

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 11 July 2017 commencing at 19.00 hours.

**President of
Assembly:**

Connétable, Mr Steve Pallett, presided.

**Convening
Notice:**

The Convening Notice was read by the Parish Secretary.

**1. Minutes of
Previous
Assembly:**

The minutes of the previous Assembly of Principals and Electors of the Parish of St Brelade held on Wednesday 17 May 2017 were adopted and signed following a proposition by Mrs Enid Quenault, which was seconded by Mr Peter Norman.

**2. Election of
Vingteniers**

The Connétable called for nominations to fill the position of Vingtenier for the Vingtaine de la Moye for a term of three years.

Centenier Amanda Wright proposed Mr Christopher Jones to be elected. This nomination was seconded by Mrs Terri Bond. There were no other nominations.

The Connétable declared Mr Jones duly elected as a Vingtenier for the Vingtaine de la Moye for a term of three years. The Connétable congratulated Mr Jones and advised that the date to appear before the Royal Court of Jersey to take the Oath of Office is Friday 28 July 2017.

**3. Election of
Vingteniers**

The Connétable called for nominations to fill the position of Vingtenier for the Vingtaine du Coin for a term of three years.

Centenier Wright proposed Miss Anna Kielak to be elected. This nomination was seconded by Mrs Bond. There were no other nominations.

The Connétable declared Miss Kielak duly elected as a Vingtenier for the Vingtaine du Coin for a term of three years. The Connétable congratulated Miss Kielak and advised that the date to appear before the Royal Court of Jersey to take the Oath of Office is Friday 28 July 2017.

4. Receive and adopt Financial Statements for year ended 30 April 2017:

Mr Stephen Phillips, of Alex Picot, Parish Accountants explained the accounts of the Connétable for the year ended 30 April 2017, a copy of which is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

The following questions or comments were made:

- Senator Sarah Ferguson asked what online services are now provided. She was advised that all Rates forms and payments can be made online and that you are now able to renew your driving licence online.
- Senator Ferguson asked why the Association of Carers were not on the list and was advised that we were made aware that they had enough funds and therefore did not require a grant this year.
- Senator Ferguson questioned whether the criteria for those attending the Senior Citizens Christmas lunches should be looked at as she felt that it should only be for those who couldn't ordinarily afford it. The Connétable advised that the lunches are currently open to anyone that qualifies due to pensionable age but that if the Assembly wished to put forward a change then it would be voted upon. Senator Ferguson felt that the age should be in line with the States pensionable age. The Connétable agreed that this needs to be considered but the event was popular due to the venue. He felt that people were respectful of the reasons for holding the Christmas Lunch and didn't take advantage.
- Deputy Graham Truscott asked how many people attended last year's Senior Citizen Christmas lunches, he was advised that there were approx. 125 per day over 3 days.
- Mrs Quenault asked if the kitchen refurb was now paid in full. She was advised that this was the case and that there was a payment in the previous year's accounts with the final amount being paid in this year's accounts.

The accounts were unanimously adopted following a proposition by Deputy Truscott which was seconded by Mr Jeffrey Winchester. There were 17 votes for and 0 against.

5. Vote a sum of money for the upkeep of by-roads for the year ending 30 April 2018:

Connétable Steve Pallett explained the estimates for the Roads Account for the year ending 30 April 2018, a copy of which is attached and forms part of these minutes.

The following questions or comments were made:

- Senator Ferguson asked at what point it became viable to purchase our own driving licence printer and she was advised that as the cost of the printer is over £40,000 it was not a viable prospect.

Following a proposition by Mrs Quenault which was seconded by Centenier Michael Jackson, the amount of £209,879 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 30 April 2018.

**6. Approve
Estimates
for the
year
ending 30
April 2018:**

The Connétable explained the estimates for the year ending 30 April 2018, a copy of which is attached to, and forms part of, these minutes.

The following questions or comments were raised:

