

Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 9th February 2015
at the Parish Hall, St Clement.

Present:

Connétable de St Clément - L. Norman, Chairman
Connétable de St Pierre - J. M. Refault, Vice Chairman
Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft (not present for items 1 – 4 inclusive)
Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian (not present for items 12 and 13)
Connétable de Ste Marie - Mrs J. Gallichan
Connétable de St Ouën - M. J. Paddock (not present for items 1 and 2)
Connétable de St Brélade - S. W. Pallett
Connétable de St Martin - M. P. S. Le Troquer
Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre
Connétable de St Jean - C. H. Taylor
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur

An apology for absence was received from 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 12th January 2015, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.
- Explosives (Jersey) Law 1970 – retail sale of fireworks 2015 2. The Comité considered correspondence from the Managing Director, Starburst Fireworks Ltd, proposing that the retail sale of fireworks in 2015 should be permitted from 28th October until 7th November inclusive so as to cover two weekends (a total of 11 days). The Comité agreed to the proposed retail sales dates for 2015 and requested the Chairman to reply accordingly.
- Silkworth team challenge 3. The Comité considered correspondence from the Chief Executive Officer of Silkworth seeking permission to hold an island-wide fundraising event on 5th September 2015 for the Silkworth Charity Group. Having noted that the date coincided with the weekend on which Jersey Live would be held and that Connétables would not be able to offer Honorary Police assistance the Connétables decided they could not grant permission on this occasion.
- Community Public Access Defibrillators 4. The Comité received the Operations Manager, Ambulance Service, Health and Social Services, who gave a presentation and provided information on the cabinets available which would enable the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) at each Parish Hall to be located immediately outside the premises and thus be available 24 hours a day for anyone to use. The cabinets ranged in price from approximately £500 to £1,000 and the Operations Manager answered queries relating to the use and maintenance of the AED. Following discussion the Operations Manager was thanked for attending and then withdrew.

Liberation 70 –
programme and
suggestion of
street party

5. The Comité received, for information, an outline of the events proposed to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Liberation of Jersey on 9th May 2015 and noted that the Chief Officer, Bailiff's Chambers, would attend its next meeting to provide further information. The Comité also noted that, as in 2010, the Bailiff, H.E. Lieutenant Governor and the Chief Minister would be available if invited to attend parish events being arranged for 10th May 2015.

The Comité then received Deputy M J Norton who asked whether the Connétables would wish to support a street party on 10th May 2015. Deputy Norton hoped that this would create a family event, bring a festival party atmosphere and, if it sought to be the longest street party, would garner positive publicity for Jersey via media coverage outside of the island but he advised that there was currently no world record for a street party in the Guinness Book of Records. However the support of the parishes was seen as essential for such an event to take place. The Comité explained that 10th May 2015 had been reserved for parish celebrations, many of which were already well advanced in terms of planning, and so it could not offer support for a street party on this date although it might be a suitable event for a different occasion. Following discussion, Deputy Norton was thanked for attending the meeting and then withdrew.

Jersey Gazette
– Parish notices

6. The Comité discussed correspondence with the Advertising Director of the Jersey Evening Post regarding the placing of parish notices in that newspaper where there was no legal obligation for these to appear in the Jersey Gazette. In addition to encouraging as much flexibility as possible in terms of the placement of parish notices the Advertising Director was able to offer, from 1st February 2015, a discount on the Gazette notice rate for parish notices placed in the 'Notices' section of the classifieds which ran directly after the Gazette. The Comité welcomed this option and requested the Chairman to reply accordingly.

Arising from this, and with partial reference to its minute no. 5 of 17th November 2014, the Comité noted correspondence with the Chief Minister who had requested officers to undertake a review of the use of the Gazette including current costs and the alternative options available for relaying official information to islanders.

Loi (1914) sur
la Voirie –
2015 Visites du
Branchage

7. The Comité was reminded that the NatWest Island Games XVI Jersey 2015 would take place from 27th June to 3rd July 2015 and, whilst the Visites du Branchage might now be held in the 21 days from 24th June, the Connétable of Grouville asked that Connétables should be flexible in their approach taking into account the demands on the farming industry. Should routes need to be cut for the various sporting events e.g. cycle races, the occupiers of land should be asked to do this under the powers available to the Connétable under the Loi (1914) sur la Voirie rather than require all branchage to be cut prior to the Games being held.

