

Paroisse de Saint Sauveur
Minutes of the Douzaine Meeting held in the Lihou Room at the Community Centre at
7.00pm on Monday 29th July 2019

Present	<p>Messrs K Ball (KB), D Bertrand, J Brache (JB), Mrs C Connolly (CC), Messrs M de Garis (MdG), R de Garis (RdG), Mrs K Fooks (KF), Messrs S Gibbs (SG), J Gillson (JG), P Harris (PH), J Liddy (JL), and P Connolly (PC) (Constable – presiding).</p> <p>Mr G Chapman (GC), Parish Secretary was present to record the minutes.</p>	
Apologies	<p>Messrs N Le Poidevin (NLP) and J Norman (JN)</p>	
Billet d'Etat	<p>Deputy S Langlois (SL) attended the meeting at 7.00pm to discuss forthcoming States business.</p> <p>Education. SL indicated that the Education, Sport and Culture committee (ESC) will be reporting to the states in September and seeking the funding for the development of the new secondary school model. He anticipated that some Deputies might even try and revisit the decision to abolish the eleven plus selection process but SL said he could not imagine the majority of States' Members agreeing to change course at this late stage. KF said that for the sake of all concerned there needs to be some certainty and this does not include another change of heart. RdG commented that he was surprised to learn that the College of Further Education would be requesting another large sum for redevelopment. SL said that this had always been part of the overall plan and that it was pleasing to see that the total predicted cost has come in lower than the original estimate. PH asked if there was any indication as to what the redundant school buildings would be used for. SL said he understood that there had been preliminary discussions with Health & Social Care about the potential use of the Grammar School site.</p> <p>Fiscal Policy Framework Review. SL said that he found this interesting because the States often sets rules about how money can be raised but then proceeds to ignore those very rules when it suits. He said that the per capita income for Guernsey is higher than the UK, and would like to see a consensus whereby the States made, and kept to, a fiscal rule about how much the States could borrow.</p> <p>Widows Pension. There is a requete requiring debate about changes to the widow's pension. SL said there are many misconceptions about this, the subject has been debated previously, and there are very few people affected by the changes. Therefore, SL does not expect any change to the previously agreed arrangements.</p> <p>Prison – Annual Report. SL said this was due to be an appendix to the Billet but at the request of some Deputies it will now be an item for debate. He expects one of the questions will be why Guernsey has a high prison population when compared to other parts of the UK.</p>	

	<p>SG suggested that the reason for the high numbers of prisoners is because Guernsey has a tough stance against illegal drugs adding that he could see little appetite for this policy to change any time soon. KF said that she believed a better way of looking at the prison numbers would be to see how many were re-offenders. If the number of re-offenders was low it would suggest that prison was working as a deterrent.</p> <p>SL agreed with SG saying that he could not see any appetite from Deputies to relax the rigorous stand against illegal drugs.</p> <p>PC thanked SL for attending an SL left the meeting at 7.15pm.</p>	
Minutes of meeting held on 24 th June 2019	The minutes were agreed without amendment and signed by PC.	
Matters Arising	<p>La Grande Rue Car Park.</p> <p>PC reminded the Douzaine that the June meeting asked the Constables to write to the Planning Department concerning the complaints some parish officials are receiving about the 'derelict' cars arriving on the site of the former St Saviour's Tavern Car Park. PC said that it has been established that the use category for the land is 'Industrial Use Class 22 – storage or parking of motor vehicles'. In view of this PC asked if the Douzaine were still of the view that the Constables should write to the Department.</p> <p>CC said that she believed that the vehicles were a potential pollution threat to the nearby stream.</p> <p>SG commented that when he had carried out the stream inspection towards the end of June, he was unable to identify anything that looked like fuel or oil leaking from any vehicle.</p> <p>KF suggested that it would be worth writing to register the Douzaine's concerns, a point that DB agreed with adding that this would ensure that parish officials could be in a position to confirm to parishioners that the Planning Department had been made aware of the situation.</p> <p>PC agreed to write to the Department.</p> <p>Plurality.</p> <p>PC reported that the Constables have received a letter from the Policy and Resources Committee (P&R) indicating that the Committee was not going to act on the recommendations of St Saviour's Douzaine, but instead will be considering options for what the Committee considers to be a long-term solution. However, there is no projected date for an outcome. In the meantime, the Committee has asked that St Saviour and Torteval Douzaines negotiate to try to reach a mutually agreeable outcome.</p> <p>PC indicated that the Constables will respond to P&R and ask if there is any influence they can exert on Torteval and also contact Torteval Constables to see if there is likely to be any movement on their part.</p>	<p>PC</p> <p>PC/NLP</p>
Planning Applications	<p>Planning Applications.</p> <p>There were no requests for the Constables to obtain copies of any additional planning applications.</p>	
General election 2020	<p>RdG provided an update on the States' Assembly and Constitution Committee's plans for the 2020 General election of Peoples' Deputies; -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr David Mullins has been appointed as Lead Election Officer. 2. Election days will be 16th & 17th June 2020. If parish officials are unable to provide sufficient cover to fully staff the polling stations, civil servants will be asked to make up any shortfall. 	

