

**PAROISSE DE GROUVILLE**  
**PARISH ASSEMBLY**

An assembly of the Principals and Electors of the Parish was held in the Parish Hall on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7.30pm for the following business:-

- 1) Receive and if deemed advisable approve the Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016.
- 2) Receive and if deemed advisable adopt the audited accounts of the Connétable for the financial year ended 30th April 2016. The said accounts having been examined and unanimously approved by the Committee named for that purpose.
- 3) To place at the disposal of the Roads Committee the amount required for the upkeep and maintenance of the byroads during the financial year 2016/2017.
- 4) Approve the estimates of the funds required by the Parish for the financial year ending the 30th April 2017.
- 5) Approve a rate of an amount that will produce for the Parish, income that is at least sufficient to satisfy the requirements as set out in the approved estimates.
- 6) Name a Comité to examine the accounts of the Connétable for the year ending 30th April 2017.
- 7) Approve, and if deemed advisable, make a donation to the Association of Jersey Charities funded from the General Accumulative Account.
- 8) To appoint auditors to prepare the Connétables accounts for the Parish for the year ending 30th April 2017.
- 9) To Elect an Officier du Connetable for the Vingtaine of De Longueville, the term of Office of Adrian Le Gal being due to expire.
- 10) To Elect and Officier du Connetable for the Vingtaine of De Longueville, the term of Office of Grzegorz Gorecki being due to expire.

- 11) To discuss various options for maximising the income from Parish funds with Mr David Cherry, of Cherry Godfrey.
- 12) To consider a proposition to officially name a currently unnamed “Chemin Public” in Gorey Village, situated between Old Road and New Road, which has historically been known as “Limpet Lane”

In The Chair: Connetable J.E. Le Maistre presided over an assembly of 29 persons.

Apologies: Centenier Paul Godel, Centenier Liz Viney, Centenier Nick Andrews, Vingtenier Paulo Martins, Greg Gorecki and John Dix.

- 1) **Receive and if deemed advisable approve the Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016.**

The Minutes of the Assembly dated the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were agreed, following a correction, on a proposition by Chris Osgood, seconded by Procureur Peter Falle.

- 2) **Receive and if deemed advisable adopt the audited accounts of the Connétable for the financial year ended 30th April 2016. The said accounts having been examined and unanimously approved by the Committee named for that purpose.**

The Connetable welcomed Mr Jason Lees-Baker, Partner of Mazars the Parish Auditors. Jason informed the Assembly that Mazars responsibility was to Audit the Parish Accounts. The Audit process was robust and comprehensive. The process commences with a meeting between Mazars, the Connetable and Parish Secretary for an update on Parish matters. It was the second year that Mazars had been in office and the team had been able to build a knowledge of Parish controls.

The Controls were walked through during the Audit planning stage to check for effectiveness. Information was gathered to formulate the audit approach. A good example of this is the Parish Rates process, the annual returns would be reviewed, new properties would be scrutinised, the bills would be manually calculated, checks would be carried out to ensure that the funds had been paid into the Parish bank account. The Audit team then recalculate the total quarters versus the total income.

The Audit focused on key areas, the results of which being that there were no instances of management

override of controls, which was always regarded as a major risk in Auditing. During the Audit, deficiencies or improvements are normally noted and pointed out:-

- 1) In some cases, income and expenditure is netted off.
- 2) Small amounts of Rates are written off due to hardship, these are not recorded in the Ledger.
- 3) A fixed asset register needs to be prepared
- 4) Very good strides have been made in preparing a formal business risk assessment. This is a work in progress and will be updated regularly.

Jason pointed out an Audit finding that had resulted in a prior year adjustment on page 11, where sundry items of income had been booked, but it was more accurate if they were booked as Trusts, this covered Income from Community Support, War Stock and field income.

All in all, Jason was pleased to report that the Audit had progressed very well and therefore a Clean Audit opinion would be issued.

There were no questions from the Assembly concerning the Audit.

