

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 10th December 2018
at the Parish Hall, St John.

Present:

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman
Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman
Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson
Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur
Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert (not present for items 4 - 7)
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; the Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard; 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 12th and 20th November 2018, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Jersey Police
Authority

2. The Comité received the Chairman, Dr J Lane, and Executive Officer of the Jersey Police Authority (JPA) who provided an update from the Authority and discussed the relationship with the States of Jersey Police (SOJP) and the community engagement work going on in the parishes. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Comité des Chefs de Police (CCP), and the President of the Honorary Police Association (HPA), were present for this item.

Dr Lane informed the Comité that the SOJP was moving to a community policing model and was currently undergoing a period of intense structural change. Dr Lane was meeting on a weekly basis with the Acting Deputy Chief Officer, SOJP, and the force had a 2-year policing plan for 2018-2019. Dr Lane hoped that the planning process would extend over a longer period in the coming years and that this would be aligned to the States medium term financial planning and budgetary processes. With reduced manpower it was invaluable for the SOJP to have assistance and co-operation from the Honorary Police and Dr Lane welcomed feedback from the parishes.

The Comité considered that there was currently a good working relationship between the parishes Honorary Police and the SOJP but commented that several parishes had vacancies to fill and were seeking to recruit new members. However, the loss of the SOJP community police officer was most keenly felt as there was no longer an SOJP presence in the parish on a regular basis. Dr Lane said that SOJP had recently recruited new officers including some from the United Kingdom with community relations experience; the Connétables offered assistance with the local induction for UK officers. The Comité was informed that the Comité des Chefs de Police had received a presentation on Operation Horizon, which commenced in October 2018, and welcomed a response from the JPA on

community policing proposals in the parishes and also directly linking an SOJP officer with each senior and junior school.

Following discussion, the Comité thanked the JPA, CCP and HPA representatives for attending and they withdrew from the meeting.

CPA 2018
Election
Observers'
Mission Report

3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 2 of 12th November 2018, discussed the recommendations contained in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's (CPA) 2018 Election Observers' Mission Report. The Comité was encouraged to read in the opening statement of the CPA report that "*The 2018 Jersey election was well executed, competitive and enabled the electorate to cast their votes in secret and express their will in a transparent, peaceful and orderly manner. We commend the election officials who were professional in carrying out their functions meticulously and impartially*".

The Comité was informed that several Connétables had been able to speak with the CPA representatives who were in the island in November 2018; at that meeting the CPA had mentioned several times the 'perception' about issues and the Comité considered it regrettable that the report's recommendations were based on a 'perception' rather than on evidence of a problem or issue.

Whilst the EOM had found that the method for seat distribution in the States Assembly was not consistent with the principle of the equality of the vote due to the significant differences in vote weight from one parish to another for the election of Connétables, it also added that "*Connétables are concurrently elected as father/mother of their parish; in this respect the principle of the equality of the vote is observed since the vote of every elector carries equal weight within the boundaries of the parish.*"

The Comité agreed its comments on the recommendations contained in the report and, as Connétables, welcomed the active participation of all parishioners as voters and candidates in both island and parish elections and supported the continued outreach to ensure the eligible population was registered to vote and participated in elections. Whilst the CPA report, and others in the past, appeared to focus on the Electoral Register and its use for the election of States members these elections were only once every 3 or 4 years and the Comité considered it important to remind that the Electoral Register was also a list of members of the Parish Assembly and, as such, was used on a weekly/monthly basis by parishes.

The Chairman was requested to write to the Chairman of the Privileges and Procedures Committee (PPC) with its comments and to seek a meeting with the PPC sub-committee so that the Comité's views on the CPA report might be discussed.

Fireworks
petition

4. The Comité noted the response of Minister for Home Affairs to the online petition "Only allow fireworks to be sold or supplied in Jersey for licensed displays".

LICAR and
bulk renewal of
driving licences

5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 12th November 2018, received a progress report on the bulk renewal of driving licences and noted that 55% of drivers whose licences expired in January 2019 had now renewed. Further publicity would continue through the media to remind drivers of the need to renew and that, if their licence had already expired, the advice was not drive as this would be an offence and the vehicle insurance might also be invalidated.

Organ donor
registration
through driving
licence - update

6. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 10 of 12th November 2018, noted the successful transfer to the NHS Blood and Transplant organ donor register of 8,261 names (7,794 new registrations and 467 amendments to existing registrations) which had been collected with driving licence applications from 2015 to 2018.

Next meeting

7. The Connétable of St John was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 7th January 2019. The Chairman extended to all members her best wishes for Christmas and for 2019.

Chairman Date

