

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 13th January 2025
at the Parish Hall, St Peter.

Present:

Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson, Chairman
Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Vice Chairman
Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert
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 (not present for items 1 and 2)

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft; the Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur; the Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone 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 meeting held on 16th December 2024, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Dog licences -
2025 renewals

2. The Comité recalled that 2024 dog licences would expire on 31st January and, in accordance with the Dogs (Jersey) Law 1961, must be renewed annually. A reminder had been issued on 2nd January 2025 through a press release. However, a minor glitch over the first weekend had prevented some from renewing online; this related to the SSL licence but was swiftly rectified, an apology had been received from the supplier and action taken to avoid a recurrence. Email reminders had been sent on 6th January 2025 to dog owners who had provided an email address when purchasing their 2024 licence; 2,509 licences had been renewed that day and, to date, 68% of dog licences had been renewed (of which 95% had been renewed online). Two further email reminders would be issued later in January to owners who had yet to purchase a 2025 dog licence.

Jersey Royal
Potato Growing
Competition
2025

3. The Comité considered correspondence from the Chief Executive Officer, Genuine Jersey Products Association, regarding the 2025 Jersey Royal Potato Growing Competition and confirmed:

- Occupation VIP competition – each Parish would arrange its own weighing and counting with results to be submitted by 4pm on 13th May 2025, the winners from each Parish would be invited to attend the award ceremony hosted by the Connétable of St Ouen at St Ouen's Parish Hall on 16th May 2025. Any person born on or before 9th May 1945 who was either resident in Jersey during the Occupation, evacuated, deported or who served in the forces at that time was eligible as an 'Occupation VIP'.
- Connétables competition – entries would be weighed/counted at St Ouen's Parish Hall on 16th May 2025.

The Comité, mindful of the reducing number able to participate in the Occupation VIP event and as 2025 would mark the 80th anniversary of the Liberation of Jersey,

decided that this should be the final year an ‘Occupation VIP’ class would be offered as part of this annual competition. The Chairman was requested to arrange for a media release to invite those wishing to take part to notify their Parish accordingly.

Property search fee – review of fee

4. The Comité reviewed the administrative fee charged by Parishes for a response to a ‘Property search’ enquiry made by legal practices in connection with the conveyance of property. The fee had increased to £50 (inclusive of GST) on 1st May 2022 taking into account the RPI increase from December 2016 to December 2021. The Comité, having noted that the December 2024 RPI would be published in late January 2025 but that the RPI increase from December 2021 to September 2024 was 24.1%, agreed that the charge should increase to £65, inclusive of GST, with effect from 1st May 2025.

Liberation 80 – 2025

5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 7 of 16th December 2024, heard from Connétables of the events being planned in each Parish to celebrate Liberation 80 – 2025. These included fairs/fêtes, tea parties, a concert and a church service on 9th or 10th May 2025. Funding of £1,000 per Parish had been offered by the Bailiff’s Chambers to prime the Parish led activities.

In relation to Island events, the Comité was informed that the States Assembly sitting on 9th May 2025 would be held in Liberation Square at 11 a.m. and that tickets would be made available in due course (free reserved seating would be allocated by the Parishes to Parish Senior Citizens (those who were resident in Jersey during the Occupation, those evacuated, deported or those serving in the forces at that time) and their immediate and extended families; other Islanders could apply for tickets online or through the Bailiff’s Chambers).

Honorary Police – COCF funding for Centeniers laptops

6. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 8 of 16th December 2024, noted the decision of the Minister for Treasury and Resources (reference MD-TR-2024-951) to allocate £86,400 in 2024 from the Criminal Offences Confiscation Fund (COCF) to the Law Officers’ Department (LOD) to purchase laptops for the Honorary Police. The funding would be used to provide laptops for Centeniers as each would require a personal laptop to access Court papers in order to meet the standards applied by States of Jersey Police.

Honorary Police Medal for Long and Meritorious Service

7. The Comité recalled the award of the Honorary Police Medal for Long and Meritorious Service, instituted by Warrant of Her Majesty the Queen dated 1st December 2014, and registered in the Royal Court on 12th December 2014, to several officers had been approved by the Bailiff and His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor. The Royal Warrant ordained that the name of each recipient be recorded in the minutes of the Assemblée Paroissiale of the Parish in which the officer last served or was serving, as the case might be, and also ordained that the names of all recipients be recorded in the minutes of the Comité des Connétables. The Comité congratulated the following, to whom presentations had been made, and expressed its thanks for their service –

Honorary Police Medal for Long and Meritorious Service with Bar (21 years’ service)

Teresa Roland, Honorary Police (St Martin)

Charles Fossey, Honorary Police (Trinity)

Dennis Owen, Honorary Police (Trinity)

Honorary Police Medal for Long and Meritorious Service (12 years’ service)

Paul Huelin, Honorary Police (St Helier)

Shirely Madden, Honorary Police (St Helier)

Evelyn Foley, Honorary Police (St Martin)

John Alcock, Honorary Police (St Mary)

