



PARISH OF ST SAVIOUR

Parish Assembly

Wednesday 22 July 2020 at 6.30pm

Present: Sadie Le Sueur-Rennard – Connétable
Richard Le Quesne – Procureur du Bien Public
Martin Roberts – Procureur du Bien Public
Rev. Peter Dyson

In Attendance: Marco Vieira – Executive Officer
Don Connolly – Alex Picot Auditors

Apologies Received: Kevin Pamplin – Deputy of St Saviour
Mrs Elizabeth Pryke – Roads Inspector
Barry De La Mare - Roads Inspector

President of the Assembly: The Connétable presided over the Assembly which numbered 26 people.

Convening Notice: The Executive Officer read the Convening Notice as follows:

1. To approve the minutes of the previous Parish Assembly held on Monday 8 June 2020;
2. To appoint a new Deputy Registrar;
3. To receive and, if approved, adopt the Connétable's Accounts for the financial year ended 30th April 2020;
4. To approve the Estimates for the financial year ending 30th April 2021;
5. To approve a Rate in conformity with Article 21 of the Rates (Jersey) Law, 2005;
6. To elect a Committee to examine the Connétable's Accounts for the financial year ending 30th April 2021;
7. To appoint a firm of accountants to audit the Connétable's Accounts for the financial year ending 30 April 2021.

Sadie Le Sueur Rennard
Connétable

1. **To approve the minutes of the previous Parish Assembly held on Monday 8 June 2020:** Procureur Martin Roberts asked that the minutes of the previous Assembly held on Monday 8 June 2020 be amended to show that he was present.

The minutes were then were adopted and signed following a proposition by Centenier Steven Laffoley-Edwards, which was seconded by Mrs Alison Sweeney. There were 19 votes in favour and 0 against.

2. To appoint a new Deputy Registrar:

The Connétable notified the Assembly that the current Parish Registrar (PR) is Mr Geoff Esnouf. Under the Marriage and Civil Status (Jersey) Law 2001 the Connétable is responsible for the appointment of a Deputy Registrar to cover role duties of the PR when the person is on leave and other types of absence.

The Connétable confirmed that Miss Kirsten Mesney has been appointed to fill the role. The Connétable welcomed her to the Assembly and thanked her for accepting the post.

Before proceeding with item 3, the Connétable paid a huge tribute and thanked the Parish staff, Municipality and newly formed Community groups for all of their help and support during these unprecedented times and for their service to help the vulnerable who had hugely suffered as a consequence of the lockdown. It was also acknowledged that sadly many functions and events had been cancelled over the last few months.

Rev. Dyson also confirmed he was disappointed that throughout COVID-19 Pandemic lockdown he had attempted to raise spirits by pre-recording messages of support for Parishioners and his Congregation, but due to a complaint received by the archbishop of UK and the Dean of Jersey forced him to stop this activity.

The Connétable requested a round of an applause from the assembly thanking those who put their community first.

3. To receive and, if approved, adopt the Connétables Accounts for the financial year ended 30th April 2020:

The Executive Officer presented and explained the accounts of the Connétable for the year ended 30 April 2020, by way of a power point presentation highlighting projects that have been achieved in the last financial year: -

- **Continue Safe Routes to Schools**
- **Recycling Scheme**
- **St. Saviour Support Group**
- **Green Waste**

It was also explained to the Assembly at how important it was for the Parish to ensure good cost management in particular to personnel costs at this time.

The following questions or comments were raised:

- a) **What are the legal administration and professional fees for and why was there an overspend?** The Executive Officer confirmed that the Parish sought a number of Professional Consultancy Services such as: -
- HR (Human Resources);
 - Data Protection;
 - Accounting;
 - Health & Safety;
 - Other consultancy services relating to Recycling services and land ownership rights.

