the matters you raised relate to the Church, I am unable to hold a Parish Assembly as it is not within my competence as President of the Civil Assembly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DM', written in a cursive style.

Deidre Mezbourian
Connétable de St Laurent

Requête to the Rector – the information is not held.

PARISH OF ST LAWRENCE



Minutes of the Parish Assembly

Held on Monday 26th February 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

Assembly Room, St Lawrence and St Lawrence Parish School

Welcome and Apologies: 500 people present (approx.)

The Connétable welcomed all present and explained that due to the volume of people in attendance the overflow had been sent to the School Hall at St Lawrence Parish School and they would be able to hear and participate in the Assembly from there.

Rector Philip Warren led the Assembly in prayer.

Apologies: Mr Sean Morvan.

Deputies in attendance: Deputy John Le Fondre and Deputy Eddie Noel.

Minutes taken by: Anita Barker, Parish Secretary.

Convening Notice:

The Parish Secretary Mrs A Barker read the convening notice as advertised in the Church Box and the Jersey Gazette on 16th and 23rd February 2018.

An Assembly of the Principals and Electors of the Parish will be held at the Parish Hall on Monday 26th February at 7.00pm for the following business:

1. Receive and if agreed approve the Act of the Parish Assembly held on 13th December 2017 (copies of which are on display at the Parish Hall and on the Parish website).
2. To consider and, if agreed, to authorise the Connétable and Procureurs du Bien Public to take such action as may be necessary to ensure the completion of the currently suspended building work on the Parish Church, previously approved by the Ecclesiastical Assembly of the Parish on the 16th July 2015, namely, the construction of an extension to the west elevation of the Parish Church to provide inter alia disabled access, WC and lobby together with associated works including the creation of a door opening in the west elevation of the Church; and to utilise for these purposes the funds approved by the Parish Assembly on the 8th July 2015. The proposed works to be undertaken in accordance with the approved plans, copies of which are on display in the Parish Hall

Please note that photographic ID will be required for those attending the Assembly

Entry from 6:00 p.m.

Deidre Mezhourian
Connétable de St Laurent

14.02.18

1. To receive and if deemed advisable approve the Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 13th December 2017. These are on display in the Parish Hall.

The adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Mr Michael Ethelston and seconded by Deputy John Le Fondre and following their approval they were duly signed by the Connétable .

2. To consider and, if agreed, to authorise the Connétable and Procureurs du Bien Public to take such action as may be necessary to ensure the completion of the (currently suspended) building work on the Parish Church, previously approved by the Ecclesiastical Assembly of the Parish on the 16th July 2015, namely, the construction of an extension to the west elevation of the Parish Church to provide inter alia disabled access, WC and lobby together with associated works including the creation of a door opening in the west elevation of the Church; and to utilise for these purposes the funds approved by the Parish Assembly on the 8th July 2015. The proposed works to be undertaken in accordance with the approved plans, copies of which are on display in the Parish Hall.

The Connétable invited Mr Justin Gallaher, Architect, to speak to the plans referred to in Item 2 on the Convening Notice. The Connétable then invited Reverend Phil Warren, Rector, to speak in support of Item 2 on the Convening Notice. Finally, the Connétable invited Mr Marcus Binney to speak against Item 2 on the Convening Notice.

There then followed a question and answer session, at the end of which votes were cast by secret ballot.

At the invitation of the Connétable of St Lawrence, the Connétable of St Peter, Mr John Refault, oversaw the count of the ballot papers.

At the invitation of the Connétable of St Lawrence, the count was observed by Procureur Bruce Harrison, Procureur Martin Sabey, Mr Marcus Binney and Mrs Cynthia Rumboll.

At the invitation of the Connétable of St Peter, the count was observed also by Deputy Eddie Noel and Mr Matthew Harrison.

When the Connétable of St Peter, and those observing, were satisfied that all the ballot papers had been counted, the result was passed to the Connétable of St Lawrence.

The Connétable then declared the result of Item 2 on the Convening Notice to be 275 "yes" votes to continue with the extension to the Parish Church and 192 "no" votes. There were 3 spoilt papers. Accordingly the Connétable and Procurers were authorised to, take such action as may be necessary to ensure the completion of the (currently suspended) building work on the Parish Church, as specified under item 2.

For completeness, a transcript of the Assembly is appended to the minutes.