Glynn Bower, Honorary Police (St Mary)

Christopher Bunt, Honorary Police (St Mary)
 James Drew, Honorary Police (St Mary)
 Susan Heppolette, Honorary Police (St Mary)
 Christopher Bray, Honorary Police (Trinity)
 Steven de Louche, Honorary Police (Trinity)

Dogs (Jersey)
 Law 1961 and
 Policing of
 Beaches
 (Jersey)
 Regulations
 1959 – dog
 owner
 responsibilities

8. The Comité welcomed Deputy M. Scott to the meeting to discuss the use of dog licence fees to raise awareness amongst dog owners of their responsibilities and duties. Deputy Scott said that this related to the response to the written question in the States Assembly (WQ.284/2024) and that she had also been approached by members of the public on this matter. Currently, the information available to dog owners when purchasing a dog licence only advised that “*Dogs must be kept under proper control and must not worry livestock or be dangerous. Public liability insurance cover can generally be arranged through a household insurance policy and is recommended for all dogs.*” Deputy Scott asked that this be extended –

- a) to explain that a dog owner's responsibility for control of a dog extended to the quality of recall to ensure the dog did not harass other people or other animals including other dogs, in particular on public beaches; and
- b) to provide details of trainers, who could assist owners with training for their dogs, and links to online resources.

Deputy Scott proposed the ability to recall a dog should also be included on beach signage as Article 2(1)(i) of the Policing of Beaches (Jersey) Regulations 1959 stated that no person should, on any beach “*permit any dog of which the person is in charge to rush at, worry or otherwise interfere with the safety, comfort or convenience of any other person on the beach;*”.

The Comité agreed that the information provided about a dog owner’s responsibilities should be extended to include control, including recall, of a dog. Dog owners should be aware of the offence under Article 2(1)(i) of the Policing of Beaches (Jersey) Regulations 1959 and that, when on a beach, they must not permit a dog to rush at, worry or otherwise interfere with the safety, comfort or convenience of other persons on the beach. In relation to beach signage, these were erected by the Department for Infrastructure and related to the Policing of Beaches legislation. Deputy Scott offered to provide further details of dog trainers who could assist with training.

Cybersecurity
 communic-
 ations: articles
 in Parish
 magazines

9. The Comité discussed with Deputy M. Scott her request to use Parish magazines, either free or at a reduced cost, to inform parishioners of cyber risks and of the free support service offered by the Government of Jersey as this was relevant to the increased use of the internet and to the provision of online services by Parishes. The Comité noted that some Parishes had an allocated space for articles (and the Connétable might be able to offer a slot in a future magazine) but in other Parishes the magazine was independently edited and published and the request should therefore be made to the magazine’s editor.

Parish meetings
 – notice and
 minutes

10. The Comité discussed with Deputy M. Scott the publication of minutes and the notice given of Parish Assemblies. Deputy Scott considered that two days’ notice of a Parish Assembly was insufficient time for those who might be interested in standing for election to a Parish role to ensure they were available for the meeting, and also for the requesting and reading of papers relevant to more complex topics under discussion, and she queried whether an amendment should be considered to the *Loi (1905) au sujet des assemblées paroissiales (1905 Loi)*. Deputy Scott also referred to the issue of transparency and to recent media articles and she asked if there would be a consistent approach to the publication of minutes of certain meetings.

The Comité explained that the minimum notice period under the 1905 *Loi* was two days but, in practice, at least 7 days’ notice would usually be given. Parish Assemblies were often held on a set day of the month, though a meeting was not necessarily needed

every month but only as required to conduct relevant business. The Comité heard from Connétables that, where Roads Committee minutes were not already published, steps were being taken by Parishes to redact minutes, in accordance with exemptions under the Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011 (FOI), so these could in future more readily be published (following approval). The preparation and redaction of minutes would be dependent upon a Parish's staff resources. Deputy Scott also referred to the meetings between the Connétable and Procureurs du Bien Public and said that minutes of these could provide evidence of governance. The Comité explained that whilst the Procureurs worked closely with the Connétable on behalf of and for the betterment of the Parish, formal meetings were not usually held but issues would be discussed and, as appropriate, documented. Following discussion, Deputy Scott was thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

Elections –
polling day and
electoral
registers

11. The Comité recalled it had supported the polling day for the 2026 elections for Connétables and Deputies being on a Sunday and had noted that the Privileges and Procedures Committee would be proposing a date to the States Assembly in accordance with Article 2 of the Connétables (Jersey) Law 2008 and Article 6 of the States of Jersey Law 2005 (minute no. 16 of 16th September 2024 refers) though further details were still awaited. The Comité had also welcomed the progress in replacing the annual canvas for the preparation of electoral registers under the Elections (Jersey) Law 2002 with an automatic registration system (minute no. 10 of 16th December 2024 refers) and was awaiting an update on whether this might be available for parish elections in mid-2025.

Next meeting

12. The Connétable of St Peter was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 17th February 2025.

Chairman Date