

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 18th May 2020
(virtual meeting conducted online).

Present:

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman
Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice Chairman
Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman (present for items 1, 11 and 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 la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur
Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert
Connétable de Ste Marie - J. M. Le Bailly
Connétable de St Ouën - R. A. Buchanan
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

COVID-19
coronavirus:
lifting of
restrictions –
opening of
Parish Halls

1. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 7c of 11th May 2020, considered a paper summarising the current arrangements for Parish staff and proposals being considered prior to Parish Halls being open to the public. Services were continuing to be delivered with parishes adopting a range of measures to enable staff to work from home or to work from parish premises whilst observing social distancing measures. Consideration was being given to the installation of screens at public counters and to access routes to ensure parishioners could maintain a social distance when visiting the office but the physical layout of some property made this more difficult for some parishes than for others.

The Comité also sought clarification of the action required should a member of staff contract COVID-19. The Government of Jersey advice was received that a member of staff displaying symptoms should self-isolate and contact the Government helpline for advice. Should the member of staff subsequently test positive for COVID-19 the Government tracing team would contact those with whom the infected person had been in contact, including work colleagues, and would offer advice as appropriate.

The Comité noted that parishes were continuing to deliver services to parishioners whilst minimising callers at Parish Halls and, prior to reaching a decision on opening premises, decided to seek clarification of the Government's proposals to open Customer and Local Services to members of the public.

COVID-19
coronavirus:
Ecclesiastical
Assemblies
accounts

2. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 7e of 11th May 2020, was informed that the Dean had advised that Ecclesiastical Assemblies would not be held in May 2020 as it was impossible to hold these without prejudice to all those wishing to attend. The accounts required under D1 5 of the Canons of the Church of England in Jersey must still be completed, made available and properly scrutinized by an independent examiner.

COVID-19
coronavirus:
children's
playgrounds
and Big Ride
Out

3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 7d of 11th May 2020, received confirmation that under the Safe Exit Level 3 Policy children's playgrounds must remain closed as it was not possible to clean the equipment between users and they were areas where adults and children congregated and this would make physical distancing extremely difficult.

The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 5 of 9th December 2019, noted that the Big Ride Out, which had been organised for 24th May 2020, had been cancelled.

Minutes

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2020, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

COVID-19
coronavirus:
lifting of
restrictions
DVS testing

5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 7f of 11th May 2020, considered correspondence from the Head of Driver and Vehicle Standards (DVS)/Inspector of Motor Traffic regarding the resumption of driver testing following suspension in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 restrictions. As both Driving Tests and Driving Instruction for motor vehicles came under the category of "sharing motor vehicles" this was likely to only resume in Level 1 of the Safe Exit Policy. The resumption of CBT (compulsory basic training for motorbikes) could be classed as a Level 2 activity and might resume sooner than the other testing though social distancing measures would have to be put in place to ensure safe instruction.

Having regard to this timescale the Comité decided that –

- New provisional licences for motorbikes (category P, A1) would not be issued until CBT tests resumed
- New provisional licences for all other categories would be issued (parishes would need to have arrangements to verify the applicant's ID whilst maintaining a social distance)
- Renewals of all licences would continue to be issued subject to the established policy that a provisional licence would not be renewed unless the applicant had attempted a test during the validity of that licence (this condition was set out in the letter sent to all persons to whom a provisional driving licence was granted) but discretion would be exercised by the Connétable if the applicant had been prevented by reason of absence or illness from attempting a test.

The Comité considered correspondence from the General Practitioner (GP) Primary Care Group about medical reports for driving licences. Recalling that a proportion of GPs had been transferred to duties within the hospital sector, the Comité supported prioritising essential workers who required a medical report to renew a vocational category on their driving licence but that parishes might consider deferring decisions for individuals in the non-vocational category.

Parish staffing
– vulnerable
groups and
wage subsidies

6. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 10 of 5th May 2020, received correspondence from the Director-General of Customer and Local Services regarding short-term incapacity allowance. The Director-General advised that an employee who was severely vulnerable and self-isolating (shielding) and not able to work from home was not able to claim sickness benefit. Should they not be employed/being paid then Income Support/CRESS might be available to support them financially. The Minister had introduced a Corona Virus self-isolation benefit and claims might currently be made if a person had tested positive for Coronavirus (as confirmed by Environmental Health) or had specified symptoms or had recently returned to Jersey and was adhering to the latest Government advice on travel. The Comité noted the position.

- COVID-19:
Face masks
7. The Comité discussed correspondence regarding the supply and cost of face masks. As it was not currently encouraging parishioners to visit Parish Halls, the Comité considered parishes should not be a point of sale for such items and, as the cost of items varied, purchasers should be advised to shop around.
- COVID-19:
Visites du
Branchage
8. The Comité, with partial reference to its minute no. 7b of 11th May 2020, considered correspondence from the President of the Jersey Farmers' Union (JFU) about ensuring the safety of the public when the branchage was being cut. The President asked whether roads might be closed to all users, including pedestrians, to enable growers to cut the branchage. The Comité considered that any grower seeking to close by-roads should contact the Connétable to make arrangements, as the decision to close could then be notified to all users through the Trafficworx system, and that the JFU should contact the Minister for Infrastructure with regard to the closing of a main road.
- Emergencies
Council and
Community
Task Force
Steering Group
meetings
9. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 2 of 11th May 2020, received a report from the Chairman on the recent meeting of the Emergencies Council.
- The Comité also received a report from the Connétable of Grouville on the recent meeting of the Community Task Force Steering Group advising that it had received a presentation highlighting the difficulties faced by the 18-30 year olds and the mental health issues arising; this would assist in raising awareness and in targeting support. The Comité decided the Connétable of St Martin should replace the Chairman as a member of the Group.
- Next meeting
10. The Comité noted the next meeting would be on 8th June 2020 unless an earlier meeting was required.

Chairman Date

