

Paroisse de Saint Sauveur  
Minutes of the Douzaine Meeting held in the Lihou Room at the Community Centre at  
7.00pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Present	Messrs D Bertrand (DB), J Brache (JB), M de Garis (MdG), R de Garis (RdG), Mrs K Fooks (KF), Messrs S Gibbs (SG), J Gillson (JG), P Harris (PH), P Connolly (PC) and N Le Poidevin (NLP) (Senior Constable – presiding).	
Apologies	Mrs C Connolly (CC), and Mr J Norman (JN)	
Billet D’Etat	<p>Deputy D de Lisle (DDL) attended the meeting to discuss forthcoming States’ business.</p> <p><b>States Accounts.</b></p> <p>DDL highlighted that the States’ accounts for 2017 showed a significant improvement on the previous year with a surplus of over £100 million. Much of this was because allocated funds had not been spent (La Mare de Carteret School rebuild for example) but over £21 million available and this money will be allocated at the end of 2018 when the budget for 2019 is announced. DDL suggested that the money could be used for additional personal tax allowances, to top up reserves, for economic development or improving infrastructure, adding that he would like to see some used to increase personal allowances.</p> <p>JB asked how much of the surplus was a ‘one off’ benefit, and DDL confirmed that this was about 50%.</p> <p>SG said that one or two good years does not indicate a trend. With half of the surplus being a ‘one off’ he could not support any expense that would be an ongoing (annual) revenue expense, - to do so would be an unwise commitment for future years. However, it could be beneficial to use the funds for capital expense projects, but he would prefer to see the money used to replenish the reserve funds that have been significantly reduced over recent years.</p> <p>JB agreed with SG’s comments adding that it would not be sensible to spend surplus funds until it was clear how the UK’s ‘Brexit’ would impact on the island.</p> <p>DDL commented that he was disappointed to learn that the full time equivalent staff numbers had increased by 60.</p> <p>SG asked if this was because the Health Department has taken on more permanent nursing staff as opposed to using agency staff. DDL confirmed that this was part of the reason and agreed with SG that these permanent staff were significantly less costly than agency staff and was therefore a sensible way to proceed.</p> <p>The Douzaine unanimously opposed any suggestion that the surplus funds should be used for revenue expenditure and would support any proposal to use the funds to replenish the States’ reserves.</p> <p><b>Social Security – Longer Working.</b></p> <p>DDL reminded the Douzaine that there is currently a review into how the working population can extend the working years and how this will impact on pensions in payment (currently over 18,000 annually). This review would focus on the age at which the State pension should be paid (it is currently rising to 70) and what the pension contributions should be. DDL said that he would oppose any proposal that required pensioners to increase contributions or to reduce benefits currently paid to them. DDL added that he understands part of the review will include whether those who need long term care should have to pay for the provision of their accommodation whilst receiving care, something he is against –</p>	

believing that this is something that should be paid for by social security contributions.

PH said that currently, in the UK, those who are retired are not required to pay National Insurance contributions.

**Air and Sea Connectivity.**

DB asked if States' Members are actively trying to solve the connectivity concerns, in particular the uncertainty over the future ownership of Condor Ferries.

DDL said that he understood that there has been a 2 year extension agreed with the fund that owns Condor and that it will not now expire until 2020. He also understands that negotiations are ongoing with a potential new owner.

SG asked if DDL considered that the States might purchase the company if there was no-one else interested.

DDL said that in that event they would have to and he is confident that this is something that is currently under consideration.

DDL asked if the Douzaine has a view on the partial 'open skies' policy that is being proposed for air transport.

JB said that he believes it is wrong and that the local companies should be protected from the larger operators coming in and 'cherry picking' the lucrative summer months leaving residents with a very poor or no service in the winter.

PH agreed with JB citing what happened in the Isle of Man (reduced services) as an example.

SG said that there are more important things for the States to deal with than air links and they should leave the licencing system as it is.

