

Paroisse de Saint Sauveur
Minutes of the Douzaine Meeting held in the Lihou Room at the Community Centre at
7.00pm on Monday 26th June 2017

Present	<p>Messrs D Bertrand (DB), J Brache (JB), M de Garis (MdG), R de Garis (RdG), , Mrs A Foley (AF), Mrs K Fooks (KF), Messrs S Gibbs (SG), M Tanguy (MT), 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> <p>Messrs P Duquemin (PD), J Jorgenson-Lesbirel (JLL) and Miss M Macdonald (MM).</p>	
Apologies		
Billet d'Etat	<p>Deputy A Brouard (AB) attended the meeting to discuss forthcoming States' business.</p> <p>AB pointed out the item that would involve lengthy debate at the next meeting would be the second stage of the Policy and Resources (P&R) proposals concerning the allocation of resources for future projects.</p> <p>AB highlighted that the discussions would involve the six major Committees of the States presenting their 'wish list' of projects – most of which AB expects to be approved.</p> <p>AB explained that P&R would be asking the States to explore expanding the tax base but that he doubted this would extend to capital and inheritance taxes because that would threaten the viability of the finance industry.</p> <p>Transport links will – hopefully- be investigated with the viability of air and sea links together with the possible extension of the airport runway all part of the mix.</p> <p>Once the States have agreed the priorities staff will 'fine tune' the technicalities so that objectives can be achieved and the final phase will be presented for approval.</p> <p>This is the first time that resources have been allocated in this way and AB suggested that it was likely the process will be improved as it evolves but that he believes it is a better way to proceed than before.</p> <p>JB asked AB what his view is concerning the proposal from Deputy E Yerby (EY) to substantially increase taxes.</p> <p>AB said that he did not believe it would meet favour with the House, it would threaten key parts of Guernsey's Finance Industry, and he has not heard of any support from either the Confederation of Guernsey Industry or the Finance Sector. He said that it was likely, in his view, that within 10 years there would be more forms of taxation but that did not necessarily mean more taxation. A start would be 20% meaning 20% taxation in relation to income tax because there is a need to provide the services that islanders expect, - but perhaps there needs to be that difficult conversation concerning what can actually be afforded (as to the services expected) in relation to the funds available. P&R hopes to raise a further £40 million during the next 4 years, one third from taxation with the remainder from savings.</p> <p>SG said that he was pleased to see that the States are starting to rationalise their property portfolio but asked AB how the £40 million would be achieved.</p> <p>AB said that undoubtedly technology would play a part but the biggest spenders of health and education needed to be addressed – what do islanders expect, is it reasonable and is it affordable.</p>	

As an example of cheaper ways of achieving the same result AB highlighted the recently agreed new arrangements for bowel cancer screening which would save a significant sum. However, islanders expect new medical procedures to be provided without consideration for how they might be paid for. Any suggestion that there might need to be an increase in taxation is met with resistance.

SG said that all this was well and good but he could see little in the way of concrete proposals for taxation, - the property rationalisation is good but there is little else to shout about.

DB said that he often saw Deputies applauding small savings (although significant), often in the tens of thousands and then approving large sums of expenditure on off-island consultants when expertise was readily available locally.

DB acknowledged that population demographics are worsening every year and suggested that more people should be allowed into the island and send out a message that Guernsey is open for business. He suggested that both Jersey and the Isle of Man are far better at marketing their respective islands than Guernsey is. Guernsey needs to start building for the future.

MT agreed that Guernsey is poor at marketing itself and suggested that a lot of perceived difficulty for business lies at the offices of the Guernsey Financial Services Commission. He said that he is aware of a business actively seeking to relocate their Head Offices from Guernsey to the Isle of Man because the Isle of Man regulatory authorities are far easier to work with than those in Guernsey. The Isle of Man is actively seeking to expand their population and businesses and generally encourage existing business by making 'business' life as simple as possible.

AB said that population growth only provides short term economic growth. As the increased population ages there will be more elderly people to care for so the process would have to start again and this process is never ending. A population of 60k soon becomes 70k and 80k and so on – where do you stop? AB agreed that Jersey is certainly far more public facing than Guernsey but suggested that Guernsey is cannier. He said that Guernsey is almost balancing the books but Jersey is a long way from doing so.

JB said that in his view Guernsey is full and Deputies should accept the fact and find ways of making the best of what we have.

NLP said that the missing ingredient for economic growth is confidence and (whatever the population is) growth will come if confidence returns. Deputies should concentrate on promoting good news.

SG suggested that the danger for Guernsey is what is currently happening in Alderney – de-population. Unless confidence is promoted it will only be a matter of time before islanders will emigrate.

