

Paroisse de Saint Sauveur  
Minutes of the Douzaine Meeting held in the Lihou Room at the Community Centre at  
7.00pm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016

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| Present   | Messrs D Bertrand (DB), J Brache (JB), A Courtney (AC), R de Garis (RdG), P Duquemin (PD), Mrs A Foley (AF), Mrs K Fooks (KF), Messrs E Higgins (EH), J Jorgenson Lesbirel (JL), K de La Mare (KdLM), and A Tempest (AT), (Senior Constable – presiding).<br>Mr G Chapman (GC), Parish Secretary was present to record the minutes  |  |
| Apologies   | Mr M de Garis (MdG), Miss M Macdonald (MM) and Mr M Tanguy (MT).  |  |
| Minutes of Meeting held on 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2016 | The minutes were agreed without alteration and signed by AT.  |  |
| Billet d'Etat   | <p>Deputy E Yerby (EY) attended the meeting for the first time and was welcomed by AT.</p> <p>EY highlighted matters that were likely to be debated by the States at their meeting starting on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016, - the Billet had not yet been published.</p> <p><b>Island Development Plan.</b></p> <p>EY said that this item would be likely to take up much of the time available, and that she was aware of some amendments that would be tabled, it was also quite possible that there would be a move to sursi debate until a later date.</p> <p>EY commented that there have been quite a few representations to Deputies concerning the Forest West development proposals and would welcome any comments.</p> <p>PD asked why the Planning Department – who had taken many years to compile the Island Development Plan – considered it appropriate to publish it in the middle of summer and only allow 8 weeks for interested parties to digest a lengthy report before it is debated by the States. He said that he is aware of people who had been on holiday at the time of publication and had therefore significantly less than 8 weeks to digest the proposals.</p> <p>EY said that she understood that there had been drafts and reviews (with professional engagement) of the proposals before the final document was published but that PD had a fair point. She promised that Deputies would not automatically approve the proposals – they would be fully considered and scrutinised.</p> <p><b>Increase in Minimum Wage.</b></p> <p>EY said that there was a proposal to increase the minimum wage to £7.20 per hour and that she would be supporting this move.</p> <p><b>Legislation.</b></p> <p>EY confirmed that the only other matters for debate concerned minor legislation.</p> <p><b>September States Meeting.</b></p> <p>DB asked EY to outline what had been approved at the September meeting.</p> <p>EY confirmed that the items included updating extradition law, equal marriage, and schedules for 2017 States meetings, licence fee increases and appointing members to the population advisory panel.</p> <p><b>Reciprocal Health Agreement.</b></p> <p>JL asked EY if there had been any move towards reinstating the reciprocal health agreement with the UK.</p> |  |

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|   | <p>EY said that this was a matter that was the responsibility of the Committee for Health and Social Care and that she is a member of that Committee. She went on to say that progress was being made, research had been commissioned and that the Committee should soon be in a position to give an update. It is likely that the recommendations that would be presented to the States will not be exactly as existed previously but that it should be a viable alternative.</p> <p>JB asked where the money for such a scheme would come from and suggested that any benefits should be restricted to young children under 5 years of age, those who could not get medical cover because of pre-existing medical conditions and those over 70 years of age, since they will have 'earned' the benefit.</p> <p>AT suggested that if the proposed benefit was not to be universal it should be means tested since there were many wealthy people over the age of 70.</p> <p>EY left the meeting at 7.15pm</p>                               |  |
| Matters Arising                               | <p><b>Defibrillator.</b></p> <p>AT reported that he understood that the defibrillator installation has now been completed.</p> <p>The manager of the Community Centre has agreed to check the device on a regular basis.</p>   |  |
| Plurality                                     | <p>RdG reported that the previous arrangement whereby Reverend M Charmley was responsible for the parishes of Forest, St Pierre du Bois, St Saviour and Torteval in 'plurality' would cease with effect from the end of October 2016. The Church authorities had concluded that the workload was simply too great for one priest and therefore from November 2016 Reverend Charmley would be responsible for St Saviour and Torteval only.</p> <p>AC said that this was a good and sensible decision, one that was long overdue.</p> <p>RdG said that this now means that St Saviour will be subsidising the accommodation of the Torteval Rector only and that Torteval had previously indicated that they are 100% opposed to making any contribution to these costs. It will require the States to make changes to legislation so that Torteval can contribute to the costs of maintaining St Saviour's Rectory. It has now been 12 months since the Policy Council agreed to consult the Law Officers before considering the matter.</p> |  |
| Environment Department.                       | <p>There were no requests to obtain plans additional to those already requested by the Constables.</p>   |  |
| Housing Development – La Flaguee Vinery site. | <p>AT reminded the Douzaine that the Guernsey Housing Association has applied to build at La Flaguee Vinery site. Plans had been submitted to build 18 homes and approved by the Douzaine. These plans were subsequently revised to allow for 17 homes. When the revised plans were reviewed the Canton members considered the original plans to be superior to the revision and this view has been indicated to both the Planning Department and Guernsey Housing Association.</p> <p>AT further reminded the Douzaine that when this site was first considered for development, - some 7 years ago – the Douzaine expressed the view that the scheme should be for the benefit of parishioners.</p> <p>Guernsey Housing Association had made the following suggestions concerning how to allocate the new dwellings so that parishioners could benefit ( these had previously been circulated to members), and suggested using the following criteria to assess occupants;-</p>  |  |

