

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 22nd June 2020
(virtual meeting conducted online).

Present:

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman
Connétable de St Héliér - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice Chairman (present for items 8-13)
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
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

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| Minutes | 1. The minutes of the meeting held on 8 th June 2020, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed. |
| Community Task Force Steering Group meetings | 2. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 2 of 8 th June 2020, received a report on the recent Community Task Force Steering Group meeting and the work it continued to oversee. Meetings would be held every 3 weeks, rather than weekly, for the next couple of months. |
| COVID-19: lifting of restrictions | 3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 8 th June 2020, noted the following in relation to the easing of COVID-19 restrictions: |
| Playgrounds | <u>Playgrounds</u> – children’s playgrounds and public gym equipment could now open |
| Parishing charges | <u>Parking charges</u> – would be reinstated on 1 st July 2020. The Comité heard from Connétables that the policing of parking would be more vigorously enforced from that date. |
| Driving instruction | <u>Driving instruction</u> – Driver and Vehicle Standards (DVS) advised that driving instruction could recommence from 12 th June 2020 |
| Driving tests | <u>Driving tests</u> – DVS advised driving tests might recommence from 1 st July 2020 |
| Parish Halls – letting of rooms | <u>Parish Halls – room hire</u> : whilst all Parish Hall public offices would be open by the end of June 2020, decisions had not yet been made regarding the letting/hire of rooms to outside groups/users and this would be considered further at a future meeting. |
| Census – data for 2021 | 4. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 4 of 11 th May 2020, received a formal request from the Chief Statistician, Statistics Jersey, for address data held by the parishes in preparation for the 2021 Census. The Comité recalled that it had given “in principle” agreement but had requested clarification of the proposals and it noted the following: |

Whether the data had been used for this purpose previously?
The data had not previously been requested; the Statistics and Census (Jersey) Law 2018 was not in force when the last Census was held in 2011.

Were the Parishes confident that there was under law a requirement to share this data?
Legal advice had not been sought but Article 14 of the 2018 Law permitted the Chief Statistician by written notice to direct an undertaking (which included any public authority) to furnish any particulars or information in the possession of the undertaking, whether or not the undertaking obtained the particulars or information from elsewhere; or was under an obligation not to disclose the particulars or information, whether or not under any enactment.

Would there be secure methods in place for transferring of data?
Statistics Jersey expected to meet the cost for the data extraction subject to confirming what that would be. It was anticipated that the database supplier would arrange for the secure transfer and no parish manpower would be required.

The Comité noted that advice was also awaited from the Jersey Office of the Information Commissioner and arrangements would only be finalised on receipt of that advice.

Visites Royales
2020

5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 4 of 8th June 2020, noted a reply from the Bailiff confirming there would be three Visites Royales in each of 2021 and 2022 and then revert to the Visites as previously planned. The Judicial Secretary would identify appropriate dates. The schedule would therefore be as follows –

2021 St Martin and St Lawrence (both deferred from 2020) and St John

2022 St Saviour (deferred from 2021) and St Peter and Grouville

2023 Trinity and St Mary

2024 St Helier and St Brelade

2025 St Ouen and St Clement

COVID-19:
Honorary
Police – Parish
Hall Enquiries

6. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 3 of 8th June 2020, noted that H M Attorney General had circulated the procedure in relation to the resumption of Parish Hall Enquiries (PHE). The procedure was posted on the Law Officers' page of the gov.je website. It was intended that St Helier would resume PHE in the week commencing 29th June and other Parishes would restart in the week commencing 13th July 2020.

Green Lanes
and Quiet
Lanes: priority
to pedestrians,
cyclists and
horse riders
(P.79/2020)

7. The Comité discussed the proposition "Green Lanes and Quiet Lanes: priority to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders" (P.79/2020) lodged "au Greffe" by Deputy R J Ward for debate by the States on 14th July 2020. A number of queries were raised about the proposals and the Comité decided to invite Deputy Ward to its next meeting so that it might better understand the aims and objectives of the proposition. In particular it was unclear what a 'quiet lane' was and how this differed from Green Lanes; what would constitute 'essential travel' and how would this be defined and how it was envisaged the schemes would be policed. The Chairman was requested to extend an invitation accordingly.

Visites du
Branchage –
comments on
media releases
and the term
'banque'

8. The Comité considered correspondence from Mr I Moignard regarding errors in recent news items relating to the Visites du Branchage. Whilst the occupier of land was responsible under the Loi (1914) sur la Voirie for cutting the branchage, this was incorrectly reported in various places as the landowner's responsibility and the term 'banque' was incorrectly used to refer to hedges and roadside banks.

Arising from this the Comité’s attention was drawn to the dangers to livestock from certain injurious weeds, such as ragwort, which should be controlled under the Weeds (Jersey) Law 1961. The Chairman was requested to write to the Minister for the Environment to enquire what action was being taken to serve on the occupier of the land a notice requiring him or her to take such action as may be necessary to prevent the injurious weeds from spreading.

Equality and diversity training – oral question in States Of Jersey

9. The Comité, further to the oral question asked of the Chairman in the States on 16th June 2020, discussed the provision of equality and diversity training for Parish employees and honorary personnel and considered how to provide such training and consultation with other relevant groups. The Comité noted that there was a Discipline Code for members of the Honorary Police (set out in the Schedule to the Police (Honorary Police Complaints and Discipline Procedure) (Jersey) Regulations 2000) and considered that this might be helpful if guidelines were required for staff and other members of the municipality. The Comité agreed that the Connétables of St Peter, St Ouen and St Martin should form a sub-committee to consider the issues and report thereon to the Comité so that it might prepare a report to update the States Assembly on arrangements.

Draft Covid-19 (Civil Partnership and Marriage No. 2) (Jersey) Regulations 202- (P.77/2020)

10. The Comité recalled that the Draft Covid-19 (Civil Partnership and Marriage No. 2) (Jersey) Regulations 202- (P.77/2020) had been approved by the States on 16th June 2020 and introduced temporary measures which would expire on 30th September 2020. The temporary modifications to the approval of premises process was to ensure that the approvals process was responsive, timely and able to suitably service the changing demands required at short notice during the Covid-19 period. Approval of locations would be by the Superintendent Registrar instead of the Connétable of the relevant parish. The Connétable of St Clement, in his capacity as Minister for Home Affairs, thanked Connétables for their support during the States debate.

COVID-19 restrictions: 2020 events - music festivals

11. The Comité was informed by the Connétable of St Peter that he had received two enquiries regarding the possibility of hosting music festivals in the Parish in the coming months. The Connétable of Trinity also reported that the ‘Weekender’ event appeared to still be selling tickets for the September 2020 event. Mindful of the physical distancing restrictions in place to limit the spread of COVID-19, it was agreed the Connétable of St Peter should contact the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding the holding of such events.

Next meeting

12. The Comité noted the next meeting would be held at the Town Hall, St Helier, on 6th July 2020; should any Connétable not wish to attend in person they should notify the Secretary so that alternative arrangements might be made.

Chairman Date