	<p>3. Each parish will have to provide a Returning and Deputy Returning officer.</p> <p>4. There is the intention to have 'super' polling stations on the weekend before the dates of the General election at locations such as North Beach and Beau Sejour where anyone can vote.</p> <p>5. The Committee hope for many more postal voting applications.</p> <p>6. Counting of votes will take place the weekend after the election.</p> <p>7. The Committee are seeking a machine that would be able to count the votes electronically but have not yet been successful.</p> <p>SG asked when the plans are likely to be finalised.</p> <p>RdG said that this has not been confirmed, but anticipated further meetings in due course.</p>	
Hedges and Streams Inspections.	<p>PC highlighted that the Constables have been asked to send out warning letters to property owners who had not cut there hedges properly (following the June hedge cutting inspections) towards the end of July. Any such letters have to include a photograph of the 'offending' hedge. However, the Constables are not comfortable sending such letters so late after the 15th June deadline for cutting hedges, especially when it is easy for owners to claim that they had cut the hedge early in June and that it has grown again since then. The Constables are requesting that inspections (by parish officials) are carried out nearer to the deadline for cutting with re-inspections as soon as possible after the date notified to owners.</p>	
D & O Insurance Cover	<p>PC confirmed that the policy is now in place and that the annual premium has been paid.</p>	
Constables' Accounts	<p>PC reminded the Douzaine that the Accountant who has scrutinised the Constables' annual accounts in recent years has given notice that he no longer wishes to carry out this function. The Constables hope that he might change his mind but, in the event that he does not, are seeking guidance about how to proceed.</p> <p>SG suggested that the Constables should use the same firm as the St Saviours' Church Property Management Board and adopt similar accounting practices as used by St Peter Port Constables whose annual accounts are available to view on that parish's website.</p> <p>The Douzaine agreed that this should be the preferred option and PC agreed to seek a quote from this firm in the event that new accountants are required.</p> <p><i>Subsequently it was confirmed that new accountants will be required from 2019.</i></p>	PC
Rectory	<p>Lease for Occupancy.</p> <p>PC reported that he and NLP met with Reverend Charmley to discuss the potential to agree a lease to occupy the Rectory. The Dean of Guernsey (having himself signed a lease with the St Andrew's Constables) has had only brief discussions with Reverend Charmley on the subject. Reverend Charmley suggested that the all parish clergy should meet with the Dean to discuss matters concerning their occupancy of parish rectories, and the Constables have agreed to this. The Constables have indicated that this should be done expeditiously because they are keen to see an agreement in place for 2020. The Constables will seek an update from Reverend Charmley in order to report any progress to the September Douzaine meeting.</p> <p>Rectory Maintenance.</p> <p>PC reported that the maintenance work (as previously agreed by the Douzaine) is progressing. However, the contractors have identified areas</p>	NLP/PC

