

Paroisse de Saint Sauveur
Minutes of the Douzaine Meeting held in the Lihou Room at the Community Centre at
7.50pm on Monday 24th April 2017

Present	<p>Messrs D Bertrand (DB), J Brache (JB), R de Garis (RdG), Mrs A Foley (AF), Mrs K Fooks (KF), Messrs S Gibbs (SG), Jorgenson-Lesbirel (JLL), Miss M Macdonald (MM), Messrs M Tanguy (MT), A Tempest (AT), and K de la Mare (KdIM) (Senior Constable – presiding).</p> <p>Mr G Chapman (GC), Parish Secretary was present to record the minutes.</p>	
Apologies	<p>Messrs P Duquemin (PD), M de Garis (MdG) and N Le Poidevin (NLP).</p>	
Plurality	<p>Sir de Vic Carey (SdVC) kindly attended the meeting to assist the Douzaine to understand the position relating to ‘plurality’ and the requirement to house the parish Rector.</p> <p>Currently the Rector with responsibility for St Saviour also has ecclesiastical duties in Torteval. He is being housed in the Rectory at St Saviour with the whole cost of providing and maintaining that property being borne by the St Saviour ratepayers only. Torteval ratepayers make no contribution at all.</p> <p>SdVC made the following observations;-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the view of SdVC the Parish Ecclesiastical Rates Review Committee (PERRC), when recommending The Parochial Church Property (Guernsey) Law, 2014, did not fully address the issue of parish ratepayers continuing to pay the costs of maintaining the Parish Rectory. He said that, as far as he was aware this legislation had been with the Ministry of Justice in London waiting for final approval for 2 years. As far as he knew Guernsey is the only place in Europe where parishioners are taxed to provide living accommodation for the parish priest (as opposed to providing for maintenance for the parish church). 2. When the Rector of St Pierre du Bois was made Rector of Torteval in the early 1980’s the issue of Torteval contributing to the costs of maintenance of the St Pierre du Bois Rectory was raised. The matter was complicated by the fact that the Torteval Rectory had been neglected and so it was leased to the States for a substantial term at a nominal rent to put it into repair and to provide social housing in the parish. The Guernsey Deanery Synod decided that rather than raise with the States what was already a sensitive issue of ratepayers remaining responsible for maintaining rectories, for the period of the States lease (25 years) a levy would be imposed on the congregations of the nine remaining ancient parishes to pay the notional share of the maintenance of the St Pierre du Bois Rectory which would otherwise be expected from the Torteval Ratepayers. 3. By the 1990s it appeared that clergy numbers were falling and that manpower would be further reduced in the island necessitating more pluralities. SdVC was involved, with others, in drafting the Rectories (Maintenance and Use in Cases of Plurality) Law 1993. This law provided the framework for parishes in plurality to share the costs of housing Rector(s). The first plurality to arise after the law was enacted was St Saviours and the Forest in 1999 but for some reason nothing was done during the tenure of William Prescott to implement a scheme under the 1993 Law by seeking the enactment of the necessary ordinance. The position remained unresolved following 	

	<p>Mark Charmley's assumption of responsibility for the four parishes in 2012, partly due to uncertainty of what the PERRC report (which was imminent) would say, and also due to the difficulty of trying to apply the 1994 Law to a four parish merger. The problem was further complicated by the request of the Bishop (to Reverend Charmley, in 2016) that he resign St Pierre du Bois and Forest. Informal arrangements such as that which had operated in Torteval where the congregations of the other ancient parish churches contributed would not be possible in the future.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. SdVC had no authoritative information on what the view of the current Policy and Resources Committee was. 5. If at any time the law provided that a parish could be absolved of responsibility for the continuing maintenance of a Rectory there might be an argument from the Church authorities that the parish should first put it into a full and proper state of repair 6. The current law requires a parish to house the Rector in the 'Parsonage House', even if the Rector is working on a 'house for duty' or a 'part-time' basis. <p>MM asked SdVC what would be the position if ratepayers refused to agree any expenditure for the upkeep of the Rectory. SdVC said that this could be an option, but the Court might intervene JB said that in his mind the Church should either pay rent or the Rector should find his own accommodation. SdVC reminded JB that the current law requires a parish to house the Rector but maintenance is a different matter. MT asked if the parish could sell the Rectory and provide a smaller property. SdVC said that a decision to sell would require an Order in Council. The incumbent has freehold and the property could not be sold without his agreement. AT asked what the position would be if the Rector moved to another parish and the Rectory became vacant. Could the Rectory be sold and another property purchased? SdVC said that if and when the Rectory fell vacant this would be possible (subject to consultation with the Church authorities). As the parish obligation was to provide accommodation for an Anglican Rector, any new dwelling would be expected to match the minimum standards imposed by the Church Commissioners. However, the current law requires the parish to provide the accommodation and this is the important issue to address. SdVC disclosed an interest as a regular member of St Saviour's congregation. KdIM thanked SdVC for attending the meeting and explaining the position in a clear and concise way. SdVC left the meeting at 8.20pm</p> <p>Ownership of Vale Rectory. KdIM reported that following on from the March meeting he had made enquiries with the Vale Constables and emailed their reply to Douzeniers on 13th April 2017. The Vale Constables accept that although the Church now owns the Vale Rectory it is the responsibility of the parish to maintain the building.</p>	
Minutes of Meeting held on 27 th March 2017	The minutes were agreed without alteration and signed by KdIM.	

