

Paroisse de Saint Sauveur
Minutes of the Douzaine Meeting held in the Herm and Jethou Rooms at the
Community Centre at 7. 35pm on Monday 27th April 2015

Present	Messrs D Bertrand (DB), J Brache (JB), A Courtney (AC), M de Garis (MdG), R de Garis (RdG), Mrs K Fooks (KF), Mr E Higgins (EH), 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 P Duquemin (PD), Mrs A Foley (AF) and Mr J Jorgenson-Lesbirel,	
Billet D'Etat	<p>Deputy A Brouard (AB) attended the meeting from the start.</p> <p>AT asked AB to highlight any matters from the April States' agenda that he considered might be of interest to the Douzaine.</p> <p>AB indicated that most of Billet VII related to legislative business and statutory instruments, Billet VIII only concerned the election of Department members. He suggested that the Douzaine, along with States members would focus attention on debate concerning the Review of the Public Sector Pension Scheme.</p> <p>AB pointed out that he fully understood the position of existing employees who considered that they had entered into a contract and that the States (as employer) was seeking to change the terms of the contract without consent.</p> <p>KF said that she could not agree with the proposal that all employees should have retirement ages increased to 70 years of age. She suggested that allowance should be made for those engaged in more physical work to retire at an earlier age.</p> <p>AB said that he did not believe that this should be so since much manual type work was now carried out by machinery, - he believed that all employees should be treated equally as far as retirement age is concerned.</p> <p>KF also suggested that capping inflation increases to pensions at 6% in times of high inflation would erode the ability of retired staff to provide for themselves, possibly having to call on the Social Security Department's assistance. She pointed out that in previous periods of high inflation investment returns had been similar to the rate of inflation and questioned the need for a cap.</p> <p>AB said that he did not believe that there were many retired employees on a pension of less than £10k and if this was added to the Old Age Pension which was of similar value most people would have at least £20k in retirement, a sum which he believed most people should be able to live on quite comfortably.</p> <p>AB went on to say that the principle was simple, could the employer change the contract without agreement of current employees and it was this that the Policy Council were suggesting to the States should be determined by the Royal Court with their proposal that was seeking authority to do just that.</p> <p>However, he did not believe that the proposal would necessarily be approved by the Assembly.</p> <p>JB said that as an employer the staff had a simple decision, if they did not like what the employer was proposing they could find another job.</p> <p>AB pointed out that the highest paid employees of the States (such as the Law Officers) were often quoted when reference was made to the amount of pension received but this was by no means typical.</p> <p>JB said that he did not believe the protest march through St Peter Port</p>	

	<p>recently had been very well attended and should not persuade deputies to vote against the proposal.</p> <p>AB pointed out that a general election was less than 12 months away and that some deputies may be mindful that many States employees would not vote for deputies who supported the proposal, he suggested that this might cause the proposal to not be supported.</p> <p>JB asked if any unions had accepted the offer and pointed out that since private sector employees had to retire later so should public sector employees.</p> <p>KF said that she believed private employers looked after staff better as the got older by finding less physical work for them to do.</p> <p>AB said that the Nurses Union had accepted the revised terms but that they were only a small part of the total workforce of the States.</p> <p>MT said that he believed that the scheme should have been closed to new entrants several years previously and a new scheme based on defined contributions introduced for new employees.</p> <p>AB indicated that he would be supporting the proposals made by the Policy Council.</p> <p>Plurality.</p> <p>AT asked AB what position he took on the matter of plurality and the costs involved in housing the Rector of St Saviour, Forest, St Pierre du Bois and Torteval.</p> <p>AT pointed out that the Rector responsible for all four parishes was currently housed in the St Saviour's Rectory a building that continued to be maintained at the cost of St Saviour's ratepayers. The other three parishes were able to lease their Rectories and the income received could be used to subsidise the respective parishes' annual expenditure so reducing the amount that had to be raised by the annual parish rates.</p> <p>AB said that morally there were good grounds for the costs of housing the Rector to be shared proportionately by all four parishes. He said that he was aware of a proposal from Deputy R Perrot (RP) and that he considered the idea was sound.</p> <p>He said that he sat on the St Pierre du Bois Douzaine and that although there was some sympathy for the sharing of costs the view was in no way unanimous.</p> <p>AT said that the St Saviour's Douzaine had been in discussion with the Chief Minister (CM) and had been advised that the Policy Council saw merit in investigating the matter but it had been indicated that this would not start for 2 years. The Constables were minded to start the investigation by consulting with all other parishes and the Guernsey Deanery.</p> <p>AB said that he believed the process would carry more weight if it was conducted by the Policy Council, but repeated that morally he could see no reason why all parishes in plurality should not share the costs as suggested by RP.</p> <p>AB left the meeting at 8.10pm.</p>	
<p>Parochial Collection of Waste</p>	<p>Ms A de Carteret (AdC) from the Public Services Department (PSD) attended the meeting at 8.10pm to discuss the draft law for collection and disposal of parish refuse.</p> <p>AdC pointed out that previous feedback from business and Douzaines had been taken into account when revising the proposed new law.</p> <p>AT said that the points that were most concerning the Douzaine related to the possibility of admitting businesses to the collection scheme, enforcement and fixed penalty notices and the frequency that refuse rates could be paid .</p>	

