

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 14th April 2025
at the Parish Hall, St Saviour.

Present:

Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson, Chairman
Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Vice Chairman (present via Teams)
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur
Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert
Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone
Connétable de St Jean - A. N. Jehan
Connétable de St Clément - M. O'D. Troy
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:

Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft

In attendance: Mrs S. R. de Gruchy, Secretary

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

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| Minutes | 1. The minutes of the meeting held on 10 th March 2025, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed. |
| W.Q.164/2025 – Jersey Law Commission report on Parish Assemblies | <p>2. The Comité approved the response to the following written question (W.Q.164/2025) from Deputy H.M. Miles of St Brélade and requested this be submitted to the States Greffe:</p> <p><i>“Following the publication of ‘Parish Assemblies: A Better Legislative Framework’ (R.187/2024) by the Jersey Law Commission, will the Chair outline what action, if any, the Comité intends to take to update the Loi (1804) au sujet des assemblées paroissiales and the Loi (1905) au sujet des assemblées paroissiales in order to modernise the form and functions of the Parish Assembly, including membership, voting rights and public notices of holding an Assembly?”</i></p> |
| O.Q.78/2025 – medical assessments for fitness to drive | <p>3. The Comité was informed that the Chairman would be meeting with the independent medical examiner who provided medical assessments for fitness to drive to discuss matters relating to the service and he would report thereon in due course. Deputy K.F. Morel of St John, St Lawrence and Trinity had asked the following oral question in the States Assembly on 1st April 2025 which related to this matter –</p> <p><i>“Will the Chair advise how many GPs (General Practitioners), if any, are contracted or retained by an agreement with the Parishes to undertake medical assessments for fitness to drive.”</i></p> |
| Cognos - Mr N Lavarack declaration of interest | 4. The Comité was informed that Mr N Lavarack, Cognos, who acted as Data Protection Officer for nine Parishes and advised other Parishes, had declared an interest as he had been elected as Centenier for St Lawrence in January 2025 and had further been appointed as Chef de Police of that Parish. |

Comité des
Chefs de Police
– Chairman and
Vice Chairman

5. The Comité noted that, at the Comité des Chefs de Police meeting held on 17th March 2025, Centenier J. Camara was re-elected as Chairman and Centenier M. Bougeard was re-elected as Vice Chairman for the coming year.

Honorary
Police
Association –
accounts and
budget/subs for
2025/2026

6. The Comité received correspondence from the Honorary President of the Honorary Police Association (HPA) regarding the Association's accounts and the budget for 2025/2026 which would be set at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting to be held on 25th April 2025. The accounts for 2024/2025 had been independently examined and expenditure related to social functions, including the Annual Dinner, and merchandise to use at the 2024 Barclays Boat Show and individual Parish events; the income was interest on the account as there were no subscriptions in that year. The budget expenditure for the coming year was the annual dinner, social events and miscellaneous expenses (total £3,600).

The Comité recalled that the HPA Committee agreed that it was not appropriate to ask for subscriptions for 2024/2025 but anticipated a request would be made the following year. Whilst there was a surplus in the account, the HPA invited the Connétables to consider reinstating the policy and fund the subscription of £17 per member for 2025/2026 to ensure there were sufficient funds readily available to cover larger expenses and to assist with the management of the cash flow throughout the year. The Comité confirmed that Parishes would meet the subscription to the HPA of £17 per member as at 1st May 2025. The HPA Committee extended its thanks for the continued secretarial support provided by the Comité's staff and advised the AGM would be followed by the annual dinner which Connétables would be welcome to attend.

Honorary
Police Group
Insurance
policies -
renewal from
1st May 2025

7. The Comité was reminded that the group insurance policies for the Honorary Police were due for renewal on 1st May 2025 and it received the recommendations from the Honorary Police Insurance Panel for renewal of the following policies:

- a) Personal accident policy covering 11 Parishes and including an extension to cover Parish of St Helier Honorary Police serving in another Parish pursuant to Article 5A of the Honorary Police (Jersey) Law 1974. The renewal had been invited at a premium of £18,992.06 (no change since 2024) and the Comité confirmed renewal on the same terms.
- b) Legal expenses policy covering 11 Parishes (not St Helier) – renewal had been invited at a premium of £9,951.16 (no change since 2024) and the Comité confirmed renewal on the same terms.
- c) Public liability and torts covering 11 Parishes (not St Helier) – the Comité noted that the current insurer was no longer able to provide officer indemnity cover and that options were being explored with the insurance market. The officer indemnity related to the liability of the Connétable, under Article 22 of the Honorary Police (Jersey) Law 1974, in respect of torts committed by members of the Honorary Police of the Connétable's parish and this extended to members of another Parish assisting pursuant to Article 5A of that law. The Comité requested that proposals be circulated in due course for its consideration.
- d) Top-up to public liability and torts covering 11 Parishes (not St Helier) – the Comité noted that this policy would be considered after the principal policy had been agreed.

