

Paroisse de Saint Sauveur  
Minutes of the Douzaine Meeting held in the Lihou Room at the Community Centre at  
7.00pm on Monday 22nd May 2017

Present	<p>Messrs D Bertrand (DB), J Brache (JB), M de Garis (MdG), R de Garis (RdG), P Duquemin (PD), Mrs K Fooks (KF), Messrs S Gibbs (SG), Jorgenson-Lesbirel (JL), Miss M Macdonald (MM), Messrs A Tempest (AT), N Le Poidevin (NLP) 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	Mrs A Foley (AF) and Mr M Tanguy (MT).	
Billet d'Etat	<p>Deputy E Yerby (EY) attended the meeting to discuss future States' business.</p> <p>EY said that there was little business for the meeting scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017 but that one item that would, no doubt, concern the Douzaine was the reduction in the number of representatives in the <b>States of Election for St Saviour</b>.</p> <p>MM said that the proposal from the States Assembly and Constitution Committee (SACC) would leave St Saviour with one representative for 2,749 residents. The calculation used by SACC to justify their recommendation leaves a ratio of 1.47, - had this figure been .031 higher (i.e. over 1.5) there would have been no recommendation for change. There are plans in place to build several more housing estates in the parish and when these are complete it is quite likely that the figure will be higher than 1.5. Will SACC then be taking another proposal to the States to change the number of representatives again?</p> <p>KF stated that at the most recent Douzaine Liaison Group meeting the St Peter Port representative indicated that they often have difficulty in finding 9 representatives and finding another would not be easy.</p> <p>DB asked why SACC considered the system to be broken and could not believe there was an urgent need for change.</p> <p>PD said that there had been correspondence between SACC and the Douzaine and suggested that the Constables should make this available to Western Deputies.</p> <p>JB suggested that the correspondence should be made available to all Deputies, not just those representing the Western Parishes.</p> <p>The Douzaine agreed with JB and asked the Constables to make the necessary arrangements.</p> <p><b>Island Development Plan.</b></p> <p>DB suggested to EY that there is a perception that politicians are not doing enough to attract business to Guernsey or encourage existing businesses to develop and cited planning law as a hindrance.,</p> <p>EY agreed that this is often the perception but believes that work is going on 'behind the scenes' to encourage business.</p> <p><b>Island Wide Voting.</b></p> <p>EY asked the Douzaine for their views on Island Wide Voting (IWW).</p> <p>JB said that the Douzaine had discussed this matter at length on several occasions and have always opposed it. There is a fear that smaller parishes might be left with no political representative living within the district. JB went on to suggest that correspondence on the matter should be forwarded to all Deputies and the Douzaine agreed that this should be the case.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">KdIM/NLP</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KdIM/NLP</p>

