

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 24th October 2016
at the Parish Hall, St Ouen.

Present:

Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman, Chairman
Connétable de St Pierre - J. M. Refault, Vice Chairman
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 la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de St Héliier - A. S. Crowcroft; the Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian; the Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard; the Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre and the Connétable de St Jean - C. H. Taylor.

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 19th September and 4th October 2016, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Road Works
and Events
(Jersey) Law
2016

2. The Comité received the Director – Engineering and Infrastructure and the Manager – Street Works, Department for Infrastructure (DfI), who briefed the Comité on the following:

Road Works and Events (Jersey) Law 2016: subject to States approval of the relevant Appointed Day Acts, it was proposed to bring into force Parts 1, 12 and 13 in January 2017 and the remaining parts later in 2017.

Events licencing procedures from 2017: the provisions in the 2016 law relating to ‘road event’ included entertainment on public roads, motor vehicle racing and events in the ‘vicinity’ of the road that would require road closures or traffic restrictions. It would replace the current process which was time consuming, bureaucratic, costly and inflexible. The new provisions enabled the relevant highway authority to licence an event and, in so doing, it could set conditions with respect to safety measures, material on roads, public insurances and publicity; the highway authority and police could also recover basic expenses. A licence could be granted for a one-off event, for recurring events or as an open licence with or without an expiry date; and highway authorities would also be able to issue a joint licence, where an event covered more than one parish, or to delegate the licensing to another highway authority. At present the legislation would not cover land administered by the Ports of Jersey or Andium Homes Ltd. The Comité requested the officers to write to each Connétable with the list of events currently permitted indicating, in each case, which highway authority might handle a future application.

Arising from this the Comité discussed the incidence of cycle races and the impact of these on other road users. The Comité was informed that road users should not restrict or prohibit the use of a road, other than with the permission of the Connétable or highway authority, and that it might wish to consider licensing such events.

draft Regulations: covering embargo periods and protected routes had previously been circulated to all Connétables.

Jersey Association of Scaffolding Contractors: the Association had been formed by local scaffolding contractors to seek to improve standards within the industry; it was working closely with the Health and Safety Inspectorate and would arrange an independent annual inspection/audit of its members. DfI proposed that membership of the Association should be a minimum requirement for contractors wishing to undertake work on the highways. This was supported by the Comité.

Following discussion, the officers were thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

Honorary
Police – Comité
des Chefs de
Police budget
for 2016/17

3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 14 of 19th September 2016, gave further consideration to the budget of the Comité des Chefs de Police for 2016/17, and its decision that parishes would contribute £1,500 funded equally by parishes (£125 per parish). The Comité recalled that in accordance with its rules on voting where the matter would commit either the Comité or any of the members to any expenditure the matter should be done and decided by 10 votes in favour on the second occasion but, as 10 members were not present, it agreed that the matter should be considered again at the next meeting.

Planning
register – future
developments
and
implications for
parishes

4. The Comité considered a paper from the Director – Development Control, Planning Department, seeking approval to replace the paper plans currently provided to the relevant Parish with electronic plans of planning applications which could be viewed online through the Planning Register. As part of the e-Gov and Government Reform projects, the Planning Department had embarked upon a transformational change in service delivery that would enable its customers to engage with it on all planning matters in a digital forum. All planning services would be provided online; the digital solution would provide greater efficiencies and reduce manual tasks aligned with improved business processes thus delivering an improved level of service to customers with less resource. The Department was engaging with all its customer groups to discuss the implications of this change in process.

The Comité considered the implications for the parishes which had two roles namely as a consultee but also to provide a service to parishioners who wished to view applications. The Comité was of the view that there must be transparency and openness in the planning process so that members of the public were able to engage in that process in a way which suited them best. The Comité maintained its view (minute no. 3 of 20th October 2014 refers) that whilst the number wishing to view a paper plan might continue to decrease it was not yet appropriate to dispense with this option altogether. In forming this view it had taken into consideration that not everyone was comfortable using modern technology, many found it easier to compare paper plans, that some preferred to consider plans in a quiet area rather than in public view, and that for important or controversial developments a significant number would wish to view plans. These issues should be addressed by the Planning Department during the transition period leading to the delivery of online services and resources should also be provided to parishes to enable parishioners to view applications online at each Parish Hall. The Chairman was requested to reply accordingly.

Loi (1914) sur
la Voirie

5. The Comité discussed how “administrative penalties” under the Loi (1914) sur la Voirie were delivered as Article 42(4) of the law provided that one of the Vingteniers should have the duty to enforce administrative penalties and to serve on a person who had failed to cut the branchage a written order from the Connétable specifying which branches, obstacle or other deleterious matter must be removed. The Comité noted that practice

varied across the parishes with the Vingteniers of some Parishes hand delivering notices and collecting the administrative penalty whilst in other parishes they were sent by post.

Firearms
Liaison Group

6. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 10 of 18th July 2016, received a brief report summarising the meeting of the Firearms Liaison Group held on 14th October 2016. The Comité noted that certain items, including the review of the fee for a firearm certificate, had been deferred to its next meeting.

Next meeting

7. The Connétable of St Ouen was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 14th November 2016.

Chairman*L Norman*..... Date*14/11/2016*.....