

Paroisse de Saint Sauveur
Minutes of the Douzaine Meeting held in the Lihou Room at the Community Centre at
7.00pm on Monday 27th March 2017

Present	<p>Messrs J Brache (JB), R de Garis (RdG), P Duquemin (PD), Mrs A Foley (AF), Mrs K Fooks (KF), Messrs S Gibbs (SG), Jorgenson-Lesbirel (JL), Miss M Macdonald (MM), Messrs A Tempest (AT), K de la Mare (KdIM) (Senior Constable – presiding) and N Le Poidevin (NLP).</p> <p>Mr G Chapman (GC), Parish Secretary was present to record the minutes.</p>	
Apologies	<p>Messrs D Bertrand (DB), M de Garis (MdG) and M Tanguy (MT).</p>	
Ecclesiastical Remede	<p>Reverend M Charmley (MC) and Messrs R Arundale (RA) and RAV de Garis (RdG) (Churchwardens) attended the meeting at 7.00pm to present the Ecclesiastical Remede for 2017.</p> <p>RdG presented copies of the proposed Ecclesiastical Remede and the previous 6 year's comparable totals for the Remedies (copies attached to these minutes) to Douzeniers and proceeded to explain each item listed. JB asked what are considered to be 'ordinary' repairs to the Church and Rectory.</p> <p>RdG explained that the amounts requested, £3k for each, were for unforeseen and presently unknown repairs but that it is prudent to have a small reserve for such circumstances.</p> <p>JB asked why there are sums (£3k) included for 'architects supervision' and why was work not simply supervised by the contracting builder. RdG explained that it was agreed by the Douzaine – some years ago - that all work to parish property should be supervised by an independent and suitably qualified architect.</p> <p>RdG explained that the extraordinary repairs to the Church – re-plastering the interior walls of the south chapel and chancel had been recommended by surveyors who prepared the (most recent) quinquennial building survey report. This was to attend to water ingress. Repointing and waterproofing had been carried out to the outside several years ago and the architects were now recommending that the interior walls had dried sufficiently to allow re-plastering work to be done. The architects had prepared tender documents detailing the work required and invited three reputable companies to quote for the work. The architects subsequently recommended that the work should be carried out at a cost of £37,729.</p> <p>The Property Committee had considered the recommendation and agreed that the work needed to be done.</p> <p>The Finance Committee were then tasked with funding the work and agreed with a recommendation from the Churchwardens that the cost should be met from a Churchwardens' Account unspent balance of £11,729, £13k raised by the 2017 owners' rate and £13k withdrawn from the Reserve Fund.</p> <p>KdIM reminded the Douzaine that at the 2016 parish meeting it was agreed to withdraw over £18k from the Reserve Fund to cover the cost of repairs to the Rectory and that at that time an assurance had been given by the Constable that it was not the intention of the Douzaine to 'run down' the Fund. In the circumstances, although not entirely happy with the proposal, the Finance Committee agrees that withdrawing £13k from the Reserve is a pragmatic solution.</p> <p>PD commented that were it not for the re-plastering work expense the</p>	