DDL said that he is aware that at least one Deputy is looking at using 107 metres of 'reserve land' at the eastern end of the runway to extend the operating length of the runway to 1,570 metres, thereby allowing the Airbus aircraft to land with a full load.

JB said that he understood this land to be part of the recognised safety area for emergencies and did not believe that it could be used as part of the runway.

DDL said that he believes that with the 'open skies' policy the island will benefit from up to 40,000 additional seats annually.

SG said that bankrupting current operators is not the answer.

PH said that competition on the Gatwick route resulted in Flybe having to sell their 'slots' at that airport to remain a viable company and did not believe there would be long term benefits from the proposal.

There was no support from the Douzaine for the 'open skies' proposal.

**Economic Development Strategy.**

DDL said that he is disappointed that the States seems to be focusing on increasing social benefits and that there has been little progress on the 20 focus areas identified by the Department.

The Douzaine agreed that there should be more emphasis and staff resources focused on areas that could produce economic benefit in the short to medium term.

DDL said that the Department hopes to concentrate on sea and air connectivity, to support the finance industry, to enhance the town seafront and to improve tourist areas.

DB said that much of this has been talked about for years with nothing achieved.

JB asked why there is a perceived need to enhance the seafront – St Peter Port is very attractive as it is.

DDL agreed that it is important to concentrate resources on achievable

	objectives instead of long term strategy plans. DDL left the meeting at 7.35pm.	
Minutes of meeting held on 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2018.	The minutes were agreed without amendment and signed by NLP.	
Matters Arising	<p><b>Cemetery Car Park.</b> NLP said that he now has the necessary documents and will be arranging for the disposal of the abandoned car as soon as possible.</p> <p><b>Montebourg Association – Memorabilia.</b> KF reported that the Church Property Management board has considered where to house the memorabilia and the Community Centre management will discuss the matter with the Association.</p> <p><b>La Houquette School Swimming Pool.</b> NLP confirmed that he has received a holding reply to his letter and been promised that the Department will look into the matter and give a more definitive response in due course.</p> <p><b>Parish Volunteers, Douzenier Vacancies.</b> NLP said that a 'flyer' had been included with every rates account (sent to a St Saviour address) asking if anyone would consider giving their time as a parish official or with other voluntary work for the parish. The Constables have not had, (and NLP is not aware that anyone else has had) a single reply. DB said that the 1948 Reform Law requires the Constables and Douzaine to advertise for nominations for the vacant positions (currently 2) for Douzenier. NLP said that this will be an expensive process if it does not produce any candidates. It was agreed that the Constables should check the requirements of the law and take the appropriate action. It was also suggested that an article in the Guernsey Press might be more productive.</p>	<p>NLP</p> <p>NLP/PC</p>
Refuse	<p><b>New Refuse Strategy.</b> SG explained that the new strategy is on course to commence on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2018 and that during July all households will receive the food and glass waste disposal containers necessary for the new system. The Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) will be conducting a process to educate householders about how the collections will work. SG demonstrated the food waste caddies and the sample will be available for inspection in the Constables' Office. The WDA are going to have 'roadshows' to publicise the strategy and asked if St Saviour would like one to be held at SSCC. It was agreed that the WDA should be asked to liaise with the Centre manager about the possibility of holding an information day at SSCC.</p> <p><b>New Refuse Contract.</b> The new contract has been prepared but cannot be signed until the opening times at the waste disposal facility are confirmed. This is currently subject to a planning application. If the application is refused the contract will have to be renegotiated because it will cause the contractor to take more time to complete the collections.</p> <p><b>Days and Times of Refuse Collection.</b> NLP advised the Douzaine that the new law requires the Douzaine to publish the day for refuse collection, the time(s) that refuse can be put out for collection and the consequences for failing to do so correctly. He suggested that the time should be no sooner than 3 hours before sunset.</p>	<p>NLP/PC</p> <p>NLP/PC</p>

