

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 11th November 2019
at the Public Hall, St Martin.

Present:

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, 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
Connétable de Ste Marie - J. M. Le Bailly (present for items 2-4 and 11)
Connétable de St Ouën - R. A. Buchanan (present for items 2-7 and 11-18)
Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone (present for items 2-8 and 11-19)

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice 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 meeting held on 14th October 2019, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.
- Remembrance Day 2. It being Remembrance Day, the Comité observed a silence at 11 a.m. to mark the anniversary of the armistice.
- Director General - Health and Community Services 3. The Comité, with partial reference to its minute no. 8 of 8th April 2019, received the Director General – Health and Community Services; the Group Managing Director, the Programme Manager and the Head of Communications, Health, who presented the Health and Community Services Jersey Care Model. Apologies were subsequently received from the Minister for Health and Social Services (HSS) who was not present.
- The Comité was informed that the Jersey Care Model was aligned to the Government of Jersey (GoJ) strategic priority (Common Strategic Policy 2019) to improve Islanders wellbeing and Mental and Physical Health. The vision was to create a healthy Island with safe, high quality, outcome focussed, affordable care that is accessible when and where our service users need it. Jersey had many strengths across the health economy and HSS needed to build on these when designing change – the strengths included the committed workforce; the breadth and depth of services despite the small size of our population; timeliness of services compared with many jurisdictions; the Parish system and wider community assets and carers in the community - access to investment in health remained a strong political priority. A person centred care model, rather than one based on crisis intervention, was proposed with fewer hospital beds and a shift of services to the parishes including care at home with 24/7 community services including night sitting.
- The Comité discussed with the officers how the proposals related to, and might affect, care providers such as care homes and the hospice; the proposed expectation in relation

to work of volunteer groups; and how the proposals related to the size of and funding required for a new hospital. In reply the Comité was informed that HSS was seeking to compile a directory of volunteer services, for example to streamline the use of minibuses available to charities and groups, back office functionality, etc. and the proposals were about providing choice for service provision. A hub concept, with delivery in different geographical locations, was being explored but ideally this should be parish specific.

The Comité asked the Director General (D-G) to remind them of the names of the members who sat on the Political Oversight Group. They were surprised that the first name mentioned by the D-G was that of the GoJ Chief Executive Officer. When the D-G prompted was unable to state the names of the politicians. The Comité was informed that HSS would be holding meetings at each parish hall in the coming weeks to engage with the public on the Jersey Care Model and this would be appropriately advertised through the media and GoJ social media channels. Following discussion the delegation was thanked for attending and for the presentation and they then withdrew from the meeting.

Fireworks and
Pyrotechnic
Articles public
consultation

4. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 5 of 14th October 2019, received the Manager – Fire Safety and Policy Principal, Government of Jersey, regarding the Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles public consultation. The Comité was informed that two public meetings would be held and that the consultation would close on 16th December 2019. A number of responses had already been received and comments were invited on the proposed Regulations relating to the importation, manufacture, storage, possession, supply, retail, use, transport and export of fireworks and other pyrotechnic articles. The proposed Regulations would be made under the Explosives (Jersey) Law 2014 and would enhance and broaden controls, primarily regarding the supply, possession and use of fireworks and other pyrotechnic articles, and bring the statutory framework around fireworks and other pyrotechnic articles into one piece of legislation.

Proposals were also included in respect of the retail sale of fireworks. An option was for the Parish Connétables to continue to issue retail licences, which would also cover local storage on retail premises, but an alternative option was for retail licensing to be undertaken by the Minister for Home Affairs as an extension of the wholesale storage licensing process. Furthermore, it was proposed that retail premises should be able to sell fireworks during five specified periods of the year; at other times of the year fireworks could only be purchased by the public from a person with specialist knowledge who would also need to hold a retail licence. The Regulations proposed prohibiting the use of fireworks anywhere in Jersey during “night hours”, currently proposed as 11pm to 7am. Exceptions would be made in the Regulations for certain occasions including Bonfire Night, New Year’s Eve and on national public celebrations or commemorative events. The Minister for Home Affairs would also be able to make an Order adding additional times, having liaised first with the Comité des Connétables. Any such times would be known to the public.

