



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 6th July 2023 at 7.00pm.

The Connétable 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 38 people attended the Assembly.

Apologies were received from Deputy Stephen Luce and Peter Germain. The Convening Notice was read by the Parish Secretary.

Item 1

Receive and if deemed advisable, approve the Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 1st June 2023.

The Connétable reminded those assembled that the Minutes had been available from the Public Hall and copies are on the seats. After due consideration the Minutes were approved as follows:

- Proposer – Lester Richardson
- Seconder – Rev Peter Stone

Item 2

Consider, and if deemed advisable, approve the extension of the Church Cemetery. A presentation will be made by the architect to the Assembly. Plans will be on display at the Public Hall from Thursday 4th July.

The Connétable welcomed and introduced George de Sousa from Page Architects to the Assembly and asked him to make a presentation on the current proposals for the extension of the church cemetery. The proposals displayed and presented to the Assembly included an extension from the existing cemetery. The topography of the field will require an element of land fill. The proposal includes a section for burial plots as well as a woodland area for the burial of ashes and a pathway link with the present cemetery. The woodland area would provide a wildlife corridor, incorporating current Government of Jersey policy. Existing pumps and sewers have been located near the existing walls in the field. Burial plots will be situated 5 metres either side of the sewer, a requirement from Infrastructure and Environment, Government of Jersey.

All landfill soil will be graded as part of the exercise. Access to the proposed site would be via Rue des Raisies. A weighbridge would be installed with a concrete platform base along with a wheel wash and dust barriers. This would be a 3-year project. A further one year would be required for the soil to settle. A total of four years before the site would be ready for any burials.

Questions were then taken from the Assembly

Q: What will the top soil of the current field be used for.

A: This will be kept, stored and used. A new material will need to be brought in for the landfill. Each lorry load placed in the field will be marked on a plan. The project will be self-funding i.e., cost neutral.

Q: Why not level the field down instead of the proposed landfill?

A: It would be more cost effective to land fill. There is a 4/5-metre drop across the whole field. The proposal is to cut and fill the land.

Q: Was the Parish aware that the field in question (MN328B) is a quagmire? The top of the field (MN387A) is very dry, why not use this section where no landfill will be required.

A: Yes – a pipe is to be installed across the field to alleviate the water culvert. The field currently proposed has a preferable position in relation to the car park and existing cemetery.

Q: Why is there a need for so many burial plots?

A: It was confirmed this exercise would be completed in stages. Not all plots will be dug at once.

Q: Would this area be used by Parishioners as an area of tranquillity/reflection garden?

A: This was confirmed. The woodland would be accessed at all times by Parishioners.

Q: How many tonnes of landfill would be required?

A: 39,000 cubic metres to be filled. The work will be carried out between 07.30am and 4.30pm with approximately 10 lorry loads per day. Further details were provided – calculating a 3-year period of work. Allowance would be made for children's safety walking to and from school.

Q: Why is another area of woodland proposed when there is the Village Green. Why not just develop the top area of the field (MN385) only?

A: A mix of both woodland and burial area enables the project to create more green trees. This option suggested can be considered if the number of burial plots planned is reduced.

Q: Understand the need to plan ahead but the quagmire challenges are of great concern. Agree with the cost neutral plan but the disturbance to neighbours for 3 years is of concern. Suggest the exercise is planned for field MN387A and MN387B instead. This is Glebe land and there are no neighbours.

A: It was confirmed that operational costs had been considered and ecological survey completed for the current proposal.

The following points were noted:

- consideration should be given to using an alternative zone.
- the full cost of tipping will offset the expenditure and no further cost to importing of land fill be required. Therefore, there will be no cost to the Parish.
- This is a monumental engineering task that might be too much for the Parish and concerns relating to the water were worrying. It would involve a change in the landscape.
- It was confirmed that this exercise would be done professionally and work made in phases.
- The notice period of this project that was given to Parishioners was short. Letters delivered to neighbouring properties on 5th July. It was noted that the Parish Assembly Notice had been displayed for one week (Church Notice Box, Jersey Evening Post, the Parish website and the Parish Noticeboard at the Public Hall) in line with current legislation.
- There were no plans of the access proposal on Rue des Raïses.
- Child safety issues were raised. It was confirmed that there would be no lorry deliveries for 45 minutes between drop off and pick up times for school children
- Truck access from La Route de Rozel was suggested however there is a 2-metre level difference and so is not possible. There are also sewer issues from this access proposal.

Procureur Lester Richardson stated the long-term planning for the extension was agreeable but the comments taken from the Assembly must be considered. Mr Richardson suggested the Parish looks at alternative plans before approving the proposals made to this Assembly.

A further point was made that burial plots built above a water table were of concern.

Connétable Shenton-Stone suggested to the Assembly that a budget of £15,000 be agreed for further ecological and structural surveys to be made on an alternate site (MN387A & MN387B).

The Rector was asked if the Cemetery can be located anywhere in the Parish. A suggestion of locating it in field MN720A was made. It was noted that this was prime agricultural land and that the Planning Department, Government of Jersey, would more than likely not approve it for this use. Rev Peter Stone advised that it was preferable that a cemetery is located within walking distance of the Church.

Mr de Sousa commented that the investigative work should now be extended to Fields MN 387A & 387B. It was also suggested that a further survey is completed on Field MN328A & MN328B in January and February.

It was proposed that the next meeting held to present this project is not a Parish Assembly but a presentation with further proposals for comments by Parishioners.

The Connétable requested a show of hands for Item 2 – for the approval of the extension of the Church Cemetery, disregarding the current proposals.

Vote For: 26
Vote Against: None

Item 3

If the Church Cemetery extension is approved, consider and if deemed advisable, approve the funding proposals of the Church Cemetery extension.

The Connétable addressed the Assembly that a sum of £15,000 be allocated for the additional ecological and topographical surveys be made for alternate land.

- Proposer - Gerald Le Cocq
- Seconder - Michael Jehan

A show of hands was in favour of this proposal.

The Connétable thanked all for attending and said that all comments would be considered and alternative plans made. Once this was done a meeting would be convened.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm


Karen Shenton Stone
Connétable

Date 18 July 2023

