

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 4th February 2019
at the Parish Hall, St Mary.

Present:

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman
Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice Chairman (not present for items 6 - 14)
Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard
Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson
Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre (not present for items 1, 2 and 15)
Connétable de St Jean - C. H. Taylor
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur
Connétable de Ste Marie - J. M. Le Bailly
Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman;
the Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert and the Connétable de St Ouën - R. A.
Buchanan.

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 January 2019, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Honorary
Police Medal
for Long and
Meritorious
Service

2. The Comité was informed that the award of the Honorary Police Medal for Long and Meritorious Service, instituted by Warrant of Her Majesty the Queen dated 1st December 2014 and registered in the Royal Court on 12th December 2014, to four officers had been approved by the Bailiff and His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor. In accordance with the Royal Warrant, which ordained that the name of each recipient be recorded in the minutes of the Assemblée Paroissiale of the Parish in which the officer last served or was serving, as the case might be, and also ordained that the names of all recipients be recorded in the minutes of the Comité des Connétables, the Comité received the list of recipients as follows:

Honorary Police Medal for Long and Meritorious Service (12 years' service)

Samuel Lewis Falle
Marcus Bernard Faith Hawgood
Paulo Jorge Gouveia Martins
The Hon. Jonathan Plunkett

Loi (1914) sur
la Voirie and
review of the
"Visite du
Branchage"

3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 10 of 7th January 2019, received the Assistant Minister for the Environment, the Minister's Private Secretary and the Principal Ecologist/Assistant Director for Natural Environment, to discuss the report and the reforms of the *Visite du Branchage* proposed by conservation and heritage groups. The Comité noted the apologies of the Minister who was unable to be present.

There was a wide ranging discussion of environmental issues and how different methods of cutting, e.g. by sickle or flail, and mulching affected the flora and fauna of the island's banks and hedgerows. Consideration was given to opportunities to educate those

cutting the *branchage* so that the flora and fauna thrived and whether biodiversity might be a factor for judging e.g. in the scenic lane competition. The delegation outlined the Department's comments and views on the various proposals and recommendations put forward in the paper prepared by the conservation and heritage groups.

Following discussion, it seemed that the Connétables were broadly in agreement with the approach of the Environment Department and the Comité decided that the Chairman should reply to the conservation and heritage groups with its own comments. The delegation proposed to seek a meeting with the conservation and heritage groups and the Connétables of St Lawrence, Grouville and St Martin volunteered to also attend that meeting. Following further discussion the delegation was thanked for attending the meeting and then withdrew.

Children's
Commissioner
– parish
surveys and
draft law

4. The Comité received the Children's Commissioner and was informed that the draft Children's Commissioner's Law was expected to be lodged "au Greffe" for debate by the States in March 2019. In addition to the drafting of this law, the office of the Children's Commissioner had in the last year been working to ensure that children were aware of their rights and responsibilities as set out in the UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) "Convention on the Rights of a Child". This had included an Island-wide survey undertaken earlier in 2018 and the results by parish (including breakdown by age groups) had been circulated to the Connétables.

The Comité discussed with the Children's Commissioner the initiatives within different parishes to ensure children had a voice in parochial affairs and invited the Children's Commissioner to meet individually with each Connétable to discuss the parish specific information. The Children's Commissioner spoke about Parental Rights and about the schools that had registered on the "Rights Respecting Schools Award Programme". Following discussion the Comité thanked the Children's Commissioner for attending the meeting and invited her to address a future meeting following approval of the draft law; the Children's Commissioner then withdrew from the meeting.

Liberation 75 –
2020

5. The Comité received a report from the Chairman on the recent public meeting held to plan for Liberation 75 – 2020. Island events were being planned for Saturday 9th May 2020 and Connétables were asked to consider parochial events on another day. There was a brief discussion about the events currently being considered or planned by parishes. The Comité agreed it would be appropriate to ask that, from the States funding for this event, consideration should be given to some funding being provided to support events organised by parishes.