New requirements would be placed on any person intending to operate certain types of firework display, irrespective of whether or not the display was to take place on public or private land. The Parish Connétable would be given a role in respect of licensing any such firework display. The proposed Regulations would include some requirements that a person would need to meet before a licence was granted to them and outline some conditions which a Connétable might include as part of a licence. A person granted a licence to operate a fireworks display would need to bring this to the attention of the public of Jersey. There would still be circumstances where a person was not required to obtain a licence for a display, for example small displays in private gardens which only used low hazard and certain medium hazard fireworks.

The Comité asked whether proposing the sale of fireworks on other occasions during the year was in response to public demand but was informed it was to broadly reflect the position in the United Kingdom. With regard to the times during which fireworks might be used, the Comité commented this could be linked to the time of sunset rather than a specific time. The Comité was asked to consider the time required to determine an

application to have a firework display and, related to this, discussed the options for appeal provisions which would have to be a factor in the timescale. The Comité also discussed the impact on persons and animals of loud fireworks and whether restrictions might be imposed to minimise such nuisance. Following discussion the Comité agreed to consider, at the next meeting, its response to the consultation. Having been thanked for attending the officers then withdrew.

Parish
Assemblies:
revised
arrangements
(P.92/2019)

5. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 11 of 14th October 2019, recalled that it had agreed discussed the proposition “Parish Assemblies: revised arrangements” (P.92/2019) which Senator S Mézec had subsequently withdrawn. The Comité agreed that the Connétables of St John, St Peter and St Martin should form a working group with Senator Mézec to consider arrangements for Parish Assemblies and invited the group to prepare terms of reference which it would consider at a future meeting.

Shops
(Regulation of
Opening)
(Jersey)
Regulations
2011 – forms

6. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 10 of 14th October 2019, recalled that the States had approved the draft Shops (Regulation of Opening) (Amendment) (Jersey) Regulations 201- (P.93/2019) which came into force on 30th October 2019. The Comité, pursuant to Regulation 5(1) of the Shops (Regulation of Opening) (Jersey) Regulations 2011, approved application forms for a single permit, a general permit and a restricted ours permit together with guidance notes outlining the schemes.

Dogs (Jersey)
Law 1961 –
licence fee

7. The Comité, with partial reference to its minute no. 15 of 13th May 2019, gave further consideration to the fee payable under the Dogs (Jersey) Law 1961 for a dog licence. The Comité recalled that the fee was last increased to £5 from 1st January 2005 and, having regard to the change in the retail price index in the intervening period (c. 50%), decided that the fee should be increased to £10 per dog with effect from 1st January 2020. The Comité requested the Law Draftsman to prepare a draft Order accordingly.

The Comité was reminded that the law retained, at Article 5, the option of a double-charge in the event that a licence was not renewed by 31st January but alternatively the matter might be dealt with at a Parish Hall Enquiry (a person declining this would be referred to the Magistrate’s Court).

Climate change

8. The Comité heard briefly from Connétables of propositions regarding climate change which had been discussed at a Parish Assembly. The Comité was also informed of steps being taken in various parishes, for example installation of low energy lighting, kerbside recycling etc.

Cake and
Cabaret' at
Parish Halls

9. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 14th October 2019, noted the first 'Cake and Cabaret' event organised and funded by ArtHouse Jersey, as part of their community outreach, and supported by Age Concern was held at St Clement Parish Hall in October 2019 and had been well received. ArtHouse Jersey representatives would be contacting other Connétables with regard to organising a similar event in other parishes.

Next meeting

10. The Connétable of St Martin was thanked for her hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 2nd December 2019.

Chairman Date

