

# Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020**  
(virtual meeting conducted online).

## **Present:**

Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice Chairman  
Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman  
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 (present for part of meeting only)  
Connétable de Ste Marie - J. M. Le Bailly  
Connétable de St Ouën - R. A. Buchanan  
Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman and 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 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and on 9<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Winter Events  
Group –  
Comité  
representatives

2. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 7 of 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020, noted that the Chairman and the Connétable of Trinity (with the Connétable of St Helier as reserve) had agreed to join the Winter Events Group set up by the Chief Minister, chaired by Deputy S Wickenden, to look at what could be done for islanders to support them during the winter months through to March 2021.

Explosives  
(Jersey) Law  
1970 – dates  
permitted for  
retail sale of  
fireworks in  
2021

3. The Comité considered correspondence from the Managing Director of Starburst Fireworks proposing dates for the retail sale of fireworks in 2021. 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 2021. 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 28<sup>th</sup> October to 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021 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.

Driving  
licences –  
provisional  
renewals during  
Covid-19

4. The Comité considered correspondence from the Chairman of the Jersey Consumer Council asking all Connétables to consider, until the Island emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic, waiving the renewal fees for provisional licences and to consider issuing refunds where appropriate. The Council was being contacted by Islanders, many of them young, to make it aware of an unintended consequence of the current Covid-19 restrictions which was a “very long wait for both theory and practical driving tests”. This meant that

provisional licences were expiring before the person could sit a test and the driver was therefore being forced to pay the renewal charge. In one example the situation was compounded by the person being identified through contact-tracing, and having to isolate, thereby missing the test which had been booked.

The Comité was informed that, as at 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Driver and Vehicle Standards (DVS) had advised it was operating to its standard delivery times, irrespective of Covid-19, namely theory tests and practical tests for all categories of vehicles were available within 6 weeks or 8 weeks, respectively, of booking. However, DVS had advised that driving instruction had ceased (with effect from 19<sup>th</sup> December 2020 under the Covid-19 (Workplace Restrictions) (Amendment No. 6) (Jersey) Order 2020) and it was unable to continue with Theory Tests for the time being.

The Comité recalled the action it had taken in relation to the issue and renewal of driving licences since the initial Covid-19 lockdown in March 2020 at which time learning to drive was not an ‘essential reason’ to be outside one’s home. That had included not issuing new provisional licences for motorbikes (category P, A1) until CBT tests resumed but all licences continued to be renewed 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 (minute no. 5 of 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 referred).

Having discussed the subject, the Comité concluded that it was not appropriate to waive renewal fees for provisional licences or to offer refunds. It was for each person, when deciding to apply for a provisional licence, to consider their personal situation and the requirement to attempt a test during the validity of the 6-month licence. Discretion would continue to be exercised by the Connétable if the applicant had been prevented by reason of absence or illness from attempting a test but this would not extend to waiving the charge as there was a cost to the Parish to issue a licence and this should not be borne by the ratepayers. However, specific hardship might be considered on a case by case basis. The Chairman was requested to reply accordingly.

Liberation 75-  
2020: funding  
for Parishes

5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 18 of 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020, noted that the Bailiff’s Chief Officer had confirmed receipt of narratives from four Parishes and that other Parishes wishing to receive the funding offered towards Liberation 75 – 2020 events, though these had had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions, should ensure a narrative about the use of the funds was submitted to the Chief Officer at the earliest opportunity.

Government  
Plan 2021–  
2024  
(P.130/2020):  
tenth  
amendment  
[P.130-2020  
Amd.(10)]

6. The Comité noted that the States Assembly had adopted the amendment of the Connétable of St Helier (Government Plan 2021–2024 (P.130/2020): tenth amendment [P.130-2020 Amd.(10)]) and had received the Government Plan 2021 – 2024 specified in Article 9(1) of the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2019 and specifically as set out at Appendix 3 to the Report, except that the Minister for Treasury and Resources was requested to carry out a review into the funding of public services by the Parishes, as agreed in the Common Strategic Policy, and to bring forward recommendations in time for any financial implications to be included in the 2022 Government Plan and thereafter.

The Comité agreed that the Vice Chairman should write to the Minister for Treasury and Resources to enquire as to the process she intended to adopt to carry out this review and to offer to nominate representatives of the Comité to assist with the review.

Data Protection  
(Jersey) Law  
2018 –  
registration of  
Connétables

7. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 10(b)(ii) of 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020, noted that the Jersey Office of the Information Commissioner (JOIC) had sent reminders to Connétables of the need to register under the Data Protection (Jersey) Law 2018. However, the JOIC had since confirmed that the role of Connétable was covered by the Parish registration and a separate registration was not required; the automated reminder had been deactivated by the JOIC.

Next meeting

8. The Vice Chairman extended to all Connétables and their families, and to the staff and their families, the compliments of the season and best wishes for Christmas and for 2021. The Comité noted the next meeting would be on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

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