	<p>Ecclesiastical Remede would not be dissimilar to recent years. AT asked RdG if there would be any money left in the Churchwarden's Account if the £11,729 was used as suggested. RdG said that there would be very little but he was hopeful that there would be little ordinary repairs to be carried out and this being the case he would have some of the £6k allocated for this as a small reserve. SG asked that when the next quinquennial survey was completed, the surveyor conducting the inspection should be asked to give an indication of what the cost of the recommended repairs might be in order that the Douzaine can plan expenditure over the life of the report. RdG said that the next report was due in 2018 and he would enquire whether this would be possible. PD asked when the Douzaine would have sight of the 2016 Churchwardens' Accounts. RdG said that the year-end was 31st March and that the accounts would be available for the Parish Meeting on 24th April. PD said that proper process should allow the Douzaine to have the opportunity to scrutinise the accounts before the Parish Meeting and suggested that the Churchwardens should change their accounting year so that for 2017 it would end on 31st December 2017. RdG agreed that this would be better for all concerned because he was always tight for time trying to ensure the accounts were ready for the end of April. PD proposed (JL seconded) that the Churchwardens should be asked to bring their accounting year end into line with all other parish accounts in that it should end on 31st December - unanimously agreed. MM proposed (seconded by PD) that the Ecclesiastical Remede as proposed by the Churchwardens should be accepted - unanimously approved. MC and RA left the meeting at 7.25pm</p>	<p>Church Wardens</p> <p>RdG</p> <p>RdG/KdIM</p>
<p>Billet D'Etat</p>	<p>Deputy A Dudley-Owen (ADO) attended the meeting at 7.25pm. Guernsey Post Limited – Appointment of Non-Executive Director. ADO said that she is aware that some Deputies have expressed concern at the nomination for this post because of his links to the Guernsey Press. However, ADO is undecided whether she will support the nomination at this stage. Population Management (Guernsey) Law 2016 (Commencement Ordinance), 2017. ADO said that after many years of public and business consultation, together with much debate in the States, and at the point at which the new population management law is to be enacted (3rd April 2017), there are some Deputies who are inclined to try and delay the implementation. MM said that there seems to have been a definite campaign in the media to effect a delay. ADO said that there are interested parties who are keen to portray the legislation as bad and there are some who have invested in open market property and have been making use of a loophole in the law to make a lot of money who now wish to see the law that will close that loophole derailed. The new law will be more human rights compliant. SG said that he believed that politicians are losing the public relations battle and are not communicating perceived benefits very well. AF asked how it would affect people living in open market accommodation. ADO said that the new law would improve the position for many people and not just those born on Guernsey. It would make the position better</p>	

for those currently in open market accommodation who would now be able to apply for a permit to live in local market accommodation. RdG suggested that so doing would make it more difficult for those born locally to get a foothold on to the housing market.

ADO agreed that there might be some inherent difficulties but assured the Douzaine that if it proved necessary to tweak the legislation the Department would not hesitate to do so.

JB said that if more people are allowed to move from open market to local market accommodation the lower paid people in Guernsey would only have Guernsey Housing Association properties to live in and he understands that people would prefer full ownership of properties.

NLP said that if there are now going to be open market properties without tenants it might well encourage owners to lower rents in order to find a tenant and this would surely be welcomed.

JB said that the new system should have been tested before implementation but when ADO asked him how this might have been done he was unable to suggest a way.

KF said the open market situation might well encourage owners to convert bedsit type rooms into more desirable flats.

ADO said that the open market needs to reduce rents and was out of control because the loophole was not policed. There is currently a strategic housing review being conducted by KPMG and this will provide an accurate indication of the housing needs of individuals. Additionally there needs to be a cost/benefit analysis of individuals coming to the island and not necessarily an 'open door' policy for everyone.

PD said that he would support any move that encouraged people who could provide 'added value' to come to the island.

ADO agreed with PD, adding that a healthy property market will encourage people to come to the island and believes that this new law will encourage such a situation to develop.

JB said that he considers the island is full and cannot accommodate any more people as permanent residents.

MM said that although JB has a point the school rolls are falling and we need to encourage younger people to the island to maintain the economy.

KdIM said that he was aware of many young people leaving the island.

ADO said that the Education Department 'tracks' university students and over 70% of them return to the island.

ADO said that 240 businesses had been consulted about the new legislation and over 140 had responded, and once they had an understanding of how the new arrangements would work most had favourable comments. The finance industry most certainly supports it.

ADO said that she understood concerns being expressed about residents from Alderney being unable to move to Guernsey, but added that this had been at the request of Alderney's politicians. If an amendment was submitted that sought to address this situation ADO might be inclined to support it.

Accident and Emergency Department (A&E).

JJL asked ADO if there was any update concerning views he expressed at the January meeting relating to charges made at A&E.

JJL said that he was part of a group that would soon be campaigning to have charges at A&E scrapped. JJL believes it to be wrong that the States should charge residents for being in need of medical assistance at A&E.