FOI request -
complaints
against Hon.
Police across
all Parishes

8. The Comité noted that, following the issue of a response to a Freedom of Information (FOI) request regarding the number of complaints made against the Honorary Police across all Parishes over the last five years, a media enquiry had been received regarding the low number and seeking comments from the Connétables of Trinity and St John as those Parishes had recorded no complaints during that period.

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| Liberation 80 - 2025 | 9. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 13 of 17 th February 2025, received an update from Connétables on Parish events to celebrate Liberation 80 - 2025. The proposed Island events on 9 th May 2025 were also discussed, and clarification was sought on the timetable for the Connétables and the arrangements for the release of unoccupied seats in Liberation Square (noting that several Parishes had a service beforehand so parishioners would not arrive before c. 10.30 a.m.). |
| Draft Elections (Appointed Day) (Jersey) Act 202- (P.17/2025) | 10. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 10 th March 2025, noted that the Draft Elections (Appointed Day) (Jersey) Act 202- (P.17/2025) was adopted by the States and the elections for Connétables, Deputies and Senators (P.2/2025 'Re-instatement of Senators' had also been approved) would be held on Sunday 7 th June 2026. The Comité discussed whether any amendments should be proposed regarding the polling opening hours, the electoral administrators having proposed that 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. might be considered, but agreed this should remain as 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. |
| Draft Residential Tenancy (Jersey) Amendment Law 202- Review | 11. The Comité considered a letter from the Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel which was undertaking a review of the Draft Residential Tenancy (Jersey) Amendment Law 202- (P.24/2025) and had invited its views in relation to the Terms of Reference. The Comité considered it would be more appropriate for Connétables to respond to the Panel in relation to Parish owned residential property as the situation would differ across the Parishes. However, it would further review the draft at its next meeting should any issues be identified upon which the Comité might wish to comment. |
| Forthcoming States Business | 12. The Chairman proposed that the Comité note items of forthcoming States Assembly business which might be relevant to Parishes and upon which the Comité might wish to provide comments. A summary of future business had therefore been circulated. |
| Draft Highways Law (Jersey) Amendment Regulations 202-: election materials | <p>13. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 12 of 13th May 2024, considered the Draft Highways Law (Jersey) Amendment Regulations 202- (P.31/2025) which had been lodged "au Greffe" for debate by the States Assembly on 3rd June 2025. The Connétable of St John, in his capacity as Minister for Infrastructure, said that the draft Regulations, if adopted, would introduce the ability to exempt anyone placing or removing advertising materials relating to a candidate, political party, or a view, below, on, or above a highway (including a footpath) from requiring a licence under the Law, provided there was compliance with a published set of conditions. The conditions would determine how, where and when such materials could be placed and when they must be removed as well as the process of putting up and taking down to ensure the safety of all concerned.</p> <p>In the lead up to the 2022 general election, a set of guidelines were produced and all 13 highway authorities agreed that if these were adhered to, no licence would be required. Following further discussions with relevant parties, it was identified that this arrangement did not have any firm legal backing. To remedy this, the proposed changes to the Highways (Jersey) Law 1956 through these draft Regulations would introduce a firm set of conditions (based on the guidelines) which must be complied with in order to remove the requirement for a licence to be obtained. This would apply to any advertising materials put up relating to a candidate, party or view for an election or in support of or opposing a view in relation to a referendum.</p> <p>The Comité welcomed the proposals which would enable the display of election materials to be policed and agreed it should prepare comments noting the application to Parish boundaries.</p> |

Data Sharing
Agreement with
Ports of Jersey

14. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 10th March 2025, noted that minor updates had been made to the Data Sharing Agreement with the Ports of Jersey (PoJ), namely:

- The addition of a clause which provided that details about a breach need not be shared if doing so would be contra to any other law (this would cover a situation when sharing information about a breach might compromise an investigation or prosecution).
- The addition of references to the Air Navigation (Jersey) Law 2014 and Civil Aviation (Supplementary Provisions) (Jersey) Law 1955, which between them provided for the safeguarding of approaches to the aerodrome (this would cover when PoJ needed to contact owners or occupiers of land adjacent to their navigation installations etc.).

Parish and
Government
Review Panel

15. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 2 of 10th March 2025, received a letter from Deputy H. Miles, advising she would Chair the Parishes and Government Review Panel and that the Panel members were Deputy C. Curtis (Vice-Chair), Deputy K. Moore and the Connétable of St Ouen. The Panel had agreed the Terms of Reference, reviewed the timeline for the review and discussed the optimal timing for engaging with all Parishes.

The Panel would be requesting a significant amount of information from the Parishes as part of this review and had agreed to request the information in stages, dividing it into specific topic areas, which it was hoped would help streamline the process and make it easier for the Parishes to provide the necessary responses. The Comité noted the correspondence.

Next meeting

16. The Connétable of St Saviour was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 19th May 2025.

Chairman Date