



PARISH OF ST SAVIOUR

Parish Assembly

Tuesday 13 July 2021 at 6.30pm

- Present:** Sadie Le Sueur-Rennard – Connétable & Chair
Richard Le Quesne – Procureur du Bien Public
Martin Roberts – Procureur du Bien Public
31 other Parishioners
- In Attendance:** Marco Vieira – Executive Officer
Don Connolly – Alex Picot (Auditors)
- Apologies Received:** Deputy Kevin Pamplin
Centenier John Richards
Thomas Gales – Rates Assessor
Colin Ireson – St Saviour’s Support Group
- Chair of the Assembly:** The Connétable chaired the Assembly which numbered 34 people.
- Convening Notice:** The Executive Officer read the Convening Notice as follows:
1. To approve the minutes of the previous Parish Assembly held on 20 May 2021;
 2. To receive and, if approved, adopt the Connétable’s Accounts for the financial year ended 30th April 2021;
 3. To approve the Estimates for the financial year ending 30th April 2022;
 4. To approve a Rate in conformity with Article 21 of the Rates (Jersey) Law, 2005;
 5. To propose the transfer of the remaining funds from the Vehicle Reserve to the General Reserve;
 6. To elect a Committee to examine the Connétable’s Accounts for the financial year ending 30th April 2022;
 7. To appoint a firm of accountants to audit the Connétable’s Accounts for the financial year ending 30 April 2022.

Sadie Le Sueur Rennard
Connétable

1. **To approve the minutes of the previous Parish Assembly held on 20 May 2021:** The minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 20th May 2021 were adopted and signed following a proposition by Deputy Kevin Lewis, seconded by Mr Barry De La Mare. There were 10 votes in favour and 0 against.

2. To receive and, if approved, adopt the Connétable's Accounts for the financial year ended 30th April 2021:

The Executive Officer presented and explained the accounts of the Connétable for the year ended 30 April 2021 commenting that, despite significant uncertainties to both income and expenditure, the Parish has successfully managed to deliver its services within its overall budget during 2020-21 and therefore satisfied with the 98k surplus result. There were a couple of factors that contributed to this:-

Income

- our ability to collect the rates have which remained at 99% of total rates due, which is inline with previous years results;
- The cost of a dog licence rose from £5 to £10 impacting total income

It was also noted that rates surcharge had decreased by at 43% quite which came as a surprise despite much uncertainly.

Expenditure

There were clearly number of underspends across various departments, with 2 noticeable areas; the administrative expenses which were down on budget by 28k and the Roads Account where there were underspends vs budget of around 100k, this was driven by:-

- incomplete resurfacing programme to Rue St Thomas
- there were a number of retirements/leavers which we did not replace, due to uncertainty.
- redeployment of staff between departments to ensure key refuse services continued to be run.

One other noticeable increase came from the Tresor which related to partial rebuilds of a number of churchyard walls.

The Connétable then asked for questions from the assembly.

No questions were raised.

On a proposition by Mr Stuart Mottershaw, seconded by Mr Geoffrey Morris, the accounts for the financial year ended 30 April 2021 were approved with 17 votes in favour and no votes against.

Before proceeding to the next item of the agenda, the Connétable welcomed Grands Vaux Youth Club (GV).

Mr Ted Pafitis (TP) stated The Grands Vaux Youth Centre in conjunction with the Jersey Youth Service operates as a working partnership with young people; participation being encouraged in all areas of the organisation being undertaken.

Grand Vaux Youth Club is a community based centre with the majority of its members being Parishioners. It is partly funded by the Youth Service and supported by fund raising events.

TP went on to explain the current use of funds for programmes, projects and activities and then introduced his assistant youth leader Kelsey who stated that she had come through the ranks of the youth club and was now a leader working towards a Master's Degree in youth work.

The Connétable thanked Ted for his presentation.

A question was raised:

- Is the money from the Parish wholly allocated to the work of the youth club or does it also go toward salaries?
Mr Mark Renouf from the Youth Service stated that funds cover general costs and staffing.

The Connétable also confirmed that the Grant for the Grand Vaux Youth Centre would increase for this year by £5,000, and emphasised their continued role and importance the centre played in supporting young parishioners.

3. To approve the Estimates for the financial year ending 30th April 2022:

The Executive Officer presented and explained the Estimates of the Connétable for the year ended 30 April 2022, highlighting key areas of additional expenditure in comparison to last years results. Areas were : -

1. **Salaries** – Up to £50,000 is to be spend on Succession Planning of key staff; 2022 pay reviews and increase to pensions contributions.
2. **IT** – Additionally to last year, we are to spend up to £6,000 on a new website.
3. **Roads Account**
 - a. **Bel Air Scheme** – Up to £80,000 is to be spent on Bel Air Lane which forms part of the Safer Routes to School Project.
 - b. **Street Lighting Replacement Programme** – Up to £65,000 is to be spent on 13 lighting columns.
 - c. **Speed Limit Review** – Up to £30,000 is to be spent on the Speed limit review (signage and markings).
4. **Recruitment of Road Operative** – in line with our succession plans, staff costs are to increase by £28k.
5. **Refuse Services**
 - a. Up to £40,000 is to be spent (additionally) on Recycling scheme (bags, dispatch and sorting);
 - b. Up to £5,000 is to be spent on Green Waste Feasibility Study.

