

Paroisse de Saint Sauveur
Minutes of the Douzaine Meeting held in the Lihou Room at the Community Centre at
6.45pm on Monday 30th October 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), Mr 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).	
Matters Arising	<p>Church Property Management Board. NLP reminded the Douzaine that the June 2017 meeting had agreed that the Property Sub Committee would oversee the transfer of the current arrangements to the Church Property Management Board. Since the new Board will not be constituted until after the April 2018 Parish Meeting it was agreed that the Churchwardens should prepare the Ecclesiastical budget for 2018.</p>	RdG
Billet d'Etat	<p>At 6.50pm NLP welcomed Deputy S Langlois to the meeting to discuss forthcoming States business.</p> <p>2018 Budget. SL said that the proposals in the 2018 budget were not hugely exciting, - personal income tax allowances are to rise, the 0-10 tax arrangements are being extended to include more sectors of the finance industry, and there are to be increases in the tax on motor fuel and alcohol. It was pleasing to see £5 million going into the core investment fund, but SL noted that this was largely because the Social Security grant of £4.9 million was being foregone in 2018. SG asked SL what his view was concerning the Education Budget for 2018. SL said that it was difficult to answer such a question until the provision for secondary education had been determined – would there be 2 or 3 secondary schools and what would be the cost of provision? SL said that he favours the 3 school option but added that if the Education Department was starting from scratch, - in that they were developing an estate of schools without reference to the existing buildings – he would probably favour the 2 school option. SL said that he could not see a satisfactory way of extending the existing buildings to accommodate 2 secondary schools to cater for the needs of 11 to 18 education. KF said that she believed that Guernsey students should have the best education outcomes possible and (now that a decision has been reached to remove selection at age 11) to achieve the best outcome schools should provide 11 – 18 education. The best comprehensive schools in the UK are those that provide this and Guernsey students deserve no less. SL said that it would not be easy to rearrange the Department's estate to accommodate these needs. KF said that in her view it would be possible to make the necessary arrangements to reorganise the estate but because it might be more difficult the Department were seeking the 'easy option'. JB said that there are currently 3 schools in existence and these should be used without the need for great expenditure.</p>	

MM said that she agrees with the views expressed by KF. The weakness of 11 – 16 secondary schools is that there are no peers above the age of 16. To achieve the best outcome for students it is necessary to provide secondary schools for 11- 18 year old students with an appropriate choice of curriculum. The curriculum at three 11-16 secondary schools would be, by necessity (because of their size) restricted.

SL said that he did not dispute what MM was saying adding that this would be his preferred option if there was a 'blank piece of paper'. Since we are where we are, SL cannot see an easy way to reorganise and in some cases extend such facilities as school halls and gymnasiums.

JB said that he has seen in the media reference to the Department asking for £120 million whereas previously he understood the cost of rebuilding La Mare de Carteret High School to be in the region of £70 million.

SL said that reference to £120 million included costs of improvements to the facilities for the College of Further Education.

KF said that in her view it is paramount to ensure the best educational outcomes for students and it costs what it costs – surely there is funding available to ensure that it is provided.

SL said that that the budget allowed for £53 million to go into the capital reserve fund and that this fund was in a healthy position. This fund, as SL understands, is in a healthy state and agreed that if the funds were to be spent on anything then education would seem to be a wise choice. The debate is due to take place in the States on 17th December 2017 and, hopefully, a firm decision will be made.

AF asked if SL believed there to be any substance to suggestions that La Houquette and Forest primary schools were to close and the students moved to Les Beaucamps.

SL said that he believed there to be a lot of scaremongering going on, for whatever reasons, but that he did not believe this would become a serious proposal.

SG asked SL if he believed the Department would stick to the revenue budget.

SL admitted to 'not being the biggest fan of the Education Department' but added that they were now being pilloried – unjustly in his view. He said that it is simply not easy to make savings at a time of great change, as proved the case with the Health Department a few years ago – but now that the Health Department has settled down they seem to be within budget. SL could see no reason why the same would not be the case once the Education Department has achieved the changes that the States will direct them to do following the debate on 17th December.

Social Security – Benefit and Contribution Rates.

SL said that benefits would rise by RPIX in 2018.

Referendum on Island Wide Voting.

SL said that the States was being given 3 choices:-

1. The result should be binding if more than 40% of the electorate vote
2. The result should be binding no matter how many vote
3. The result should not be binding, the States should decide.

SG asked SL if this subject is actually one that islanders talk to politicians about.

SL said that it was not, although some politicians had built their careers around the matter. Anyone who believes that reform of the voting system will change things for the better is wrong.

RdG suggested that the western parishes might end up with no political representation, a view supported by JB.