- Mr Richard Haycock asked how does the Parish know who will require correspondence to be posted to them now that the majority of the systems are online, he was advised that only those who sign up to receive online correspondence will receive it, all others will remain being posted.
- Mrs Quenault asked whether now that the advertising in the JEP gazette was not a necessity would the parish continue to notify parishioners in this way. The Connétable advised that he had not yet discussed this with the Parish Secretary but that it was unlikely that it would stop immediately as there had to be a transitional period, but that there will be a time when we will no longer advertise within the JEP. Mr Arthur Morley commented that it was up to the individual to find out about events in the Parish and not to wait to be told. The Connétable also stated that the change in the law meant that we no longer had to advertise in the gazette section of the paper which was more expensive than within the heart of the paper and therefore this would help with reducing the expense.
- Mr Haycock asked if the Parish could use La Baguette for notifications if dates of Assemblies were known in advance. The Connétable agreed that we could be more organised and that the proposed new Licensing Law could assist this as dates for Licensing Assemblies could be set in advance.
- Mrs Quenault asked if the Quennevais Cemetery was included in the Tresor account as there had been no water there for quite a while. Reverend Bond advised that the Cimetiere des Quennevais account came under a separate heading, however the water issue was in hand. It was explained that the problem was due to the water pump and is being investigated.
- Centenier Jackson asked what is planned in Tresor regarding future work and maintenance. He was advised that the gates on the Perquage path were to be replaced, tidying of the small plaque churchyard area including some stonework was envisaged. The size of the rose garden could do with being increased as it has become very popular and this was being looked into.
- Senator Ferguson asked if £5,000 was enough grant for the St Brelade Battle of Flowers association. The Connétable commented that it never seemed enough and more money would always be well used. Mr Edward Le Gros confirmed that running the battle was a struggle as costs increased every year. Mr Michael Videgrain asked if the Parish received accounts from the Battle which was confirmed. He therefore felt that the Connétable and Procureurs should suggest an increase in the donation. Mr Videgrain then proposed an increase from £5,000 to £7,500, which was seconded by Centenier Jackson with 17 votes in favour and 0 votes against.
- Mr John Gready queried that with £515,000 in the Property Reserve Fund was it still necessary to put in any more funds. The Connétable replied that if work was carried out to the area in front of the Parish Hall which is currently being looked at, then it would be required. He suggested that a transfer be made this year and this issue reviewed next year if work is not carried out. Reverend Bond also advised that following a survey the Rectory requires its roof to be replaced and other work to be carried out to the bay windows and ceiling in the kitchen. The architect is currently in discussions with the

Environment Department as the building, although not listed, is a building of interest to them and therefore once agreement has been reached, quotations will be obtained before taking the matter to a Parish Assembly. It was agreed that all work to be carried out on the Rectory should be done in one instalment and not on a piece meal basis.

- Deputy Truscott asked what operating system the office currently use as following the ransomware attack some systems are not protected and was advised Windows 7 was being used that is protected.

The total estimated expenditure for the year ending 30 April 2018 for the amount of £1,602,420 which includes transfers to various Reserve Funds was approved following a proposition by Mr Videgrain which was seconded by Mr Norman. The Assembly voted 18 in favour and 0 against.

7. Parochial Rate 2017

The Connétable read a prepared statement in regards to issues relating to the setting of this year's rate and recommended that the Parish Rate for the year 2017 be fixed at 0.94p per quarter.

Centenier Jackson asked whether with the proposed introduction of liquid waste charges for commercial properties had been considered when considering the rate he was recommending. The Connétable stated that he was sympathetic to businesses affected by the proposed charges but felt that this was not a discussion for the Parish Assembly. However, he would convey the comments to the Minister.

Mr Gready commented that St Peters Parish Rate had decreased due to the airport now being rated and did this not also affect St Brelade. He was advised that as the airport is now owned by the Ports of Jersey (PoJ), a privatised company, they are liable for rates as in St Peter. However States of Jersey property is not yet rateable. Several PoJ buildings are now rated in St Brelade and are included within the quarters for this year.

Senator Ferguson asked if Andium Homes were being rated, this was confirmed.

Centenier Jackson proposed a 0.94p per quarter rate which was seconded by Mr Frank Walker. The proposition was voted on with 14 in favour and 0 against.

8. Committee to examine the Connétable's Accounts for the year ending 30 April 2018

The Connétable explained that all members of the committee were willing to stand again.

On a proposition by Mr Norman, Messrs William Nixon, Michael Videgrain and Kenneth Corbin were nominated to examine the Connétable's Accounts for the year ending 30 April 2018. The proposition was seconded by Senator Ferguson and carried with 15 votes in favour and 0 against.

The Connétable thanked the Accounts Committee for their help and guidance with this year's accounts and estimates.

9. Appointment of firm of Chartered Accountants:

On a proposition from Mr Gready, which was seconded by Senator Ferguson, Messrs Alex Picot were appointed to audit the Connétable's Accounts for the year ending 30 April 2018. The proposition was carried with 18 votes in favour and 0 against

All votes taken during this Assembly were by voting slips issued by the Parish prior to the start of the Assembly.

The Connétable then thanked the 21 persons remaining for their attendance, and also the relevant Parish Committee's, Honorary Police, Maison St Brelade management and staff, Parish clubs and associations, the Rates team including, the Rating Officer Wendy Dalton, Stephen Phillips of Alex Picot and all their staff, the Accounts Committee including the Centeniers and Procureurs, all Parish staff including the Parish Secretary.

Mr Norman then thanked the Connétable for and on behalf of the Parish for his hard work, which the Connétable advised has been some of the most enjoyable 6 years of his life.

The Connétable declared the meeting closed at 2045 hours.

Signed: _____
Steve Pallett
Connétable

Dated: _____