

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 10th March 2025
at the Parish Hall, St Brelade

Present:

Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson, Chairman
Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Vice Chairman
Connétable de St Héliér - A. S. Crowcroft
Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert (not present for items 1-9)
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 (present via Teams)
Connétable de Ste Marie - R. D. Johnson
Connétable de St Sauveur - K. C. Lewis

Apologies:

Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur
Connétable de St Clément - M. O'D. Troy

In attendance:

Mrs S. R. de Gruchy, Secretary
Mrs S. J. Parkin, Secretary

Non-exempt (public) under Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011

Minutes

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2025, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Corporate Services Scrutiny – future review

2. The Comité welcomed Deputy H Miles, Chair of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel, together with a Principal Committee & Panel Officer, States Greffe, to discuss the proposed scrutiny review of the relationship between the Parishes and the Government of Jersey. Deputy Miles said that she was scoping the Review, which she would be chairing, with the aim of recognising the strengths of the Parish system and examining where the Government could be providing more support, financial and systemic. The draft terms of reference covered:

- the functions and services provided by parishes and government;
- the delivery of timely and effective community services including, but not limited to, refuse and recycling, parks and gardens, play spaces and Honorary Policing;
- government interaction with the parishes in order to deliver on its key strategies and policies;
- the parishes administrative functions including, but not limited to, firearm certificates, alcohol licensing, administration and policing of roads; and
- how the rates system operated and was applied and to assess whether there was a role for the government.

Deputy Miles expected the Review to be launched the following week and, in reply to questions, advised that the Panel members had not yet been appointed but she welcome a representative of the Connétables as a member.

The Comité considered the extent of the Review was comprehensive and it could provide a helpful summary, particularly for Government officers who were transient and might not know how the Parishes operated. The Comité enquired as to what had prompted

the review and who would be expected to respond to the report; it also asked whether previous studies would be considered.

Deputy Miles responded that some issues, for example Honorary Police recruitment, had been raised with her when she was Minister for Justice and Home Affairs, and the Review would encompass this and other subjects but had widened in scope. Previous studies would be considered (such as those in 2000 and 2008) and she expected there would be a number of respondents given the range of areas, these would include the Chief Minister, the Ministers for Treasury and Resources, Infrastructure, Environment, Children and Families etc. and, of course, the Comité des Connétables.

Following discussion of a number of areas likely to be covered by the Review, the Comité confirmed it welcomed the inclusion of a Connétable on the Panel and noted that Deputy Miles would be writing to each Connétable inviting responses on the subjects covered by the terms of reference. Deputy Miles and the Principal Committee & Panel Officer were thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

Draft Elections
(Appointed
Day) (Jersey)
Act 202-
(P.17/2025)

3. The Comité noted that the Draft Elections (Appointed Day) (Jersey) Act 202- (P.17/2025) had been lodged “*au Greffe*” for debate on 1st April 2025 and, if approved, the elections for Connétables and Deputies would be held on Sunday 7th June 2026. The Comité confirmed their support for Sunday to be trialled as the polling day.

The Comité agreed to present its comments on the proposition in relation to ‘Sunday voting’ polling opening and closing hours and requested a draft be circulated for approval.

Re-Instatement
of Senators
(P.2/2025) and
Amendments

4. The Comité discussed the Amendment lodged by Deputy T.A. Coles to the proposition ‘Re-Instatement of Senators’ (P.2/2025). This amendment proposed to remove the Connétables from the States Assembly and replace with twelve Senators. The Comité agreed it should submit comments on the proposition and the amendments (other amendments having also been lodged) and requested that a draft be circulated for approval.

Jersey Office of
the Information
Commissioner
(JOIC) appeal
decision

5. The Comité noted the Jersey Office of the Information Commissioner (JOIC) decision on an appeal against a response to a FOI request. The Commissioner’s decision upheld the appeal only in relation to one of the 13 questions, where an exemption had been applied, and the response would be amended accordingly and re-issued in accordance with the JOIC decision. The Comité noted that officers would be meeting with the JOIC to discuss the decision and the application of that exemption on future FOI responses.

Data Sharing
Agreement with
Ports of Jersey

6. The Chairman tabled the proposed data sharing agreement between the Parishes and Ports of Jersey for consideration (the Data Sharing Agreement). After due consideration, the Comité approved the Data Sharing Agreement (which updated the previous agreement – minute no. 6 of 4th April 2022 refers) and requested that the Connétables should sign on behalf of their Parishes.

Big Ride Out
2025 event for
Holidays for
Heroes Jersey

7. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 17 of 17th February 2025, noted that the Big Ride Out 2025 event had been discussed at the recent Comité des Chefs de Police meeting. The event was planned for Sunday 25th May 2025 from St Catherine’s Breakwater, St Martin, to the Watersplash, St Peter and the organiser had proposed that, this year, the event should proceed without the self-imposed restriction in 2024 of 500 motorcyclists.

The Comité noted that the Comité des Chefs de Police had recommended that the number of riders should not exceed 750 in 2025, rather than the previously imposed 500 rider limit set in 2024, and that pre-registration should be compulsory to prevent additional

participants joining enroute. The Comité supported these recommendations and agreed that, as in previous years, the event would not be a 'convoy' under the Policing of Roads (Jersey) Regulations 1959 and permission was not being given for a parade or procession as the primary concern had to be for the general safety of all road users and ensuring the flow of traffic was not impeded. The organisers must ensure that riders taking part were reminded that all road laws must be obeyed including speed limits, road signs and traffic lights; that using motorbikes at junctions to stop oncoming traffic was an offence and that riders must have general consideration for other road users. The Comité further noted that assistance might be provided by the Honorary Police including with traffic management at traffic junctions without impeding emergency vehicles. The Chairman was requested to reply to the organiser accordingly.

Next meeting

8. The Connétable of St Brelade was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted that the next meeting would be held on 14th April 2025.

Chairman Date