

Paroisse de Saint Sauveur
Minutes of the Douzaine Meeting held in the Lihou Room at the Community Centre at
6.00pm on Monday 27th June 2016

Present	Messrs D Bertrand (DB), J Brache (JB), A Courtney (AC), M de Garis (MM), R de Garis (RdG), P Duquemin (PD), Mrs A Foley (AF), Mrs K Fooks (KF), Mr J Jorgenson-Lesbirel (JL), Miss M Macdonald, Messrs M Tanguy (MT), K de La Mare (KdLM) and A Tempest (AT) (Senior Constable – presiding). Mr G Chapman (GC), Parish Secretary was present to record the minutes	
Apologies	Mr E Higgins (EH)	
Minutes of Meeting held on 23 rd May 2016	The minutes were agreed without alteration and signed by AT.	
Matters Arising	Defibrillator. AT advised that there had been further delays to the installation of this equipment, principally because of holiday and sickness of the installer. However, the installer was now waiting for Maylands to confirm dates that would be convenient to them for the installation to go ahead. AT confirmed that he would keep in touch with progress. Hedge and Stream Inspections. KdLM confirmed that inspections of Les Jenemies Canton had been completed and that dates had been, or would be, confirmed to carry out the remaining inspections.	AT KdLM
Billet d'Etat	Deputy A Dudley-Owen (ADO) attended at 6.10pm. AT welcomed ADO to her first meeting with St Saviour's Douzaine. ADO highlighted the matters to be dealt with by the States at their meeting commencing on 28 th June 2016. States Accounts 2015. ADO said that whilst there may be areas of concern and questions to be asked about 'why money was actually spent' the accounts were a statement of fact. ADO highlighted that both income tax and tax from distributed profits were down on expectations and suggested that some companies were withholding profits or purchasing assets to avoid paying tax until a later time. PD said that he was aware of companies doing exactly as suggested by ADO but all they were doing was storing up tax liabilities for future years. Company profits are not being distributed because the States are now applying both tax and social insurance to profits whereas previously it was only tax. Many smaller companies would prefer to pay tax at 20% than to store up future liabilities. Discussions with the tax authorities on this matter were proving difficult because the authority were unable to differentiate between smaller companies who would wish to pay tax and larger, particularly non local, companies that did not. ADO pointed out difficulties in funding for St Johns Ambulance, acute care and complex off island placements and suggested that there would have to be some creative ways to raise funds because there was strong opposition to a goods and services tax. Superannuation Fund. PD reminded ADO that the superannuation fund was significantly underfunded (£438 million) but that the liabilities were not shown on the	

accounts owing to the fact that the States did not adhere to Generally Accepted Accounting Practices. He suggested that the States defined benefit pension scheme should be closed as soon as possible and replaced with a defined contribution scheme.

DB suggested that the pension scheme could easily be changed to a defined contribution one for new members, - something that would not impact on existing contracts and result in legal disputes, perhaps a position that should have been adopted several years previously?

PD went on to question why there had been such an increase in the number of senior officer positions (27 to 35 earning over £150,000 pa), an overall increase in the workforce by 2% and more than 10% of States employees earning more than £70,000 pa (an increase of 2%) despite the redundancies lauded in the Financial Transformation Program.

ADO accepted that there were issues with incremental pay rises for States employees that provided for increase in pay simply for being in post for a certain number of years rather than linking pay to performance and added that the matter of promotions to higher pay scales and the use of consultants needed addressing. She said that there seemed to be a case for the terms and conditions of States employees to be reviewed and that this might include the need to address the pension benefits but doing so should not make it even more difficult to recruit much needed nurses and teachers. The headline figures always referred to senior posts which attracted high salaries – there were many employees within the States on modest salaries.

MM asked why teachers recruited from places other than Guernsey were able to benefit from housing subsidies whereas local teachers did not have similar benefits, this was causing resentment from local teachers towards the employing committee.

ADO agreed that this was wrong and added that it also applied to nursing staff and was something that she intended to address.

KF asked if, when someone left a post within the States, it was always necessary to fill that position.

ADO said that this situation needed to be addressed with every vacant position being assessed for need before it was filled. Civil servants seemed to consider this an operational matter that Deputies should not be involved with but ADO assured the Douzaine that this would no longer be the case and that Deputies would be asking searching questions about such matters.

ADO assured the Douzaine that the new Deputies that she had spoken to certainly appeared to have the determination to address the issues highlighted.

Election of Members of the Scrutiny Management Committee.

ADO suggested that a person with links to ‘Guernsey Press’ might be nominated for one of the vacant positions and that this was something she would oppose because there could easily be a conflict of interests in such an appointment.

Access to Neighbouring Land.

ADO said that this legislation was long overdue. The Douzaine welcomed this and members highlighted property sales that were subject to lengthy delays and significant additional legal costs because of access disputes, something that this legislation would now overcome.

Plurality.

