

# Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018**  
at the Parish Hall, Trinity.

**Present:**

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman  
Connétable de St Héliier - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice Chairman (not present for items 11-13)  
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 Jean - C. H. Taylor  
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur  
Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert (not present for items 11-13)  
Connétable de Ste Marie - J. M. Le Bailly  
Connétable de St Ouën - R. A. Buchanan  
Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone (not present for items 11-13)

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 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

CPA 2018  
Election  
Observers'  
Mission Report

2. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 7 of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018, discussed the recommendations in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) 2018 Election Observers' Mission Report. The Comité noted that the Privileges and Procedures Committee (PPC) sub-committee had invited the Comité to send representatives to one of its meetings, if convenient, and that PPC had arranged for two CPA representatives to talk through the recommendations made by the CPA mission following the May 2018 elections. The Comité noted that several Connétables were available to meet with the CPA representatives on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018 and would report to its next meeting.

The Comité discussed the report and recommendations; the report stated that allowing candidates to stand and be elected unopposed had reduced the competitiveness of the election but did not suggest how this could be addressed. Arising from the recommendations, the Comité noted the following comments and agreed that a draft paper should be prepared for consideration at its next meeting, following which it would seek a meeting with the PPC sub-committee.

Recommendation 2 - the Comité noted the States had approved States of Jersey Elections: Pre-Election Procedures for States Meetings and the lodging of propositions (P.88/2018) but commented that the month of May might not be the best time for the election given the impact on the conduct of States business.

Recommendation 3 – review of the boundaries of electoral constituencies would impact on parish boundaries and could further erode the role of the parishes.

Recommendation 4 – as the report noted an effective and proactive level of communication and coordination between the varying election actors the Comité

queried the necessity for the creation of a permanent independent body to provide continuous oversight and review of the electoral legal framework.

Recommendation 8 - referred to a conflict of interest associated with the functions of the Connétable as election administrator. The Comité noted that Article 17A of the Public Elections (Jersey) Law 2002 provided for another person to act as electoral administrator where the Connétable was a candidate in an election, and this provision had been agreed by the States (P.46/2014 refers).

Recommendation 15 – access to observe pre-poll voting procedures by candidates and parties. The Comité was mindful that many voters chose to use the pre-poll facility to avoid meeting candidates at the polling station on Election Day.

Recommendation 16 – unhindered access outside polling stations. The Comité was aware that there were guidelines to ensure there was no barrier to access for voters and that the Autorisé in charge of the polling station enforced these standards.

LICAR and  
bulk renewal of  
driving licences

3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 14 of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018, received a paper giving an update on the bulk renewal of driving licences. Drivers were being encouraged to renew in the 3 months prior to their driving licence expiring and recent figures showed that 20% of drivers whose licences expired in January 2019 had already renewed.

The Comité noted that the Parish of Trinity had arranged for a photographer to attend at the Parish Hall on two mornings to take photographs for drivers who required an out-of-town location and other parishes were welcome to inform parishioners of this option.

Accounts and  
budget for  
2018/19

4. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018, confirmed that each parish would contribute £7,265 to the office budget for 2018/19 and £125 to the budget for the Comité des Chefs de Police for that year.

Centenary of  
Women's  
Suffrage in  
Jersey (2019) –  
parish  
involvement

5. The Comité received information from the States Greffe regarding the project around the Centenary of Women's Suffrage in Jersey (2019) and considered ways in which each parish might be involved. The Connétable of St Martin said that she would be working with the States committee and offered to report further on the project at future meetings. The Comité considered that parishes might contribute by hosting the proposed exhibition in each parish hall, inviting representatives of the project to speak to groups of parishioners and publishing an article in parish magazines/newsletters.

Shops  
(Regulation of  
Opening and  
Deliveries)  
(Jersey) Law  
2010 - Sunday  
trading

6. The Comité received a paper summarising the Shops (Regulation of Opening and Deliveries) (Jersey) Law 2010 and the Shops (Regulation of Opening) (Jersey) Regulations 2011 which regulated trading on a Sunday and other specified days by establishing a permit scheme for trading. Shops were not generally allowed to open on Sundays and other specified days (Good Friday, Liberation Day, and 26<sup>th</sup> December) other than with the consent of the relevant Connétable, subject to limitations the Connétable might impose in the permit to open.

The Comité noted no shop was permitted to open on Christmas Day and that a single permit (for a shop where the retail sales area exceeded 700 square metres) could not be issued for a shop to open on 26<sup>th</sup> December. A blanket permit could be granted at discretion of the Connétable by a notice published in the Jersey Gazette where the Economic Development Minister had declared any day (except Good Friday, Liberation Day, Christmas Day or 26<sup>th</sup> December) to be a special occasion. The blanket permit for 2018 had been published in the Jersey Gazette on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and covered the 6 Sundays in November/December specified in the Shops (Regulation of Opening) (Special Occasions) (Jersey) Order 2015. During discussion the Comité noted that the legislation set out other details relating to the permit scheme and the appeals mechanism, that any

complaints received by parishes were investigated and that Connétables would remind permit holders of the need to renew permits for the following year.

Licensing  
(Jersey) Law  
1974 -  
Licensing  
Assembly  
reports

7. The Comité received a paper regarding the report made by the Connétable to the December sitting of the Licensing Assembly. Article 74 of the Licensing (Jersey) Law 1974 required the Connétable to keep a register of every conviction relating to licensed premises situated within the parish and to produce that register to the Licensing Assembly in December each year, and at such other times as the Assembly might require. The sitting would be on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and the Comité noted the template for the report which provided information about infractions dealt with during the year together with details of the licensed premises in the parish and the inspections carried out.

