

Paroisse de Saint Sauveur
Minutes of the Douzaine Meeting held in the Lihou Room at the Community Centre at
6. 35pm on Monday 23rd March 2015

Present	Messrs D Bertrand (DB), J Brache (JB), A Courtney (AC), M de Garis (MdG), R de Garis (RdG), P Duquemin (PD), Mrs A Foley (AF), Mrs K Fooks (KF), Mr J Jorgenson-Lesbirel (JL), Miss M Macdonald (MM), Messrs M Tanguy (MT), A Tempest (AT) (Senior Constable – presiding) and T Robinson (TR) (Junior Constable). Mr G Chapman (GC), Parish Secretary was present to record the minutes.	
Apologies	Mr E Higgins (EH)	
Ecclesiastical Remede	Reverend M Charmley (MC), Sir de Vic Carey (SdVC) and RdG presented their proposal for the 2015 Ecclesiastical Remede, totalling £32,658, to the Douzaine (copy attached to these minutes). RdG detailed the reasons for each item of expenditure. JB questioned if it was appropriate for the parish rates to contribute to the cost of cleaning the church. SdVC said that it was entirely appropriate as the law provides for this. However, it would change once the recent amendments to the Church Property Law (agreed by the States) were enacted. The Douzaine unanimously agreed to the proposals from the Church Wardens. The Douzaine thanked SdVC and RdG for the work that they continued to do on behalf of the Parish. MC and SdVC left the meeting at 6.50pm	
Minutes of Meeting held on 23rd February 2015	The minutes (and website minutes) were agreed and signed by AT.	
Matters Arising	MM reported that the matter of road signage had been discussed with Mrs Holmes at the Environment Department but that it had not yet been given the necessary approval at Board level. MM will check with Mrs Holmes again if nothing is heard within 2-3 months.	MM
Billet D'Etat	Deputy Y Burford (YB) attended the meeting at 7.00pm. YB outlined the items for debate by the States at the March meeting and said that she expected that the Personal Tax, Pensions and Benefits Review would take at least the 4 days set aside and possibly longer. Spectrum Charge. KF asked why the spectrum charge (proposed by Commerce and Employment) would apply to telecoms companies but not to broadcasters. The telecoms companies had already indicated that any charge would be passed on to consumers and this would be an unwelcome additional cost. YB said that she was doubtful that the proposal would gain the support of the States. Tax and Benefits. DB asked if YB believed that a Goods and Services Tax (GST) would be investigated. YB said that she had doubts and she herself is concerned about the fairness of such a tax to the lower paid members of the community. JB expressed the view that it would impact on business and increase costs for consumers. He suggested that the fairest way to raise tax was	

income tax because this was the only tax that took into consideration the ability of individuals to pay.

YB said that the whole purpose of the review was to diversify the way that taxes were raised and not to rely so much on income tax. The exercise was not to raise additional tax, but to raise the same amount from different taxes, - one aspect was to raise the income tax allowance to £17,500 per individual but she accepted that this is of no benefit to someone who does not have that amount of annual income.

JB said that there would be additional costs to business in collecting the tax, - a fairer way would be to ask those earning over £80k per annum to pay additional income tax.

YB said that it was not the States' intention to deter high earners from continuing to live in Guernsey and she did not believe that this would be a route that the States would go down.

JB asked what exactly would constitute a 'luxury goods' tax if an amendment suggesting this was accepted.

YB replied that she believed this would be something that would be determined by Treasury and Resources (T&R) if the idea was accepted by the States.

PD commented that Tax on Real Property (TRP) was a target, and was to be doubled in real terms over a 10 year period.

AC said that he believed this was a very efficient method of raising tax since it was not a tax that could easily be evaded.

JB said that whilst this may be so, it was a tax that those on fixed incomes (asset rich but cash poor) would find difficult to pay.

YB agreed with AC that it was an efficient tax but could only support an increase if there was a safety net to provide for those in the position described by JB.

PD commented that compared to other jurisdictions TRP in Guernsey was at a very low level.

YB confirmed that her view was that there has to be agreement to alter the dependence on Income Tax as currently 74% of States revenue comes from that source and she hoped that the States would agree to look at most options, but that she doubted she would be able to support GST.

Guernsey Harbours.

AC asked YB why there were to be alterations to the arrangements for cruise ship passengers arriving at the harbour. AC was critical of Harbour Staff and the proposed arrangements.

