

Paroisse de Saint Sauveur
Minutes of the Douzaine Meeting held in the Lihou Room at the Community Centre at
7.00pm on Monday 25th September 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), Miss M Macdonald (MM), Messrs A Tempest (AT), and N Le Poidevin (NLP) (Senior Constable – presiding).</p> <p>Mr G Chapman (GC), Parish Secretary was present to record the minutes.</p>	
Apologies	Mr P Duquemin (PD).	
Billet d'Etat	<p>Deputy A Dudley-Owen (ADO) was welcomed to the meeting (by NLP) to discuss forthcoming States' business.</p> <p>ADO suggested that there were two 'big ticket' items on the agenda for the next States' Meeting, The L'Ancrese anti-tank wall (sea defences) and Education, adding that she was willing to discuss any other matters that the Douzaine wished.</p> <p>Anti-Tank Wall at the eastern end of L'Ancrese Bay.</p> <p>AT suggested to ADO that to demolish part of the Anti-Tank wall which has in effect become part of the sea defences might well set a precedent for other parts of the island should maintenance become necessary. He believes the wall should be kept and maintained, a view supported by RdG who questioned how much sand had been removed by the German Army who would have used sea sand in the making of their concrete.</p> <p>ADO expressed similar concerns about the removal of the wall asking if there had been the appropriate investigations into the foundations below the existing wall and area behind it on the land side.</p> <p>KF asked about implications to other parts of the island citing the wall at Fermain Bay as an example.</p> <p>ADO said that there has been many references to 'storm surges' and 'a one in one hundred year event' but there is a suspicion that these events are becoming more regular, - what if one (one in a hundred year event) is followed very closely by another? This proposal is a huge step into the unknown.</p> <p>AF said that it was not a sea defence but an anti –tank wall built below high water mark.</p> <p>ADO commented that that she has seen no compelling evidence to suggest that the dunes and sandy bay were ever as is being suggested.</p> <p>SG asked how it is that the only time there ever seems to be debate by People's Deputies, on any subject, is only after a Committee publishes proposals about a matter. This suggests to him that Committees are dysfunctional.</p> <p>ADO agreed –up to a point – adding that this was the system of government that had been agreed by previous States' decisions. It is a system that she believes is overly costly in time and money. By having members of the Policy & Resources (P&R) Department who are not Presidents of the main States Committees means that it is often difficult to agree a collective position prior to proposals being published. ADO added that, in her view, it was unwise to give each member of P&R an uplift in their salary simply for being a member of that Department. The constitution of P&R is flawed.</p> <p>DB suggested that if the proposals are simply delayed to allow more 'experts' to offer yet more opinions it would not be long before the States</p>	

has spent another £1 million on this matter. He said that a decision needs to be made one way or another.

AT agreed with DB asking where, if it was agreed that additional research should be sought, the funding would come from.

ADO expressed support for the view that a decision should be made one way or another, adding that she did not know where the funding for further research would come from, but presumed it would be from the Environment Department's existing budget, adding that this should be an important factor considered when Deputies bring forward a sursis.

KF asked if there was any assurance that removal of the wall would not, one day, impact on the viability of the golf course.

ADO said that she has no doubt that the consultancy work was thorough but in the end there were no guarantees offered.

JB asked why, when costs of maintenance are put at £150k, the Department is proposing to spend over £1 million to remove it.

SG suggested that the Department believes the wall to be structurally unsound and that it will require ongoing maintenance work.

JB said that this viewpoint is all very well but there is no guarantee that there will be no ongoing maintenance work to any new arrangement if the wall is removed, a view supported by AT.

RdG said that he saw little point in delaying the matter until 2020 and starting the process all over again.

JB said removal of the anti-tank wall would – in his opinion – no doubt lead to a request for a future States to fund a new sea wall as a defence to erosion of L'Ancrese Common.

ADO said that every bay has different wave structures and that there remain many unknown factors, suggesting that the States should be 'cheeky' and apply to the German Government for a contribution towards the costs. As ADO understands the position, the German Government has a fund to make compensation payments for certain acts done in the name of the German people during the second world war, for all the States knows there may well be funding available.

