

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 7th December 2015
at the Town Hall, St Helier.

Present:

Connétable de St Pierre - J. M. Refault, Vice Chairman (not present for items 6 and 7)
Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft (not present for item 7)
Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian (not present for item 9)
Connétable de Ste Marie - Mrs J. Gallichan
Connétable de St Ouën - M. J. Paddock
Connétable de St Martin - M. P. S. Le Troquer (not present for items 3 – 5 inclusive)
Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre
Connétable de St Jean - C. H. Taylor (not present for items 4 – 6 inclusive)
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman, Chairman; the Connétable de St Brélade - S. W. Pallett; and the Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard.

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 9th November 2015, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

ERS and NAR
– data sharing
agreement

2. The Comité recalled that the States had enacted the Register of Names and Addresses (Comparison with Electoral Registers) (Jersey) Regulations 2015 to permit a feasibility study to be conducted on the use of the Names and Addresses Register for electoral registration in accordance with the decision of the States Assembly on 6th November 2013. The Comité, having noted that the Privileges and Procedures Committee would be meeting the costs of the study, approved a data sharing agreement with that Committee.

Firearms
(Jersey) Law
2000 - shooting
clubs approval

3. The Comité noted that the Minister for Home Affairs had received applications from the Jersey Pistol Club and from the Channel Island Practical Shooting Association (CIPSA) for approval under Article 15 of the Firearms (Jersey) Law 2000 but, before granting or refusing to grant an approval or varying or withdrawing an approval, the Minister was consulting the Comité in accordance with Article 15(3). Both clubs had confirmed they could comply with the conditions which would be imposed should approval be granted and the Minister had indicated she was minded to approve both clubs as shooting clubs but would not formally do so until she had received the Comité's views on the applications. Having discussed the applications the Comité agreed it had no comments to make and requested the Vice Chairman to reply accordingly.

LICAR –
licence printing

4. The Comité noted that the new stock of driving licence cards incorporating as one of the security features an optically variable device would be introduced on 1st January 2016.

Honorary
Police group
insurance
policy

5. The Comité approved an amended endorsement to the group Personal Accident policy covering the Honorary Police of all parishes (except St Helier) which would provide additional cover for those officers who might not be in gainful employment but who did have caring responsibilities and would incur additional costs during a period of incapacity.

Freedom of
Information
(Jersey) Law
2011

6. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 9th November 2015, received the FOI Supervisor (Parishes) and Corporate Records Manager, Chief Minister's Department.

The Comité was reminded that Article 46 of the Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011 (FOI) provided a statutory right of appeal to the Information Commissioner about a decision by a scheduled public authority (SPA) on an FOI request, such appeal to be made within 6 weeks of exhausting any complaints procedure of the SPA. The Comité approved as a complaints procedure a policy for the conduct of internal reviews by a Parish which provided that a request for an internal review must be made in writing to PFOI or to the parish within 20 working days of receiving the response to a request and stating the decision with which the requester was not satisfied. A request for an internal review would be handled by an independent officer who would review the reason for refusal including any exemptions which had been applied and complete the review within 20 working days of receipt of the request. The requester would be notified of the decision and, if not satisfied, then had the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner.

The Comité was then informed by the Corporate Records Manager of the advisory and guidance role which had been, and would continue to be, provided to parishes relating to information records, security and mapping.

The Comité discussed with the FOI Supervisor (Parishes) her report outlining the work undertaken to prepare the parishes for the FOI Law, the progress during the first three months of the Law's application to the parishes and recommendations for work to be carried out to complete the process of auditing records and bedding FOI into business as usual including records management and governance. Following discussion the Comité thanked the officers, and particularly the FOI Supervisor (Parishes), for the assistance they had provided to parish staff during the year. The FOI Supervisor (Parishes) and Corporate Records Manager then withdrew from the meeting.

Parish housing

7. The Comité received the Chief Executive, the Chief Operating Officer and the Commercial Director, Andium Homes Limited, to discuss the development of 'affordable for purchase' homes in the parishes. The Comité was reminded that Andium Homes Limited was incorporated on 1st July 2014 and owned and managed affordable rental homes; it also acted as landlord or managing agent for several other bodies and had a programme of affordable sales.

The proposal was that the parishes and Andium Homes Ltd should work together to identify possible sites for development which would provide homes either for purchase by 'first time buyers' or by 'existing homeowners' wishing to downsize within the parish. It was proposed that development proposals should focus on sites in the existing built up areas and not on green fields except where Village Plans suggested otherwise. Schemes would not include rental homes unless specifically required by the parish but would be targeted at parishioners or those with strong links to the parish and at properties which could be retained as affordable in perpetuity. Financing could be arranged through Andium Homes Ltd. Following discussion the Comité thanked the officers for the presentation and agreed that it was for each Connétable to consider the opportunities within his/her parish and to contact Andium Homes Ltd to discuss the options further. The officers were thanked for attending and then withdrew.

Next meeting

8. The Connétable of St Helier was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 11th January 2016.

Chairman*L. Norman*..... Date*11/01/2016*.....