The Executive Officer went on to explain that the total over spends mainly came from HR services (50% of legal and professional fees budget) This related to a number of employment matters which could not be disclosed for confidentiality reasons. However, in order for the Parish to adhere to the employment laws and process, it was essential that the monies were spent in this area. The other service over spend came from Data Protection (28% of legal and professional fees budget) for remediation work carried on behalf of the Parish to improve internal and external data protection policies.

b) Can you explain the costs for maintenance of Parish Property?

Such expenditure relates to remedial, preventative and emergency works arising from a number of Parish owned properties. This year in particular, the Parish building had incurred additional spend due to severe parish hall roof leaking resulting ingress of water occurring causing damage to walls and flooring. The repair work was made to most walls and floor which have been re-plastered, painted and the floor stripped and polished and the roof inspected to identify the source of the issue which resulted in a number of tiles being replaced.

c) Can you explain costs for Street Lighting?

The total spend was presented as follows: -

- 22,474 was spent on lighting costs;
- 58,563 was spent on 12 Street Lightings replacements

Subsequently a question was asked by a parishioner about how much it costs to replace each street lamp, to which the Executive Officer confirmed that it is dependent on the location but, on average, to replace a street light columns with LED would cost in a region of between £4,000 and £4,500, this is dependent on how much JEC charges for the work and its difficulty (some columns are placed on walls and further costs may arise).

d) What are the plans to utilise the monies from Maisons Connétable Ozouf if any? The Connétable confirmed to the Assembly that whilst the Maisons Connétable Ozouf Fund holds in excess of a million pounds you cannot do a lot with a million pounds if you take into account.

The Connétable went on to confirm that the Parish would continue to accumulate funds, allowing the Parish to plan in the future for affordable housing and community schemes in St Saviour.

e) Is it possible to have the accounts more readily available; possibly sign up for a Parish Email List? The Executive Officer confirmed that the Parish will do what it can to make the information more readily accessible in advance, but explained, that the current practice was to have assembly information available for the public to view of just under 2 weeks' notice. He also confirmed that copies of the accounts were made available for parishioners to view at the Parish Assembly and on the Parish Website.

There being no further questions, on proposition by Ms Aynsle Le Brun, seconded by Mr Graeme Witts, the Constable's Accounts for the year ended 30 April 2020 were approved with 18 votes in favour and none against.

4. To approve the Estimates for the financial year ending 30th April 2021:

The Executive Officer presented and explained the Estimates of the Connétable for the year ended 30 April 2021 by way of a power point presentation, highlighting projects that it is hoped to achieve in this financial year as follows: -

- **Rates Payment Plan 2020** – the parish to provide flexibility by facility payment plans for 2020 rates;
- **Road Works Programme, Traffic Calming schemes** would be prioritised in Rue St Thomas, Highlands Lane, Fountain Lane, Rue de Paradis and Rue de Ruelle;
- **Safe Routes to School** – Further collaboration with Dfl to promote safer routes to schools by developing schemes to Bagatelle Lane and Bel Air Lane;

The Executive Officer then advised the Assembly that it was worth noting there were around 19 Schools in the Parish, 3 of which lie within the St. Helier Parish boundary.

Nearly 2/3 of all island's schools are located in St Saviour and therefore it is vitally important to ensure children and Parishioners can commute safely.

It is believed that, during term time, in excess of 7,500 pupils and staff commute into St Saviour resulting in huge traffic congestion and placing greater strains on the Parish Infrastructure, thereby increasing the service levels required to police our roads and address the day to day issues that arise as a consequence of having a substantial number of schools. Other than Parish Rates received from the Government of Jersey, the Parish receives no subsidies from Governmental agencies, unfortunately leaving Parishioners to bear rising costs to our Roads and Police services.