Funding for the Independent Colleges.

ADO started the debate by suggesting that the model that was currently being presented as a solution – that of providing bursaries – would be difficult to support because it would only be targeted at a very few people in specific socio economic groups and who might well be less inclined to attend the colleges in any event. ADO added that the Colleges, collectively, had been very poor in negotiation with the Department because they did not argue strongly and robustly.

KF asked ADO why she had been prevented from taking part in the discussions within the Education Department.

ADO said that this was on the advice of the Procureur because it was considered that because she has children attending a College she might be biased in her view. ADO had contended that she would be no less biased that another person who was vehemently opposed to the Colleges existence. The President (with the agreement of ADO) requested that ADO be allowed to contribute to the debate without having a vote on the matter, suggesting that ADO had much to offer in the debate, but the legal people would not allow this.

MM said that the legal advice was ridiculous. Almost everyone has an opinion concerning education. Why is it that a member of the Department can be opposed to the existence of the Colleges and allowed to take part in the debate and also vote on the proposals but someone with a different viewpoint is prevented from doing so?

DB suggested that if the current arrangements for funding the Colleges is discontinued then the Colleges would become elitist establishments. ADO said that she feared this might well be the case but currently none of the Colleges have a waiting list. Despite this she believes that some politicians are 'mischief making'.

MM said that school size is critical to the provision of satisfactory educational outcomes. It has been shown (in the UK) that successful comprehensive schools have a school roll of approximately 1000 students. This provides for a diverse curriculum at a reasonable cost. MM does not believe it possible to provide a wide curriculum at reasonable cost in small schools, this is why smaller rural schools offer a limited curriculum. If Guernsey is determined to introduce comprehensive education it has to be with the intention of providing the best educational outcomes for students, even if this means having two larger schools, and not simply to achieve some political ideological objective.

ADO said that she is fearful that in the minds of some Deputies decisions will be made by choosing whichever the cheaper option is, or because of some political objective and not on educational outcomes.

SG asked ADO which way she believed the debate would conclude.

ADO suggested that the eventual outcome would be that an amendment placed by Deputy St Pier would be supported in some form.

SG concluded the debate by saying that the unfortunate truth about those Deputies who voted to change a successful system was that none of them were completely sure what it would be replaced with, - in educational terms it was a complete leap of faith into the unknown.

Flooding at Rue des Crabbes.

AT asked ADO to look into the matter of potential flooding at Rue des Crabbes. He pointed out that since the airport redevelopment surface water run-off is mostly channelled through St Saviour, - very little now goes over the south coast cliffs. This is causing a major flooding risk to properties in the lower part of the parish in the Rue des Crabbes area. There is a very unsatisfactory part of the drainage system whereby on the landward side of the roadway there is a 12 inch drainage pipe but on the seaward side the drainage pipe is only 9 inch. This causes a bottleneck and build-up of surface water in times of significant rainfall. Traffic and Highways Services have indicated that there will be work in the area early in 2018 which will involve resurfacing etc. In February 2017 the Douzaine suggested (to the Department) that the 2018 work would be an ideal opportunity to upgrade the drainage arrangements. It took the Department until August (with reminders from the Constables) to advise that improvements would not be included, - only repair and replacement of existing arrangements would be effected. AT asked ADO if she would look into the matter on behalf of parishioners.

ADO agreed to do so and report back to the Douzaine.

DB said that the Rue du Camp du Douit had been dredged some time ago to help the flow of water in times of excess rainfall.

NLP said that it was likely that he would be writing again to the Department and it was agreed to make a copy of this letter available to ADO and other western Deputies.

Timing of States' Meetings.

NLP asked the Douzaine if there was any support for Deputy de Lisle's proposal to revert States Meetings to the last Wednesday of each month. RdG and JB supported the proposal.