Meeting Closed:

There being no further business the Connétable declared the meeting closed at 22.17 pm

Signed: Deidre Mezbourian

Date 23.07.18

Deidre Mezbourian, Connétable

President of the Assembly

PARISH OF ST LAWRENCE



Minutes of the Parish Assembly

Wednesday 8th July 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

Assembly Room, St Lawrence

27/15	<p>Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>The Connétable welcomed all present before asking the Assembly to stand for one minutes silence as a mark of respect for a young parishioner who had tragically lost his life earlier in the week; Peter Noble then led the Assembly in prayer.</p> <p>Apologies: Deputy Eddie Noel, Reverend Phil Warren, Vingtenier Noel Le Fondré, Centenier Steve Coleman, Mr D Mezbourian, Mr M Binney</p> <p>Deputies in Attendance: None</p>
28/15	<p>Convening Notice</p> <p>The Parish Secretary read the convening notice.</p> <p>An Assembly of the Principals and Electors of the Parish will be held at the Parish Hall on Wednesday 8 July 2015 at 7.30pm for the following business:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To receive and if deemed advisable approve the Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 17 June 20152. To receive and adopt the accounts of the Connétable for year ending 30 April 2015, the said accounts having been audited by Alex Picot Chartered Accountants and examined by the Comité Paroissiale named for that purpose3. To place at the disposal of the Roads Committee the amount required for the upkeep of by-roads for year ending 30 April 2016.4. To approve the estimates of the funds required by the Parish for year ending 30 April 2016 excluding grants, special votes and charitable organisations5. To vote a sum to be donated to grants and special votes6. To vote a sum to be donated to charitable organisations, to be allocated by the Connétable and Procureurs du Bien Public.7. To approve a Rate for financial year 2015/16 in accordance with Article 21 of the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005.8. To approve a maximum sum to be given towards the proposed extension of the Parish Church9. To vote a sum to be transferred from the Accumulated Fund to the Parish Property Capital Expenditure Fund.10. To name the Comité Paroissiale to examine the accounts of the Connétable for the year ending 30 April 2016.11. To appoint auditors to prepare the Connétable's accounts for year ending 30 April 2016.12. To elect three parishioners to the Sheltered Housing Committee.13. To elect three parishioners to the St Lawrence Sports & Community Centre Management Committee.

From Friday 3 July, copies of the audited accounts will be available from the Parish Hall office during opening hours or from our website

Deidre Mezbourian
Connétable de St Laurent

1 July 2015

I confirm that this notice has been posted in the Church Notice Box in accordance with the law.

Signed :

.....
Rector

29/15 1. To receive and if deemed advisable approve the Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 17 June 2015.

Proposed: Procureur Bruce Hamson

Seconded: Mr Sid Simkin

The minutes were duly adopted on a show of hands.

30/15 2. To receive and adopt the accounts of the Connétable for year ending 30 April 2015, the said accounts having been audited by Alex Picot Chartered Accountants and examined by the Comité Paroissiale named for that purpose.

The Connétable invited Mr Don Connolly from Alex Picot Chartered Accountants to address the Assembly. He explained that he would comment on lines of expenditure from the previous year, starting on Page 3 of the Accounts, beginning with the heading of Administration

Administration (Page 3)

Bank and Credit card charges: the over spend was due to a change in the terms with Lloyds Bank, who had previously not taken bank charges from the Parish. Part way through the financial year, they had introduced bank charges, taking 50% of their standard fee. For accounting purposes it had been agreed with the Connétable that the cost of the rental of the Credit Card machine should be moved from Maintenance and Renewal of Equipment to this line of expenditure.

Election expenses: is an under spend due to a standard reimbursement from the States for the Senatorial election held in October 2014.

Salaries: were slightly over budget.

Special Functions: were on budget, despite including the Visite Royale expenditure.

Establishment (Page 3)

Insurance: There was a noticeable saving shown here as last year we had inadvertently included in this budget line the cost of insurance for the Community Centre, Clos du Sommier and the St Lawrence Battle of Flowers Association, which had inflated this line. There had also been a saving on the Public Liability Insurance

Roads Account (Page 5)

The Assembly had voted a sum of £30,000 for the financial year 2014/2015 and other income is received from driving licences, car park rent, firearms certificates and fines, although Honorary Police Fines were down on the previous financial year. This year a total of £63,217.00 was available to be spent by the Roads Committee against last year's total of £94,578.00. After expenditure of £39,556.00, the surplus for the year of £23,661.00 will be placed in the Roads Reserve Account.

General Account (Page 6)

Maison du Gardien has not had full occupancy for 2014/15 rental income being down by £3,500. The balance carried forward on the General Account this year is £378,529, being a surplus on last year of £47,000.00. It gives the Parish 37 weeks forecast expenditure in hand, the recommendation is to keep at least 20 weeks in hand.