	<p>Businesses. AdC said that PSD had taken on board the views of the Douzaines and instead of making it a duty to admit small businesses it would be entirely discretionary whether the Douzaine allowed businesses to access the scheme.</p> <p>Enforcement. AdC said that the legal advice received by PSD was that occupiers, not owners, who would be responsible when it came to enforcement matters and agreed that there might be (data protection) difficulties in establishing exactly who owners were. However, she said that officials should seek to have face to face contact with occupiers to resolve matters before enforcement became an option. AC suggested that it might be appropriate for the new legislation to provide that owners should provide details of occupiers if requested. AdC said that this had been discussed and discounted by the legal advisers.</p> <p>Parish Waste Rate. It was pointed out that currently the rate is collected in one payment and any legislation that allowed it to be paid bi-annually or quarterly would increase both administration and banking cost to the parish. The Douzaine could see no reason to change the current arrangement. AdC said that she was not entirely sure but believed that any legislation would provide for the parishes to have total discretion as to the frequency of payment, - in the same way as they could decide whether or not to allow businesses into the collection scheme. AT thanked AdC for attending the meeting before she left at 8.35pm.</p>	
Minutes of Meeting held on 23 rd March 2015.	MM asked that the matter concerning road signage at Le Neuf Chemin should reflect that discussions had been held with Mrs Holmes and not that Mrs Holmes had agreed since she did not have authority to agree. With this change the minutes and website minutes were agreed and signed by AT.	
Matters Arising	<p>Richmond Slipway. AT said that the matter raised by JJJ concerning land adjacent to the slipway at Richmond had been discussed with the Environment Department. The Constables had written to the concerned parishioner explaining the position taken by the Douzaine and the Environment Department had also written to the parishioner.</p>	
Douzaine Liaison Group	MdG said that the discussions had mirrored those that had been outlined when the Douzaine discussed Parochial Collection of Waste and that there was nothing to add.	
Guernsey Douzaine Council	MdG advised that the Council meeting had discussed the same issues as the Douzaine liaison Group and that there was nothing to add.	
Plurality	<p>AT said that he wished to revisit this subject further to the discussions concerning the matter of plurality with AB before he left the meeting. AT had previously circulated a draft of a letter he proposed sending to the Chief Minister suggesting that the St Saviour's Constables would commence the consultation process with other parishes and the Deanery. AT read the letter out to the meeting. AC said that it was a good response in an effort to get progress on the matter and although he anticipated that there might be resistance to the suggestion from the Policy Council he considered that the Douzaine</p>	

	<p>should try and be proactive.</p> <p>The Douzaine agreed that the Constables should send the letter as suggested.</p>	AT/TR
General Election 2016	<p>AT said that he had been advised by the States Assembly and Constitution Assembly (SACC) that the 2016 General Election of States Deputies will be on Wednesday 20th April 2016.</p> <p>SACC also asked the Constables to establish if the Douzaine would support a proposal that would see hustings meetings televised via the internet.</p> <p>JB expressed the view (supported by others) that some people might not attend hustings meetings or if they did might refrain from asking questions if they thought that would be filmed. Alternatively others might attend meetings to gain some sort of publicity.</p> <p>AC questioned where the funding would come from and doubted that private sponsors would be found.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Constables should reply to SACC accordingly.</p>	AT/TR
Proceeds from the sale of the Douzaine Room, - Building work at St Saviours Community Centre (SSCC).	<p>AT confirmed that the sale had been completed as expected on 24th March 2015 for the agreed price of £330k.</p> <p>After legal and moving (to SSCC) costs had been provided for there was a balance of approximately £326k. £70k of this had been transferred to the Reserve Fund as per the Parish Resolution, leaving a balance of approximately £256k for building works at SSCC.</p> <p>In line with the decision of the March 2015 Douzaine meeting (that the working party should be authorised to initiate building work at SSCC) CA Duquemin has been engaged to start work (on 11th May 2015) to establish a new Constables Office and to complete work on the Lihou room (to be used as a Douzaine Room). This will be in the region of £80k.</p> <p>All work not carried out by the main contractors (CA Duquemin) will be subject to the provision and evaluation of 3 quotations.</p> <p>All work will be verified by the Constables and MT before any payments are made.</p> <p>JB asked if the entire flat roof was to be replaced.</p> <p>MT confirmed that it was his understanding that this was to be the case with the new roof being covered with fibreglass.</p>	
Environment Department	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>No plans, other than those already requested by the Constables, were requested by Douzeniers.</p>	
Bornement	The Douzaine agreed to the granting of a Bornement in respect of a new wall and vehicular access at La Grande Rue.	
Liberation Day Celebrations	<p>AC outlined the plans in place for the 70th anniversary of Liberation to be held on Sunday 10th May 2015.</p> <p>He reminded Douzeniers that any assistance that could be offered would be welcomed.</p>	
Correspondence	None	
Any Other Business	<p>RdG advised the Constables that the granite seats adjacent to the abbrevieur at Sous l'Eglise are in need of some maintenance.</p> <p>AT agreed to look into the repairs needed and arrange for them to be carried out by a stonemason.</p> <p>Prison Open Day.</p> <p>AT said that there has been an open invitation to Douzeniers to attend an open day at the prison garden in July. If anyone is interested they should notify AT.</p> <p>Rue des Bas Courtils.</p>	AT

	AT said that there were to be road works at Plaisance until the middle of July which would mean increased traffic travelling along Route des Bas Courtils. However, Plaisance Road will allow traffic to travel in one way. Consequently, the Traffic Department will monitor the position but at this stage they do not propose reducing the speed limit along Route des Bas Courtils.	
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm	
Next Meeting	The next meeting will be in the Lihou Room on Monday 18 th May 2015 at the Community Centre, starting at 7.00pm.	