

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 7th January 2019
at the Parish Hall, St Lawrence.

Present:

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman
Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman
Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard
Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson
Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre
Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert
Connétable de Ste Marie - J. M. Le Bailly
Connétable de St Ouën - R. A. Buchanan

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de St Héliier - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice Chairman; the Connétable de St Jean - C. H. Taylor; the Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur and the Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone.

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 10th December 2018, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Explosives
(Jersey) Law
1970 – retail
sale of
fireworks 2019
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 2019. 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 25th October to 5th November 2019 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.

Department for
Health and
Community
Services -
organisational
changes

3. The Comité considered a letter from the Chairman of the Health and Social Security Panel and enclosed report of the Department for Health and Community Services which was currently consulting on organisational changes to the Department. The Department stated that its aims were to “reduce our reliance on hospital-based care delivered during the working week and create new options for care closer to home”. The Scrutiny Panel had enquired about the engagement between the Comité and the Department regarding the delivering and funding of health services in the Parishes as, in a section titled “Building on our strengths”, the consultation document stated:

Our parish system and wider community assets – As we look to reduce our reliance on hospital-based care and deliver more services closer to or in people’s homes, our parishes and community organisations give us a local infrastructure that would be the envy of most jurisdictions. It is fair to say that we have not used these assets as well as we could have in the past, but our local communities stand ready to play a strong role in supporting their residents to live healthy lives.

The Comité recalled various approaches over the years, most recently in autumn 2018 (minute no. 8 of 10th September 2018 refers), when Connétables had been consulted on how the States of Jersey could directly work with each Parish to help to deliver and expand

the provision of community based services. The States understood community based services to be wide ranging, from clinical assessments to exercise groups to health awareness sessions so this might be any health service that did not require specialist hospital equipment. The States wished to ascertain a list of the ‘valuable services’ the parishes currently provided and delivered (these might vary from exercise groups to talks and afternoon tea sessions/dances). On that occasion the Comité had been informed that the proposals for future service delivery would address preventative health for both old and young persons and should be cost neutral to parishes.

The Comité had also been asked, in 2015, whether space was available at Parish Halls for HSS staff to work remotely which would enable staff to update records whilst working in the community.

In 2012 the Comité had met with the Director of System Redesign and Delivery, Health and Social Services, to discuss the implications and impact on parishes of the proposals in P.82/2012 “Health and Social Services: a new way forward”. Concern was expressed that the States was seeking to devolve the provision of services from the centre to the parishes without the necessary resources but equally of concern was the adverse impact on volunteers should financial costs be transferred.

The Comité was informed by the Connétable of St Saviour that Langtry Gardens, a development of lifelong homes for the over-55s, should have delivered shops and other amenities but, other than a community room, these were never provided. The Comité was also informed that the Parish of St Martin was seeking to develop community facilities in the former school building to include a doctor’s surgery, but the initial approach to the Council of Ministers had not generated any interest.

The Chairman was requested to reply to the Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel accordingly.

Public
Elections
(Jersey) Law
2002 -
nomination
form

4. The Comité considered a draft nomination document for candidates standing for election as a Senator, Connétable or Deputy under the Public Elections (Jersey) Law 2002. The Comité noted that the time of signature had been added in accordance with the recommendation of the Royal Court in its decisions on hearings relating to the May 2018 elections. The Comité was of the opinion that the document needed a general redesign and considered this should be undertaken by the Privileges and Procedures Committee but, having regard to the forthcoming by-election for a Deputy of St Helier, agreed the revised format should be used pending a more comprehensive review.

“Team Jersey”
– States of
Jersey cultural
change
programme

5. The Comité received a briefing on “Team Jersey” from Mrs J Spybey and Ms A Mays, Human Resources Department, Chief Operating Office, and Mr A Bell of TDP Development, the States partner agency for the programme. The Comité was informed that Team Jersey was a cultural change programme which had been live since September 2018. As part of the States restructuring proposals, Team Jersey would build on the positive aspects of the organisation and understand what needed to change to develop a culture of teamwork, collaboration, learning and innovation. TDP Development would work with the States of Jersey for the next three years to help create a ‘one government, Team Jersey culture’ across the public service and to transform how the organisation worked together for islanders.

The first phase of the initiative was conversations with all 7,500 employees working for the States of Jersey to co-design the programme. This would be rolled out to all to improve teamwork, collaboration and leadership capability, develop new ways of working, build a customer-focused approach, and help to embed the behaviours and values that underpinned the new structure. Team Jersey also wished to hold external partner workshops within the private sector and third sector and to engage with citizens to understand how they interacted with the States of Jersey. The Comité advised that if seeking views from individuals attending parish events and activities this must work alongside those events and not interfere with the event itself. The Comité’s alternative

suggestion to seek views was to hold a few specific meetings in different parts of the island rather than meetings in every parish – the level of attendance would depend upon how the meetings were promoted.