ADO said that the research she has completed suggests that most

	<p>charges have reduced since the States took control of the staffing arrangements at A&E and that most people are happy with the new charging method.</p> <p>JJL said that although he has not done any research concerning costs - he will be doing so – he believes that Guernsey should adopt a UK National Health Service A&E system where there is no charge.</p> <p>SG suggested that the UK A&E system was not a good example to be making comparisons with.</p> <p>ADO agreed with SG and asked JJL how the A&E service might be funded if it was to be free. JJL had no suggestions.</p> <p>ADO also said that there are many countries that look at Guernsey's Hospital system, including A&E, with envy. There are very few complaints. There is also a safety net for those who cannot afford to pay for medical costs because the Social Services Department will pay the A&E costs (and other associated medical costs) for those with genuine financial difficulties.</p> <p>KF said that it has always been the case that you have to pay and asked (if it were to be free for all callers at A&E) which taxes would increase to cover the cost.</p> <p>SG said that he understood that the new arrangements were intended to be 'cost neutral'. There are always winners and losers when things change but overall he was happy with the system.</p> <p>JJL said that he remained unhappy with the answers he had heard.</p> <p>ADO re-iterated to JJL that the figures she has been provided with show that A&E charges are lower than when the service was provided by private medical practices. ADO promised to put JJL in contact with the Director of the hospital so that he could discuss his concerns directly.</p> <p>ADO left the meeting at 8.10pm.</p>	
Minutes of Meeting held on 27 th February 2017	The minutes were agreed without alteration and signed by KdIM.	
Matters Arising	<p>Parish Complaints Procedure.</p> <p>KdIM said that following on from the February meeting he had contacted St Peter Port Constables and they had kindly provided a copy of their complaints form, copies of which KdIM showed to the Douzaine.</p> <p>AT said that there was no point in trying to produce a document unique to St Saviour and suggested that the Constables should amend the St Peter Port version and make it available as necessary.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Constables should do as AT had suggested.</p>	KdIM/NLP
Plurality	<p>KdIM reminded Douzeniers that previous Constables had been in dialogue with all other parishes (previous correspondence had been circulated on 22.03.16), the Chief Minister and Chair of the Guernsey Douzaine Liaison Group, and had been expecting progress on the solution proposed by (then Deputy) R Perrot (RP) in 2015. 8 of the 10 parishes were in agreement with the solution proposed by RP.</p> <p>Having recently requested an update from Deputy G St Pier (GSP) KdIM has now received a letter confirming that the States have done nothing to progress the matter but are now asking all parishes if the views expressed in 2015 have changed in any way, except that the tone of the letter from GSP suggests that he seems happy for the current situation to continue.</p> <p>KdIM said that he imagined that the Douzaine would wish to achieve an arrangement so that income and expenditure arising from providing</p>	

