

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 15th January 2018
at the Parish Hall, St Mary.

Present:

Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman, Chairman
Connétable de St Pierre - J. M. Refault, Vice Chairman
Connétable de St Héliier - A. S. Crowcroft (present for items 1 - 12 inclusive)
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 (present for items 1 - 5 and 9 - 12 inclusive)
Connétable de St Martin - M. P. S. Le Troquer
Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre
Connétable de St Jean - C. H. Taylor (present for items 1 - 12 inclusive)
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur

An apology for absence was received from the Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard.

In attendance:

Mrs S. R. de Gruchy, Secretary

Non-exempt (public) under Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011

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| Minutes | 1. The minutes of the meetings held on 11 th December 2017 and 10 th January 2018, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed. |
| Explosives (Jersey) Law 1970 - retail sale of fireworks 2018 dates | 2. The Comité, pursuant to the provisions in the Explosives (Jersey) Law 1970 requiring a Connétable to licence the retail sale of fireworks, approved the dates for the retail sale of fireworks in 2018. 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 26 th October to 5 th November 2018 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. |
| Marriage and Civil Status (Jersey) Law 2001 amendments | 3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 11 th December 2017, noted feedback from the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel following the Chairman's meeting with the Panel to discuss the draft Marriage and Civil Status (Amendment No. 4) (Jersey) Law 201- (P.91/2017) and amendments. The Panel had clarified the position about the proposed changes in the law regarding the removal of the parish registrar and advised that the process for removing a parish registrar would, if the amendment to P.91/2017 was approved, be as set out in a scheme to be published by the Superintendent Registrar. |
| Family Friendly Employment Rights - Employment Forum's Rec- | 4. The Comité received the Minister for Social Security and the Director, Social Security Department, who briefed the Comité on the recently published proposals from the Employment Forum on extending the Employment Law to improve family friendly employment rights. The recommendation had been presented to the States on 28 th December 2017 (Family Friendly Employment Rights - Employment Forum's |

ommendation (R.140/2017) Recommendation (R.140/2017)). The Comité was informed that the Forum's recommendations were, in some cases, presented in a phased approach with recommendations for changes to the Law in September 2018 and in September 2019. The Forum had selected these dates based on advice from the Social Security Department as to the earliest that changes were likely be made to the Employment Law if its recommendations were accepted.

Disability Discrimination Regulations 5. The Comité received the Minister for Social Security and the Director, Social Security Department, who discussed with the Comité the proposals to extend the Discrimination Law to include disability following the public consultation undertaken in 2017. The Comité recalled that the Discrimination (Jersey) Law 2013 provided a framework for protection against discrimination on the grounds of race, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and pregnancy and maternity. The Comité was informed that the legislation was proposed to be extended by Regulation to protect people in Jersey against disability discrimination from 1st September 2018. The Comité was briefed on the definition of 'disability' for the purpose of protection against discrimination, the reasonable adjustments which might be made and on exceptions so that an act was not an act of disability discrimination.

Income Support - Reinstatement of Single Parent component (P.113/2017) 6. The Comité received the Minister for Social Security and the Director, Social Security Department, who informed the Comité of the Minister's response to the proposition of the Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel "Income Support - Reinstatement of Single Parent component" (P.113/2017) which was due for debate on 16th January 2018.

Following discussion, the Minister and Director were thanked for attending the meeting and then withdrew.

Election dates for parish officers 7. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 5 of 18th September 2017, received Deputy S Y Mezec to discuss measures to increase public participation in elections for Parish roles. This followed from the question asked in the States (written question 464) and the Comité's subsequent consideration of whether the election of members of the Roads Committee and of Roads Inspectors should be staggered; the Comité had decided, at the current time, not to seek an amendment to legislation to alter the timing of the elections.

Deputy Mezec asked whether the Comité might be prepared to reconsider the matter as he considered it would benefit democracy in the Island to synchronise certain Parish elections to increase the focus they received and inevitably see greater voter engagement. The Comité explained that the election of a number of officers was already synchronised, for example Centeniers and Procureurs du Bien Public, whilst other officers such as Rates Assessors were elected on a staggered basis to ensure some continuity. The meeting was also informed that the Parish of St Helier had, at the 2017 election of members of the Roads Committee, invited parishioners to question the candidates before voting by secret ballot. Following discussion the Comité thanked Deputy Mezec for raising the issue and agreed that it might be given further consideration in due course. Deputy Mezec was thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

Next meeting 8. The Connétable of St Mary was thanked for her hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 5th February 2018.

Chairman*L Norman*..... Date5/02/2018.....