Fund Accounts (Page 10)

Church Restoration Fund and the General Ecclesiastical Purposes Fund

The small balances on these have been used towards the cost of the Church pail, which in total cost £21,000.00, these accounts are now closed

Parish Property Capital Expenditure Fund

	<p>Expenditure of £44,918 included the refurbishment of the office reception area, funding towards the cost of the Church path and a replacement boiler at the Community Centre.</p> <p>Police Vehicle Fund Expenditure of £5,490 was the conversion of a standard car to a police vehicle.</p> <p>Rectory Improvement and Maintenance Fund Expenditure of £5,696 was on a number of minor repairs.</p> <p>Roads Reserve Fund A previous Parish Assembly had agreed that any surplus on the Roads Account would be placed in this account to offset any unforeseen expenditure: £23,661 had been added from the previous financial year.</p> <p>There were no questions from the floor.</p> <p>Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Centenier N Parker Hood and seconded by Mr B Rondel. On a show of hands, all were in favour with none against.</p>
31/15	<p>3. To place at the disposal of the Roads Committee the amount required for the upkeep of by-roads for year ending 30 April 2016.</p> <p>The Connétable informed the Assembly that the Roads Committee was proposing that the sum of £25,000 should be voted to the Roads Account for the next financial year, this being a further reduction to the Roads Account. The Assembly had voted £30,000 for the financial year 2014/2015 and £55,000 for 2013/2014. She advised that in 2008 the Parish Assembly had voted £158,000 to the Roads Account.</p> <p>Mr T Brown proposed the sum of £25,000 be placed at the disposal of the Roads Committee for the upkeep of by-roads for year ending 30 April 2016, seconded by Mr S Ross-Gower. On a show of hands, all were in favour with none against.</p>
32/15	<p>4. To approve the estimates of the funds required by the Parish for year ending 30 April 2016 excluding grants, special votes and charitable organisations.</p> <p>The Connétable referred to the next financial year as being business as usual, before commenting on the following lines of expenditure proposed in the budget for year ending 30 April 2016:</p> <p>Administration (Page 18)</p> <p>Maintenance and renewal of equipment: there was a proposed increase from £350 to £5,750 to cover the cost of a new photocopier. We have had our photocopier for five years and it is beginning to require maintenance.</p> <p>Rates and Electoral System Expenses: a proposed increase from £2,200 to £8,140. The Connétable explained that the current Island Rates Management System (RMS) is a single system that has been used by all Parishes for a number of years. It is being enhanced this year so that online payments can be made, thereby giving Parishioners a further option as to how they pay for their rates. It is also the first step to enabling us to complete our Annual Returns online, although that would be optional and paper returns available for those who prefer that method. Rates collected online under the new system would be paid into a central account in the name of the Supervisory Committee (the collective name under the Rates Law for the Connétables). As each rate payer would be given a unique identification number, their account would be credited accordingly, thereby saving staff time on bank reconciliations. To deliver the enhancement in time for this year's rate demands, one Merchant ID has been set up in the name of the Supervisory Committee: all payments would go there to be allocated to individual Parishes. It is anticipated that eventually each Parish would want to have its own Merchant ID but that would require separate applications and contracts to be signed. All funds would be directly under the control of the Supervisory Committee and no payments would be made to anyone other than the Parishes. No funds would be made direct to the States: although Parishes would continue to make payment of the Island Wide Rate they had collected. The Parishes had agreed to initially absorb the fees so that there would be no direct cost to the individual rate payer to use the new online payment system. The Connétable advised that, for the avoidance of doubt, there would be no centralisation other than already exists, which is the collection of the Island Wide Rate. The Connétables do not see this as leading to centralisation or to the erosion of the status of the Parishes.</p>

Salaries: there is a proposed 2% increase to £113,000.

Establishment (Page 18)

Insurance: the Connétable informed the Assembly that she had spoken to the insurance broker who had confirmed that a proposed budget of £11,000 was appropriate

Refuse and Recycling: the Connétable explained that she had received a letter from Gembusters, the Parish refuse collector, advising that they had miscalculated our payments for the last two years. Although they did not intend to ask for the difference to be paid to them, the proposed budget was now £173,173 which was an increase of £11,608 on last years actual.

The estimates of the funds required by the Parish for year ending 30 April 2016 excluding grants, special votes and charitable organisations were proposed by Mrs I Le Feuvre, seconded by Mr D Beaugard. On a show of hands, all were in favour with none against.

