

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 14th March 2016
in the Blampied Room, States Buildings, St Helier.

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
Connétable de Ste Marie - Mrs J. Gallichan
Connétable de St Ouën - M. J. Paddock
Connétable de St Brélade - S. W. Pallett
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

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de St Héliér - A. S. Crowcroft and the Connétable de St Martin - M. P. S. Le Troquer.

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 8th February 2016, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.
- draft Rates
(Amendment)
(Jersey) Law
201-
2. The Comité, with reference to the Supervisory Committee minute no. 2 of 14th March 2016, approved the draft Rates (Amendment) (Jersey) Law 201- and report and requested that it be lodged “au Greffe” for debate by the States. The Comité was informed that the provisions of the draft Rates (Amendment) (Jersey) Law 201- were compatible with the Convention Rights and, in accordance with Article 16 of the Human Rights (Jersey) Law 2000, requested the Chairman to make a statement to that effect.
- e-parishes:
future
developments
3. The Comité received a presentation from the Director of Teleologica Ltd on proposals for future e-parishes work including the provision of an improved service for parishioners who were required to notify a change of name or address, and to provide a digital service for ratepayers and drivers. This followed from enhancements undertaken in 2015 as a result of which nearly 6,000 parishioners explicitly opted to switch to a digital channel for rates. The Comité was informed that the proposals would be developed to dovetail with the e-government programme which was seeking to introduce a ‘digital ID’ (minute no. 6 of 20th April 2015 refers in part), so a funding proposal would be submitted to the next Reform Political Oversight Group meeting. The Comité, whilst supportive of the proposals, decided that it should await the Group’s decision so that the financial implications for parishes could be clarified prior to committing to the project.
- Honorary
Police Group
meeting
4. The Comité received a report from the Chairman following his meeting with representatives of the Comité des Chefs de Police (CCP) and the Honorary Police Association (HPA) on 29th February 2016 (the Honorary Police Group) and discussed matters arising therefrom as follows:

Parish policing plan: the Chairman commented that whilst it would be good practice for each Connétable to prepare a policing plan there was no requirement to do so; the Comité noted that some parishes already had a plan and others were being drafted.

Payments to Honorary Police: a recent Jersey Evening Post article had quoted the President of the HPA as saying that expenses paid to Honorary Police officers should be standardised across the Island (the article was based on an FOI request about the statutory number of each type of officer and payments made to each class of officer for each of 5 years) but the President had confirmed that it was for each parish to decide the expenses which were reimbursed and there was no HPA policy on standardisation.

Honorary
Police – 2016
events and
requests for
assistance
under Article
5A

5. The Comité considered a paper setting out the events in 2016 for which Connétables of various parishes requested the assistance of the Honorary Police of other parishes at events ranging from those that were parochial to those involving several parishes. The Connétables, pursuant to Article 5A of the Honorary Police (Jersey) Law 1974, signed a document to confirm their permission for Honorary Police officers of their Parish, subject to the operational requirements of their home Parish as determined by the Chef de Police or the Duty Centenier, to assist at any of the events and requested that a copy of the document should be circulated for the information of the Honorary Police in all parishes.

HPA accounts
and budget

6. The Comité received the Vice President and Honorary Treasurer of the Honorary Police Association (HPA) to discuss the Association's accounts for 2015/16 and budget for 2016/17. The President of the HPA had sent apologies as he was unable to attend. The Comité noted the accounts for 2015/16 showed income of £3,914 and expenditure of £1,492 resulting in a surplus of £2,455 with a balance carried forward of £2,967. The expenditure budget for 2016/17 was £6,900 including £2,500 for the development of a secure website for Honorary Police officers. There was some discussion of the requirements and specification for such a website and the Comité decided that, whilst funding might be included in the budget, it wished to review this proposal before funds were committed; the Connétables of St Mary and St Brelade were asked to consider this further as part of the e-parishes remit.