The Connetable thanked Jason for his report then proceeded through the Accounts.

It was noted that savings had been made as fuel prices were lower and the Parish had not used as much heating oil. Staffing had increased as overtime had been worked. The Connetable was delighted with the three thousand pounds that had been paid for the old police car, following its sale to a Police car collector from Wales and he thanked Charles Dix for his work in arranging the sale. Election costs had increased as there had been an election.

Dave Cadoret queried why postage had increased, when email etc should be utilised. The Secretary replied that the benefit of savings hadn't really been seen due to the timing of sending the assessments out. The system was progressing and it was hoped to see savings in the future.

Miscellaneous income had increased as a charge had been made for a long term road closure. Due to concerns about this road, a survey was undertaken and paid for by the Parish, with legal advice also being sought. The closure fee had more than covered these charges.

Roads Sundry expenses had increased significantly, as major drain clearance had been undertaken following heavy storms.

The Connetable moved on to Maison Le Maistre, an asset of the Parish which is valued at less than book value. Charles Dix asked Jason why Maison Le Maistre wasn't valued at current value. Jason replied that this was up to the Parish and wasn't a decision that the Auditors could make. The Connetable replied that there would be a cost to have the properties valued. Charles replied that it was a nonsense to bring the properties into the accounts at an incorrect value.

The Connetable moved on to discuss the Church Reserve, which would increase by £60,000, which would allow for the work on the South Chapel and the Nave. The Connetable pointed out that agreeing the budget would be to agree this amount as well.

The Connetable asked whether there were any questions.

Mrs Carol Falle asked whether it would be possible to obtain a breakdown of Parking and Speeding fines over 2014/15 and 2015/16 as there had been a reduction in fines collected.

Centenier Dix replied that there were less fines being collected in Gorey Village as the Yellow lines were unclear.

The Secretary replied that she was unable to provide the comparisons immediately, but would forward the details to Mrs Falle.

There being no further questions, the Accounts were adopted on a proposition by Peter Falle, Seconded by Tony Powell.

3) **To place at the disposal of the Roads Committee the amount required for the upkeep and maintenance of the byroads during the financial year 2016/2017.**

The Connetable stated that it was normal to budget what the Parish expect to spend on repairs and lighting and stated that the Roads Committee were currently looking at a number of roads which required repair. As there were no questions or queries, it was agreed that the sum of £65,000 for Road Repairs and £3,000 for Lighting be adopted on a proposition by Stanley Payn, seconded by John Lamy.

- 4) **Approve the estimates of the funds required by the Parish for the financial year ending the 30th April 2017.**

The Connetable worked through his Budget for the Financial Year 2016/17. He stated that all in all, the figures were comparable. The main differences were staffing as it had been decided to increase the levels, following efforts to cut them back which had not proved to be successful. This was in the case of both the Administration and the Workforce.

As there were no questions concerning the Budget, it was adopted on a proposition by Robin Hamilton-Howes, seconded by Bob Hambly.

- 5) **Approve a rate of an amount that will produce for the Parish, income that is at least sufficient to satisfy the requirements as set out in the approved estimates.**

The Connetable recommended that the Rate remain at .72 pence per quarter, which had been supported by the Accounts Committee. This was proposed by Deputy Carolyn Labey, seconded by Tony Powell.

- 6) **Name a Comité to examine the accounts of the Connétable for the year ending 30th April 2017.**

It was agreed that the current committee consisting of Deputy Carolyn Labey, Reverend Mike Lange-Smith, Procureur Bernard Rebours, Procureur Peter Falle, Stanley Payn, Tony Powell and Simon Vivian be re-elected on a proposition by Wally Labey, which was seconded by Dave Cummins.

- 7) **Approve, and if deemed advisable, make a donation to the Association of Jersey Charities funded from the General Accumulative Account.**

It was agreed to donate the sum of £9,000 as in previous years on a proposition by Claude Bertram, seconded by Tony Powell.