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|                              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Whether people currently lived in the Parish and wanted to carry on living there but in a more suitable property;</li> <li>2. People under-occupying (ie, being in a 3 bed house when they only needed a 1 or 2 bed);</li> <li>3. People who had been born/lived in the Parish but could not afford to carry on living there but wanted to return;</li> <li>4. People whose jobs were in the Parish, in a low paid job, but couldn't find anywhere affordable to live in that Parish;</li> <li>5. People with relatives in the Parish &amp; wishing to live near them for support.</li> </ol> <p>The Douzaine unanimously supported these proposals.<br/> However, JB said that his only concern was the amount of parking being allocated. Whether it was something the Douzaine wished to accept or not the 'car is king' and people will not stop using cars. He questioned whether enough space was being given over to parking and said that he did not wish to see the main road – which is narrow enough as it is – become an extended parking area.<br/> It was agreed that the Constables should reply accordingly.</p> | AT/KdLM |
| Liquor Licensing Legislation | <p>AT referred the Douzaine to a letter from the Home Department that had been circulated previously in which the Department are suggesting that Good Friday and Christmas Day should be treated as a Sunday for Liquor Licensing purposes.<br/> PD said that he wholeheartedly supported the move.<br/> JB said that he has seen reports in the media suggesting that the island has many people addicted to alcohol, people who have a 'drink problem'. He would like to see more restrictions on the availability of alcohol, and gave examples of places in Norway where alcohol outlets are restricted and retail prices of alcohol are much higher than most of Europe.<br/> DB said that JB's suggestions would not work – people would not stand for it.<br/> The Douzaine agreed that the proposals to bring Good Friday and Christmas Day licensing in line with Sundays should be supported.</p>  | AT/KdLM |
| Rates                        | <p>AT gave the Douzaine an update on the collection of parish rates, with some £1,200 still outstanding. He expected to collect all but £850 eventually with the outstanding sum owed by a business that was no longer trading and the owner(s) of which were no longer in the island.</p>   |         |
| Hedge and Stream Inspections | <p>AT reminded the Douzaine that inspections for the June 2016 were carried out later than desired. He and KdLM hoped that the inspections could be started within the first few days of October.<br/> AT would arrange dates with Cantoniers for inspections of Les Prevosts and Le Gron, with KdLM responsible for the dates in Les Jenemies and Les Rouvets.<br/> It was agreed that contact details of the Canton Seniors would be included on any letters sent so that queries could be more easily answered.<br/> The Constables will contact Douzeniers to confirm dates.<br/> JLJ asked if Douzeniers could speak to people who did not 'immediately' remove hedge cutting from the roadway.<br/> DB said that it was often difficult to establish who is responsible because cuttings blow around in the wind, and hedges are often cut by contractors when people are at work – sometimes the earliest opportunity to remove cuttings in daylight is the weekend after hedges have been cut.<br/> PD said that Douzeniers should use discretion – he has spoken to</p>   | AT/KdLM |