YB said that since the plans involved arrangements within the confines of the Harbour at St Peter Port planning permission was not necessary. As Minister at Environment YB has expressed concern about the numbers of people arriving in the centre of St Peter Port but she has been advised by the Harbour Director that it is no longer an option to allow these visitors to land in the middle of a working port with lorries, forklift trucks etc adjacent to the landing area, - it is a matter of safety which has to be addressed.

AC suggested that the reason for the changes stemmed from the Harbour authorities no longer allowing Travel Trident to use the Cambridge Steps. Trident was moved to the inter-island quay which has made this area too busy to accommodate cruise ship passengers, - hence the need for the new arrangements. Ha asked how it is safe for inter-island passengers to land on the quay that is not safe for cruise ship passengers?

YB said that she did not fully support the move by the Harbour

	<p>authorities but there was nothing to be done about it – planning permission was not required. The next 6 months would prove whether the new arrangements would be successful and she has been assured by the Harbour authorities and Public Services Department that the matter will be under continuous review.</p> <p>Town Quay – Traffic Arrangements. AT asked YB why there are to be changes to the road traffic lane on the Quay in front of the Town Church. YB explained that modelling has proved that people take the easy path to their destination and that the area in question has been an unofficial crossing for many years. Changing the flow to a single lane has been modelled and the results suggest that the difference to journey times will be only 3 seconds. The opportunity has arisen for a 12 month trial and it is hoped that the improved signage and lane arrangements will make the area much safer. YB left the meeting at 7.30pm.</p>	
La Mare de Carteret High School	<p>Mrs A Nippers (AN), La Mare de Carteret School Committee member attended the meeting at 7.30pm. AN gave a detailed report concerning all aspects of the day to day management of the school (copy attached to these minutes). Several Douzeniers expressed concern that building faults were not being repaired, but accepted that this was not the fault of the Head teacher or staff, but that of the Education Department who collated arrangements centrally. MM expressed concern that the Education Department had previously declared that St Peter Port School was not fit for purpose and that a completely new school was needed. Once this had been built at St Sampson the Department had given St Peter Port a makeover and the site was now functioning perfectly well as part of the College of Further Education. MM went on to suggest that La Mare de Carteret School could have been maintained to an acceptable standard and would not now need to be rebuilt – it was the same design as Ladies College and La Houquette and these buildings were more than adequate today. AN agreed that the Department seems to always be reluctant to effect repairs to the building(s) as they have been focussed for many years on a complete rebuild on the site. AN left the meeting at 7.45pm.</p>	
La Houquette School Committee	<p>Mrs H Bonner-Morgan (HBM) and Mrs L Falla (LF), La Houquette School Committee members attended the meeting at 7.45pm. HBM and LF gave a detailed report concerning all aspects of the day to day management of the school (copy attached to these minutes). The Douzaine expressed their thanks for an extremely detailed report and were pleased to hear positive comments about the school. HBM and LF left the meeting at 8.10pm.</p>	
Douzaine Liaison Group	<p>MdG Reported that there had been no recent meeting.</p>	
Guernsey Douzaine Council	<p>MdG Reported that there had been no recent meeting.</p>	
Parish Accounts – Draft Guidelines	<p>The guidelines had previously been circulated to members of the Douzaine, a copy is attached to these minutes. There were no comments concerning the proposed guidelines and the Douzaine agreed that the current arrangements should continue.</p>	