8) **To appoint auditors to prepare the Connétables accounts for the Parish for the year ending 30th April 2017.**

The Connetable recommended that the Parish retain the services of Mazars, which was adopted on a proposition by Procureur Peter Falle, seconded by Procureur Bernard Rebours. The Connetable thanked Jason and his team for all of their hard work. He went on to thank Rebecca and the team for their hard work. He went on to thank all of the members of the Municipality for their support as well as all of the people who help out, including Bob who was present this evening.

9) **To Elect an Officier du Connetable for the Vingtaine of De Longueville, the term of Office of Adrian Le Gal being due to expire.**

Wally Labey stated that it was a pleasure to be able to nominate Adrian for re-election as Constables Officer. Adrian had been in the Honorary Police for over 24 years and had held many roles in this time. He currently had responsibility for Firearms, which was an onerous role, but one that Adrian was very good at. Wally thanked Liz for her support. Stanley Payn seconded the nomination, saying that Adrian was dedicated to the Parish and we were very fortunate to have him. There being no further nominations, the Connetable thanked Adrian for putting himself forward once more, declared him re-elected and warned him to appear before court at 10am on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

10) **To Elect and Officier du Connetable for the Vingtaine of De Longueville, the term of Office of Grzegorz Gorecki being due to expire.**

Chris Osgood stated that it was a pleasure to be able to nominate Greg for re-election. Adrian Le Gal seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations, the Connetable declared Greg re-elected although his swearing in date would be arranged once the necessary checks had been returned.

11) **To discuss various options for maximising the income from Parish funds with Mr David Cherry, of Cherry Godfrey.**

The Connetable advised the Assembly that he had sought a safe vehicle to use to invest Parish funds in and had been impressed by the services offered by Cherry Godfrey. He had invited David Cherry to the Assembly to discuss the matter further. Mr Cherry outlined the services that could be provided by Cherry Godfrey for the Parish to invest in "Loan Note Three". The concept was that the investment would provide the facility for borrowers to be able to fund small loans from Jersey High Street stores. Many of the borrowers were repeat customers, and the company were careful to ensure that borrowers were genuine people who had commitment to Jersey, to ensure the safety of the funds. Cherry Godfrey would never be big enough to qualify for a banking licence, but hoped to be able to fuel the wheels of the economy. Cherry Godfrey did not come under the banking compensation scheme as the company was too small. David went on to say that the scheme was audited quarterly by Grant Thorntons to ensure that the money in the bank, and the loans less the arrears was more than had been put in. There were huge buffers and Accounts were produced on a monthly basis.

Phil Barber asked whether the Company would leave a copy of their balance sheet. David Cherry replied that there would be for the Investments but not for the group.

Phil felt concerned about the proposal and personally wouldn't invest without full disclosure. He didn't feel that it was the way that the Parish should go, but it was a personal view. This scheme wasn't covered by deposit security and there would be a risk and he was not sure whether it was an unacceptable risk. Ultimately it was for the Connetable and Procureurs to decide and to revert back to an assembly.

The Recteur queried the minimum deposit, which was £50,000.

Drew Livingston felt that there was quite a high geographical risk.

David Cherry replied that this was right, but that the strength is that they knew the customers and confidence was building in the product.

The Connetable thanked Mr Cherry and his colleague Howard De La Haye for attending.

12)

**To consider a proposition to officially name a currently unnamed “Chemin Public” in Gorey Village, situated between Old Road and New Road, which has historically been known as “Limpet Lane”**

The Connetable stated that whilst undertaking some research recently, it was established that Limpet Lane had not been officially named. It was therefore agreed that it should be named during the forthcoming Visite Royale.

Stanley Payn stated that as far as he was aware, this was the only unnamed road in the Parish and formally proposed that it be named Limpet Lane. Bob Hambly seconded the proposition.

There being no further business, the Connetable declared the Meeting closed at 8.30pm.