RdG asked ADO for her views (as a Western Deputy) about the matter of ‘Plurality’ – where the Priest in charge of Forest, St Pierre du Bois, St Saviour and Torteval was housed at the cost of only St Saviour’s

	<p>ratepayers when the other three parishes were able to rent out their rectories and receive significant income that was not shared with St Saviour.</p> <p>ADO said that she was unable to offer a view because she was not attending the meeting as a representative of the Forest Douzaine (ADO is a member of the Forest Douzaine).</p> <p>RdG said that he was not asking for her opinion as a Forest Douzenier but as a Western Deputy who represented the people of all four parishes, not only the Forest.</p> <p>ADO declined to offer an opinion.</p> <p>AT thanked ADO for attending the meeting and ADO left at 6.35pm.</p>	
Environment Department	There were no requests for the Constables to view any plans that were not already available.	
Parish Rates	<p>AT advise the Douzaine that there would be difficulty in collecting approximately £1,000 due to the Constables' account.</p> <p>This is because of two circumstances;-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One property owner has left the island and is in a position of bankruptcy and there will be a long legal process before resolution concerning ownership. 2. A second property owner is simply refusing to pay his account. This property owner advised AT by telephone that he would not pay his account – not because he could not pay, but because he did not agree with the arrangements for collection of parochial taxation. AT said that he had advised the person concerned that his position would leave the Constables with no alternative but to seek recovery of the sums involved via the petty debts court. The Douzaine confirmed their unanimous support for the position adopted by AT. 	AT
St Saviour's Community Centre (SSCC) – Rule Changes	<p>AT referred to a letter dated 25th June 2016, received from Mr D Farrimond (DF), Chair of the SSCC Trustees.</p> <p>DF had written to the Dean of the Douzaine in March 2016 suggesting certain changes to the rules agreed for implementation on 1st January 2017. However, the Trustees suggested that certain changes were not considered practicable or necessary and suggested withdrawing these changes. This had been confirmed in the letter dated 25th June 2016.</p> <p>KF said that she could see no reason that the suggested changes should not be considered by the Douzaine, a position supported by RdG.</p> <p>KF said that although she accepted the position expressed by JB and MT that an agreement had been reached between the Trustees and the Douzaine in 2014 – and that this agreement should not be changed - that is not a satisfactory reason not to consider new circumstances. It would be wrong of the Douzaine not to consider the latest request from the Trustees taking into consideration how things have developed since the 2014 agreement.</p> <p>MT reminded everyone that as Douzeniers we are elected first and foremost to serve the Parish, something DeVic Carey had pointed out on more than one occasion. Extensive work by the sub-committee had gone into establishing these rules which had been agreed with the SSCC and unanimously by the Douzaine prior to the public meeting to discuss the sale of the Douzaine room. MT said that he voted the way he did partly because of these rule changes and he also believed that this was one of the reasons Parishioners voted in favour of the sale. To go back on this agreement now would reflect very badly on the Douzaine as a whole and may call into question the integrity of the Douzaine. In reply to the argument that we would lose existing Douzeniers, this is not a valid</p>	

	<p>argument. There are parishioners who would stand for election provided the rules as agreed in 2014 are implemented. MT said we have a very good group of Douzeniers and we must go forward and focus on the issues facing the Parish. He reiterated his support for the SSCC and complimented those people directly involved on the huge amount of work and effort they have made. However, our duty is to the Parish first. JB said that he has nothing but support for SSCC but an agreement is an agreement and it should not be changed. PD said that he did not wish to see debate prolonged on this matter, - the Trustees had withdrawn their request to change the rules because they did not wish to 'rock the boat' with the Douzaine. The fact is that by adhering to the rules as agreed in 2014 it would mean that 2 Douzeniers could not hold a position of Douzenier as well as a Director of SSCC LBG. This would result in 2 people no longer holding the position of Douzenier and PD Suggested that the Douzaine would be the poorer for it. He said that invariably the Douzeniers that work the hardest in Parish related activities are those that have some community centre interest and the Douzaine would lose access to those individual's expertise, effort plus lose a regular update on centre matters. However, the request was withdrawn and this was the end of the matter. AT said that he would respond in writing to DF.</p>	AT
Correspondence	<p>Motor Speed Event 2017. AT said that he had received a letter from the Guernsey Kart and Motor Club LBG seeking the Douzaine's agreement to hold a motor speed event at Le Neuf Chemin on Saturday 17th June 2017. MT said that he had no objection to this request and suggested that an event every second year was not unreasonable. PD asked if there would be a contribution to SSCC as in previous years. AT said that the letter did not make this clear but in any case the Club would have to make contact with the SSCC management if they wished to use the Centre's facilities and that this could be discussed at that time. The Douzaine agreed unanimously that the event could take place 2017 but that the date should only be confirmed once the Club has conferred with nearby residents to ensure that it did not clash with any planned events as in 2015 the original date clashed with a wedding reception that was planned in a marquee along the race route.</p>	AT
Any Other Business	<p>HM Queen Elizabeth II's Birthday Party. RdG thanked all those who had assisted with the arrangements for the party on 12th June 2016. Pothole – Grande Rue. JB reported a large pothole at the junction of Grande Rue/Felconte. AT confirmed that this has been reported and a date in August has been set aside for repairs. Pothole – Terre Norgiot. KF wished to report large potholes in the Terre Norgiot. AT confirmed that this has been reported to Guernsey Roads. Floral St Saviour. MM wished to place on record her thanks to the Floral St Saviour volunteers who had made the parish look really nice with the many floral displays around the Church, Rectory and Community Centre. SSCC Trustee. PD said that the Trustees needed to be appointed/reappointed every 7 years with effect from January 2017 and to get this process started, he proposed that MM should be reappointed. The nomination was seconded by MT and the appointment confirmed unanimously.</p>	

	Douzaine Photograph. JJL asked if it was still the intention to proceed with a photograph during 2016. JB confirmed that this was the case.	
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.15pm	
	The next meeting is to be held at the Douzaine Room at 7.00pm on Monday 25 th July 2016.	