	<p>accommodation for the Rector/rental of Rectories in plurality was fair and equitable. The Douzaine confirmed that this is the case. AT said that until the States made provision so that a parish could legally make a contribution to the costs incurred in another parish there was nothing that could be achieved – St Saviour would have to continue to pay the whole cost of housing for a Rector in plurality, adding that there seemed to be little appetite from Deputies to enact any of the legislation agreed in 1993/1994. It was agreed that the Constables should reply to confirm that we are still in favour of the solution proposed by RP in June 2015.</p>	KdIM/NLP
Church & Rectory Maintenance	<p>PD reported that at the most recent meeting of the Property Committee there was discussion concerning the potential costs of maintaining the Church and Rectory buildings. The Committee had resolved to seek Douzaine approval to clarify the legal position concerning the housing of the Rector, - does he have to be housed in the 'Rectory' or could he be housed in a more appropriate property? KF said that she understood that the Vale parish had sold their Rectory to the Church of England. JB said that he objects to parishioners providing free accommodation to the Parish Rector. PD said that in 2016 parishioners contributed over £18k to remedy a damp issue in the Rectory kitchen and no doubt future years will bring more requests. This situation cannot continue unchecked and the Deanery must understand that the time has come to find a more appropriate solution. RdG reminded the Douzaine that current legislation requires a parish to house the Rector of that parish but accepted that there is an anomaly where a parish is in plurality and that this needs to be resolved. KdIM asked if it had to be in the Rectory or could accommodation be provided elsewhere. MM pointed out that the Church Hall is used for Sunday School, girl guides and other social events. NLP said that meetings as described by MM could, and should, be held at the Community Centre, only a short distance away from the Church. SG said that more information is clearly needed before progress could be made. It was agreed that further investigations should be undertaken and, initially, contact made with the Vale Constables to establish if KF's understanding (that Vale sold their Rectory to the Church of England) is correct. It was agreed that to establish the legal position it might prove to be necessary to consult the parish advocate (but not at this stage).</p>	KdIM/NLP
Constables' Accounts 2016	<p>KdIM presented the Douzaine with copies of the 2016 Constables Accounts (attached to these minutes) which had been scrutinised by Mr R Stapley. The accounts were approved by the Douzaine. The Douzaine placed on record their thanks to Mr Stapley for carrying out the scrutiny process for the parish and at no cost.</p>	
Secular and Refuse Remede	<p>Secular Remede. KdIM presented the Douzaine with copies (attached to these minutes) of the proposed Secular and Refuse Remede for 2017, commenting that it had been debated at length, and approved by the Finance Committee.</p>	

	<p>AT asked why the Cemetery Committee was asking for an increase of £4k over that allocated in 2016.</p> <p>KF said that in years previous to 2016 the Cemetery Committee had been receiving £10k, but that in 2016 the Douzaine saw that there was a small surplus on the account and asked the Committee to reduce their request to £8k. During 2016 there had been more work to do to maintain the cemetery than had been anticipated resulting in only a small reserve going forward.</p> <p>AT said that he understood that the burial fees charged by the parish were low compared with other parishes and suggested that the Committee should consider raising the fees.</p> <p>KF said that she believed AT's understanding to be correct and it might be that the Committee will have to look again at the charges levied.</p> <p>PD suggested that a more appropriate sum to be allocated to the Committee for 2017 would be £10k.</p> <p>KF said that the financial projection for the end of 2017 (assuming average numbers of burials) would leave the Committee with only £1,300 for unforeseen expenses. KF suggested that some Douzeniers were trying to hide the true cost of running the cemetery from parishioners and pointed out that recent publications in La Gazette showed other parishes requesting sums of £33k, £60k and £62k to cover costs of maintaining cemeteries.</p> <p>SG said that this information should be part of a medium term plan for the ongoing financing of parish needs and that such matters should be considered by the Finance Committee.</p> <p>The Douzaine approved the request from the Cemetery Committee for a £12k allocation in 2017.</p> <p>PD said that the Secular Remede was in fact almost £4k lower than in 2016 and asked what provision had been made for legal costs.</p> <p>KdIM said that there was a budget of £2.5k for legal and professional fees, the same as in 2016.</p> <p>PD suggested that this aspect of the budget should be increased by £1.5k to allow for advice concerning 'plurality' as discussed earlier in the meeting. This was agreed.</p> <p>The total Secular Remede request for 2017 of £57,310 was approved by the Douzaine (some £2,350 less than 2016).</p> <p>Refuse Remede.</p> <p>KdIM said that collection charges for 2017 were known and suggested that it would be prudent to allow for the disposal of 480 tonnes of household refuse – in 2016 the parish had disposed of 472 tonnes of refuse. The cost of disposing of waste has increased by 10.6% over 2016 to £211.83 per tonne. If the Douzaine agrees to make provision for disposing of 480 tonnes of refuse the total refuse Remede for collection and disposal in 2017 will be £139,222.</p> <p>AT said that there was no option other than to approve this Remede because the Constables would have to meet the costs described.</p> <p>The Douzaine agreed the Refuse Remede.</p>	KdIM/NLP
Environment Department	No plans were requested by the Douzaine.	
Moorings Committee	KdIM advised the Douzaine that at the recent public meeting of Moorings Holders, it was agreed that Mr D Albin should become a member of the Moorings Committee (to replace Mr R Nippers) and asked the Douzaine to approve this appointment. This was agreed.	kdIM/NLP

