



MINUTES OF AN ASSEMBLY OF PRINCIPALS, OFFICERS AND ELECTORS

An Assembly of Principals, Officers and Electors of the Parish of St Martin was duly convened and held in the Public Hall on Thursday 14th July 2022 at 7.00pm.

The Connétable Karen Shenton Stone welcomed all present and reminded the Assembly that they could sign the Attendance Book at the end of the meeting if they so wished. It was noted that 21 parishioners attended the Assembly.

Apologies were received from Chris McFadyen, Karen and Bob White, Gerald Le Cocq, Arthur Manning, William Sutton, Hamish Marett-Crosby and Michael Jehan. The Convening Notice was read by the Parish Secretary.

The legality of the Convening Notice was queried by a Parishioner as it was believed it should have been displayed in the Church Notice Box on Thursday 7th July and it was actually placed on Friday 8th July. The availability of the Parish Accounts were also queried as they were not actually available until Monday 11th July. The Connétable explained that due to the heavy workload of the Parish staff there was a delay in the publication of the Accounts. It was further clarified by a Parishioner after referring to the *Loi (1842) Sur Les Publications Dans Les Églises* that all aspects of the Convening Notice were in order.

Item 1

Receive and if deemed advisable, approve the Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 1st June 2022.

The Connétable reminded those assembled that the Minutes had been available from the Public Hall and copies are on the seats. After due consideration, Mr Peter Germain proposed the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2022 be approved and Mr Peter Searle seconded the proposal. A show of hands was in favour of the proposal, none were against.

Item 2

Receive and if deemed advisable, adopt the audited accounts of the Connétable for the financial year ended 30 April 2022. The said accounts having been previously verified by a firm of Chartered Accountants, and examined and approved by the Committee appointed for that purpose.

The Connétable presented an overview of activities in the Parish over the last financial year:

- Thanks were given to all Parish staff during a particularly difficult period with prolonged staff illness, an Island wide election and subsequent heavy workload. It was an achievement that this Rates Assembly was held on the appointed date.
- Special thanks were also given to the Parish Secretary, the Accounts Committee in particular William Sutton, Chris McFadyen and Vickie Corson, and to Don Conolly and his team at Alex Picot for their help and support in the preparation of the Parish Accounts.
- The Visite Royale was hosted in the Parish last August and the Parish finances were viewed by the Royal Court as 'being in good shape'

- Redecoration of the Public Hall entrance and offices had to be delayed last year due to staff illness, however new chairs were gifted to the Parish from the Parish of St John.
- Kerb-side recycling is budgeted for in the next year. It was hoped that this would be introduced in August 2022, however due to a shortage of plastic bins sourced by the Department for Infrastructure this has now been delayed.
- The Roads Committee have requested a budget of £195,000 this year. This is to cover the much-needed work on Rue de la Solitude and other essential road resurfacing in the Parish.

The Connétable stated that, despite the Pandemic still disrupting our lives and to careful housekeeping, she is able to keep her promise made 3 years ago to keep the rate the same or reduce it. Special thanks was given to the Public Hall staff, the two Procureurs, Peter Germain and Lester Richardson who question all spending. The Connétable also thanked all who worked for the Parish in an honorary capacity and stated their support is genuinely greatly appreciated.

The Connétable then introduced Mr Don Connolly of Alex Picot to the meeting who proceeded to run through the accounts ended 30 April 2022 for the benefit of the attendees. In particular, the following was mentioned:

- The rates income increased by £10,786 due to a rise in the number of quarters as a consequence of new builds in the Parish. The number of unpaid balances had also increased however these funds continue to be recouped. The final income from rates increased by £9,276.
- Administration sundry expenses increased due to the hosting of the Visite Royale in 2021.
- The roads budget showed an increase in revenue from driving licences and firearms certificates this being due to post covid delays in driving tests and extended licences required and an increase in renewals of fire arms certificates. The net expenditure was just under £3,000 on budget.
- The total income for the year showed an increase of £13,000 resulting in a total excess of income for the year as £62,488.
- The balance in hand showed an 18 week spend in hand for the period May- August (4 weeks over the required 14 week spend).
- It was noted that the cash in hand balance of £672,884 was high
- La Vielle Ecole Project Reserve Fund – it was noted that the rental income had now increased and the total net income for the year was £134,173. This sum will be used to repay the loan for this build.

Questions were then received from the Assembly:

- The question was asked when Parishioners would benefit from the rebuild of La Vielle Ecole. It was originally estimated that this would be in 20 years however it may be sooner in 15 years. It was agreed that this fact should be relayed to the Parishioners.
- It was also proposed that the property maintenance costs be recharged in an administration fee to the tenants (as is the case with the administration of Le Court Clos - the 'H' Trust and the 'St Martin Sheltered Housing Trust'). This was agreed and the Connétable advised it would be implemented.
- Don Conolly was thanked for this analysis of accounts and for them being in good order.

There being no further questions, Mr Terry Jehan proposed the accounts be adopted and Mr Danny Wherry seconded the proposal. A unanimous show of hands showed in favour of the proposal.

Item 3

Place at the disposal of the Roads Committee an amount required for the upkeep of the by-roads during the financial year ending 30 April 2023.

The Connétable stated that the proposed sum for the Roads Account for the forthcoming year was set at £195,000. This was to cover the long-awaited work on Rue de la Solitude along with essential road resurfacing requirements in the Parish.

There being no comments or questions, this amount was proposed by Mr Derek Lawrence and seconded by Mrs Vickie Corson. A show of hands resulted in a unanimous approval.

Item 4

Consider the estimates for the presumed requirements for the financial year ending 30 April 2023 and tax the rate accordingly.

