

# Supervisory Committee Connétables de Jersey

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020**  
at the Parish Hall, St Clement.

## **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  
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**

Mr M Pollard –  
former  
Connétable of  
St Peter

1. The Comité recalled, with sadness, the death of Mr M Pollard and paid tribute to his service as Connétable of St Peter from 1992 to June 2001. Mr Pollard had also served as Vice Chairman of the Comité from February 2000 and then as Chairman from September 2000 to his retirement in 2001. One minute’s silence was observed as a mark of respect.

Minutes

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Rate ‘demand’

3. The Supervisory Committee considered the proposal of the Connétable of St Helier that the word “demand” should be replaced by “bill” on the correspondence sent out by parishes. The proposal arose following feedback from a couple of parishioners who were offended by the term “demand”.

The Committee was informed that the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005 underpinned the right to require the payment of rates so the word “demand”, which was defined as “an insistent and peremptory request, made as of right”, was an appropriate term. A “bill” was a statement of money owed for goods or services supplied. Article 25(1)(b) of the Law stated that “a written demand” should be sent to each ratepayer and this should be “in a form approved by the Supervisory Committee” (Article 25(5)). Having discussed the proposal, but mindful that rates were a tax rather than a payment for services, the Committee decided not to amend the current form of demand. The Connétable of St Helier asked that his dissent from this decision be recorded.

Establishment of a digital register of all commercial and residential properties (P.93/2020)

4. The Supervisory Committee recalled that the States, on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020, had approved the proposition “Establishment of a digital register of all commercial and residential properties” (P.93/2020) and had decided -

- a) to request the Council of Ministers to create a digital register of all commercial and residential properties in the Island that contains details of the ultimate beneficial ownership of those properties for the purposes of aiding policy formation and if necessary the regulation of the housing and commercial property markets;
- b) *paragraph rejected;*
- c) to request that the register be established by the Council as soon as possible and not later than the end of 2021.

The Committee considered the statement on page 4 of the Report which stated “*The register will be created by using the Royal Court Property Sale records and the Parish Rates Registers.*” Having regard to the definitions of “owner” and “occupier” in the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005, the Committee was of the view that Parish Rates Registers were not appropriate for the creation of such a register as the data held did not relate to beneficial ownership. The Chairman was requested to write accordingly to the Council of Ministers and to Deputy M Higgins, who had brought the proposition.

2020 Rate Lists – amendments

5. The Supervisory Committee, with reference to its minute no. 2 of 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020, was informed by the Connétable of St Lawrence that an error had been identified in relation to a property which was used for “domestic purposes” but had been assessed as “non-domestic”. In accordance with Article 11(6) of the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005, the Committee approved the correction of this error in the Rates List and requested the Connétable to take the appropriate action.

Rates (Jersey) Law 2005 – shareholders & Parish Assembly membership

6. The Supervisory Committee was informed by the Connétable of St John of his concern that, in relation to the ownership of property by share transfer, a person who owned shares was not a member of the Parish Assembly. The Committee was reminded that the definition of “owner” had been amended some years before and requested the Secretary to circulate details to Connétables.

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