The following questions or comments were raised:

a) Why is there a yellow line down the middle of Bagatelle Lane? The Executive Officer advised that the yellow line in the middle of the road is a guide for the Virtual footpath and works had yet to be completed.

b) Will there be bollards to prevent parking and will it be policed? Yes, to both, ensuring pedestrians have a safer path along the lane. The Chef De Police also confirmed that his team would be carrying out frequent check to ensure that the footway was clear.

c) Has the refuse collection budget increased due to the green waste collection? Yes. The recent trial was extremely successful but the Parish required a dedicated vehicle to collect and dispense such waste and such service came with additional cost.

d) Why has IT seen an increase to the estimates for the forthcoming year and what interest was there for Parish systems to migrate away from the Government IT system? Over the years, the Government had provided some support for parishes offering lower than market rates for hosting, and other support services. However, due to the Modernisation and Digital Transformation Programme set by the Government in 2019, it became apparent that existing services were being reviewed which no doubt would see an increase to costs. This led Parishes (Including St. Saviour) to formally look to tender out the IT services in order to achieve the most competitive offer that would allow us to provide leading IT online services for the benefit of our Parishioners.

e) Is it accurately costed? Yes. The cost forms part of formal tender submitted by a local IT company who was successful recently.

f) Would all Parishes pay the same amount? No, the IT charges will be based on a license based. Hosting charges would continue to be apportioned based population levels.

h) Would the Parish consider to increase their donation to the Women's Refuge? Asked by Deputy Doublet. The Connétable confirmed that the Parish already donated to the Women's Refuge. However, advised the deputy to inform the charity to write to us about requiring further donations for us to consider.

i) How is it that the budget is down by around £30K in comparison to last year's estimates? The Trésor will no longer have any employees following 2 leavers, one due to retirement and the other former colleague serving his notice of his contractual terms and conditions, left the Parish in early May 2020.

Due to the current present climate, the parish will be providing landscaping Services costing Trésor £30,000 per annum. The work is to be carried out by the Roads Maintenance Teams initially.

On a proposition by Mr Peter Mourant, seconded by Mr Stuart Mottershaw, the Estimates for the year ending 30 April 2021 were approved with 20 votes in favour and no votes against.

5. To approve a Rate in conformity with Article 21 of the Rates (Jersey) Law, 2005:

The Connétable informed the Assembly that, due to the current unprecedented events due to Covid-19, she did not wish to further burden Parishioners by increasing the rate and suggested that it remain the same as the previous year. It was therefore recommended that the Parish Rate for the year 2020 be set at 1.06p per quarter.

On a proposition by Mr Iain Ford, seconded by Deputy Kevin Lewis, the rate was set at **1.06**.

20 votes in favour, no votes against.

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

6. To elect a Committee to examine the Connétables Accounts for the financial year ending 30th April 2021:

The Connétable asked if anyone in the Assembly would like to join the Committee elected to examine the Accounts. After much consideration from the Assembly, Mr Iain Ford offered to be included. He was proposed by Mr Geoff Esnouf and seconded by Deputy Kevin Lewis. No other nominations were forthcoming and the Connétable thanked Mr Ford for his support.

On a proposition by Mr Geoff Esnouf, seconded by Deputy Kevin Lewis, the Assembly agreed to elect the Committee en bloc:

The Connétable

The Procureurs du Bien Public

The Rector

The Chef de Police or, in their absence, a representative from the Centeniers

The Senior Deputy or, in their absence, a representative from the Deputies

The Chairman of the Rate Assessment Committee or, in their absence, a representative from that Committee

A representative of the Churchwardens

A representative from the Roads Committee



7. To appoint a firm of accountants to audit the Connétable's Accounts for the financial year ending 30 April 2021:

The Connétable thanked Mr Don Connolly for attending the Assembly and for the work involved in putting together the accounts.

On a proposition by Ms Aynslie Le Brun, seconded by Mr Geoff Esnouf, it was agreed to retain the services of Alex Picot and Co for a further year.

Parishioner Mr Stuart Mottershaw offered a vote of thanks to the Parish Staff for getting the Accounts and presenting them tonight which worked so well.

Closing:

The Connétable thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.05pm.



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Sadie Le Sueur-Rennard
Connétable
President of the Assembly of Electors