

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 10th February 2020
at the Parish Hall, St Lawrence.

Present:

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman
Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman
Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard
Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre
Connétable de St Jean - C. H. Taylor
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur
Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert
Connétable de Ste Marie - J. M. Le Bailly
Connétable de St Ouën - R. A. Buchanan
Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice Chairman and the Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson.

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 13th and 30th January 2020, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Electoral
Reform 2020
(P.126/2019) &
Reform of the
Composition of
the States and
amendment
(P.7/2020 &
P.7/2020 Amd.
(2nd re-issue))

2. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 1 of 30th January 2020, considered the following propositions and amendment lodged "au Greffe" for debate by the States:

Electoral Reform 2020 (P.126/2019)
Reform of the Composition of the States (P.7/2020) and
Reform of the Composition of the States (P.7/2020): amendment (P.7/2020 Amd.
(2nd re-issue))

The Comité recorded its thanks to the Secretary for her assistance in compiling its comments on P.126/2019 which had been presented to the States on 31st January 2020 prior to the debate scheduled for 4th February 2020. The Comité recalled that the debate of P.126/2019 had, however, been postponed and was now scheduled for 10th March 2020.

The Comité discussed the proposition and amendment on Reform of the Composition of the States (P.7/2020 and P.7/2020 Amd. (2nd re-issue)) which were also scheduled for debate on 10th March 2020. The proposition and amendment provided for the Connétables to remain as members of the States Assembly and for the election, respectively, of 49 or 46 Deputies representing 9 districts. Notwithstanding that, if approved, the proposition and amendment would respect and implement the outcome of the 2014 referendum on the role of the Connétables as States Members and entitle the holder to full membership of the States as an automatic right, including full voting rights, the Comité noted that the creation of 9 districts for the election of Deputies differed from the option put forward in the 2013 referendum. The Comité decided unanimously that it could not support either P.7/2020 or the amendment. Whilst there might be some overlap with its comments on P.126/2019, the Comité agreed it should present its comments to the States on Reform of the Composition of the States and requested that a draft be circulated for approval.

Explosives
(Jersey) Law
1970 –retail
sales dates
2020

3. The Comité considered a letter from the Managing Director of Starburst Fireworks proposing that the retail sale of fireworks be permitted on four occasions in 2020 namely for Liberation Day, Guy Fawkes, Diwali and New Year’s Eve. The Comité recalled that in its response to the 2019 Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles public consultation it considered the nuisance and distress caused to parishioners and animals from the use of fireworks outweighed an extension of the retail sales dates other than in connection with Guy Fawkes (5th November). The Comité discussed the request for a 3 week retail sales period ending on 10th November 2020 but decided to maintain the policy adopted in recent years to limit retail sales to a period which covered two weekends.

The Comité, pursuant to the provisions in the Explosives (Jersey) Law 1970 requiring a Connétable to licence the retail sale of fireworks, therefore approved the dates for the retail sale of fireworks in 2020. The Comité agreed that, in addition to the other standard conditions, every permit issued would specify that the retail sale of fireworks was only permitted from 23rd October to 5th November 2020 inclusive unless the sale was of a pyrotechnic intended for use as a marine flare; or the order for the purchase and contract of sale was conducted through a website and the fireworks so purchased were delivered by the retailer to the address provided by the purchaser. The Chairman was requested to reply accordingly.

Development of
cycle
infrastructure
and the cycle
route network –
Sustainable
Transport
Policy

4. The Comité, with partial reference to its minute no. 3 of 13th January 2020, received a delegation comprising Deputy C Labey; Advocate C Scholefield, Cycle 4 Jersey, and the Island Identity Programme Manager/Private Secretary to the Minister for International Development to discuss the development of a cycle infrastructure and cycle route network. The Comité was informed by Deputy Labey that a group, which included Senator S Pallet and Senator K Moore, representatives of Cycle 4 Jersey (set up at the request of Jersey Sport and the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to provide a voice for the island’s cyclists) and the Parish of St Helier, had discussed the development of a cycle infrastructure and cycle route network across the island, this feeding into the sustainable transport policy. The group had two key objectives:

