

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 11th January 2016
at the Parish Hall, St Brelade

Present:

Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman, Chairman
Connétable de St Pierre - J. M. Refault, Vice Chairman
Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian (not present for items 6-8 and 16)
Connétable de Ste Marie - Mrs J. Gallichan
Connétable de St Ouën - M. J. Paddock
Connétable de St Brélade - S. W. Pallett
Connétable de St Martin - M. P. S. Le Troquer
Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard
Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre
Connétable de St Jean - C. H. Taylor

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de St Héliér - A. S. Crowcroft and the Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur.

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 7th December 2015, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Policing of
Beaches
(Jersey)
Regulations
1959 – dogs on
beaches

2. The Comité received the Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture (EDTSC) and the Head of Policy and Legislation, Department of Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture; who presented a paper outlining the responses to the consultation on “Dogs on Beaches - ‘Let us off the lead: Jersey Dogs’ Campaign”. The consultation was aimed at those who had an interest in the beaches, beach concessionaires, Parish Connétables, Environment, Tourism and others and it was clear that the subject of dogs on beaches generated some strongly held positions in support of, and opposing, the relaxing of restrictions imposed by Article 2 of the Policing of Beaches (Jersey) Regulations 1959. A number of comments had also been made about fouling and the lack of effective enforcement but the sponsor had commented in correspondence with the Department that he did not believe that relaxing the restrictions would lead to a change in the level of fouling.

The Minister explained that given the views expressed by stakeholders it would be difficult for EDTSC to recommend any change to current policy. This was particularly so where dog owners could exercise their dogs off lead for five months of the year and in the mornings and evenings during the restricted season. In addition there were inland areas that dog owners could use for off lead exercise in the summer months. Following discussion the Comité supported the Minister in maintain the status quo and not seeking to amend Article 2 of the Policing of Beaches (Jersey) Regulations 1959.

The Minister and the Head of Policy and Legislation, EDTSC, were thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

- Community gentle exercise – free use of community and parish venues
3. The Comité received the Head of Health Improvement, Public Health Directorate, Health and Social Services, to discuss a paper about the establishment of future support for community gentle exercise classes for older adults and access to free community and parish venues to allow expansion across the island. The key benefits of such classes were improvement of physical functions and maintenance of independent living; a reduction in the risk of falls and the likelihood of hospital admission; the development of a network of community support and improved physical health and psychosocial well-being in a safe environment.
- The Comité explained to the Head of Health Improvement that parish facilities were frequently used and, to cover usage costs, a charge was usually imposed on non-parish users. The Comité considered that if States departments wished to offer services to the public the costs should be met from within a department's budget; Connétables were nervous of the constant request for the free use of parish facilities due to States budget constraints. Following discussion the Head of Health Improvement was invited to consider the comments made and to contact each Connétable individually to discuss what assistance might be provided. The Head of Health Improvement was thanked for attending and then withdrew.
- Explosives (Jersey) Law 1970 – retail sale dates for fireworks in 2016
4. The Comité approved the dates for the retail sale of fireworks in 2016. 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 27th October to 5th November 2016 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.
- Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011
5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 7th December 2015, recalled it had agreed a policy for the conduct of internal reviews and confirmed that the response should be issued by the parish conducting the internal review. The Comité agreed to review, at its next meeting, information available about the '*visite du branchage*' and also noted recent FOI requests received by parishes.
- Draft Road Works and Events (Jersey) Law 201-
6. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 4 of 18th May 2015, noted that the draft Road Works and Events (Jersey) Law 201- (P.152/2015) had been lodged "au Greffe" for debate by the States on 19th January 2016.
- Consultation - littering and dog fouling
7. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 8 of 14th September 2015, noted the consultation on littering and dog fouling closed on 31st December 2015. The online questionnaire was completed by 435 persons and, in addition to the multi-choice answers to questions, over 200 comments had been provided and would be analysed. The report would be available for consideration at a future meeting.
- Parish in Bloom
8. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 11 of 18th May 2015, noted a paper giving a brief resumé of the Parish in Bloom competition and the work that the Jersey in Bloom group were doing to grow the competition in Jersey. There would be an opportunity for Parishes and their respective 'Bloom' groups to attend two workshops being held in March 2016.
- Dogs (Jersey) Law 1961 – stray dogs
9. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 9 of 17th November 2014, noted the number of stray dogs dealt with by the Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (JSPCA) in the first year of the contract to collect and house stray dogs

(December 2014-November 2015).

Parish
Assembly
booklet

10. The Comité approved amendments to the Parish Assembly booklet, which set out how the Assembly worked and how parochial officials were appointed, to reflect recent legislation changes.

Next meeting

11. The Connétable of St Brelade was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 8th February 2016 at St Saviour.

Chairman*L. Norman*..... Date*08/02/2016*.....