Big Rideout  
2019 for  
Holidays for  
Heroes Jersey

8. The Comité noted that the Vice President, Greenman MCC, had contacted several parishes seeking approval and assistance for the Big Rideout for Holidays for Heroes Jersey event on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The motorcycle event had been held for the past eight years with over 1000 motorcyclists taking part in 2018 and raising just over £10,000. The organisers were seeking permission and support from various authorities including the Honorary Police and every Parish Connétable for each parish on the route.

The Comité noted that Connétables would reply individually but indicated that they could not give permission for a parade or procession in their parish. 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.

Bailiff's panel  
Liberation 75  
working group  
– 2020

9. The Comité noted that the Bailiff had formed a working group to consider arrangements to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Liberation in 2020 and the Chairman, who represented the Comité on the Bailiff's Consultative Panel, was a member of the working group. The Chairman would provide further information to Connétables as details were agreed so that parishes could plan events to mark the anniversary.

Organ donor  
registration  
through driving  
licence  
applications –  
update

10. The Comité received a report on the registration of organ donors collected from driving licences applications. The option to opt-in to organ donation through the driving licence application was raised in November 2013 by representatives of The Love Hearts Appeal (a Jersey charity that promoted organ donation) and, following consultation with the Minister for Health and Social Services and NHS Blood and Transplant Service (NHS BT), and with the support of the Minister for Transport and Technical Services, the option first appeared on driving licence application forms in 2015.

Whilst information had been collected since 2015, budgetary constraints imposed on NHS BT had delayed the introduction of a method for data transfer. NHS BT had also proposed that, as the main route for new organ donor registrations, the Jersey process should link to the NHS BT website and this proposed change, together with the States approval of the Human Transplantation and Anatomy (Jersey) Law as an opt-out system, had resulted in the opt-in option being removed from Jersey driving licence applications in early October 2018. Paper driving licence applications continued to refer in the 'Notes' to the option to register and the online application (for the renewal of a full licence and for a duplicate full or provisional licence) provided the applicant with a link to the NHS BT site to register.

The data sharing agreement with NHS BT had been signed and the data collected to early October 2018 (to the date at which collection of data ceased) had been securely transferred to NHS BT. The quality of the data was being checked by NHS BT prior to it

being loaded on to the register and the Comité agreed that, when NHS BT notified the number added to the organ donor register, the Chairman should write to The Love Hearts Appeal to inform of the results of the campaign.

Jèrriais plan  
2017-2019 –  
potential  
opportunities  
for the Parishes

11. The Comité received the Manager – Strategic Policy, Economic Development, Tourism, Sport & Culture, who provided an update on the Jèrriais Plan 2017 – 2019 and discussed the opportunities for the Parishes to raise the profile of Jèrriais. In September 2016, the States Assembly unanimously agreed additional support for Jèrriais in a Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) amendment debate. Subsequently the Jèrriais Plan 2017 - 2019 (R.72/2017) recognized current financial challenges, and proposed “*a two stage approach: a short-term strategy to give the language a new status and increase opportunities to learn it; and, accepting that a significant increase in funding requires due notice and discussion, a commitment to further plan to be developed in 2018 to generate new speakers, synchronizing with the next States’ Medium Term Plan.*”

Progress since then included additional teachers of Jèrriais for both primary and secondary school children, an increase in the number of pupils who want to learn the language and an increase in the number of entrants to the Jersey Eisteddfod Dramatic Presentation and Choral Singing classes. In June 2018, a multi-agency Jèrriais Advisory Group (JAG) was established and the Group had met several times to discuss promotional opportunities, receive feedback on events, discuss progress on the next Jèrriais Plan 2020 – 2024 to coincide with the next MTFP and consider shortcomings. In addition to the initiatives to raise awareness of the native language it had been agreed that all new Government Department signage would be both in English and Jèrriais and Jèrriais would be added to business cards, email addresses and letter sign offs.

The Comité discussed options for promoting Jèrriais within the parishes but commented that while some of the parish road names were in Jèrriais, care should be taken if changing road signs as road names were listed in the corporate address file and there was a cost to businesses and individuals to change an address. However, Connétables were supportive of including articles within parish magazines and newsletters, to provide details of courses available, and promotion of the language through parish twinning associations with France. Following discussion the Manager – Strategic Policy was thanked for attending the meeting and then withdrew.

Jersey’s future  
hospital –  
proposed  
location

12. The Comité received Brigadier B Willing and Dr A Howell representing a small committee of concerned people who disagreed with the proposed location of Jersey’s future hospital (JFH). The delegation said they disputed the chosen location for the future hospital as the proposed design did not meet the States 2012 Strategic requirement that the JFH should be built on a single site that included mental health facilities; and the plan to build it on the site of the existing General Hospital over an extended period of between 6 and 9 years whilst the General Hospital remained a fully functioning hospital would fundamentally compromise the health and safety of patients and fail to meet the operational requirements of the island’s health service. The Connétables were provided with a copy of the submission to the Jersey Hospital Planning Enquiry and were asked to consider holding public meetings so that parishioners might be informed of the disadvantages of the proposed location and design.

The Comité recalled that various reports were currently being prepared regarding the site for the future hospital including by the Hospital Policy Development Board (the Connétable of St John, as Chairman, advised that the Board’s report would be published later that week); the Future Hospital Review Panel (chaired by Deputy K Pamplin) and the Planning Inspector. It was agreed that no action could be taken pending receipt of these reports but the delegation was invited to forward the papers to the States Greffe for circulation to all States members. Following discussion, Brigadier Willing and Dr Howell were thanked for attending the meeting and then withdrew.

Next meeting

13. The Connétable of Trinity was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

Chairman ..... Date .....