Matters Arising	Parish Complaints Procedure. KdIM advised Douzeniers that a 'complaints' form had now been completed and that he would arrange for it to be added to the Parish Website.	KdIM/NLP
Parish Official – Special Constables	KdIM explained that he had received an email from Deputy P Roffey outlining a suggestion that parish officials should become Special Police Constables. The email had been circulated to Douzeniers on 11 th April 2017. KdIM asked for comments. JB said that he did not like the idea as it could result in parish officials being considered to be spying on their neighbours. MT asked what would be expected of officials if they became Special Constables. DB said that he believed the proposal had some merit and should be listened to further, - AT, MT and RdG supporting this view. It was agreed that the Constables should respond to Deputy Roffey accordingly but asking that any meeting designed to progress the matter should be arranged out of normal working hours.	KdIM/NLP
Environment Department	The Douzaine asked the Constables to obtain copies of two planning applications.	KdIM/NLP
In Work Poverty Review	KdIM asked for comments about a review being carried out by the Scrutiny Management Committee into 'in work poverty'. SG said that this was a matter that the Douzaine is not well placed to comment upon because there is simply not enough information available to Douzeniers. JB said that he believes the likely outcome of the review will be to provide more benefits which could only come from higher (or additional) taxes and he was not in favour of increasing taxation. KdIM said that there were plenty of examples of wage differentials in Guernsey with extremely well paid executives and other bosses while many others were struggling to live. The minimum wage in Guernsey is inadequate and nothing like that needed to be a 'living wage' when the high cost of living in Guernsey is taken into account. MT said that the States should know the information needed to make a judgement and agreed with the comments made by KdIM. JL said that he does not like people from Eastern Europe coming to Guernsey and taking the jobs that local people could do, and often these people are provided with poor living accommodation. MT Said that he has no problem with 'guest' workers in Guernsey as they are usually hard working and reliable something that cannot be said of some of the unemployed people from Guernsey. SG said that he recalled that this sort of review was carried out a few years ago and when debated by the States the proposal on the table was shelved because it would cost several millions of pounds to implement. He suggested that unless the States are prepared to commit to addressing the problem there is little point in reviewing it again. It was agreed that the Constables should reply incorporating these points.	KdIM/NLP
Jurats Election 17 th May 2017	KdIM advised the Douzaine that 2 members were needed to attend the Jurats' Election at 9.30am on Wednesday 17 th May 2017. RdG and DB agreed to attend. SG said that in the event that either could not make it for any reason he could be available. Notice of any change has to be made to the Greffier at the Royal Court before 3.00pm on Monday 15 th May 2017. JL asked that it be recorded in the minutes that he would have	KdIM/NLP

	<p>volunteered to attend but that his current poor health prevented him from doing so.</p>	
<p>Douzaine Representatives in the States of Election</p>	<p>KdIM reminded Douzeniers that he had circulated proposals from the States Assembly and Constitution Committee that would see St Saviour's Representatives reduced from 2 to 1 and St Peter Port from 9 to 10. This is the only change being proposed.</p> <p>The current ratio of representatives to population (island wide) is 1 for every 1,845 residents.</p> <p>If the proposal is implemented St Saviour would have 1 representative for 2,749 residents and St Peter Port 1 for every 1,880.</p> <p>RdG said that the proposal to increase the number of representatives for St Peter Port to 10 will create problems for them since, although they have 15 Douzeniers, he understands that there is often difficulty in providing the required number.</p> <p>KF said that although she recognises that the allocation of representatives is not an exact science St Saviour would be disadvantaged by the proposed changes.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Constables should respond accordingly.</p>	<p>KdIM/NLP</p>
<p>Correspondence</p>	<p>Gun Licences.</p> <p>KdIM advised the meeting that parishes will no longer receive a proportion of income derived by the Home Department for the issuing of Gun Licences. In 2016 the income received by St Saviour was just over £50.</p> <p>Liquor Licence.</p> <p>KdIM reported that he has carried out a liquor licence inspection at the premises formerly known as Perelle Bay Hotel. An application is due to be made to the Court by Driftwood Inn Limited to operate a restaurant and bar business on the ground floor of the premises.</p> <p>KdIM could see no reason no object to the application, the property being in good order with more than adequate facilities and a report stating this has been sent to the applicant's advocate and the Liquor Licencing Department.</p> <p>Pillar Boxes – Refurbishment.</p> <p>KdIM advised that Guernsey Post will be refurbishing pillar boxes on an ongoing basis over the course of the summer.</p>	
<p>Any Other Business</p>	<p>Waste Strategy.</p> <p>KdIM advised that he had today received correspondence outlining further progress on the waste disposal strategy which would require a meeting of the Committee. He will co-ordinate with members to arrange.</p> <p>Directional Road Signs.</p> <p>KdIM said that he, NLP and AT were prepared to sign write some of the granite directional signs within the parish on a trial basis. If successful they would continue with as many as possible. They will charge the parish for materials and make a nominal charge for their time.</p> <p>The Douzaine welcomed this initiative and thanked those concerned.</p> <p>Hougue Bachelles – Road Sign.</p> <p>AF reported that the road sign has still not been attended to. KdIM will write to the Environment Department for a third time asking for the matter to be investigated.</p> <p>Douzaine Photograph.</p> <p>JJL asked when this would take place.</p> <p>It was agreed that all members should notify JB of their availability during May and that he would co-ordinate a date from the information provided.</p>	

	There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm	
	The next meeting is to be held at the Douzaine Room at 7.00pm on Monday 22 nd May 2017.	

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