- That every child should have access via bicycle to key services - such as schools, main Parish hubs, youth centres, sports facilities or the library - via safe and secure cycle routes
- To provide commuters with direct, safe routes from the Parishes into town

Deputy Labey asked for the assistance of the Connétables and their Roads Committee to help devise new routes through their parishes to achieve cycling lanes where car access would be limited and speed limits reduced to make them safe and to achieve the goals outlined above. Each Connétable was provided with a detailed map of the island’s roads, green lanes, cycle routes and pathways to assist with this work. Advocate Scholefield said the group had reviewed the Sustainable Transport Policy (P.128/2019) but the report lacked practicality and it was hoped the Connétables and Roads Committees could do more to change the policy in Jersey for the better. For example the creation of cycle routes to schools would tick a number of boxes including healthy ways of living and putting children at the heart of government policy. There was a legacy of “green lanes” in many parishes and these might be unlocked to provide ‘safe’ routes which should also link in to routes in neighbouring parishes to create an island network. The group was working with the DfI but wished to see faster progress.

Specific concerns were raised by the Comité about the behaviour of some cyclists, including the use of pavements as cycle paths, and their inconsideration for motorists and pedestrians. It was also noted that some facilities created specifically for cyclists were little used, for example the cycle route through St Peter’s Valley. The Comité was asked whether it might consider licensing bicycles but it advised this was a matter for the Minister for Infrastructure. The Comité queried whether there was an equivalent to the ‘cycling proficiency test’ and was informed this was mentioned in the Sustainable Transport Policy. The issue of policing was also raised and it was suggested to the Comité that reaching a critical mass of cyclists would assist in adjusting motorists’ behaviour.

The Chairman reminded that the Jersey Road Safety Action Plan 2017-2019 (R.132/2016) included a review local speed limits, in consultation with individual Parishes and local communities, and this was progressing. The Parish of St Lawrence had recently approved changes to speed limits on six roads but implementation rested with the Minister for Infrastructure and several Connétables commented on the delay in making the necessary amendments to legislation to change speed limits and parking restrictions on roads.

Following discussion, Connétables confirmed they would each review with their Roads Committee the map provided with a view to identifying possible cycle routes. The delegation would be invited to attend a future meeting to review progress and, having been thanked for attending, then withdrew from the meeting.

Sustainable
Transport
Policy for
Jersey
P.128/2019

5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 13th January 2020, received a delegation comprising the Director of Strategy and Innovation, the Environmental Policy Officer, and the Senior Transportation Planner, Government of Jersey (GoJ), who gave a presentation on the Sustainable Transport Policy (P.128/2019) which had been lodged for debate by the States on 10th March 2020. The proposition asked the States to approve the supporting principles of the Sustainable Transport Policy for Jersey set out in the Appendix to the report “A Framework for a Sustainable Transport System 2020-2030”.

The Comité expressed its disappointment that Connétables were unable to attend the Sustainable Transport Policy presentation for States members as this was arranged on the same date as its monthly meeting. The Comité understood that the date had been selected in consultation with the States Greffe and requested the Chairman to write to the Greffier of the States asking that prearranged dates of Comité meetings should be considered when arranging presentations or meetings for all States members.

The Comité was reminded by the officers that the States had adopted paragraph (c) of the proposition of Deputy R J Ward of St. Helier, as amended, requesting the Minister for Infrastructure to research, consult upon and identify funding for a sustainable transport strategy, including safe routes for walking and cycling, and provision for those with impaired mobility, by the end of 2019 (P.52/2019 as amended). The strategy was now outlined in “A Framework for a Sustainable Transport System 2020-2030” and the “Sustainable Transport Strong Start Delivery Plan 2020”. Funding of some £1.5 million would be available for the 2020 delivery plan. The policy challenge for the next 10 years was to modernise the transport infrastructure i.e. buses, cycling/walking networks and to shift car usage to a sustainable energy form. Decision making principles should recognise the social and environmental costs of private vehicle use. The officers wished to hear from Connétables as to which cycle routes had the most potential and consideration could be given to safeguarding these routes in the Island Plan.