The following questions or comments were raised:

- 1) **Should the Roads Committee funds not be increased further to meet the demand and also address the condition of the roads?** If you remove the one off projects, Bel Air, Speed Limits, we are going to incur this year, such investment will not be required for next year, and such funds could be used for roads resurfacing.
- 2) **If the expenditure on recycling is increasing, shouldn't the expenditure on black bag refuse decrease?** This may possibly be considered next year in order not to increase this year's rate too sharply. More people are being encouraged to recycle however, black bag and glass refuse has also increased, it is probable that this is due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the more people are staying at home.

3) Why has the budget for the Trésor fund been reduced from last year?

Due to an unforeseen works to the Church walls and gravestones which required repair last year, we don't foresee any further works of significance in this years estimates. Also worth noting that we no longer have staff employed at the church which formed part of the 2019-2020 results.

The Connétable asked if the Parishioner was satisfied with the answer to which he replied that he was not and thought the budget should be more.

Mr Geoffrey Morris addressed the Assembly and, going back to the situation with the state of the roads, stated that the whole infrastructure needs attention but that the Roads Committee are aware of the issues.

He explained that as the majority traffic has to pass through St.Saviour the condition the roads will be a continuous issue and will never get to 100%.

On a proposition by Mrs Cara Miller, seconded by Mr Steven Wyatt, the Estimates for the financial year ending 30 April 2022 were approved with 17 votes in favour and 1 against.

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

The Connétable informed the Assembly that it was necessary to increase the rate this year and stated that as she was not seeking re-election and would not be in office this time next year, it would be grossly unfair for the post holder to have to increase it substantially.

It was therefore recommended that the Parish Rate for the year 2021 be set at 1.12p per quarter.

On a proposition by Mr Stuart Mottershaw, seconded by Mrs Mary O'Keeffe, the rate was set at 1.12p per quarter.

There were 21 votes in favour and no votes against.

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

5. To propose the transfer of the remaining funds from the Vehicle Reserve to the General Reserve Fund:

Procureur Richard Le Quesne addressed the Assembly to explain why it was proposed that the Vehicles Reserve be abolished, and the balance of funds transferred back to the General Fund. He explained that vehicle purchases are nearly always planned and budgeted for so there is no need to hold a reserve.

On a proposition by Mrs Patricia Blandin, seconded by Mr Barry De La Mare, the motion was carried with 15 votes in favour and none against.

6. To elect a Committee to examine the Connétable's Accounts for the financial year ending 30th April 2022:

The Connétable asked the assembly if there were any objections to re-electing the Committee En Bloc and asked if anyone else would be interested in joining. The assembly agreed to elect the committee En Bloc and Stuart Mottershaw put himself forward to sit on the committee.

On a proposition by Mrs Cara Miller, seconded by Mr Steven Wyatt the Assembly agreed to elect the Committee en bloc:

The Connétable
The Procureurs du Bien Public
The Rector
The Chef de Police or, in his absence, a representative from the Centeniers
The Senior Deputy or, in his absence, a representative from the Deputies
The Chairman of the Rate Assessment Committee or, in his absence, a representative from that Committee;
A representative of the Churchwardens;
A representative from the Roads Committee;
A representative of the rate payers Ian Ford
A representative of the rate payers Stuart Mottershaw

A comment was raised about the visibility of the road at the junction of Rue du Trot with La Grande Route de St. Martin; it is a difficult junction to exit at Midland Stores, could something be done as it is so dangerous. The Parishioner was advised that the junction is under the jurisdiction of the Department for Infrastructure and the Roads Committee would forward the matter for their attention.

Deputy Lewis advised the Assembly of the, 'Love Jersey', whereby the coordinates of the problem area are sent directly to the Department.

The Connétable thanked the Committee and stated that the last year had been particularly difficult and appreciated their support and commitment.

7. To appoint a firm of accountants to audit the Connétable's Accounts for the financial year ending 30th April 2022:

Before asking the assembly to appoint Alex Picot and Co to audit the Accounts, a question was asked to Don Connelly representative of Alex Picot & Co.

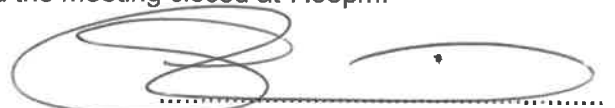
1) **Can you confirm these accounts are accurate, as the audit opinion appears to me to be very weak. It only confirms the accounts have been drawn up in accordance with certain accounting policies without confirming they are accurate or correct?** There has been a change of format and parishes do not follow the same accounting policies as other companies. Rest assured that the accounts are drawn up and verified and the opinion of Alex Picot and Co is that although the templates have changed, this does not affect the audit or related work.

On a proposition by Mr Geoffrey Morris, seconded by Mrs Patricia Blandin, 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 all their work and preparing and presenting the Accounts tonight which worked well.

Closing:

There being no further comments or questions, the Connétable thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 7.35pm.



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