33/15 5. To vote a sum to be donated to grants and special votes

Grants and Special Votes (Page 19)

The Connétable informed the Assembly that there were a few proposed changes for the next financial year. Whilst the St Lawrence Battle of Flowers Association was proposed to remain at £2,500, the grant to St Lawrence Miniature Rifle Club had been increased to £1,500, this brought them to the same grant amount as the St Lawrence Football Club. The St Lawrence Police Vehicle Fund is ring fenced towards replacement vehicles, with £5,000 being proposed this year, as opposed to £2,500 in the previous financial year. The St Lawrence Sports and Community Centre grant has decreased to £5,000 from the previous years grant of £10,000 as they have a surplus of £18,000. The Connétable referred the Assembly to Page 18 of the Accounts, showing the unaudited accounts of the Community Centre. A new three year agreement has been signed this year with the Education Department toward the cost of a part time Youth Worker, but continuing at £15,000 per annum. The Parish has funded this for the past six years. The grant to the St Lawrence Twinning Association is proposed at £50, as the Jersey Normandic Association has reduced the cost of membership from £100. The Connétable advised the Assembly that the St Lawrence Parent and Toddler Group has been added to the list of grants and special votes, proposing that £200 be granted to them. They have in previous years received that amount from the Charitable Grants and Donations payments.

Mrs K Le Maistre proposed the sum of £45,900 be voted to grants and special votes, seconded by Mr P Noble.

On a show of hands, all were in favour with none against.

34/15 6. To vote a sum to be donated to charitable organisations, to be allocated by the Connétable and Procureurs du Bien Public.

The Connétable explained to the Assembly that the sum of £17,500 was being proposed, as in previous years. In the previous financial year we had donated £500 to the Oscar Maclean Foundation and £100 to the Street Pastors, both being new donations from the Parish.

Following discussion from the floor, Mrs A Binney proposed that the sum of £18,000 be donated to Charitable Organisations to increase the amounts paid to Little Sister of the Poor and Hospice. This was seconded by Mr B Rondel.

On a show of hands all were in favour with none against.

35/15 7. To approve a Rate for financial year 2015/16 in accordance with Article 21 of the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005.

Procureur M Ethelston addressed the Assembly and explained that the Connétable and Procureurs considered that the Parish Rate for the financial year 2015/2016 could be retained at 0.80p, as in the previous year.

Mr M Ethelston proposed a rate for financial year 2015/2016 of 0.80p per quarter, seconded by Mrs J Paillet.

On a show of hands, all were in favour with none against.

36/15	<p>8. To approve a maximum sum to be given towards the proposed extension of the Parish Church.</p> <p>In the absence of the Rector, the Connétable invited Churchwarden Mr P Noble to address the Assembly for this matter. He explained that the Church wished to add an extension on the west end of the Church to create disabled access, kitchen area and a wc. the estimated cost of the extension is £145,000. The Rectorat had agreed that a maximum sum of £80,000 should be given towards the extension. If that sum was approved at this Assembly it would be advised to the Ecclesiastical Assembly due to be held on 16th July. If the Ecclesiastical Assembly agreed, the proposals would be taken to the Ecclesiastical Court for their approval after which a Planning Application would be submitted. There was some discussion from the floor and Mr Noble advised the Assembly that anyone who had concerns about the proposals would be able to make their representations to the Planning Department as part of the normal Planning Application process.</p> <p>Mr P Noble proposed that the Parish approve a maximum sum of £80,000.00 to be given towards the proposed extension of the Parish Church, seconded by Mrs I Le Feuvre.</p> <p>On a show of hands, 34 were in favour, 8 were against and there were 3 abstentions.</p>
37/15	<p>9. To vote a sum to be transferred from the Accumulated Fund to the Parish Property Capital Expenditure Fund.</p> <p>Procureur B Harrison addressed the Assembly and recommended that the Parish transfer the sum of £100,000 to the Parish Property Capital Expenditure Fund, this being £80,000 towards the Church extension and £20,000 as a top up to the Fund.</p> <p>Procureur B Harrison proposed that £100,000 be transferred from the Accumulated Fund to the Parish Property Capital Expenditure Fund, seconded by Mrs M Moody.</p> <p>On a show of hands, all were in favour with none against.</p>
38/15	<p>10. To name the Comité Paroissiale to examine the accounts of the Connétable for the year ending 30 April 2016.</p> <p>The Connétable informed the Assembly that the members who are required to sit on this are the Connetable, the Rector, the Procureurs, the Parish Deputies, the Centeniers, the Chairman of the Rates Committee, the Secretary of the Roads Committee and the Churchwardens</p> <p>Proposed by Mrs A Binney and seconded by Mr S Simkin</p> <p>On a show of hands, all were in favour with none against.</p>
39/15	<p>11. To appoint auditors to prepare the Connétable's accounts for year ending 30 April 2016.</p> <p>The Connétable thanked Mr Connolly and his team for all their help and advice during the previous financial year. She recommended that Alex Picot Chartered Accountants be re-appointed as auditors to prepare the Connétable's Accounts for year ending 30 April 2016.</p> <p>Proposed by Centenier N Parker-Hood, seconded by Mr R Kerley.</p> <p>On a show of hands, all were in favour with none against.</p>
40/15	<p>12. To elect three parishioners to the Sheltered Housing Committee.</p> <p>The Connétable asked for nominations</p> <p>Mrs Iris Le Feuvre Proposed: Mr Brian Rondel Seconded: Mr Norman Le Riche</p> <p>On a show of hands, all were in favour with none against</p>

Mr Brian Rondel

Proposed: Procureur Mike Ethelston

Seconded: Mr Norman Le Riche

On a show of hands, all were in favour with none against

Mrs Jenny Carter

Proposed: Mrs Kath Le Maistre

Seconded: Mr Brian Rondel

On a show of hands, all were in favour with none against.