JB suggested that subsidising Aurigny and public transport was wrong – business should stand or fall on its own without public support. He also suggested that the foreign aid budget should be reduced.

SG said that he agreed that politicians should have the 'difficult discussion' with islanders concerning health and education because both areas will require huge ongoing revenue costs.

SG also commented that although islanders complain about the cost of living, and although taxes in Guernsey are increasing it is quite clear that most islanders benefit from paying significantly less tax and social insurance than those resident in the UK.

KF suggested that Deputies should agree projects that do not have 'bells and whistles'. Sometimes the same result can be achieved without high

	<p>levels of expenditure. AB said that often the States are criticised for cutting corners and cited the maintenance of La Mare de Carteret School as a point in question. He added that as a general rule Guernsey spends less than Jersey or the Isle of Man because every project Guernsey embarks upon is smaller than the other islands. Guernsey is a safe place to live with almost full employment. Although some claim that air fares are expensive, they are actually relatively cheap compared with 40 years ago when it would take many weeks of saving to be able to afford a return fare whereas nowadays fares can sometimes be purchased for little more than the cost of a tradesman's services for a few hours. Waste Strategy. KdIM asked AB if (with his Douzenier's hat on) he considered there to be any merit in forming a Douzaine Waste Strategy Group. AB said that it was a matter for the Douzaines but he believed the use of existing infrastructure would be the best way to proceed. DB said that he had been involved with the waste strategy for some 3 years and that his view is that a new group will add no value whatsoever to the debate. He added that Castel, St Andrew and St Sampson seem to be in agreement with the views previously expressed by St Saviour. AB suggested that all Douzaines should take up the offer from Trading Assets and meet to discuss the position. The Douzaine Liaison Group would be happy to attempt to facilitate a compromise. KdIM thanked AB for attending and AB Left the meeting at 7.40pm.</p>	
<p>Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd May 2017</p>	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2017 were agreed without alteration and signed by KdIM.</p>	
<p>Matters Arising</p>	<p>Plurality. KdIM reminded the Douzaine that he had circulated the letter he sent to Advocate Green together with his email response. Members had also seen the views of PD who had circulated these by email because of his absence at the meeting. MT said that an Advocate will give you his view, and if you asked for the view of 10 advocates you would be most likely to have 10 different opinions at a very high cost. MT reminded the Douzaine that this matter had been on the agenda for quite some years – enough is enough – until there is an equitable arrangement in place with other parishes in plurality with St Saviour, our parish should refuse to house any replacement Rector when Reverend Charmley moves on. KF said that the parish owns the building and should, therefore, ensure that it is properly maintained. SG said that he agreed with the comment from MT. The Constables should write to the Guernsey Deanery outlining the position and explaining that unless there is a fair financial arrangement in place with other parishes in plurality, when Reverend Charmley leaves St Saviour it will be the turn of another parish in plurality to house the Rector. DB said that he cannot agree with the view expressed by PD in his email, whereby it was suggested that unknown amounts of money should be spent on an unknown legal route and outcome. PD, although absent from the meeting, asked for the following clarification;- <i>PD did not suggest this in any way. He said that we should take professional legal advice and ... "that we ask Jason to act on our behalf in the way he proposes. We should ask for at least quarterly</i></p>	

