

PARISH OF ST BRELADE

PARISH ASSEMBLY

Minutes of an Assembly of Principals and Electors of the Parish of St Brelade held in the Main Hall at the Parish Hall, St Aubin, St Brelade on Tuesday 22 July 2014 commencing at 19.00 hours.

President of Assembly:

Connétable, Mr Steve Pallett, presided.

Convening Notice:

The Convening Notice was read by the Parish Secretary.

Minutes of Previous Assembly:

The minutes of the previous Assembly of Principals and Electors of the Parish of St Brelade held on Tuesday 24 June 2014 were adopted and signed following a proposition by Senator Sarah Ferguson, which was seconded by Mr David Levitt.

Elect an Officier du Connétable:

This item was deferred due to incomplete paperwork.

Receive and adopt Financial Statements for year ended 30 April 2014:

Mr Stephen Phillips, of Alex Picot, Parish Accountants explained the accounts of the Connétable for the year ended 30 April 2014, a copy of which is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

The following questions or comments were made:

- Mr Michael Jackson noted that there had been a jump in the Etat Civil and asked if another book had been purchased. Mr Philips advised that there was a large bill received from the States for registrations over the previous 12 months.

The accounts were unanimously adopted following a proposition by Mr Jackson which was seconded by Mr Peter Norman.

Vote a sum of money for the upkeep of by-roads for the year ending 30th April 2015:

Connétable Steve Pallett explained the estimates for the Roads Account for the year ending 30 April 2015, a copy of which is attached and forms part of these minutes.

The following questions or comments were made:

- Senator Ferguson asked what roads required resurfacing and also will the rental for the car park remain at the same level and also remain as disc parking. The Connétable advised that Mont Gras d'eau needed some work carrying out with regards resurfacing. He also advised that he hoped to review all car parks in St Aubin when the road works were complete and

hoped to issue some residents parking schemes.

- Senator Ferguson then asked where the old lamp standards had gone since being replaced with the modern ones. The Connétable advised that these would have been taken by TTS. Senator Ferguson commented that lights were needed in the bay.
- Mr Michael Videgrain queried that the previous minutes stated that land in Park Estate was due to be sold for £20,000.00 and asked if this money will go into the Roads Reserve fund. The Connétable replied that a decision had not yet been made as to where the money would go but that he agreed the Roads Reserve Fund would be most appropriate.
- Mr Jackson asked if there was still a process for replacing road signs and markings as Route Orange name sign was still missing. The Connétable confirmed that there was a process and the Roads Inspectors are required to notify the Parish of any anomaly. The Parish Secretary advised that there were several notices on order.

Following a proposition by Mr Derek Wallis which was seconded by Senator Sarah Ferguson, the amount of £190,005 was unanimously voted for use by the Parish Roads Committee for the upkeep and maintenance of the parish by-roads for the financial year ending 30th April 2015.

Approve
Estimates for
the year
ending 30th
April 2015:

The Connétable explained the estimates for the year ending 30th April 2015, a copy of which is attached to, and forms part of, these minutes.

The following questions or comments were raised:

- Mr Videgrain stated that the acoustics in the hall were bad and asked if the Connétable would look into this matter. The Connétable advised that the kitchen and the hall were currently being looked at with regards to redecoration etc.
- Senator Ferguson asked why the cost of postage and telephone was still so high when we lived in the age of email. The Parish Secretary advised that the majority of post sent from the Parish Hall was required by Law to be posted and therefore until the Laws were changed this would not. It was also advised that a lot of bills were now paid by BACS and therefore saved on postage fees. Postage was higher in the previous year as the Electoral Forms had been sent out a month early.
- Mr Richard Haycock asked if bills are to be sent by computer and he has no computer does this mean his rates are free. The Connétable replied that although the Parish are trying to do more electronically, there will always be face to face service available.
- Mr John Gready asked if the Parish charged to accept credit cards. The Parish Secretary advised that the Parish did not accept credit cards due to the charges but only accepted debit cards.
- Mr John Bailey asked if the Parish were going to go forward with paying online would it be through a similar portal as PayPal as this is a popular secure way to pay. The Connétable advised that it would be a similar way but not PayPal itself.
- Senator Ferguson asked if the Parish would have accounts of Charities that received grants available for the public to view when the Law changed to

accommodate this. The Connétable advised that all Charities that received a grant were required to supply a copy of their accounts to the Parish Hall which were kept in a file and therefore would be available to view.