The Comité then approved the proposed budget expenditure of £6,900, subject to its further consent being required prior to any website development, and decided that the parishes would fund a subscription of £17 per officer (based on the number of officers at 1st May) but, as this committed members of the Comité to expenditure and its rules required the assent of all members on the first occasion, the Comité agreed it should be further considered at the next meeting.

Consultation –
liquor licensing
law

7. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 8th February 2016, requested the Chairman, and the Connétables of St Saviour and Trinity to draft for its consideration a response to the liquor licensing law consultation.

“Public
Elections:
Electronic
Voting”
P.10/2016

8. The Comité discussed the proposition of Deputy G P Southern “Public Elections: Electronic Voting” (P.10/2016), due to be debated by the States on 22nd March 2016. The Chairman, in his capacity as Chairman of PPC, informed the Comité that the Committee was proposing an amendment to the proposition to provide that introduction should be “as soon as practicable” rather than “in the 2018 elections”. The Comité decided it should comment that electronic voter registration and electronic voting systems, if introduced, would have implications for the computer system used to prepare the electoral registers and to administer public elections (should the States decide to proceed with such changes, the Connétables expected the States to provide funding to cover the cost) and that the Public Elections (Jersey) Law 2002 provided for the public election of Procureurs du Bien Public and Centeniers in the Parishes as well as members of the States Assembly.

- Draft Connétables (Misc. Prvsns – Consequential Amendments) (No. 2) (Jersey) Regs 201-
9. The Comité approved the draft Connétables (Miscellaneous Provisions – Consequential Amendments) (No. 2) (Jersey) Regulations 201- and report which removed the policing power of a Connétable under the Shops (Regulation of Opening and Deliveries) (Jersey) Law 2010 and in paragraph 17.3 of Code C under the heading “Charging/Bailing of Detained Persons” in the Police Procedures and Criminal Evidence (Codes of Practice) (Jersey) Order 2004. The Comité requested that the draft be lodged “au Greffe” for debate by the States.
- Living on low income – Scrutiny review
10. The Comité considered a letter from the Chairman of the Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel regarding the review of people on low income in Jersey and requesting information from parishes as to whether any had seen an increase in the numbers of parishioners asking for help due to living on a low income; the annual income available from funds such as La Charité, Don Gruchy, Don de Faye, Don Westaway, and others and how these funds were distributed including information on eligibility criteria. The Comité noted the responses from Connétables and requested the Chairman to reply accordingly.
- Consultation - littering and dog fouling
11. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 7 of 11th January 2016, considered the initial analysis of the responses to the consultation on littering and dog fouling and noted a report would be available for consideration at a future meeting.
- JT and fibre connections at Parish Halls.
12. The Comité agreed, in principle, to work with JT on the rollout of fibre connections across the Island to ensure Parish Halls were grouped together into one mini-programme of work.
- Silkworth Extreme Team Challenge
13. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 12 of 16th March 2015, considered a letter from the Chief Executive Officer, Silkworth, seeking permission to hold the Silkworth Extreme Team Challenge on Saturday 10th September 2016. The Comité requested the Chairman to reply that the Connétables were content with the holding of the proposed event and asking that the organisers liaise directly with each Connétable about the specific routes through his/her parish as the Connétable might wish to make further comment, offer advice or impose conditions.
- H.E. Lt Governor – retirement
14. The Comité noted that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor would be retiring in November 2016 and agreed Connétables wished to recognise the great interest in the parishes shown by Sir John and Lady McColl during their term of office.
- Freedom of Info. (Jersey) Law 2011 – 6 month statistics
15. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 8th February 2016, noted that 17 requests had been received in the first six months from September 2015 – February 2016 (16 were successful; 1 was withdrawn); 14 were from individuals and 3 from companies/businesses/media. All responses had been issued within 20 days and were published on the parish websites.
- Next meeting
16. The Comité noted the next meeting would be on 18th April 2016.

Chairman*L Norman*..... Date*18/04/2016*.....