	<p>SL said that he had suggested that if (as he believes will be the case) the Western Electoral district votes to confirm that they are happy with the current arrangements, then the West should be allowed to do so.</p> <p>NLP said that it is firmly his view that the island should stick with the current voting arrangements – he cannot see that Island Wide Voting will improve the ability of the candidates, so it would be change for change sake.</p> <p>SL left the meeting at 7.25pm.</p>	
Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 th September 2017	The minutes of the meeting held on 25 th September 2017 were agreed and signed by NLP.	
Matters Arising	<p>Flooding at Rue des Crabbes.</p> <p>NLP updated the Douzaine concerning the arrangements for road works (early in 2018) at Rue des Crabbes and the impact on the drainage arrangements in the area.</p> <p>At a recent meeting with Traffic and Highways Services and Guernsey Water it was agreed that improvements would take place with the positioning of a second pipe under the roadway and improvements to drainage channels. (Copy of confirmation email from Traffic and Highways Services attached to these minutes)</p>	
Parish Elections	<p>NLP reminded the Douzaine that elections for parish officials would take place on Wednesday 1st November At 7.00pm.</p> <p>There has been one nomination for Constable (one vacancy) four nominations for Douzenier (five vacancies) and one nomination for La Mare de Carteret High School Committee Member (one vacancy).</p> <p>NLP confirmed that he would be absent from the Island on 1st November and said that the 1948 Reform Law allowed for the Douzaine to appoint a returning officer for the Douzeniers election if there was no Constable available. The Douzaine appointed RdG as the returning officer for the Douzeniers election.</p>	RdG
Waste Strategy	NLP updated the Douzaine following his attendance at a presentation by the Waste Disposal Authority concerning the implementation of the new waste strategy in 2018. He said that it had been less than beneficial as he had learnt nothing more than the information previously available.	
Planning Department	There were no requests for copies of planning applications.	
Bornement Application	The Douzaine approved an application for a bornement in connection with work at Rue des Trepieds.	NLP
Jurat Election	RdG agreed to represent the Parish at the States of Election on Wednesday 29 th November 2018.	RdG
Dates of Douzaine Meetings	<p>NLP pointed out that in January 2016 the Douzaine had agreed that Douzaine Meetings would be held on the last Monday of each month. This changed the arrangement whereby the meetings would be on the Monday preceding the monthly States Meeting because the States had changed the regularity of their meetings.</p> <p>However, the September 2017 States Meeting had reversed this decision and decided that from September 2018 the States would revert to meeting every last Wednesday of each month.</p> <p>The Douzaine confirmed that with effect from September 2018 Douzaine meetings would, therefore, revert to being on the Monday preceding the monthly States meeting.</p> <p>The only change for the previously agreed 2018 meeting dates would be that the October 2018 would now be on 22nd instead of 29th.</p>	

Hedges Inspections	Douzeniers confirmed that re-inspections of hedges had taken place in Les Jenemies, Le Gron and Les Prevosts Cantons. AF confirmed that the re-inspections for Les Rouvets Canton would take place on 4 th November.	AF
Streams Inspections	Douzeniers confirmed that all streams re-inspections had taken place and that there were no problems.	
Abbreveurs	NLP said that he had had no reports (from Douzeniers) suggesting that there was any maintenance needed on any abbreveur. AF commented that the abbreveur at Les Padins had no water in it. DB said that this has been the case for many years and when he was Constable (2014) he had had discussions with the farmer who owned adjacent land and Guernsey Water. Neither party appeared to be concerned about the matter.	
Dangerous Tree	NLP said that he had been approached by the manager of St Saviour's Community Centre (SSCC) asking the Constables for support (as landlord of the Community Centre property). SSCC management are concerned that there is a tree on property immediately adjacent to the SSCC upper car park that looks to be dead or diseased and (in high winds) might pose a danger to users of the Centre. SSCC has written (on 5 th September 2017) to the owner of the land on which the tree stands but to date has received no communication in response. The Douzaine agreed that the Constable should write to the landowner asking the matter be attended to as a matter of urgency.	NLP
Parish Rates	NLP said that he was now satisfied that all accounts would be paid in full. The only one that was fully outstanding concerned an estate that was currently in uncertain ownership, but that he has been assured by the advocate acting on behalf of the estate that payment will be made in full once legal matters have been clarified.	
Correspondence	None	
Any other Business	Message of Condolence. RdG wished to place on record that the Douzaine offered their condolences to Mrs K Fooks who had recently lost her husband Colin. Remembrance Services 2017. RdG advised Douzeniers that the 2017 services would be at St Pierre du Bois on Saturday 11 th November at 7.30pm and at St Saviour on Sunday 12 th at 9.30am. Rectory Boiler. RdG reported that (at the time of the annual service) there has been a leak identified in the boiler at the Rectory. A temporary repair has been carried out but the recommendation is that it should be replaced. It was agreed that RdG should obtain 3 quotations for the work and include the replacement costs in the 2018 Ecclesiastical Remede proposals. Douzaine Christmas Dinner. JB asked if any arrangements had been made for the Douzaine Christmas meal. It was agreed that it was too late to make any arrangements for 2017 but, that it was to be hoped that it would be organised in 2018. Douzaine Photographs. DB suggested, and the Douzaine agreed, that individual copies of the photograph should be paid for by those who wanted one. Douzaine agreement with SSCC LBG. JB asked what progress was being made with updating the agreement. NLP confirmed that the law firm concerned were doing the work free of	RdG

	<p>charge but that it would be when they had time available. JB said that he would prefer that the parish paid for the work if it meant it would be completed sooner. It was agreed that the Constable would seek clarification as to when the document might be expected.</p> <p>Montebourg Society. MM invited all Douzeniers and family members to a social function of the St Saviour/Montebourg Society – to be held at the Community Centre at 12.30pm on Saturday 18th November 2017.</p>	NLP
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm	
	The next meeting is to be held at the Douzaine Room at 7.00pm on Monday 27 th November 2017.	