- Mr Gready asked why the refurbishment of the Church and Rectory was not being taken out of the 192 Trust. Reverend Bond advised that the 192 Trust was for certain restricted uses and that the Church and Rectory were and remained the property of the Parish and therefore as “Landlords” the Parish were required to maintain certain aspects. Reverend Bond also advised that £150,000.00 was being used from the 192 Trust to pay for refurbishment to the Church Hall roof. The Connétable advised that due to a small clerical error there had been a stall in the work being carried out on the Church Hall however this is now sorted and following several 192 Trust meetings all parties are now satisfied that all requirements are being followed.
- Senator Ferguson asked how the Honorary Police keep track of their expenses and does all equipment get returned when officers leave. The Connétable and Centenier George May advised that there is a procedure which is carried out to ensure all equipment is returned although not all of it is reusable such as shirts etc. All Officers are asked if they require body armour and this is made to measure although in some instances can be re-used. The Connétable also explained that the accounts can be discussed at any of the Honorary Police meetings and that the Parish Secretary keeps a record of the current spending which can be shared at any time. The Connétable advised that some Connétables take a different view however he prefers his officers to be better equipped.
- Deputy Sean Power advised that in a Parish like St Brelade with around 13,000 residents it is remarkable that the small Honorary Police unit is so effective and that they are a credit to the Parish. The Connétable endorsed this comment and also suggested that they are of great value for money as the cost it saves the Island in policing is a great amount.
- Mr George Baird advised that the last point stated by Deputy Power had been discussed at the Accounts Committee meeting and agreed. He also asked if it was correct that the Parish properties were last valued in 2007 as he felt that they should be reviewed again. He also asked if there is a planned programme of maintenance. The Connétable advised that there is no planned programme as such for repairs to Parish properties but the Procureurs and Connétable look at the properties regularly. Gervaise le Gros Centre, Le Pave etc. have their windows repaired and building repainted every 4 or 5 years, the Parish Hall repainted every 4 years and the Depot had some work done only a couple of years ago. The Connétable agreed that properties needed to be revalued and this had been mentioned last year. Mr Gready advised that the valuations of the properties in 2007 were index linked. The Rector advised that every 5 years the Church is assessed and a fixed property schedule is drawn up and followed.
- Mr Videgrain stated that having been present at the Accounts Committee meeting he had every confidence that there would be a saving of 5-10% as most years and therefore would like to propose to accept the estimates.

The total estimated expenditure for the year ending 30th April 2015 in the amount of £1,454,095 which includes transfers to various Reserve Funds was approved following a proposition by Mr Michael Videgrain which was seconded by Mr Peter

Norman. The Assembly voted unanimously.

**Parochial Rate
2014**

The Connétable recommended that the Parish Rate for the year 2014 be fixed at 0.90p per quarter.

Mr Michael Balston proposed 0.90p per quarter which was seconded by Mr David Levitt. The proposition was carried by 19 votes in favour with no votes against.

**Committee to
examine the
Connétable's
Accounts for
the year
ending 30
April 2015**

The Connétable explained that Mr David Barlow was standing down from the Committee and thanked him for his time and work.

On a proposition by Peter Norman, Messrs David Levitt, William Nixon, George Baird and Michael Videgrain were nominated to examine the Connétable's Accounts for the year ending 30 April 2015. The proposition was seconded by Mr John Bailey and carried unanimously by 19 votes.

**Appointment
of firm of
Chartered
Accountants:**

On a proposition by Mr John Gready which was seconded by Mr Richard Haycock Messrs Alex Picot were appointed to audit the Connétable's Accounts for the year ending 30 April 2015.

All votes taken during this Assembly were by a show of hands.

The Connétable then thanked the 19 persons remaining for their attendance, and also the Rates Assessors and Wendy Dalton Rating Officer for their hard work. Deputy Power thanked the Connétable for his good accounts and stated that the States could learn something. The Connétable also thanked Mr Denis Tulip from Barclays Wealth for attending in order to answer any questions that may have been asked regarding the Maison St Brelade loan. Mr John Gready thanked the Connétable and his wife Ann for their hard work.

The Connétable declared the meeting closed at 20.35 hours.

Signed: _____
Steve Pallett
Connétable

Dated: _____