The Connétable thanked them for putting their name forward and for their contribution on the Sheltered Housing Committee in previous years.

41/15

13. To elect three parishioners to the St Lawrence Sports & Community Centre Management Committee.

The Connétable asked for nominations.

Mrs Marion Hibbeard

Proposed: Mr Sean Morvan

Seconded: Mr Stephen Ross-Gower

On a show of hands, all were in favour with none against.

Mr Sud Simkin

Proposed: Mr Winston Le Brun

Seconded: Mr David Beaugnard

On a show of hands, all were in favour with none against.

Mr Chris Durbano

Proposed: Mrs Pauline Dutot

Seconded: Mr Peter Henwood

On a show of hands, all were in favour with none against

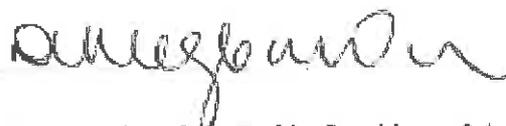
The Connétable thanked them for putting their name forward and for their contribution on the St Lawrence Sports and Community Centre Management Committee in previous years

Before closing the Assembly, the Connétable thanked everyone for attending and for their participation. She thanked everyone involved with Parish life, whether elected or in a voluntary position and thanked the Parish staff for the support they gave to her and to the Parish.

42/15 Meeting Closed

There being no further business the Connétable closed the meeting at 9.30 pm

Signed



Date 19-08-15

Deidre Mezbourian, Connétable President of the Assembly



Paroisse de St Laurent



Agenda

ECCLESIASTICAL ASSEMBLY

An Ecclesiastical Assembly of the Electors, Principals and Officers of the Parish will be held in St. Lawrence Parish Church On Thursday 16th July 2015 at 7:30pm.

1. To confirm the Act of the previous Assembly.
2. To propose the building of an extension onto the West facing elevation of the church and create an entrance through an existing opening that would provide an 'access to all' entrance and WC facility;
3. To propose to install a servery/kitchenette area inside the West corner of the church
4. To propose to remove the pews in the North aisle of the nave and replace them with chairs.

.....

REVEREND PHILIP WARREN
RECTOR

* * * * *

I hereby confirm that the Convening Notice was posted in the Official Box in accordance with Law and Custom.

.....

DEIDRE MEZBOURIAN, CONNÉTABLE

MINUTES OF ST LAWRENCE ECCLESIASTICAL ASSEMBLY HELD IN ST LAWRENCE PARISH CHURCH, ON THURSDAY 16th July 2015

PRESENT: Rev. P Warren (in the Chair), Mr P Noble and Mrs V Quinn, Churchwardens, Mrs D Mezbourian (Connétable), Mr M Ethelston, Procureur du Bien Public, Deputy Le Fondré, Mrs M Moody, Almoners and 48 Parishioners.

Mr Warren opened the Meeting with Prayer and read the Convening Notice.
Mrs V Quinn took the Minutes of the Meeting.

APOLOGIES: Mr Bruce Harrison, Procureur du Bien Public, Deputy Noel, Chef de Police Nicola Parker-Hood, Mr & Mrs A Bougourd, Mr. D Baxter, Mrs J Baxter, Mr M Orpin, Mrs C Orpin, C Journeaux, Mr. D Mezbourian,

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Mr Warren commented that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st May 2015 had been circulated soon after the meeting and there were copies on the chair. He then asked if someone could propose them for adoption. The minutes were proposed by Mrs Mary Moody and seconded by Mrs Sue Noble, and unanimously approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

OPENING WORDS BY THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Warren started by saying that prior to items 2 to 4 on the agenda, he wanted to give the background and explain carefully the process that has lead to holding the Ecclesiastical Assembly to consider the three proposals. He expressed his hope that everyone present had taken the time to look carefully at the plans, and that there would be the opportunity to ask questions and make comments before proceeding with items 2, 3 and 4. He also explained that the reason for holding the Parish Ecclesiastical Assembly in church was to be on site, which he hoped would help with visualising the proposed work.