The Comité discussed with the delegation various issues relating to the policy. The street lighting in a number of parishes was currently in need of replacing and, as part of this work, it was understood the Jersey Electricity Company Ltd would be installing electric vehicle charging points. One Connétable remarked there appeared to be GoJ opposition to a new car park in one parish which would provide a ‘park and ride’ and address the very limited parking by local shops. In relation to the additional 4 pence/litre on fuel, the delegation explained this was ring-fenced for investment and was not a carbon offset. Costs were not only carbon related but included air quality and pollution, which had a health impact, and the opportunity cost of using land for other purposes such as housing. An exit strategy from fossil fuels had yet to be debated.

Disappointment in the 2020 plan was expressed given the lack of improvements to cycle routes, especially for the northern parishes – the delegation explained that further work was required to better understand where investment was required. Part of the GHE work would include updating school travel plans and, ideally, in bad weather the bus network should cope with those who would otherwise walk or cycle. The Comité commented on the discussion with Deputy C Labey (minute no. 4 of this meeting refers)

and asked who would be leading on the creation of cycle routes as it was important not to duplicate work. The delegation advised that the delivery plan work would be complementary but the issue was one of resourcing as a revenue stream was required to build cycle paths etc. There was a general policy objective and some legacy projects, such as the eastern cycle route. There had been two incentive schemes to purchase electric bicycles and, if it could be shown this had hit the objectives, it might be considered again.

In conclusion the Comité said that details were required to show how the policy would be achieved; similar proposals had been put forward in the past but little had been delivered. The delegation was thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting. Having considered the proposition, the Comité decided not to present comments thereon.

Honorary
Police Forum
and recruitment
campaign

6. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 12 of 13th January 2020, noted arrangements for the presentation on 11th February 2020 to the media and other groups about the launch of the recruitment campaign for the Honorary Police.

Arising from this the Comité was informed that the States Employment Board had, at its recent meeting, confirmed that support would be given to public service employees wishing to serve in the Honorary Police.

Chief Officer –
States of Jersey
Police

7. The Comité received Mr R Smith, Chief Officer, States of Jersey Police (SOJP), to the meeting. Mr Smith had taken up his role in January 2020 and was responsible for overseeing the States of Jersey Police Force and in providing critical leadership in protecting the public, preventing crime and building public trust in Police services. The Comité congratulated Mr Smith on his appointment and welcomed the opportunity to meet having regard to the close working relationship between the Honorary Police (each Connétable being responsible for the effective and efficient policing of his/her parish) and the States of Jersey Police. The Chief Officer thanked the Comité for its welcome and outlined his priorities to catch criminals, protect the vulnerable and attend incidents promptly when required.

Community policing was the foundation of policing and the Chief Officer would like to see more officers on foot and a named community officer for each parish. The Comité welcomed the reintroduction of community officers and provided an overview of the Honorary Police. In relation to the annual policing plan the Chief Officer said this was currently being finalised. Connétables were invited to tour the SOJP station and likewise extended an invitation to the Chief Officer to visit Parish Halls. All agreed it was important to build relationships and, in reply to a comment, the Chief Officer acknowledged that Connétables should be informed of pertinent information in a timely manner. Following discussion the Chief Officer was thanked for attending the meeting and then withdrew.

Data Protection
(Jersey) Law
2018 – JSPCA
contract/DPA

8. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 1 of 22nd July 2019, approved the contract and Data Processing Agreement with the Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the collection and housing of stray dogs from 1st December 2019 and authorised the Chairman to sign the document on behalf of the Comité.

Next meeting

9. The Connétable of St Lawrence was thanked for her hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 16th March 2020.

Chairman Date