	<p>MM said that she believes it is likely that IWV will lead to ‘unintended consequences’. She explained that her view of IWV is that more able politicians will gain many votes but that very few electors will use all of their votes leading to some Deputies being elected with little or no worthwhile mandate from the electorate. It is quite likely that some Deputies, so elected, will represent a small pressure groups.</p> <p>PD said that no-one has yet to explain how hustings might work and suggested that asking electors to read (possibly up to 80) manifestos would eventually lead to voter apathy.</p> <p>KdIM said that IWV was another example of people believing that the ‘grass is greener on the other side of the fence’ when in reality it is not.</p> <p>EY asked what the Douzaine thought about the forthcoming referendum on IWV and asked if it should be binding on the States.</p> <p>MM said that recent examples of referendum in the UK (Scottish Independence and ‘Brexit’) show that if the result is to be binding there should be a significant majority, and suggested that a minimum should be 60% in favour.</p> <p>This view met with support from the Douzaine.</p> <p>SG said that if IWV was introduced he believes that the initial election would be well supported but subsequent elections will have less and less voter interest. The States would be better increasing the time between elections so as to give greater continuity and to allow committees to get on with the job they were mandated with.</p> <p>DB said that a proposal to hold elections of only a proportion of Deputies more frequently would not only lead to less continuity and more difficulty in formulating and implementing policy, it would also greatly increase the costs – something States’ members are constantly warning against.</p> <p>PD suggested that IWV would encourage more ‘grandstanding’ whereby some Deputies are only interested in the perception that the public have of them. These Deputies are often not the most able but encourage a high public profile through advancing themselves through all forms of media. PD is concerned that IWV will encourage more political representatives to adopt such policies</p> <p>EY said that before the 2016 Deputies Election she was of the view that there would be a majority of the electorate in favour of IWV. However, following her campaigning and talking to the electorate in the Western parishes she was now of the opinion that at least 60% of those she spoke to are against the idea. EY is not convinced that there is an island wide majority in favour and in any case, before any change to the current electoral system is implemented she agreed with the view expressed by MM - that there should be a significant majority in favour.</p> <p><b>Main Drains at Rue Mahaut.</b></p> <p>JJL asked EY when main drainage would be installed at Rue Mahaut.</p> <p>EY said that she would try to find the answer to and revert.</p> <p>EY left the meeting at 7.25pm.</p>	
Schools Report	<p><b>La Houquette School.</b></p> <p>Mrs H Bonner-Morgan (HBM) attended the meeting and presented the annual report to the Douzaine (copy attached to these minutes).</p> <p>The Schools Committee are happy with the fabric, staff and ethos of the school and HBM stated that since the current Head Teacher had joined the school (almost 2 years ago) the school had been on an ‘upward curve’.</p> <p>HBM highlighted a concern about the <b>swimming pool building and the integrity of the pool</b> itself. She asked if the Douzaine would write to the Education Committee highlighting these concerns.</p>	KdIM/NLP

	<p>HBM left the meeting at 7.38pm.  <b>La Mare de Carteret School.</b>  Mrs A Nippers was unable to present her report in person but had provided a written report (attached to these minutes) previously. This report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was accepted without comment by the Douzaine.</p>	
Minutes of Meeting held on 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	The minutes were agreed without alteration and signed by KdIM.	
Matters Arising	<p><b>Road Signage at Hougue Bachelie.</b>  KdIM reported that he had a reply from the Traffic Department about the sign directing traffic towards the coast road as vehicles exit the car park to Perelle Butchers. The Department are happy with the arrangements and see no reason to make any changes.</p>	
Plurality	<p>KdIM reminded members that Sir de Vic Carey has provided some guidance concerning plurality at the April meeting and asked if there should be any further action taken concerning the matter.  SG said that it seemed unlikely that there would be any resolution in the short term. Laws would need to be changed and he doubted that there was the political will so to do. However, the Douzaine should be in a position whereby they are aware what the options would be when the current Rector leaves his post. This should involve discussions with the Guernsey Deanery.  PD Said that the Church and Rectory are anything but parish assets, - they are actually liabilities because the ratepayers have no option but to maintain them for the benefit of the Church of England. Whilst he has no objection to maintaining the Church there are many reasons why parishioners might be aggrieved at having to maintain the Rectory.  PD went on to suggest that the Douzaine should seek advice from the parish advocate to determine;-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Whether there would be anything to gain from writing to the Ministry of Justice about the inequity of parochial taxes being used to finance the residence of the Church of England Rector</li> <li>b) What would be the position when the current Rector vacates the Rectory? Could a small property be substituted?</li> <li>c) When the current Rector leaves – if there is still a position of plurality – could St Saviour insist that the other parish in plurality houses the new Rector?</li> <li>d) Would there be any benefit from entering into discussions with the Guernsey Deanery?</li> </ol> <p>DB agreed with the points raised by PD and commented that the answers to these questions were needed. However, he warned against the possible costs of legal advice, especially if lawyers were to embark on discussions with the Ministry of Justice. DB suggested that the Constables should write to the parish Advocate to ask the questions posed by PD but also to seek an indication of likely costs in the event that matters are to be taken further.  When these costs are established ratepayers could be asked if they are content to include a sum within the 2018 Remede so that these costs could be met. Any further action would then be taken with the full support of ratepayers.  It was agreed that the Constables should write to the advocate asking for clarity on the points raised by PD and to request an indication of costs.</p>	