Jersey Armed
Forces
Covenant and
Community
Covenant

8. The Comité, following approval by the States on 20th January 2015 of the Armed Forces Covenant and Community Covenant (P.168/2014), considered correspondence from the Chief Officer of the Home Affairs Department asking that it nominate a Connétable to represent the Comité at bi-annual meetings of a steering group established to review support to the Armed Forces and the community. The Comité agreed that the Connétable of St Lawrence should act as its representative on the steering group.

Shadow
Alcohol
Licensing
Policy Group

9. The Comité was informed by the Connétable of St Brelade, in his capacity as Assistant Minister for Economic Development, of proposals to progress the Alcohol and Licensing Strategy for Jersey (R.139/2014). The Comité confirmed that the Connétable of St Helier should continue as its representative on the Shadow Alcohol Licensing Policy Group.

draft Connétables (Amendment – Declaration of Convictions) (Jersey) Law 201-

10. The Comité received the Senior Legal Adviser and Legal Adviser (Civil Division), Law Officers’ Department, to discuss the draft Connétables (Amendment – Declaration of Convictions) (Jersey) Law 201- (an Assistant Law Draftsman, States Greffe, was also present). The draft Connétables (Amendment – Declaration of Convictions) (Jersey) Law 201- provided that a person seeking election as a Connétable should, at the time of his or her nomination, be required to make a declaration in writing that he or she was qualified for being elected and of his or her convictions, whether in Jersey or elsewhere, which were not spent convictions and also of his or her spent convictions for certain specified offences. The declaration would be read out to the nomination meeting by the person presiding at that meeting and it would be an offence to knowingly make a false declaration.

The Comité noted that the provisions were equivalent to those under the States of Jersey Law 2005 for persons seeking election as a Senator or Deputy and asked that the draft should specify the arrangements for prescribing the form of declaration. The Comité, having discussed the draft, agreed that it would wish to proceed with this amendment and requested that a draft report be prepared for its consideration so that the draft might be lodged “au Greffe” for debate in due course.

draft Dogs (Amendment No. 4) (Jersey) Law 201-

11. The Comité received the Senior Legal Adviser, Law Officers’ Department, and Assistant Law Draftsman, States Greffe, to discuss the draft Dogs (Amendment No. 4) (Jersey) Law 201- (the Legal Adviser (Civil Division), Law Officers’ Department, was also present). The Comité noted a Memorandum from H.M. Attorney General in which he expressed the view that the Comité could properly be vested with Order-making powers and that there was no legal objection to the Dogs (Jersey) Law 1961 empowering the Comité to make an Order (minute no. 4 of 8th December 2014 refers).

The Comité was briefed on the proposed reform of the 1961 Law as set out in the draft Dogs (Amendment No. 4) (Jersey) Law 201- to provide powers of the Royal Court on appeal; provide for the seizure and detention of dogs including those believed to be dangerously out of control; for representation to and powers of the Court; for offences; for additional information to be contained on a collar worn by a dog; for the fixing of a dog licence fee by Order; for fines to be levied at a Parish Hall Enquiry and for future amendment of the Law to be made by Regulations.

The Comité proposed that provision be made for the recovery of costs incurred in the collection and housing of a dangerous dog and in its castration or destruction (should this be ordered) and, in reply to questions, was informed that the proposals would enable dogs to be micro-chipped (if such a decision was made following the change in the United Kingdom) and would cover harm to domestic animals. The Comité considered that the Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (JSPCA) should act in relation to the collection and housing of a dog believed to be dangerously out of control and noted that the JSPCA and the Comité des Chefs de Police were to be consulted on the draft law. Following discussion the Senior Legal Adviser, Legal Adviser and Assistant Law Draftsman were thanked for attending and withdrew from the meeting.

Honorary Police group insurance - review

12. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 8 of 12th January 2015, and in accordance with its rules on expenditure, decided purchase an insurance policy from NFU Mutual to provide additional dental cover benefit of up to £8,000 for Honorary Police officers of 11 parishes (excluding St Helier) at an annual premium of £554.64.

Next meeting

13. The Chairman was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 16th March 2015 (the meeting proposed for 8th June would now be held on 15th June 2015; and that proposed for 6th July would be held on 13th July 2015).

Chairman*L. Norman*..... Date ...16/03/2015.....

