An Assembly of the Principals and Electors of the Parish of St Mary was held at St Mary's Parish Hall on Thursday 16th August 2018 at 8.30 pm to conduct the following business:

1. Receive and if approved, adopt the Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on Thursday 5th July 2018 and Electoral Assemblies held on 11th April 2018

2. Elect Constable’s Officers, for the Vingtaine du Sud, the term of Ms Heppolette, Mr Le Cornu and Mr Alcock shortly to expire 4th Sept and 18th September and to fill existing vacancies.

3. To appoint Auditors to audit the Parish Accounts for the year ending 30th April 2018

The Connétable, Mr John Le Bailly opened the meeting by welcoming all and read the notice convening the meeting.

No apologies, were received.

1. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on Thursday 5th July 2018 and Electoral Assemblies held on 11th April 2018. Were considered, and with reference to the Parish Assembly 5th July minutes, Mr A Baudains asked who attended the meeting with Alex Picot accountants, as he understood that one of the Procureurs du Bien Public also attended, but this had not been recorded in the minutes.

The Constable informed the Assembly that the meeting was attended by, the Parish financial administrator, Mrs Samphier and himself only and apologised for the oversight. Mr Baudians requested that such be minuted.

There been no further comments, the minutes were proposed by Mr Chris Le Cornu and Seconded by Cynthia Cotillard.

2. Elect Constable's Officers, for the Vingtaine du Sud, the term of Ms Heppolette, Mr Le Cornu and Mr Alcock shortly to expire and to fill existing vacancies.

Centenier Mr Mark Evans (Chef du Police) proposed to elect all three serving members by re-electing them en-bloc and thanked them for all their hard work. This was seconded by Mr Jim Drew. There being no further nominations, Ms Heppolette, Mr Le Cornu and Mr Alcock were duly re-elected and they were warned to appear at the Royal court and a date to be advised.
3. To appoint Auditors to audit the Parish Accounts for the year ending 30th April 2018

The Constable informed the Assembly that St Mary is one of the few parishes who do not have their accounts audited. Nine of the twelve Parishes already dealt with Alex Picot & Co. and so proposed that Alex Picot be our auditors and effect an audit for 2018 Accounts. The Constable then opened the floor to questions.

Questions

Mrs Baudains referred to the previous proposal in the Minutes of 5th July 2018, meeting in which it was agreed to audit the accounts for 2019 not 2018. She asked whether this had changed? The Constable informed the Assembly that if we left the Audit until next year, we would have to wait until April 2019 when the accounts would next be prepared. He also remarked that if a business was being taken over, one wouldn't wait a year to effect an audit of the accounts. He further advised that Alex Picot & Co had informed him that an audit should be done at end of the previous Constables term of office. The Constable then asked parishioners if there was any reason why they thought the Parish accounts shouldn't be audited? Concern of the £5000.00 cost was raised and that this fee had not been budgeted for. Discussions took place whether to rescind the last proposition made at the previous Parish Assembly but a conclusion was not reached. The Constable reiterated that on the advice of Alex Picot & Co the audit should be done for 2017-2018.

Derek Maltwood then took to the floor. He gave a brief summary of a time in history of when Fred le Feuvre took office as Constable, taking over from Raymond Le Cornu. Mr Maltwood explained that when Mr Le Feuvre was approaching the end of his term of office, he visited him and suggested that it would be nice if Mr Le Feuvre could retire knowing that everything was in order and that his successor was happy that everything had been looked at. Mr Maltwood then remarked that it was at this point that himself and David Munns acted in the capacity of 'auditors' (non-qualified) for approximately twenty years.

Mr Maltwood pointed out to the Assembly that having lost our Honorary Accountant due to retirement, he felt that it was perhaps time that the Parish grasped the nettle. He reiterated that the 11 other parishes all have their books audited, and we are the only Parish who do not have a professional audit report attached to their accounts.

Having been approached by a Jurat (whom is a parishioner) further to last year’s Visite Royale it was suggested that we “did the proper thing” and come into line by having a professional audit. Mr Maltwood expressed that he couldn’t see any valid reason why we shouldn’t be audited, other than the non-budget of its cost. He further explained that whilst he and Mr Munns looked after the accounts, they managed to build some reserves, starting from virtually nothing, and although he hadn’t consulted with his fellow Procureur, if it meant having to use £5000 of these reserves in order to come into line, he would not be against such. He remarked that he was aware of what was decided at the last meeting, but concluded that he would not be against having an audit at this point in time.
The Constable then stood up and asked for a proposition that we appoint Alex Picot & Co to audit the 2018 Parish accounts for the year ending 30th April 2018.

Mr Woods proposed the above which was seconded by Mr Martin De Gruchy.

The Constable asked for a show of hands, for the proposition, which showed 27 in favour and 8 against. The Constable then declared that the vote to appoint Alex Picot & Co as auditor for 2018 parish accounts be carried.

There being no further Business, the Constable then formally closed the meeting closed at 8.47pm.

Signed........................ Connétable

Date............................