	<p><i>accounts from him so we can keep some control on expenditure.”</i></p> <p>KdIM said that for the avoidance of doubt both Constables would be reluctant to spend funds on legal opinion concerning plurality without explicit approval from ratepayers.</p> <p>SG suggested that the Constables should write to the Guernsey Deanery (copying in P&R) explaining that when Rev Charmley leaves St Saviour the parish will not welcome a replacement Rector into St Saviour Rectory unless there is a fair financial arrangement in place with other parishes in plurality.</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed that the suggestion from SG should be adopted. The Constables will prepare a draft letter for agreement at the July meeting.</p> <p>La Houquette Swimming Pool.</p> <p>KdIM asked the Douzaine if they wished him to write to the Education Department in line with the request from the Schools Committee Member at the May meeting.</p> <p>The Douzaine confirmed that this was the case.</p>	<p>KdIM/NLP</p> <p>KdIM/NLP</p>
Waste Strategy	<p>KdIM reminded the Douzaine that email correspondence had been circulated following a meeting attended by JB, DB, JLL, KdIM and GC at the Vale Douzaine Room on 7th June 2017. The meeting had been called by the St Peter Port Constables to discuss the waste strategy. At that meeting it was decided to form a Douzaine Waste Strategy Group and it was hoped that all Douzaines would send one representative to meetings.</p> <p>Following the meeting Castel documented their concerns about the strategy – a position that St Andrew endorsed.</p> <p>The Douzaine confirmed their agreement with the position outlined by Castel’s Constables in an email to all parishes (9th June 2017).</p> <p>JB expressed concern that the strategy should remain within the £7 per week estimate that had previously been given by Deputy A Brouard (and the implementation team).</p> <p>SG suggested that the strategy should have included a ‘soft launch’ with one parish piloting the new strategy to iron out any problems before going island wide.</p> <p>KF explained that the logic behind the starting date for the new strategy in the middle of 2018 is simply because the disposal site at Mont Cuet is almost full and will be before the end of 2018.</p> <p>JB suggested that the Constables should set up a meeting with the Waste Strategy implementation team so that the Douzaine could hear the proposals and voice their concerns.</p> <p>The Douzaine agreed that the Constables should arrange a meeting, as suggested by JB, for the Douzaine Meeting on 31st July.</p> <p><i>Subsequently this meeting was arranged for Monday 3rd July 2017.</i></p> <p>KdIM asked the Douzaine if there would be merit in the proposed Douzaine Waste Strategy Group.</p> <p>DB said that he could not see this new group adding any value to the debate.</p> <p>KF said that she had been to meeting where waste was discussed by the Guernsey Douzaine council and/or the Douzaine Liaison Group and believes that this is the correct format to progress the matter.</p> <p>The Douzaine unanimously agreed the St Saviour should not be a member of the proposed Douzaine Waste Strategy Group and that the Constables should email all parishes to confirm that St Saviour agrees with the points made in Castel’s email (9th June 2017) and that St Saviour will not be a member of the proposed Douzaine Waste Strategy</p>	<p>KdIM/NLP</p>

	Group. (Email sent 27 th June 2017)	KdIM/NLP
Parochial Church Property Law 2015	KdIM advised the Douzaine that part of the new law concerning Parochial Church Property was enacted on 22 nd June 2017, with the remainder taking effect from early in 2018. He suggested that the implementation of the requirements of this legislation should be managed by the Property Committee. The Douzaine agreed that this should be the case. KdIM agreed to provide all members of the Committee with a copy of the law.	KdIM/NLP
Delivery of Health and Social Care	DB advised the Douzaine that he had attended a recent meeting held by the Committee for Health and Social Care and that he found it to have been of great interest adding that the format that was adopted allowed those present to feel that they had contributed to the debate on future care for all aspects of health care. The data collected would now be analysed before any decisions were made.	
Perelle Bay	NLP reported that after drawn out discussions with States Works Department the Department has now agreed that every effort will be made to return storm debris to the base of the sea wall defences as requested by the Douzaine (and residents in the Perelle Bay area).	
Environment Department	There were no requests for the Constables to obtain any planning applications (not already requested).	
Hedges and Streams Inspections	KdIM advised that, with the exception of Les Jenemies – (which will take place on 27 th June) all hedges and streams inspections are complete. Douzeniers commented that they found that, generically, there were more properties that had not cut hedges well or collected the cuttings resulting in the Constables having to send out more letters requesting remedial action. It was commented that it seemed not to be only in St Saviour, but that the situation seemed to be similar in all of the western parishes.	
Parish Rates	KdIM advised that approximately 60% of the 2017 parish rates has been paid, with the due date not being until 30 th June 2017.	
Correspondence	None	
Any other Business	Ruette Tranquille Signage. KdIM said that a Douzenier from St Pierre Du Bois had complained that the signs indicating 'Ruette Tranquille' roads in St Saviour had both St Saviour's and St Pierre du Bois' crests on them. KdIM said that he had taken note of the signs and could not see that any were as described and neither could he see any problems with the signs in general. He asked Douzeniers if they had seen any problems or had there been any complaints from parishioners. The general feeling was that there was no problem and nothing to complain about. Floral St Saviour. KdIM commented that the efforts of the Parish's Floral Group had produced an excellent result in many parts of the parish. The Community Centre, in particular, was very colourful and he commended the volunteers for their work, a view unanimously endorsed by the Douzaine. Changes to St Saviour's Community Centre Trust and Articles. JB asked if there had been any progress with amending these documents. AT said that he had been in email correspondence in 2016 when he was Constable and had not been made aware of any update since then. KdIM agreed to contact the Advocate concerned to request an update. <i>The Advocate was subsequently contacted via email on 29th June 2017.</i>	

	There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm	
	The next meeting is to be held at the Douzaine Room at 7.00pm on Monday 31 st July 2017.	