	<p>of rotten woodwork and spalling plaster that was previously unidentified. RdG had agreed with the contractors that this work had to be attended to. It is likely, therefore, that available funds will not be sufficient to ensure that external decoration (to all four elevations) will be completed in 2019. The contractor is aware that the Constables will be unable to pay for work if it exceeds their budget and that only work that has been approved by NLP, PC or RdG should be completed. The contractor will provide regular invoices to ensure that work does not exceed the budget and will only proceed with the external decoration of the south (front) and north elevations.</p> <p>SG asked if the Constables are confident that every item identified in the quinquennial property survey report will have been attended to within the 5-year time frame.</p> <p>PC said that it is very difficult to ensure this will be the case and cited the recent example whereby the parish meeting had approved £25k for work to be completed in 2019. However, once this work had started contractors identified more urgent (and necessary) remedial work which has meant using some of the funds allocated towards external redecoration. It is likely that other, as yet unidentified, remedial work will become necessary.</p> <p>SG suggested that it would be sensible to appoint a firm to project manage the ongoing repairs for the duration of the period covered by the property condition report. The Douzaine would then have professionals costing and overseeing the work.</p> <p>PC said that any cost for this service would have to be reflected in the 2020 Remede.</p> <p>SG proposed (and JL seconded) that the Constables should be authorised to approach the Company who carried out the property survey to ask if they would project manage ongoing repairs for the years 2020 – 2023 (inclusive) and to establish what their fee would be for doing so.</p> <p>This was unanimously agreed.</p>	NLP/PC
Correspondence	<p>Road Safety and Hedge Legislation.</p> <p>PC reported that he had been asked by the Principal Officer of the Douzaine Liaison Group if the Douzaine considered it necessary to investigate the need to update legislation concerning visibility at road junctions when hedges are allowed to grow to the point that road safety is affected.</p> <p>JB said that he believed that all the necessary ‘tools’ are provided by the legislation but they are not always used.</p> <p>DB said that all parishes have the same problems, but that it is not always possible to enforce areas around the collection and removal of hedge cuttings from the roadway. It is simply not possible to inspect every roadway in the parish every day during the 2 week cutting periods (in June and September) to ensure that hedges cut that day have had the cuttings removed from the roadway.</p> <p>Constables often get complaints about cuttings not being removed from the roadway, but it is a problem that does not seem to have a simple solution.</p> <p>The Douzaine agreed that there was no need to request changes to legislation.</p> <p>Invasive weeds.</p> <p>PC reported that the legislation concerning invasive non-native (including Japanese Knotweed) weeds is being worked on by the Committee for</p>	NLP/PC

	<p>the Environment and Infrastructure is currently being worked on and a further update will be provided as soon as it is available.</p> <p>La Croix Martin – Sea Wall Repairs. PC confirmed that sea wall repairs will be taking place between August and November inclusive.</p> <p>Douzaine Council. PC has received an email from the Chair of the Douzaine Council confirming that work various sub groups are working on matters involving Planning, Ecclesiastical matters, Hedge Cutting, Dog Legislation and La Gazette Costs. The Council requested the douzaine’s view about dog licences and whether there should be changes to legislation and the way dogs are licenced. DB said that the money generated is currently used for the benefit of parishioners and was useful to the Constables. PC asked if the States should assist with disposal costs where parishes provide dog waste bins. The Douzaine agreed that States’ assistance with disposal costs would be appropriate but that there is no need for changes to the way dogs are licenced. KF will be attending the next Council meeting on 16th September</p> <p>Church Property Management Boards (CPMB). The Douzaine Liaison Group’s Principal Officer has confirmed that changes to allow members of the CPMB to have longer terms of office (currently 12 months) would require changes to primary legislation. He suggested that Douzaine representatives could be allowed to serve for more than one year to provide the continuity suggested.</p>	
Motor Rally 2020	<p>PC presented the Douzaine with a proposal from the Guernsey Kart & Motor Club to hold an additional stage (wholly within St Saviour) for the proposed motor rally to be held in February 2020. KF said that the 2019 event was conducted in a very professional way and could see no reason to object to the additional stage for the 2020 event. The Douzaine agreed that there were no grounds to object to this event.</p>	NLP/PC
Any Other Business	None	
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm	
	The next meeting is to be held at the Douzaine Room, at 7.00pm on Monday 23 rd September 2019.	