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| Direction Signs    | <p>people when situations are clear and normally the position is remedied. RdG reminded Douzeniers that they should make accurate notes of any <b>granite direction signs</b> that needed repainting, so that this work could be programmed for 2017.</p>  |  |
| Parish Elections   | <p>AT reminded the Douzaine that nominations had to be with the returning officers by 4.00pm on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016 with the election taking place on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016.<br/> There will be vacancies for 3 Douzeniers, 1 Constable and 1 representative for La Houquette School Committee.<br/> JB said that he understood that MT wishes to stand again.<br/> AC, EH, and AT confirmed that they would not be seeking re-election.</p>  |  |
| Any Other Business | <p><b>Rectory Kitchen.</b><br/> RdG reported that the work to repair the structure of the Rectory Kitchen is progressing well. There have been no unexpected concerns and the contractors will not be asking for payment until completion.</p> <p><b>Complaint about the Constables and St Saviour's Community Centre.</b><br/> AT advised the Douzaine that he had received a derogatory letter from Mrs X, delivered to his home address. The letter suggests that the Constables had not been carrying out their duties properly in regard to the affairs of SSCC, that Parish Officials are conflicted in their relationship with SSCC and that the Constables allowed an illegal event to take place at the Community Centre. This alleged illegal event was in fact a wedding reception held in a marquee for a St Saviour's couple who specifically requested to have the reception at SSCC.<br/> AT confirmed that he had previously provided KdLM and RdG with a copy of this letter, and went on to appraise the Douzaine of the letter's contents.<br/> RdG said that since there were allegations against the Constable that it would be better that any reply came from the Dean of the Douzaine, a suggestion that the Douzaine endorsed.<br/> JB said that he also had a copy of the letter that AT referred to and that it had been given to him by Mr X (husband of Mrs X). JB said that he had also been given copies of other correspondence relating to SSCC by Mr X and that JB had telephone conversations with Mr X on two occasions when concerns about the Community Centre were put to him. JB assured the Douzaine that he had also told Mr X that SSCC had never engaged in any illegal activity. JB said that it was his understanding that residents close to SSCC are in the process of forming a Committee with the intention of monitoring the activities of the SSCC.<br/> PD reminded the Douzaine that elected officials had made their position(s) clear at the time of their election. He himself had made it perfectly clear to the electorate in 2013, at the time of his election as Douzenier that he was involved with SSCC but that did not prevent him from receiving significant support when he topped the poll. The parish meeting that decided to sell the Douzaine Room in La Grande Rue and move the Constables' Office and Douzaine Room to SSCC (July 2014) heard suggestions that parish officials were conflicted by their connections with SSCC. A considerable majority of those present supported the recommendation from the Douzaine and the sale and move went ahead. These events clearly demonstrate that it is a minority view that suggests there is any conflict of interest.<br/> RdG pointed out that St Saviour was (if not the first) one of the first parishes to publish minutes of meetings on the parish website and he was perfectly happy with this level of transparency.</p> |  |

JJL said that no matter what concerns the writer had there was no call for the letter to be written in the way that it was calling into question the Senior Constable's ability to carry out his duties.

PD reminded the Douzaine that the lease had been drawn up by legal advisors and that the parish advocate had reviewed it and found it to be in order.

AT confirmed that there had been a request earlier in the summer from Mrs X to be given a copy of the lease between the Constables and SSCC but the Constables and SSCC Trustees had jointly agreed that this was not a document that they considered to be publically available and that Mrs X had been advised of this decision in writing. The most recent letter from Mrs X accurately referred to sections of the lease, demonstrating that a copy of the lease had been made available to the writer.

Several members commented that it would be interesting to learn how Mrs X had been able to obtain a copy of the lease, the only signed copies being in the possession of the Constables, SSCC and Lawyers. There had been a draft lease in the possession of parish officials and SSCC members when there was a Douzaine Sub Committee considering the matter in 2010/2011.

AT advised the Douzaine that the Constables (as owners) and SSCC (as Occupiers) had been served with a notice by the Environmental Health Department, and that this notice prevents SSCC from holding any event in a marquee if that event has amplified music. This was after nearby residents had made complaints about the noise from a marquee wedding reception held on 27<sup>th</sup> August. Noise levels of 55db had been recorded and this equates to a conversation in a restaurant or office.

PD confirmed that no laws had been broken and that every requirement of the planning authorities had been met.

PD confirmed that SSCC would be having discussions with Environmental Health to see if an agreement could be reached that would allow further marquee events to take place.

PD went on to say that nearby residents had been led to believe that SSCC were intending to hold regular marquee events when in fact it has never been suggested that this would be the case – it had been anticipated that there would never be more than a handful of such events each year involving any need for amplification and then at reasonable levels so as not to upset understanding neighbours.

JJL said that the noise issue was a matter for SSCC, - his concern was that the letter from Mrs X unfairly criticised the Constable(s) and that the Douzaine should reply in a robust manner.

JB said that he believed that he had dealt with the matter and that it would 'fizzle out'.

EH questioned this suggestion from JB and asked why, if JB was correct, Mrs X had seen fit to write the letter?

AT also asked JB that if his view was correct why residents would be forming a committee.

PD said that there had not only been this defamatory letter, but that there had been scurrilous comments posted on Facebook. SSCC had written to all neighbours outlining their position and had offered to meet with neighbours to discuss concerns. The offer to meet had not been accepted.

JJL proposed that the Dean should write a letter to Mrs X expressing support for the Constables. This proposal was seconded by KF and unanimously supported by the Douzaine.

RdG



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|  | Vazon.<br>The Douzaine did not support this suggestion from J JL, believing that any perceived problem would sort itself out. |  |
|  | There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm  |  |
|  | The next meeting is to be held at the Douzaine Room at 7.00pm on Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2016.                        |  |

DRAFT