

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 16th July 2018
at the Parish Hall, St Saviour.

Present:

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman
Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman (not present for item 12)
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 Jean - C. H. Taylor
Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert
Connétable de Ste Marie - J. M. Le Bailly
Connétable de St Ouën - R. A. Buchanan (not present for item 12)
Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone (not present for items 11 – 13)

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice Chairman, and the Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur.

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 11th June 2018, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Harley Owners
Group – Jersey:
proposed rally
in September
2018

2. The Comité considered a letter from the Director of the Harley Owners Group – Jersey regarding the proposed cavalcade on 16th September 2018 which was expected to take 90 minutes and involve nearly 200 motorbikes. The request was to “ensure the cavalcade circulates as one without stopping” which would require written permission of the Connétable of the parish under Article 3(1)(b) of the Policing of Roads (Jersey) Regulations 1959. The Comité noted that Connétables would reply individually but indicated that they could not give permission for the cavalcade to travel as one without stopping. The primary concern had to be for the general safety of all road users and ensuring the flow of traffic was not impeded. Whilst wishing the organisers success with the event, they would be asked to ensure that riders taking part were reminded that all road laws must be obeyed including speed limits, road signs and traffic lights; that using motorbikes at junctions to stop oncoming traffic so that the cavalcade could ride through was an offence and that riders must have general consideration for other road users.

Honorary
Police – group
insurance
policies

3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 10 of 5th April 2018, noted that a Report had been received following the survey visit relating to the Group Insurance policy held with the Insurance Corporation for Public Liability and Torts (this covered all parishes except St Helier). The report identified, as a risk improvement, an annual update of parish health and safety policies and risk assessments.

Honorary
Police Assoc.
EGM

4. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 11th June 2018, noted that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Honorary Police Association was held on 28th June 2018 and Centenier D Curtis of St Helier was elected as Honorary President.

- Jersey Evening Post – plastic free campaign October 2018
5. The Comité received Mr M Oliver, Jersey Evening Post (JEP), who outlined the proposed “Parishes v Plastics” campaign to be launched by the JEP in October 2018. This campaign would build on other community events promoted by the JEP and was envisaged as an annual event to clean up the hedgerows/hotspots identified by the Parishes across the Island. There would be a four month campaign across the various JEP platforms of paper, social media, and supplements to raise awareness of the plastic problem. The JEP was seeking the support of the parishes for the campaign and for the event on 28th October 2018 which might require the support of the honorary police in sponsored parishes. Following discussion the Comité gave its support to the campaign and asked that further details be provided in due course. Mr Oliver was also informed of the proposed Scrutiny review about reducing use of plastics in Jersey and, having been thanked for attending, he then withdrew from the meeting.
- Honorary Police / States of Jersey Police ‘workshop’
6. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 18 of 11th June 2018, received feedback from the Chairman and Connétables who had attended the Honorary Police / States of Jersey Police ‘workshop’ on 14th July 2018 to discuss operational policing matters and noted that a joint press release would be issued shortly.
- Policing plans for parishes
7. The Comité noted that Article 6A of the Honorary Police (Jersey) Regulations 2005 referred to “the key aims and objectives of any policies of the Connétable of the parish for the effective policing of the parish”. It was the function of the Chef de Police, in so far as circumstances permitted, to deliver the key aims and objectives.
- Office - accounts 2016/17 and budget 2017/18
8. The Comité received the unaudited accounts for the Comité des Connétables/Supervisory Committee and for the Comité des Chefs de Police for the year ended 30th April 2018 which anticipated a small surplus of income over expenditure; the audited accounts would be available for the next meeting. The Comité approved the proposed office budget for 2018/19 estimating expenditure in a sum of £87,195 which included an additional provision for staffing. The Comité decided that the costs would be shared equally between the Parishes (£7,265 per Parish). The Comité considered a letter from the Chairman of the Comité des Chefs de Police proposing a budget expenditure of £1,500 for 2018/2019 and agreed that this would be funded equally by parishes (£125 per parish).
- However, the Comité recalled its rules on voting required that where the matter would commit either the Comité or any of the members to any expenditure, the matter should be done and decided by 12 votes in favour on the first occasion and, as 12 members were not present, it agreed the matter should be considered again at the next meeting.
- Parish engagement
9. The Comité discussed issues relating to engagement with, and the involvement of, parishioners following recent questions and debates in the States Assembly. Although a recent question had focussed on the gender of those elected, Connétables agreed that all parishioners were always encouraged to get involved with parochial life and to seek election to roles where they could contribute their individual skills and experience.
- 2018 Election Observers – final report
10. The Comité noted that the Election Observation Mission from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, which observed the 2018 elections, had published its final report which contained a number of recommendations. Having regard to the Connétables role as electoral administrators, the Comité agreed the Chairman should write to the Chairman of the Privileges and Procedures Committee (PPC) proposing that it work with PPC to consider the recommendations.

Jersey Gazette -
online

11. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 12 of 12th October 2015, noted that the Chief Minister had now signed the Official Publications (Publication of Jersey Gazette) (Jersey) Order 2018 which came into force on 14th July 2018 and transferred the Jersey Gazette from the Jersey Evening Post to online at www.gov.je/gazette.

Loi (1914) sur
la Voirie - mud
on roads/
branchage
blocking drains

12. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 20 of 11th June 2018, received the President, Vice President and Executive Secretary of the Jersey Farmers' Union (JFU) to discuss the Loi (1914) sur la Voirie and the removal of mud and cuttings from roads. The issues of damage to road side walls and banks, and the spreading of slurry at weekends, were also discussed. The Chairman thanked the JFU for writing to its members to highlight the need for all obstructions including all effluent, mud or other nuisance to be removed from the public roads in the country and streets in the town and to ensure the prompt removal of all branchage cuttings from the roads to avoid the risk of drains being blocked and causing flooding on roads and to property in the event of heavy rain.

The delegation thanked the Comité for the opportunity to meet and said that whilst it could take action in some areas, in others it could only advise its members. All Connétables were asked to identify particular drains which were prone to flooding so JFU members could be warned of these 'hotspots'. The JFU code was not to spread slurry at weekends but weather conditions earlier in 2018 had meant some growers were unable to avoid this on some weekends (slurry could not be spread between mid-October and mid-January). Members would be asked to take more care to avoid damaging walls but the delegation considered other large cars and lorries also caused damage and contractors should also be reminded to take care. Most tractors were limited to a top speed of 40 k.p.h. and poor road conditions, particularly on main roads, meant it was too uncomfortable to drive at higher speeds. Whilst accepting that wider tractors might damage the edges of narrow lanes, the delegation pointed out that P.30 vehicles could be a similar width.

The timing of the Visites du Branchage was discussed but the delegation considered the range of dates was helpful to enable growers to focus parish by parish, and specific areas could always be cut earlier to ensure road safety, for example at road junctions. Hedge cutting took place early in the morning to avoid hindering traffic flow, with cuttings removed later in the day, but it was unrealistic to hope that any check would be made, for example for hedgehogs, before cutting. Following discussion the delegation was thanked for attending the meeting and then withdrew.

Silkworth
Extreme Team
Challenge

13. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 5th April 2018, noted that the Chief Executive Officer had written to advise that the Silkworth Extreme Team Challenge event schedule for 1st September 2018 had been cancelled.

Next meeting

14. The Connétable of St Saviour was thanked for her hospitality and the Comité agreed the next meeting would be on 10th September 2018.

Chairman Date