Constables' Accounts 2014	AT presented the Constables accounts for 2014 (copy attached to these minutes) these had been audited and signed by Mr R Stapley and both Constables. The Douzaine accepted the accounts and expressed their gratitude to Mr Stapley and PD for preparing the accounts at no cost to the parish.	
Secular and Refuse Remedies	AT presented the Constables' proposals for the secular and refuse remede for 2015 (copy attached to these minutes). Secular Remede. AT pointed out that the cost of the office move would be removed from the total providing the conveyance of the Douzaine Room proceeded as planned on 24 th March 2015. PD asked if the £500 for fly tipping could be included within miscellaneous expenses. AT said that he preferred it to be identified as he feared that the costs would increase with changes to the refuse collection and disposal arrangements in 2016. MM asked what the cemetery costs were since an item for the churchyard had been included within the ecclesiastical remede. RdG explained that the ecclesiastical amount was for the churchyard whereas the secular amount was for the new cemetery. The Secular Remede was agreed. Refuse Remede. AT said that there was an unused balance of £2,755 from 2014 as tonnages had been slightly down on 2013. However, there has been a 10% rise in disposal charges levied for 2015 by PSD which amounted to approximately £7,400. The Douzaine agreed to the proposal from the Constables. The Parish meeting will be on 27 th April and the Constables will arrange for the necessary notices to be published in La Gazette.	AT/TR
Constables' Office – Building Works	It was agreed that the working party consisting of JB, AC, PD, MT and AT would meet at an early opportunity to finalise arrangements for the development of a new Constables' Office and Room to be used by the Douzaine at the Community Centre.	AT
Plurality	AT updated the Douzaine on progress made by Deputy R Perrot (RP). He said that RP now considered it more appropriate for a parish housing the rector in plurality to establish a rent foregone and that this should be contributed to proportionately by each parish (a copy of RP's proposal is attached to these minutes). AC said that he was aware that the Policy Council had discussed the matter at their meeting on 23 rd March 2015 but that he was not aware of the outcome.	
Cemetery Committee	RdG reported that Mr S Bichard was suffering from poor health and has had to relinquish his responsibilities on the Cemetery Committee. The Douzaine expressed their good wishes to Mr Bichard for a speedy recovery. RdG explained that the Committee now comprised himself, Mr D Smith as secretary/treasurer and Messrs C Mauger and V Renier. KF had agreed to join the Committee. The Douzaine confirmed that they were happy with the constitution of the Committee.	
Jurat Elections	AT reminded JB and RdG that the States of Election were meeting on 24 th March 2015 to elect a new Jurat.	
Environment Department	No planning applications (other than those already requested by the Constables) were of concern to the Douzaine.	

Correspondence	<p>Bus Shelter. AT reported that the Environment Department will consider the proposal to provide a bus shelter at Route des Bas Courtils as funding allows.</p> <p>Computer Scams. AT made the Douzaine aware of a computer scam that he had been made aware of by the Commerce and Employment Department.</p> <p>2016 General Election. AT said that the States Assembly and constitution Committee (SACC) had confirmed that the hours of polling would be 8.00am until 8.00pm. Mr A Nicolle (SACC) had indicated that the provisional date of 27th April 2016 was still the option preferred by the Committee, but an alternative date, 20th April, may be preferred by the States. He also confirmed that the venues proposed by the Douzaine, - the Community Centre and Emmanuel Church School Room would be acceptable to the Committee.</p>	
Any Other Business	<p>Hog Roast at Perelle Bay Hotel. RdG said that the hog roast planned for the end of May at Perelle Bay Hotel may have to be cancelled to ill health. Reverend M Charmley will contact with the hotel to confirm.</p> <p>Liberation Celebrations. AC detailed the arrangements for Liberation celebration on Sunday 10th May 2015. These will include a tea party for the older generation, a treasure hunt for children, the official opening of the revamped meadow at Sous L'Eglise, and a barbecue at the Community Centre with a cash bar (TR is applying for liquor licence).</p> <p>Maps and Photographs – Corridor & Lihou Room? PD said that the Community Centre Directors would arrange for various maps and photographs belonging to the Douzaine to be fixed to the corridor walls and also to the walls in the Lihou room if that was what the Douzaine wished. The Douzaine confirmed that they would be grateful if this could be arranged, - the exact arrangements to be confirmed.</p> <p>Richmond Slipway – Floral Guernsey. JJL had handed a letter he had received concerning the Richmond Slipway area to AT and asked that a reply be sent to the writer. AT explained the concerns expressed by the writer. AC confirmed that when Mr F Dunlop was Senior Constable there had been several disused boats and trailers left on land at Richmond. Arrangements had been made with the Environment Department to make the necessary arrangements to have them removed. Mr R Nippers (a Douzenier at the time) had removed some boulders from the beach and placed them at the road side of the area in an attempt to stop boats and trailers accessing the area. At his own expense Mr Nippers had sourced (with advice from Queux Patio Plant Centre) and planted specified plants in an attempt to brighten up the area. Unfortunately, because of the harsh salty environment and sandy soil the plants had very quickly died. There is no intention on the part of floral St Saviour to spend funds on plants in this area since it is likely that they too would quickly succumb to the harsh environment. It was agreed that the Constables should respond to the letter writer explaining this position.</p>	<p>TR</p> <p>AT/TR</p> <p>AT/TR</p>
Attachments	<p>Ecclesiastical Remede, La Mare de Carteret School Committee Report, La Houquette School Committee Report, Parish Accounts Guidelines, Constables' Accounts 2014</p>	

	Constables 2015 Remede Proposals Plurality – R Perrot’s proposal	
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm	
Next Meeting	The next meeting will be on Monday 27 th April 2015 at the Community Centre, starting after the conclusion of the Parish Meeting, - Parish Meeting starts at 7.00pm.	