SG suggested that there were many more important matters for the

NLP

	States to deal with and direct their energy towards and this was the view of the majority of the Douzaine. NLP thanked ADO for attending the meeting and ADO left at 7.45pm.	
Resignation of Constable.	NLP reminded the Douzaine that the Dean had received written notice from Mr K de la Mare indicating his wish to resign the position of Constable, effective from 26 th August 2017.	
Minutes of the Meeting held on 31 st July 2017	The minutes of the meeting held on 31 st July 2017 were agreed and signed by NLP.	
Matters Arising	<p>2016 Refuse Overcharge. NLP confirmed that, at long last, the States of Guernsey Trading Assets have made the refund of £2,354 and credited this sum to the Constables trading account.</p> <p>Rue des Crabbes Surface Water. Although this had been referred to whilst ADO was present NLP reminded the Douzaine that PD had drafted (and circulated) a letter of response to Traffic and Highways Services. The Douzaine agreed that a letter (expressing the sentiment in the draft) should be sent and also circulated to western Deputies.</p> <p>Plurality. AT reported that he and RdG had met with Reverend T Barker (TB) (Dean of Guernsey) to discuss 'plurality' and the matter of housing a Rector when he/she was responsible for more than one parish. TB expressed sympathy for the position of St Saviour adding that he fully understood the position, but that the matter is one for the secular authorities. As the law stands parishes have to house a Church of England Rector, - until this changes the position is quite clear. KF said that a Guernsey Press report (18th September 2017) with suggestions (from the Vice Dean of Torteval) that St Saviour has 'not spent sufficient to resolve many of the issues associated with large old buildings' (referring to the St Saviour's Rectory) is completely erroneous. Recent parish Remedies will show that there has been ongoing maintenance of the Rectory, and the Torteval Douzaine, having not visited the St Saviour's Rectory, could have no knowledge of the condition of the building and have no authority to suggest otherwise. AT said that he had been contacted by a St Pierre du Bois Douzenier asking if St Saviour would support an initiative (from Torteval and St Pierre du Bois) that would seek to change the law so that the Church of England would have to pay a commercial rent to parishes that housed the Rector in parish owned property. AT suggested that St Pierre du Bois should write to all parishes, outlining their proposal, to determine the level of support. The Douzaine agreed that the law as it stands is outdated and clearly favours the Church of England. Other denominations have to make their own financial provision from sources other than taxation. It was agreed to wait to see if any firm proposal was forthcoming.</p>	NLP
Parish Elections	<p>NLP reminded Douzeniers that parish elections would take place on 1st November 2017. Nomination forms would be available from the office, RdG or NLP.</p> <p>Church Property Management Boards. NLP has now received guidance from the Principle Officer at Strategy and Policy which says that nominations for positions on these Boards will be informal and are expected to be made 'from the floor' at parish meetings held in March, April or May each year.</p>	

Waste Strategy	<p>NLP advised the meeting that Trading Assets are holding a meeting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 4th October 2017 to outline further proposals for the implementation of the new waste strategy in 2018.</p> <p>DB, RdG, AT, SG and NLP confirmed that they would be interested in attending.</p> <p>Collection of Refuse.</p> <p>NLP said that Castel had made an enquiry to establish if St Saviour would be interested in investigating the potential of joining with Castel, and possibly other parishes, to determine if there were efficiencies to be gained from joint collections.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Constable should discuss the matter with the St Saviour's contractor and report back to the Douzaine before any decision is made.</p> <p><i>Subsequently NLP contacted the contractor who confirmed that this is something he is already considering. Currently he collects from St Andrew, St Martin and the Vale as well as St Saviour and he is investigating the potential for collecting from more than one parish on the same night. He is also talking to other contractors about the potential to share vehicles.</i></p>	NLP
Environment Department	There were no requests for copies of planning applications.	
St Saviour's Community Centre (SSCC)	<p>NLP advised the Douzaine that the Property Sub Committee had met on 29th August 2017 with the Trustees of SSCC. The Trustees advised the Committee that they wished to submit a new planning application for the Phase 3 development of SSCC, - the new plans reducing the potential cost to approximately £500k.</p> <p>The Committee had agreed that the Trustees could submit the application which would, if approved, see a lower roofed, timber clad building constructed on the site of the old swimming pool. A pre application meeting with the Planning Service had indicated that the plans were likely to be approved.</p>	
Scrutiny of Planning Applications	<p>DB suggested to the Douzaine that planning applications for larger developments should be scrutinised by more than 3 Douzeniers representing the Canton in which the proposed development is situated. It was recognised that such arrangements might prove difficult to arrange with the need to reply to the Planning Service within 21 days.</p> <p>DB suggested, and proposed (seconded by KF) that when there is an application for more than two buildings to be built on a site the Senior Cantonier should arrange to view the plans at a specified time and place and circulate this information to all Douzeniers. Those who wished to view the application would have the opportunity to do so.</p> <p>The proposal was unanimously agreed.</p>	NLP
Bornement	The Douzaine agreed that the Constable should issue a bornement in respect of building work to be carried out at Route de Perelle	NLP
Rules of Procedure	<p>DB suggested to the Douzaine that it would be good governance to review the rules annually to ensure that they are fit for purpose. There was no opposition expressed.</p> <p>DB then proposed (seconded by JB) that the rules should be reviewed annually at the December meeting and the proposal was unanimously agreed.</p>	NLP
Guernsey Liaison Group	KF outlined discussions surrounding waste strategy, data protection, church property and high hedges. Further guidance on all of the matters will be made available to Parish Constables in the near future.	