Mr. Warren thanked the church project committee (consisting of the project manager, Andrea Robottom, the wardens and himself) for the hard work that had gone on behind the scenes to get to this point, and proceeded to thank the Connetable, Procureurs, Deputies, Rectorat committee and the Dean for their wisdom and support in the process, and in particularly the St Lawrence church leadership team and congregation for their week by week commitment to St Lawrence church. He stated that it was important to note this latter point; namely the church congregation, which values and honours not only old buildings, but also more specifically the heritage and history of St Lawrence Church, its tradition (which is rooted in the early church), and are incredibly proud of looking after this special building as a place of worship. He commented that over the past 12 years he had been Rector, there had always been a care and diligence in any decisions made (and was quite sure this had been the case for many years). Its history and heritage was vitally important to all; and as someone who studied history himself, he was aware every Sunday that he was part of a long list of Rectors going back to the 12th century. Mr. Warren also stated that he was very aware that over the thousand years of people worshipping on the site, the church had evolved in structure and had adapted to social changes, and that each generation had the responsibility of stewarding this special resource well, and balancing both the integrity of the building with the needs of community, and making wise choices for the future. As was pointed out by one of the planning officers: 'we are not curators of a museum'. Mr. Warren reminded the meeting that the church is the body of Christ, and this building was built to enable the church and its members to resource the mission of Christ on earth. He, and the leadership team very much believed that these proposals came in line with that balance and good stewardship.

Turning to the proposals themselves, Mr. Warren explained that discussions between himself, the Wardens and SLT, about a proper 'access for all' into church and having a WC in or around the church building (that complies with planning laws), a kitchenette area to facilitate times of fellowship and social events, as well as creating space in the north aisle for flexibility of use and better vision, had been taking place for many years, and that what we have now in the form of these designs, was a culmination of much prayer, conversation, advice-seeking, and fine tuning.

He explained that initial thoughts had been to have an extension around the north door entrance, and a kitchenette in the area around the font. However this was rejected not only because it would compromise the oldest part of the church building, but also would be limiting in terms of what could be achieved inside, whilst keeping the integrity of the building. This was also strongly dismissed by Ms. Tracey Ingle and Elizabeth Stables of the Planning Department when they met with Mr. Warren and Mr. Noble (and Peter) (who were representing the senior leadership team and project committee) to discuss the proposal. In fact it was Tracey Ingle, on her earlier visit to the church, who recommended the canon door entrance.

Mr. Warren then explained that he had contacted Mr. Michael Drury (the architect involved in the restoration of the church), as suggested by Mr. Marcus Binney, and commented on both the letter he received from MD, and also his alternative proposal (as per sketch plan); namely to have a mobility access W.C. inside church (in the West corner), next to a kitchenette server, and a short travel lift platform (in place of the existing sound desk), adjusting the existing steps into church.

Mr. Warren mentioned these two options underlining the fact that the whole process had been an open one, looking at every option without prejudice. However after much consideration, it was felt by himself, the wardens and SLT, the Rectorat committee and Dean himself, that whilst an option like this might work in some churches, this suggestion of a toilet inside church, not only had serious practical and pastoral implications, but would limit the space we would have on a Sunday morning (as well as other church activities), as there would need to have some form of screen to deal with the whole issue of noise and discretion. It was strongly felt by the leadership team and congregation that St Lawrence church building did not lend itself to such an option. Mr. Warren then quoted MD when he wrote: 'It is not a question of the church community 'deciding unanimously' on an extension, it is a judgment that must be made in the interests of the church building, weighing the needs of the church community against the impact visually and in terms of its historic fabric'. Mr. Warren commented that he agreed wholeheartedly to the matter of 'weighing the needs', which he felt they had been done carefully and diligently; in fact this was commented on by Tracey Ingle and Elisabeth Stables. However he completely disagreed with the comment that it is not a question of the church community needing to decide unanimously (or at least with a majority). He emphasized that it was both, and felt that they had come to a point where the designs give the best balance to both the church community and the integrity of the building, and now it was up to the church members and parishioners to decide whether they wanted to take this forward.

Mr. Warren finished by saying that 'doing nothing' was no longer an option. There had been too many occasions recently when either people had stopped coming to church because the church did not have a facility that complied to what people expect today, in terms of wheel chair entrance and WC, or families with small children were being compromised, such as the recent wedding example, of a page boy going to the toilet behind the main entrance of church, because there was not the time to take him to the parish hall. In addition, with the exciting village development plan for a garden, having a church toilet facility was even more critical and timely. It was time to act. Mr. Warren re-iterated that a great deal of thought and energy had gone into the process so far. The committee had worked extremely hard, with the architect, to cover every angle, and at the last SLT meeting on 16th April it was voted unanimously to proceed with these designs. Then at a special church congregational meeting on 14th May, these proposals were presented and voted unanimously in favour by those present. The next step, prior to the Ecclesiastical Court, was to present them to the Ecclesiastical Assembly. This meeting had been advertised in the JEP, according to custom; the drawings had been in church since the beginning

of May; and at the Parish Rates meeting, last week, the parish approved in principle for the parish to give a maximum of up to £80,000, and this was agreed prior to this meeting. Mr Warren finished by saying that it gave him great pleasure to commend this project to the parish for questions and comments, prior to proposing the work.