The Connétable highlighted the following points on the forthcoming yearly Parish expenditure:

- Professional & Legal fees remains high due to additional costs incurred with legal fees in resolving the land at Rue de la Solitude.
- Trèstor – this figure is required to cover safety work required in repairs to the cemetery – railings and headstones.
- Refuse & Recycling – an increase in this budget to cover the introduction of kerbside recycling.
- Reserve Funds – setting up of a new ‘Diversity & Inclusion Fund’ to cover future development for accessibility projects in the Public Hall.
- Special Vote – Parish in Bloom – the Connétable paid special thanks to Kay Lavery and Paulette de la Haye for their commitment to maintaining the Parish floral display.

Questions were then received from the Assembly:

- The cost of the outside ramp for the elections was queried. The Connétable confirmed that as no chairs were purchased this cost was reallocated to the ramp. The Connétable also stated that the ‘Other Properties and Equipment’ budget has increased to cover refurbishment costs in the Public Hall and offices.
- It was requested that the budget for recycling and refuse be split. As this estimate was from a combined quote this was not possible to do so. It was confirmed that only 9 months of the full year quote had been given in the estimates.
- The proposed allocation of £600 for the Parish in Bloom was requested to be increased to £1,000. This was discussed. The Parish Secretary confirmed that not all last year’s allocation of funds were used. A vote was then proposed for £1,000 by Mr Peter Canham and this was voted for by 1 Parishioner. A second proposal was then made for £600 by Mr Derek Lawrence and this was voted by 12 Parishioners. The estimate remained at £600.
- It was noted that the Village Green Playground was not covered in the estimates. The Connétable confirmed that even though Planning Permission has been granted permission will remain valid for 3 years and the Parish was still hoping to find a donor for the Playground.
- The question of salary estimates was queried as it was suggested that this could be reduced this year. The Parish Secretary stated that due to re-structuring of the administration of the Parish office it was deemed prudent to keep the same estimate the same as the previous year.
- Charitable Grants – it was proposed that these increase to £8,000. The Connétable explained that charities were chosen with the Procureurs du Bien Public from a selection

of applicants. This increase in funding was proposed by Mr Alexander Assman and seconded by Mr Perry Stone. A show of hands resulted in approval.

The acceptance of the estimates was proposed by Mr Timothy Wright and seconded by Mrs Vickie Corson. A show of hands showed all were in favour.

The Connétable advised the Assembly that the Parish Accounts showed a surplus of £63,000 on last year's income. If the Parish Rate remained at 1.28p a deficit of £45,728 would result with the proposed estimates. This deficit could be covered.

Concerns were raised at the increasing of the Parish rate for Parishioners who are currently struggling with cost-of-living rises.

The Parish Rate of 1.29p was proposed by Procureur Lester Richardson stating that the Parish would be in a better position financially going forward.

It was also noted that the Island Wide Rate will be increased this year so the overall rate will be higher.

A vote was taken for 1.29p - there were no votes

A vote was then taken for 1.28p – proposed by Mr Colin de la Haye. A show of hands resulted in a unanimous vote of acceptance.

Item 5

Elect a Committee to examine the Connétable's accounts for the year ending 30 April 2023

The Connétable thanked the Committee for all the work and support they give to the Parish and stated she was delighted that such a large number are on the Committee. The Connétable added that following the Island elections in June 2022, the Parishes of Grouville and St Martin now have three Deputies and all are entitled to sit on the Accounts Committee. This was discussed and it was confirmed that this is not a constitutional requirement. It was agreed that if the Deputy resides in the Parish they would be invited to sit on the Committee.

The names of the current Connétable's Accounts Committee were then read out:

Ex-Officio members:

The Connétable, Karen Shenton Stone

The Procureurs, Peter Germain and Lester Richardson

The Rector (position currently vacant)

Deputy Stephen Luce

Church Wardens, Thelma Emberson and Jackie Edwards

Centeniers, Gordon Jones, Alan Phillips, David Birmingham and Teresa Roland

Parish Secretary, Janine Milner

Other Members:

Mr Terry Jehan

Mr Denis Lawrence

Mr John Le Masurier Germain

Mr Chris McFadyen

Mr William Sutton

Mr Danny Wherry

Mrs Vickie Corson

Mr Paul Gaudin

Mr Robin Perchard

It being customary to vote the members en bloc, Mr Peter Searle proposed and Mr Colin de la Haye seconded that the current members remain in office. By a show of hands, all were voted in for a further year.

Item 6

Appoint a firm of Chartered Accountants to audit the Connétable's accounts for the year ending 30 April 2023.

The Connétable asked Mr Don Connolly if Alex Picot would be prepared to continue the role of auditors to the Parish for the forthcoming year and after confirming the firm would be pleased to, Mr Derek Lawrence proposed to re-elect Alex Picot Chartered Accountants and Mrs Paulette de la Haye seconded the proposal. All were in favour.

Presentation for Maufant Youth Centre Fundraising Event by Mrs Vickie Corson, Chairman

Mrs Vickie Corson explained to the Assembly that Maufant Youth Club is so much more than a club. It was noted that the Club now has a charitable status supporting many vulnerable children in the Parish. Mrs Corson went on to say that she is completing a skydive in August and is seeking sponsorship. If any Parishioner wishes to sponsor her, donations can be made at the Parish office. The Youth Club is an essential service for the youth of the Parish.


Mrs Corson thanked the Connétable for the continued financial support from the Parish in funding the Youth Leader.

The Connétable ended the Assembly by thanking the Procureurs du Bien Public and the Accounts Committee for all their support and commitment during what has proved to be a very difficult year.

Procureur Peter Germain thanked the Connétable for her commitment to the Parish and congratulated her on her recent re-election as Connétable for a further four-year term of office.

The meeting closed at 20.25



 Karen Shenton Stone
Connétable

Date 4/AUG/2022.

