

Paroisse de Saint Sauveur
Minutes of the Douzaine Meeting held in the Lihou Room at the Community Centre at
7.25pm on Monday 12th December 2016

Present	Messrs J Brache (JB), D Bertrand (DB), A Courtney (AC), P Duquemin (PD), M de Garis (MdG), R de Garis (RdG), Mrs A Foley (AF), Mrs K Fooks (KF), Messrs J Jorgenson-Lesbirel (JJL), M Tanguy (MT), and A Tempest (AT), (Senior Constable – presiding). Mr G Chapman (GC), Parish Secretary was present to record the minutes.	
Apologies	Miss M Macdonald (MM), Messrs K de La Mare (KdIM) and E Higgins (EH).	
Minutes of Meeting held on 28 th November 2016.	The minutes were agreed without alteration and signed by AT.	
Matters Arising	<p>Refuse Disposal Issues. <u>Increased Tonnages.</u> AT advised the Douzaine that the issues concerning increased residual waste tonnages in 2016 were ongoing. Although it has been established that the tonnages are somewhat higher than 2015, some of which (10 – 12 tonnes because of modifications to the contractor’s vehicles and also because of the policy of not weighing trucks on every occasion they dispose of waste at the tip). It is anticipated that there will be an increase of 20 tonnes over 2015. Management at Waste Services are aware of this and will be contacting AT to discuss a refund or credit note. JB said that he cannot understand why the tonnages have increased when compared to 2015. AT agreed with JB but asked JB how JB proposed to question the accuracy of the charges applied to St Saviour when the contractor only disposes waste collected from St Saviour’s domestic properties.</p> <p><u>October Refuse Disposal Account.</u> Additionally there have been difficulties with the October refuse disposal account with charges that are due to St Saviour having been made to others. The actual amount due has now been established but the States accounting system seems unable to produce accurate invoices. The account will be paid when an accurate invoice is presented to the Constables.</p> <p>Perelle Slipway. AT said that the difficulties reported at the November meeting had not yet been resolved but a meeting with the Operations Manager at States Works Department has been planned and AT hopes that this will help to resolve matters. PD suggested to AT that when he meets with the Operations Manager he should suggest that when returning sand and shingle to the beach it should be tipped to the left side of the slipways to allow access to moorings.</p> <p>Christmas Lights at St Saviour’s Community Centre (SSCC). AC reported that the joint initiative between SSCC and the Douzaine to install Christmas lights at the Centre has resulted in the lights being put in place for the first time. He thanked those who had put the lights in place. The installation of an outside electricity source should be completed on 13th or 14th December.</p>	

	<p>KF said that she is aware that there have been complementary comments from parishioners.</p>	
<p>Billet D'Etat</p>	<p>Deputy D de Lisle (DdL) attended the meeting at 7.35pm.</p> <p>Guernsey Post Limited (GPL). DdL reported that Guernsey Post has made an operating profit of £388k which will produce a dividend of £200k to the States. This is substantially less than the previous year but to show a profit has been a good result considering that as a result of the removing of Low Value Consignment Relief (LVCR) the company lost (in the fiscal year) more bulk retail customers who were contributing £2.7 million annually to GPL. The management at GPL is hopeful that better efficiencies and reduced liabilities to the pension fund will see a better performance in future years.</p> <p>Guernsey Electricity Limited (GEL). DdL commented that in previous years the cost to GEL of dealing with the regulator had been in the region of £1 million and that this was excessive. He was pleased that this has now been reduced and there is a better relationship between the regulator and GEL. Some 70% plus of Guernsey's electricity requirement is imported from France via the cable link with the French mainland and Jersey now that the cable has been repaired. A second cable link between France and Jersey should further safeguard supply but GEL have plans to have a direct cable link between France and Guernsey. If this is put in place supply from France will be further enhanced and protected. The fiscal year produced a profit of £4.2 million with a dividend to the States of £1 million. There is to be no increase in tariff to consumers. DdL said that it was his hope that GEL will explore the potential for wind and solar power because he believes that these sources could supply all of Guernsey's electricity requirements once science overcomes the difficulty of storing electricity.</p> <p>Education. DdL advised the Douzaine that he is aware that there is likely to be a move in the States to debate a motion of 'no confidence' in the Education, Sport and Culture Department. DdL asked the Douzaine if there was a view on the matter. RdG asked DdL what his view was. DdL said that his view was that all 4 secondary schools should be kept open and that selection should be retained, but that had not been the will of the States. Now, following the States' decision on 2nd December 2016, the Department has to consider how best to deliver a good secondary education system, - be it with 4, 3 or even 2 schools. KF said that keeping 4 schools would not allow each school to have sufficient students to provide a breadth of ability to allow for setting in many subjects. Teachers would have to teach mixed ability classes which would not allow adequate time and resources to be given to those better able or indeed less able students. Now that the decision has been taken to end selection, DDL suggested that it might well be that 2 schools will be the best solution so that the breadth of ability allows a wide range of subject choice. Extending the ability range so that subjects will be in mixed ability classes will be letting the students down. DdL said it is his view that the teachers who currently teach at the Grammar School will have to 'dumb down' – that is if they stay in Guernsey because he expects many will decide to leave the island. JB said that he does not see any need to rebuild La Mare de Carteret School now that this decision has been made. He also believes that the</p>	