There was a general discussion about the Team Jersey project with the Team officers assuring that the 3-year project would deliver and was intended to be sustainable beyond the project itself. The Comité invited the delegation to attend a meeting in the summer to report on its progress. The officers were thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

The Comité agreed it should invite the Chief Officer, States of Jersey, to a future meeting so that it might learn of the vision for, and progress with, “one government”.

States Greffe -
order of
seniority for
Connétables

6. The Comité was informed that, in accordance with Standing Order 2 of the Standing Orders of the States of Jersey, the States Greffe must establish the roll of elected members. The Standing Order set out how the roll should be constructed and how it should be determined whether one member took precedence over another. The order in which the Connétables were called was determined according to the length of time each of them had held the office of Connétable and, if this was equal, a member who had held an honorary public office in Jersey should come before a member who had not. The Comité agreed that ‘honorary public office in Jersey’ should be based on service as Procureur du Bien Public; Centenier; Vingtenier; Constable’s Officer; a Member of the Roads Committee; Roads Inspector and Rates Assessor.

Jersey Evening
Post - Parishes
vs Plastics
campaign

7. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 10 of 15th October 2018, noted that the Jersey Evening Post planned to announce the “Parishes v Plastics” campaign shortly and had invited parishes to nominate rubbish ‘hot spots’ which could be targeted. The Comité commented that plastic was part of the general litter around the island and was not usually the only constituent of litter.

Road Traffic
and Vehicles
(Vienna
Convention –
Misc. Amdmts)
(Jersey) Regs
2018: Ready
for Brexit w/c
14th Jan. 2019 –
travel and
transport issues

8. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 8 of 15th October 2018, noted that the States of Jersey was organising a ‘Ready for Brexit’ week of publicity. Travel and transport issues would include information about the following changes arising from the enactment of the Road Traffic and Vehicles (Vienna Convention – Miscellaneous Amendments) (Jersey) Regulations 2018 -

- i. seatbelts for all drivers and passengers of commercial lorries and vans above 3.5 tonnes would be mandatory from 1st February 2019; further details would be provided to the Comité des Chefs de Police about the Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts by Adults) (Amendment) (Jersey) Order 2018 (R&O-131-2018);
- ii. International Driving Permits (from 29th March 2019 the International Driving Permit under the Geneva Convention would be available for Jersey drivers who intended to drive in European Union countries) and
- iii. DVS Inspections for mopeds and minibuses - Road Traffic (Periodic Technical Inspections – General Provisions) (Jersey) Order 2018 (R&O-132-2018).

LICAR and
bulk renewal of
driving licences

9. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 5 of 10th December 2018, received a progress report on the bulk renewal of driving licences and noted that 70% of drivers whose licence expired in January 2019 had now renewed but approximately 7,600 licences had still to be renewed. The Comité, having also noted all licences approved for issue had been printed by the Parish of St Helier, recorded its appreciation to the Connétable of St Helier and his staff for the efficient manner in which they had managed the printing process to date during the bulk renewal.

Arising from this, the Comité noted that parishes had received applications to renew a Jersey driving licence from persons who were no longer resident in Jersey. The Comité recalled that Article 7A of the Road Traffic (Jersey) Law 1974 required an applicant for a

driving licence to be a “permanent resident of Jersey” which was defined as a person who had resided in Jersey for more than 12 months; or intended to reside in Jersey for more than 12 months and who was not, under the Immigration Act 1971 of the United Kingdom, prohibited from remaining in Jersey for more than 12 months and noted that all parishes, as the issuing authority, determined applications accordingly.

Loi (1914) sur
la Voirie -
review of the
“Visite du
Branchage”

10. The Comité was informed by the Chairman of a meeting of representatives of various environmental groups and organisations and the discussion about the Visites du Branchage and the Loi (1914) sur la Voirie. Jersey’s walls, *fosses* (ditches), *banques* and hedgerows were an important part of the island’s natural heritage and extremely important in terms of biodiversity and an essential wildlife corridor for many of Jersey’s native fauna. Following from that meeting a discussion paper outlining problems and possible solutions had been drafted by the group and the Comité agreed it should invite a few representatives, together with the Minister and Assistant Minister for Environment, to discuss the issues further at a future meeting.

Next meeting

11. The Chairman was thanked for her hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 4th February 2019.

Chairman Date