Before opening up discussions to the floor, Mr. Warren asked Mr. Noble (church warden) to comment on the details of the design and also give an overview of costs, which he proceeded to do.

Before welcoming comments or questions, Mr Warren referred to an initial consideration they had initially had, with regards to having a ramp, as the entrance through the Cannon door was higher than the floor of the church. However this was decided against not only due to the large amount of space taken up, but also (following advice) discovering that we could easily level the path to rectify the height difference; so a ramp would not be necessary.

Hamish Ramsey commented that St Lawrence is a very beautiful church and that there have been lots of additions over the years to meet the needs of the community. He stated that over the years we have had to modify the church in order to meet the needs of the community. He did not believe that it was appropriate to have a toilet inside and that if the extension was carried out sympathetically with granite that he fully supports the proposal.

The Connetable commented that at the rates meeting last week it was agreed that the parish would give a grant of up to £80,000 towards the church works and emphasized that a lot of discussions and work had led up to this proposal. She explained that at the rates meeting most people believed that there was a need for a toilet. However, there was a concern that parishioners who do not attend church knew very little or nothing about the plans being proposed even though the congregation had been fully informed and involved. The Connetable explained that at the rates meeting she had shared the correspondence sent to her by Marcus Binney in relation to the proposals. She explained that as they had been shared at that meeting that she did not feel that she had to share them again. She also explained that she had received a letter from Mr Brown who had attended the rates meeting. She took the time to read all of Mr Brown's letter to the meeting. The letter expressed Mr Brown's concerns about the transparency of the process that has taken place and therefore a planning application would be made without the proposals being shared with the wider parish. He perceived, from the tone of the letter from Mr. Binney, that the process had not taken into account and looked fully into the ideas of all the congregation and given Mr. Binney's experience, he felt that his suggestions had not been fully considered. The Connetable explained that she had spoken to Mr. Brown about the content of his letter today and agreed with him that the wider Parish were not aware of the proposals and the process that had taken place. She said that several parishioners had attended the rates meeting because they did not know anything about the proposals. The Connetable then said that she had spoken to the Rector about her concerns of transparency and had suggested that in order to be more transparent, he should write an article in the next parish newsletter; which he was very happy to do. She did however admit that she had not shown Mr. Brown's letter to the Rector until just before the start of the meeting, and was grateful for Mr Warren's willingness and openness to allow her to read the letter. She explained that if it was agreed tonight that the proposals go forward to the Ecclesiastical Court and then on to a formal planning application, parishioners would have the ability and right to put forward any comments and concerns to the planning department for them to consider and respond to. She explained that she would be writing to the Planning department to share her thoughts about the three glass windows on the outside of the extension being suggested in the plans, and urged parishioners to view their opinions in a similar way if they wished to do so.

Before responding to the letter, Mr Warren invited any comments the floor.

Mrs. Maureen Swan said that although she was not at the meeting, she understood that the proposal for the grant was carried forward 34 / 7 at the Rates Assembly and therefore, fairly unanimously, which she felt should be made known to the meeting tonight.

Mrs. Sue Noble said that she was offended that Mr. Brown had felt that things were being done behind closed doors when this clearly was not the case. The Connetable responded by saying that the plans and proposals had not been shared within the wider parish community and that the only reason why the majority of the people at the meeting were aware of the plans is because they attend the church. She emphasized that it is important that we are open and transparent in all that we do.

Hamish Ramsey said it was important to note that when information is provided in the Parish newsletter that it needs to state that due process has taken place.

The Rector responded by saying that a number of incorrect judgments had been made in Mr. Brown's letter. He mentioned that Mr. Brown had not made contact with him, and that over the twelve years of being the Rector he had never met Mr. Brown. He said that he would be more than happy to meet him in order to discuss the proposals with him, and clarify the process that has been correctly followed, in accordance with Ecclesiastical rules. The Rector also noted a contradiction in what Mr. Brown had said in his letter, on the one hand supporting Mr. Binney's scheme (based on Michael Drury sketch), whilst at the same time agreeing that the cannon door should be opened. The Rector agreed that the church could have got more information out to the wider Parish, but emphasised the fact that the plans and proposals had been in church since the beginning of May 2014, they had been openly discussed from the outset and that a transparent process had taken place.

Heather Warren commented that all parishioners are able to attend the Ecclesiastical Assembly but that Mr. Brown had not.

