

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 10th September 2018
at the Parish Hall, Grouville.

Present:

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman
Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice Chairman (present for items 1, 2 & 7)
Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman (present for items 1 - 3 & 7 - 10)
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
Connétable de Ste Marie - J. M. Le Bailly (present for items 1 - 3 & 7)
Connétable de St Ouën - R. A. Buchanan
Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone

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

Minutes

1. The minutes of the meetings held on 16th July 2018 and on 31st July/16th August 2018, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Removal of
vehicles from
private land –
legislation

2. The Comité received the Minister for Home Affairs and the Policy Principal, Department for Strategic Policy, Performance and Population, to discuss the draft Motor Vehicles (Removal from Private Land) (Jersey) Law 201-. The legislation would make it an illegal practice to wheel clamp a motor vehicle on private land, while also providing private landowners with alternative remedies to remove motor vehicles from their land when they were not authorised to be there. It was hoped the draft Law would be debated by the States later in 2018 and there would be further consultation on the draft Removal of Vehicles (Private Land) (Jersey) Regulations 201- prior to lodging for debate in early 2019.

The Comité suggested the following should be considered:

- a) The law should provide that if there was no means of identifying the vehicle, because number plates and other identifying marks had deliberately been removed, it should be regarded as abandoned
- b) As registered owners often did not notify a change of address, there should be provision for a notice to be affixed to an abandoned vehicle (similar to fixed charge parking notices) in addition to a letter being sent to the registered owner
- c) Letters to be sent to the registered owner of a vehicle should be prescribed

Following discussion of the draft Law, which would cover abandoned vehicles and those causing a regular nuisance or inconvenience, the Comité thanked the Policy Principal for attending the meeting and he then withdrew.

Road Works and Events (Jersey) Law 2016 - permit charging

3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 1 of 16th October 2017, received the Director, Senior Manager/Engineer and Roadworks Manager, Growth, Housing and Environment Department (GHE), to discuss the Road Works and Events (Jersey) Law 2016 (RWEL) and, in particular, proposals for permit charging. The GHE officers provided a brief overview of the RWEL and its operation in relation to the issue of licences for events on roads.

The Comité was then informed of the Road Works (Embargo Periods and Protected Roads) (Jersey) Regulations 2017 which specified periods (“embargo periods”) during which certain road works might not take place immediately after substantial highway authority works had taken place except in limited circumstances, and also listed certain roads in which road works were not permitted except in limited circumstances. In relation to permits, the Comité was informed that approval had been given to the level of fees to be charged and this information had been provided to every parish by letter in August 2018. Further information would be circulated later this month ahead of the introduction of charges from 1st January 2019. The proposed tariffs would replace charges which individual parishes currently imposed.

There was a general discussion about the reinstatement of roads following excavations and the GHE officers explained the process established by the RWEL. This included a guarantee on reinstatement for 3 years which could, at the discretion of the highway authority, be extended for a further period.

The RWEL also introduced the concept of inspections and GHE intended to use the income from permit charges to fund an inspectorate team. It had previously been suggested that parishes might consider contributing their permit income to fund an inspector but this was for each Connétable to decide. The administration for permit charging would be handled within TrafficWorx and would also cover permits for the placing of scaffolding, hoardings and skips on roads. However the provisions of the Highways (Jersey) Law 1956 would continue to apply to the placing of a service under the road. Staff of the utility companies would be trained to United Kingdom qualifications and the core objective was better workmanship and quality of work so increasing safety and extending road life.

The officers advised that they would meet with parish representatives to explain the charges further. Following discussion, the delegation was thanked for attending the meeting and then withdrew.

e-petitions - ‘Aire’ French style camping system in Jersey

4. The Comité noted the following e-petition had been submitted and was tagged for the Chief Minister and Minister for Home Affairs (with the Chairman of the Comité des Connétables copied in). The e-petition had reached 1,000 signatures and a ministerial response was therefore required:

“Introduce a free ‘Aire’ French style camping system in Jersey for locals”

Kerbside and glass recycling

5. The Comité noted that the Minister for the Environment had forwarded to the Chairman an email querying why the doorstep collection of recyclable materials (paper, glass and plastic bottles) was not available island-wide. Kerbside collection of separated items (other than glass) was currently only available in 6 parishes as ratepayers of those parishes had approved funding for such collections.

Arising from this the Comité, with reference to its minute no. 10 of 11th June 2018, considered the “just glass” campaign launched by the States to raise awareness of the importance of disposing of glass in the right way. Refuse collectors had been briefed on the campaign and instructed not to collect loads of contaminated glass but to inform householders of the reason for not emptying bins. The Comité considered that parishioners with queries should be referred to the Recycling Manager.

Next meeting

6. The Connétable of Grouville as thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 15th October 2018.

Chairman Date