<p>Guernsey Douzaine Council (GDC)</p>	<p>MM had attended the meeting held on 13th March 2017 and had prepared notes (attached to these minutes) which had been circulated on 23rd March 2017.</p> <p>Data Protection. KF said that she had attended a recent meeting outlining requirements for data protection measures to be implemented in 2018, and her understanding was that there would be little impact on the day to day business of parishes. The States' Data Protection office will be making the requirements known in due course.</p>	
<p>Correspondence</p>	<p>Island Wide Voting (I WV) – Referendum. KdIM said that he had received communication from the States' Assembly and Constitution Committee asking for the Douzaine's view on certain aspects of the referendum to be held on IWV. PD said the Douzaine has discussed the matter previously. The Douzaine confirmed that their views had not changed from those expressed in 2014 and 2015 – essentially that IWV was not the preferred option for electing political representatives to the States. The Douzaine agreed that the parish should provide facilities similar to those for a General Election to facilitate a referendum on IWV</p> <p>Visit to the Joint Emergency Services Control Room. KdIM said that he had received an open invitation for members to visit this facility, that he would forward it by email and asked members to reply directly if they were interested in attending.</p> <p>Enhancing St Peter Port Harbour. KdIM said that he had received a request Floral Guernsey for financial support to install a flagpole (which would fly the parish flag) at St Peter Port Harbour which is aimed at 'Enhancing the Visitor Experience'. The initial cost would be £250 for the flagpole and £60 for the flag with a new flag required annually. MM said that the recent GDC meeting, with the exception of one parish, did not support this proposal. AT said that the Douzaines are tasked with spending parish funds for the benefit of parishioners and 'enhancing the visitor experience' is not part of this mandate. The Douzaine agreed that this was not an initiative that they could support.</p> <p>Liquor Licencing Laws. KdIM reported that he has now received confirmation from the Committee for Home Affairs that they propose to change Good Friday and Christmas Day licencing legislation to bring it into line with Sundays – but on Christmas Day licenced premises will be able to open at 11.00am. He went on to remind the Douzaine that in September 2016 the Douzaine agreed that it would be sensible to bring opening hours in line with those for a Sunday. JB said that he did not agree with an extra hour opening on Christmas Day, having previously objected to the proposal to extend the hours to those of a Sunday. The Douzaine agreed that the proposal should be supported.</p> <p>Parish Church Property (Guernsey) Law 2014. KdIM highlighted an email from a Forest Douzenier asking for support to approach the Policy and Resources Committee to speed up the enactment of the above legislation as recommended to the States by the Parish Ecclesiastical Rates Review Committee. RdG said that he understood that the requirements to form management committees would cause problems and that he was not in any hurry to</p>	<p>KdIM/NLP</p> <p>KdIM/NLP</p> <p>KdIM/NLP</p> <p>KdIM/NLP</p>

	<p>see it enacted. PD said that he could see no reason why this should take priority over the Plurality Laws that were agreed in 1993/4 and that there was no reason for the parish to support this request. The Douzaine agreed with the view expressed by PD.</p>	KDIM/NLP
Any Other Business	<p>Rue A L'Or. AT said that where there had been a recent landslide in Rue A L'Or there were signs that a further slippage might occur. NLP said that following recent heavy rain he believed there had been some surface water run-off which had washed loose debris from the surface. He believes that once the area is seeded with grass and other plants, the root systems will help to bind the ground. It was agreed that the safety in the area was the responsibility of the land owner and if any parish official believed there to be further evidence of a potential slippage they should bring it to the attention of the owner(s).</p>	
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm	
	The next meeting is to be held at the Douzaine Room immediately after the Parish Meeting on Monday 24 th April 2017.	