St Saviour's Tunnels	<p>NLP confirmed that the Planning Service has withdrawn the requirement to make a retrospective planning application in respect of the boundary wall that was constructed (within the tunnel complex) at the beginning of 2017. However, they are insisting that an application should be made for permission from the Building Regulator. This application requires an engineer's report and other technical documents and this has now all been completed at a cost of almost £800.</p> <p>Annual Inspection. RdG confirmed that when the tunnels were visited (to enable the engineer to compile his report for the above application) he and NLP took the opportunity to carry out the annual inspection. The tunnels were found to be in a satisfactory condition and did not present any obvious cause for concern.</p>	
Hedges and streams Inspections	<p>NLP asked Douzeniers to make their own arrangements to carry out inspections adding that any letters requesting property owners to carry out remedial action would be sent out in the week commencing 16th October 2017.</p> <p>NLP asked that the abbeveurs should be checked to establish if any maintenance is required.</p> <p>JB asked that Douzeniers also keep look out for hornet's nests.</p>	
Parish Rates	<p>NLP said that there are currently 4 outstanding accounts totalling almost £400;-</p> <p>NLP is confident that he will be able to recover three of them, one being paid by instalments, one will be settled by Advocates once a legal matter concerning ownership has been resolved and one NLP believes he will recover as soon as he can effect a meeting with the owner. The final property owner has promised to pay the account but has not done so. The Finance Sub Committee has agreed to resort to the Petty Debts Court to recover the sum owed.</p>	
Correspondence	<p>Rue des Longs Camps NLP advised the Douzaine that he has been asked by a land owner (in dispute with the Planning Service) in Rue des Longs Camps to confirm that a field has been used for agricultural purposes (keeping of livestock – chickens, turkeys and other small animals). AT confirmed that this has been the case for many years with a boundary fence of chicken wire supported by wooden posts.</p> <p>Les Islet Arsenal. NLP advised that RG Falla will be commencing work to build 3 houses and 6 flats at Les Islets Arsenal in October 2017 with completion expected in October 2018.</p>	
Any other Business	<p>Church Property. RdG asked for authorisation to engage architects (CCD) to produce quinquennial reports on the condition of the Church and Rectory. He indicated that previously the reports cost in the region of £3k each. The Douzaine agreed that it was essential that these reports were provided in order to plan the necessary maintenance.</p> <p>Sous L'Eglise – Parking. KF said that she has been made aware of (what some parishioners have described as) dangerous parking in Route de Sous L'Eglise. This is on a sharp bend outside a property that is currently undergoing building work and it is assumed that the parked cars are those of tradesmen carrying out the work.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Constable should write to the owners offering the use of up to 5 parking spaces at the car park to the new cemetery, -</p>	

	which is only a short walk from the property. Hopefully the owners will take up this offer and the problem will no longer exist.	NLP
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm	
	The next meeting is to be held at the Douzaine Room at 7.00pm on Monday 30 th October 2017.	