LICAR and
bulk renewal of
driving licences

6. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 9 of 7th January 2019, received a progress report on the bulk renewal of driving licences and noted that almost 90% of drivers whose licences expired in January 2019 had now renewed; those who had not renewed were considered unlikely to do so due to age or infirmity. The Comité again recorded its appreciation to the Connétable of St Helier and his staff for the efficient manner in which they had managed the printing process during the bulk renewal.

Driving
licences –
quality of
photographs
submitted

7. The Comité, with partial reference to its minute no. 6 of this meeting, was informed of the poor quality of photographs submitted with some driving licence applications, particularly online applications, as applicants were not adhering to the published specification. The Comité noted that as a result a number of photographs had been refused and the applicants concerned had been asked to resubmit a photograph which met the required specification.

- International Driving Permits (IDPs) 8. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 8 of 7th January 2019, noted that the new form of International Driving Permit (IDP) under the 1968 Vienna Convention required for all Jersey drivers who wished to drive in European Union (EU) countries from 29th March 2019 should be available from late February 2019. This 1968 IDP was in addition to the IDPs issued under the 1949 Geneva Convention and the 1926 Parish Convention for certain other countries; a person visiting several countries might therefore need to obtain more than one IDP.
- ‘Closer to home’ group – representative of parishes 9. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 8 of 10th September 2018, was informed that the Health and Community Services Department was pushing forward with the delivery of services and support closer to parishioners’ homes and hoped to start the delivery of some services in March 2019. A ‘Closer to home’ steering group made up of librarians, the voluntary and charitable sector and others had been set up and a representative of the parish system was invited to be part of the group. The Connétable of St Brelade offered to attend these meetings on behalf of the Comité.
- Data Protection Officer (Salboa Ltd) for 11 parishes - update 10. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 13 of 7th January 2019, received a report from Salboa Ltd on its work in the last month as Data Protection Officer for 11 Parishes (excluding St Helier) and its proposals for remediation in the next month.
- States Chief Executive – second 6 months report 11. The Comité, with partial reference to its minute no. 5 of 7th January 2019, noted the second six-month report to the States Assembly of the Chief Executive which had made several references to parishes including in relation to ‘Customer and Local Services’ and to ‘Improving community and voluntary sector partnerships’. The Comité recalled it had extended an invitation to the Chief Executive to attend a future meeting.
- Jersey Evening Post - Parishes vs Plastics campaign 12. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 7 of 7th January 2019, noted further information about the proposed Jersey Evening Post ‘Parishes v Plastics’ campaign and that the ‘clean up’ event would be held on 24th March 2019. Consent was requested to display a banner in each parish to promote the event.
- Parish registrar – registers 13. The Comité considered correspondence from the Superintendent Registrar regarding the cost of registers which had been invoiced to parishes. The Superintendent Registrar explained that the Marriage and Civil Status (Jersey) Law 2001 provided that she must supply each registrar and each incumbent of an Anglican church with the required number of registers and that the Connétable of the parish must reimburse to the Superintendent Registrar cost of supplying the registers. The recent amendments to the law were such that the contents of a marriage registration had changed significantly and new marriage registers were required from 1st July 2018.
- The Comité, having received the Superintendent Registrar’s apologies, noted that the proposition ‘draft Marriage and Civil Status (Amendment No. 4) (Jersey) Law 201-’ (P.91/2017) had referred only to the financial and manpower implications for the States but made no reference to the implications for parishes. Parishes had not budgeted in the current financial year for such costs so the Superintendent Registrar proposed payment might be deferred to the next financial year. The Comité was reminded that parishes had incurred significant costs in 2003 when the law was last amended (minute no. 6 of 11th February 2003 refers) but correspondence at that time suggested the new registers might not need to be replaced for fifty years or so.

Next meeting

14. The Connétable of St Mary was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting was on 4th March 2019.

Chairman Date