Both the Rector and Connetable once again agreed that they had missed an opportunity by not putting details of the plans and proposals in the parish newsletter and the Rector agreed that he would provide some comprehensive details in the next week to be included in the next newsletter. But he again re-iterated that due process had been followed.

Mike Turner, son of a former Rector, said that he did not feel that Mr. Marcus Binney was doing himself any favours with his option. He himself had read about the meeting in the newspaper and has not attended any other meeting but wanted to come and give his support as he believes that the plans should have been implemented years ago.

Mr Warren moved to the three proposals.

2. TO BUILD AN EXTENSION ONTO THE WEST FACING ELEVATION OF THE CHURCH AND CREATE AN ENTRANCE THROUGH AN EXISTING OPENING THAT ULD PROVIDE AN 'ACCESS TO ALL' ENTRANCE AND WC FACILITY, according to Gallaher Architects drawings, JOB no. 1682; DRG 10, Rev H: Mr Warren asked for a Proposer. Steve Wilderspin proposed, Charles Le Cornu seconded, and the proposal was adopted. (For: 40, Against: 2, Abstain: 2)

3. TO INSTALL A SERVERY/KITCHENETTE AREA INSIDE THE WEST CORNER OF THE CHURCH, according to Gallaher Architects drawings, JOB no. 1682; DRG 11, Rev C: Mr Warren asked for a Proposer. Sue Noble proposed, Charles Le Cornu seconded, and the proposal was adopted. (For: 40, Against: 0, Abstain: 2)

Prior to the third proposal, Mr. Mike Ethelston asked where the outlet for the extractor fan would be. The Rector showed the meeting on the plans where the outlet would be positioned and Mr Noble explained that it would be positioned in accordance with the requirements of the planning department.

Prior to the proposal, the Rector recognized that the whole issue of pew removal can cause all kinds of reactions and people generally are either for or against it; they don't tend to sit on the fence. He then spoke about the history, noting that for most of the church's history, pews did not exist; and whilst he appreciated the differing views, he challenged the perception that 'keeping the pews' had a stronger argument when it came to history and valuing heritage; that was not the case, and if anything it was the other way round. The Rector then commented that initial discussions about removing all of the pews had taken place, but the church leadership had decided against this, and that this is not what was now being proposed. He said that this proposal only relates to removing the pews from the north aisle and replacing them with chairs so that there would be more flexibility and better visibility when it came to services (especially special services like weddings).

Mr. Hamish Ramsey said that he would like to clarify that if the intention is only to remove the pews from the north aisle that there is no agenda at this time to remove any from anywhere else in the church. The Rector agreed that this was the case.

Mr. Winston Le Brun said that he did not attend St Lawrence church but was a chorister at Holy Trinity church and that since they have removed the pews from their lady chapel, it had enhanced the congregation, and he noted that this was the case with other churches around the island who had also removed their pews.

Mrs. Mary Moody explained that by removing the pews it would provide space for children's activities and other events being held in the church and that although she had believed very much in pews remaining in the church, she recognized that by removing them in the north aisle it would enhance the space available; but by keeping them in the main aisle we would be able to still maintain the tradition of the church for weddings and funerals; so it had her full support.

Mr. James Sherry added that removing the pews in the north aisle would be needed in order to create space to carry out the other proposals that have been agreed, and therefore he was in support of the pews being removed in the north aisle.

Mr. Mike Turner said that when the pews were removed from the lady chapel people were given the opportunity to buy chairs and he asked whether this would be the case again. The Rector thanked him for his suggestion and said that this would be something the church would consider.

Mr. Mike Ethelston asked whether any consideration had been given to costings. Mr Noble said that Colin Smith and Partners had been appointed as Quantity Surveyors and Rossgower for carrying out structural works. Mr Noble said that the surveyors had provided detailed costings of £130k which included everything such as path, kitchen, removing pews, etc. apart from buying chairs.

Having opened the floor to comment, Mr. Warren asked if there were any further questions or comments. There being none, he moved forward to the third proposal.

4. TO REMOVE THE PEWS IN THE NORTH AISLE OF THE NAVE AND REPLACE THEM WITH CHAIRS, according to Gallaher Architects drawings, JOB no. 1682; DRG 03, Rev K; Mr Warren

asked for a Proposer. Hamish Ramsey proposed, Winston Le Brun seconded, and the proposal was adopted. (For: 39, Against: 1, Abstain: 6)

Charles Le Cornu stood up to thank the Rector and Mr. Noble for all their hard work and he commented on the fact that during the restoration in 1997, parishioners had commented at the very last minute on the plans, but had not attended any meetings previously in a similar way to this meeting. However he said that people in the parish could have been aware of these plans had they wanted to. Mr Warren thanked him for his comments.

Mr. Warren thanked the assembly for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 9 pm