Waste Strategy	<p>NLP appraised the Douzaine of recent a meeting with the current waste contractor and a letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 from the States of Guernsey Trading Assets (SGTA) concerning the implementation of the new waste strategy.</p> <p>NLP reminded members that the Waste Sub Committee had met to discuss these matters and that minutes of that meeting (attached) had been circulated. These minutes included 6 recommendations.</p> <p>MM asked what was meant by 'joint billing' – recommendation 6.</p> <p>GC explained that the new strategy had 3 strands;-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collection charge. This would be a charge levied by the parish for collection of household refuse.</li> <li>Processing charge. This would be applied by the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) but it is not yet agreed who would collect this charge. The WDA are keen that parishes collect this charge and pass it on to them.</li> <li>Residual waste charge. This is a charge that will be levied for collection of residual waste. It will be an arrangement whereby there will be some distinguishing feature about residual waste, -be it the bag itself, a sticker or tag attached to the bag or some other method. If the residual waste bag did not have this identifying feature it would not be collected. Whatever the identifying feature it to be it will have to be pre-paid for before the waste is collected from the roadside.</li> </ol> <p>It was agreed that the recommendations from the sub-committee should be adopted.</p> <p><i>It was also agreed that the Constables should seek to arrange a meeting of the Douzaine with representatives of the WDA.</i></p> <p><i>However, on 23<sup>rd</sup> May St Peter Port Constables arranged a meeting for all Douzaines to discuss the waste strategy – on 7<sup>th</sup> June. Consequently the Constables saw little point in duplication and did not proceed with arranging a meeting for St Saviour.</i></p>	KdIM/NLP
Douzaine Liaison Group	<p>KF had attended a meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and reported on the matters discussed.</p> <p>A report of the meeting (attached to these minutes) had previously been circulated.</p> <p><b>Parochial Church Property.</b></p> <p>When KF reported on this item concern was expressed about the way the new system would operate and whether there would be sufficient parishioner interest to fill all of the proposed positions.</p>	
Environment Department	The Constables were asked to obtain a copy of one planning application.	KdIM/NLP
Bornement	A request for a bornement in respect of building work at Rue des Hougues was approved.	KdIM/NLP
Hedges and Streams Inspections	KdIM asked the various Canton Members to liaise with the Constables to agree dates for inspections. He asked that all inspections are started before 20 <sup>th</sup> June.	
Parish Officials for 2018	KdIM asked members to consider who might be standing for re-election in 2018 and to make parishioners aware that there will be an election in November.	
Correspondence	None	
Any Other Business	<p><b>Douzaine Photograph.</b></p> <p>JB advised that the cost would be £80 for the photographer's services and one print with a further £30 for it to be framed. Additional prints would be available at £10 each (payable by those who ordered them).</p> <p>It was agreed that the cost should be met from miscellaneous expenses.</p>	

	<p>It was also agreed that the photographer should be booked for 6.30pm on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017 – photograph to be taken at the Community Centre (before the July Douzaine Meeting).</p> <p><b>Rules of Procedure.</b> DB asked members to adhere to the rules of procedure with only one member speaking at a time. He found it difficult to follow debate this evening when more than one conversation was taking place simultaneously.</p> <p><b>West Show.</b> JLJ asked if there was any enthusiasm to have a St Saviour's Douzaine stall at the West Show. He said that it had been the case some 5 or 6 years previously when the Constable organised a stand to promote the Douzaine. There was no support from other members.</p> <p><b>Joint Emergency Services Control Room.</b> JLJ reported that he had visited the control room and found it very informative.</p>	<p>JB</p> <p>All</p>
	<p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm</p>	
	<p>The next meeting is to be held at the Douzaine Room at 7.00pm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017.</p>	