

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Tuesday 28th July 2020
at the Parish Hall, St Lawrence and virtually.

Present:

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman
Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman
Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard (attended virtually)
Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson
Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre (attended virtually)
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

An apology for absence was received from the Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice Chairman.

In attendance:

Mrs S. R. de Gruchy, Secretary

Non-exempt (public) under Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011

Parishes - legal fees and group insurance policies covering the Connétable and members of the Honorary Police

1. The Comité noted that, in accordance with Rule 3(3)(a) of its Rules, the Chairman had called the meeting with the agreement of the Connétables of St Brélade and St Clément consequential to public reaction to the recent St John Parish Assembly held on 15th July 2020.

The Chairman thanked Connétables for attending and reiterated that the meeting was not related directly to the St John Parish Assembly per se as neither the Comité nor Connétables could direct or instruct another Connétable. However the matters raised prompted the need to remind Connétables to review insurance policies held by their respective Parish (which should cover officers and members of the municipality) and the group insurance policies covering the Connétable and members of the Honorary Police of eleven parishes (St Helier had its own policies). In respect of each policy it was essential that Connétables were cognizant of the cover provided and of the process and procedure to be followed in the event of an incident which might give rise to a claim.

Following discussion the Comité agreed it could not comment on an individual Parish matter and Connétables agreed to review the terms of the policies held and to ensure details of the cover and claims process were known and understood.

The Comité was informed that requests for information had been received under the Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011 relating to the Parish of St John policies, insurance and legal advice for parish officials. Responses to the requests were being prepared, having regard to the provisions and exemptions set out in the Law, and would be published in due course.

The Comité noted correspondence forwarded by a parishioner, which had been sent to the Parish of St John, regarding a decision made at the recent St John Parish Assembly and further noted that the Chairman had been contacted by a media organisation on the same matter. The Connétable of St John, whilst not able to comment on the criminal

allegation for which legal costs had been incurred as the case was still to be heard by the Court, did report that he had sought the advice of the Procureurs du Bien Public with regard to the incident. He opined that a member of the municipality should expect the Parish to provide cover, and not have to fund this themselves, in the event of a claim arising from the member's actions whilst performing their parochial duties.

Chairman Date