	<p>motion of no confidence in the Department is nothing more than a move by some Deputies to place themselves in a prime position for election to that Department.</p> <p>DdL agreed with JB.</p> <p>JB asked what would be the position for those academically able students whose parents were unable to afford fees to the Colleges, and suggested that selection would now be determined by how wealthy a family was and not on the academic potential of a student.</p> <p>DdL said that JB's assessment was likely to be the case unless there was some sort of grant for such students. This would have to be provided by the Colleges and more than likely would be assessed by examination.</p> <p>JB said that it was clear to him that the State's decision would be damaging to the more academic students who would in future be 'held back'.</p> <p>DdL again agreed with JB and added that the problem with selection was the method (11+ assessments). It was this that should have changed.</p> <p>KF asked what would happen should the no confidence motion gain support from Deputies.</p> <p>DdL said that the Department are due to report back to the States on the future of secondary education before June 2017. This means that by March 2017 decisions would have been made in order to ensure the deadline of June was met. Should the Department be reconstituted with new members there would be no possibility of a report being presented to the States before June 2017.</p> <p>AC said that in his opinion the Department members should take an honourable decision and resign en bloc. The States made a decision in the spring of 2016 and the Department had ignored this decision and returned to the States to try and overturn this decision. The education of future generations is too important to allow for all of these delaying tactics, - it needs people with passion to drive it forward and the Department members should resign and allow others with the necessary desire to make progress.</p> <p>DdL said that he doubted that the members of the Department would decide to resign.</p> <p>AT thanked DdL for attending the meeting and DdL left at 8.00pm.</p>	
Floral St Saviour	<p>AT reminded members that the November meeting had decided that the parish should seek to continue with a contribution to Floral Guernsey in 2017 and beyond and to try and find someone to co-ordinate these efforts.</p> <p>Mrs E Pirouet-Douglas (EPD) has agreed to take on the role of co-ordinator if the Douzaine so wishes and the Douzaine confirmed their agreement for this. AT said that he understood that EPD was very enthusiastic about the role and is already seeking help from others. The constitution of the Floral subcommittee (along with all other subcommittees) will be confirmed by the Douzaine at the January 2017 meeting.</p>	
Abbreveurs	<p>Condition Report.</p> <p>AT advised the Douzaine that repairs have been carried out to 13 of the 31 parish abbreveurs within the last 3 years and that all 31 were now in a satisfactory condition. He anticipated that the budget for 2017 could be reduced to £6k (down from £14k in 2016).</p> <p>DB said that the reason there had been high repair costs over the last 3 years was because there had been no regular maintenance previously and he warned the Douzaine not to adopt this approach again. He said</p>	

	<p>that adequate provision should be made so that the Constables could meet unexpected costs and warned against reducing the budget to an unrealistic level.</p> <p>PD agreed with this view pointing out that the Douzaine has a responsibility to maintain parish property. He said that funds should be provided for via the annual remede so that there is sufficient to meet these costs. There are initiatives that could (and perhaps should) be undertaken by the Douzaine on behalf of parishioners if only the funds were available.</p> <p>AT reminded the Douzaine that it has previously been agreed that road signage within the parish should be improved in 2017 and that this would probably have to be completed over several years if the cost of replacing the sign at Les Buttes was an accurate indication of likely costs.</p> <p>PD said that he firmly believes that there should be funds available to the Constables without calling on the Reserve Fund since there were restrictions on the use of this Fund and it could only be used after an application to the Court which inevitably incurred legal fees.</p>	
Election of Dean and Vice Dean	<p>MdG proposed (seconded by KF) that RdG should serve as Dean of the Douzaine for 2017. This was unanimously agreed.</p> <p>JJL proposed (seconded by DB) that JB should serve as Vice Dean of the Douzaine for 2017. This was unanimously agreed.</p>	
Correspondence	None	
Any Other Business	<p>2016 Budget.</p> <p>AT advised the Douzaine that it was anticipated that at the end of December 2016 the Constables will have spent funds just within the sum raised from parish rates. There was again very little room for manoeuvre if unexpected costs occurred. Two areas where costs exceeded provision were publications and notices because additional notices were required to find a Representative for La Houquette School Committee and tree felling as a result of storm damage.</p> <p>Had provision not been made for the possibility that kerbside collection of recyclable waste might cease at the end of September 2016 it would have been the case that the refuse collection/disposal budget would have been overspent. As it is, the anticipated final cost will be just within budget. Gate fees for the disposal of residual waste are due to rise by 10.6% on 1st January 2017 and assuming there is no increase in refuse this will add almost £10k to the disposal costs. However, as seen by the 2016 figures, residual waste seems to be on an upward trend so careful consideration will have to be given to the 2017 refuse remede.</p> <p>Retiring Officials.</p> <p>On behalf of the Douzaine and parishioners AT expressed his thanks to retiring officials, AC and EH. AC has served for 9 years as Constable, Douzenier and co-ordinator of Floral St Saviour.</p> <p>RdG, as Dean expressed his wish to be associated with these comments, adding that the Douzaine was extremely grateful for the commitment of AT for the last 3 years during which he has served as Constable.</p> <p>Sous L'Eglise – Trees.</p> <p>RdG pointed out that there are dead and dying trees in the meadow at Sous L'Eglise. The Churchwardens are arranging for them to be attended to.</p> <p>AC reminded the Douzaine that the trees within the meadow were likely to have been planted around the same time as trees at SSCC and Les Buttes and all are showing signs of age. Provision in the 2017 budget</p>	

	should reflect concern that costs are likely to be incurred in this area.	
	<p>Rectory Kitchen. RdG reported that he has now received the final account for work to attend to damp problems within the Rectory kitchen. AT confirmed that he would make arrangements to provide the Churchwardens with the funds (£18,507) from the Reserve Account that were allocated for this work at the time of the 2016 remede.</p> <p>Christmas Douzaine Meal. AC wished to place on record the thanks of the Douzaine to KdIM for arranging the Christmas Meal.</p>	
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm	
	The next meeting is to be held at the Douzaine Room at 7.00pm on Monday 30 th January 2017.	

DRAFT