	<p>The day will be overnight on Thursday (as at present). The Douzaine agreed with NLP's suggestions and that a notice should be published in La Gazette and on the Douzaine website when the new law comes into force.</p> <p><b>Kerbside Collection of Recyclable Waste.</b> The Constables have had several complaints from householders that recyclable waste has not been collected. After consultation with the contractor it has been established that this is because there are 'contaminants' within the bag and that the WDA have given contractors instructions to put a sticker (on the bag) explaining why it was not collected. For example, many people put crisp packets into the blue bag recyclables, - these are a contaminant and cause the waste to be left behind. Previously, the contractor had been 'turning a blind eye' to such contamination but the WDA have advised that this is no longer acceptable. NLP suggested that this problem will likely get worse in the short term until householders become aware of the requirements.</p> <p><b>Bring Banks.</b> JB asked what was going to be the situation with the continued provision of 'bring banks' SG said that he imagined that the WDA would monitor the situation for a 12 month period and then, depending on usage decide how many should be maintained. He agreed to ask the question at the next meeting.</p>	NLP/PC
		SG
Douzaine Liaison Group (DLG) Meeting - Update	<p>KF provided an update on the most recent meeting – a copy of meeting notes is attached to these minutes.</p> <p><b>Guernsey Douzaine Council.</b> At the meeting, it was suggested that there was no longer a need to continue with the Guernsey Douzaine Council (GDC) meetings. KF and MdG (the previous St Saviour representative) both feel that it is not necessary and that the DLG fulfils the necessary function. The Douzaine agreed with KF and MdG, and KF will make this decision known to both the GDC and DLG.</p>	KF
St Saviour's Community Centre (SSCC) – New Trustee	<p>The SSCC Trustees have asked the Douzaine to appoint Mr R Murray as the fifth Trustee for the Centre. NLP circulated Mr Murray's cv. The Douzaine agreed that the cv was impressive, but no-one knew Mr Murray. It was agreed that Mr Murray should be asked to attend the July Douzaine meeting so that Douzeniers are able to 'put a face to the name', before formally agreeing to Mr Murray's appointment.</p>	NLP/PC
Planning Department	<p>There was no request to obtain further plans from the Planning Department.</p>	
Application for Bornements	<p>The Douzaine approved applications for bornements in respect of development work in Rue du Mont Saint and Rue Feveresse.</p>	
Rates Update	<p>NLP reported that just over half of the rates accounts have been settled.</p>	
Hedges and Streams Inspections	<p><b>Hedges.</b> NLP asked that when re-inspections take place any offending hedges should be photographed. MdG commented about some hedges not being cut properly at the bottom and asked if this should be identified separately. NLP said that if this is identified on the report sheet a letter will be sent with the appropriate wording.</p> <p><b>Streams.</b> NLP reminded Douzeniers that there is a need to report to Guernsey Water (at the end of June) about any streams that do not meet the necessary standard.</p>	

Correspondence	<p><b>Parish Flag at the Harbour.</b>  NLP said that he has been asked if St Saviour will contribute £250 and a parish flag towards an initiative to make Guernsey Harbour more attractive. Condor Ferries and the Harbour Authorities will also be contributing. The Douzaine has previously contributed to initiatives at the Hospital and Airport with funds being made available from the amelioration account. Amelioration Funds are to be used 'for the benefit of the parish as the Constables and Douzaine think fit'.  It was agreed that the Douzaine will provide the funds and flag as requested from the amelioration account.</p> <p><b>Enjoy Guernsey App.</b>  NLP reported that he has given approval for an app 'Enjoy Guernsey' to have a link to the Douzaine's web page. There is no cost to the parish.</p>	NLP/PC
Any Other Business	None	
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm	
	The next meeting is to be held at the Douzaine Room at 7.00pm on Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2018.	

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