

PARISH OF ST BRELADE

PARISH ASSEMBLY

Minutes of an Assembly of Principals and Electors of the Parish of St Brelade held in the Main Hall at the Parish Hall, St Aubin, St Brelade on Tuesday 16 July 2019 commencing at 19.00 hours.

President of Assembly:

Connétable, Mr Michael Jackson, presided.

Convening Notice:

The Convening Notice was read by the Parish Secretary.

1. Minutes of Previous Assembly:

The minutes of the previous Assembly of Principals and Electors of the Parish of St Brelade held on Tuesday 14 May 2019 were adopted and signed following a proposition by Centenier Michel Bougeard, which was seconded by Mr Peter Norman.

2. Elect a Registrar

Nominations to fill the position of Registrar were invited, Mrs Jill Corbin, current Registrar having resigned from the position. Mrs Corbin nominated Miss Sarah Le Boutillier to the position, Sarah being the current Deputy Registrar for the Parish. This was seconded by Mr Norman. There were no further nominations. A date for swearing in was to be confirmed. The Connétable then thanked Mrs Corbin for her many years' service to the Parish as both Deputy Registrar and Registrar and welcomed Sarah as Registrar.

3. Receive and adopt Financial Statements for year ended 30 April 2019:

Mr Stephen Phillips, of Alex Picot, Parish Accountants explained the accounts of the Connétable for the year ended 30 April 2019, a copy of which is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

The following questions or comments were made:

- Senator Sarah Ferguson asked why the Street Lighting expenditure was more than previous. It was explained that there had been 4 lamp columns replaced in Don Farm

There were no other questions or comments.

The accounts were unanimously adopted following a proposition by Mr Frank Walker which was seconded by Senator Ferguson. There were 23 votes in favour and 0 against.

4. Vote a sum of money for the upkeep of by-roads for the year ending 30 April 2020:

Connétable Jackson explained the estimates for the Roads Account for the year ending 30 April 2020, a copy of which is attached and forms part of these minutes.

The following questions or comments were made:

- Mr Michael Videgrain noticed an error in one figure, however this did not change the totals
- Mrs Enid Quenault requested that a plaque be put in the orchard in thanks to Mr David Cashel who planted all of the Jersey apple cider trees.
- Centenier Bougeard commented that the orchard currently looked a bit untidy and needed clearing up

Following a proposition by Mrs Quenault which was seconded by Mr Norman, the amount of £254,235 was unanimously voted for use by the Parish Roads Committee for the upkeep and maintenance of the parish by-roads for the financial year ending 30 April 2020.

5. Approve Estimates for the year ending 30 April 2020:

The Connétable explained the estimates for the year ending 30 April 2020, a copy of which is attached to, and forms part of, these minutes.

The following questions or comments were raised:

- Deputy Montfort Tadier asked whether the Connétables collectively obtain a better price for advertising in the JEP, as it was expensive. It was confirmed they did, the Connétable felt that although Assemblies are only required to be advertised in the online Gazette, that an advert in the JEP was still necessary, although the low number of turnouts didn't necessarily show what the solution would be.
- Deputy Tadier congratulated the Parish on starting up a Twitter account, but noted that the Assembly was not tweeted. He was advised that administration of the account had stalled at the moment, but it was hoped it would be back in action again soon.
- Deputy Tadier asked whether the Parish were looking to pay off the Pre-87 debt early, as he was aware had been offered to Parishes, he also asked what the interest rate was over the term. He was advised that the Connétable and Procureurs were looking into the matter and were looking to obtain the advice of an Actuary, however, the cost of paying it off in one lump sum would be over £1million, therefore the status quo remained until professional advice was sought.
- Centenier Bougeard asked why the cost of radio's in the HP budget was less than last year, he was advised that there were 2 invoices from Ports of Jersey for last year, but that the support/maintenance of these had now transferred to the States of Jersey Police.
- Mrs Quenault asked whether any thought had been put towards the Liberation Day celebrations in 2020 and was the estimate enough. She was advised that not a lot of preparation had been done yet and ideas were invited, however the majority of costs would be in the 2020/21 budget, being that Liberation Day was in May.

- Mr Roger Bignell suggested that to keep numbers down for the senior citizen Christmas lunches, the Parish could take the route of Sir David Kirch and only invite over 70's. The Connétable advised that he was proposing new changes this year as St Brelade Bay had increased their prices, it was being considered bringing the lunches back into the Parish Hall with outside caterers, and this in itself may be self-levelling.
- Mr Paul Curtis asked why the same amounts were being transferred to the Reserve Funds when no money had been used, he felt a saving in the rate could be made if these funds were not put aside. He was advised that there were several large items of expenditure planned, particularly for both the Property and Roads Funds, the Parish Hall and Rectory roof required repairs at a cost of approx. £100,000 each, the extension to the Cimetiere des Quennevais would be around £200,000, whereas work planned to resurface 3 roads were in the region of £160,000. The Reserve Funds were used to save money for expensive tasks in order to keep the Rate more level. It was agreed that the Parish roads were in a better state than the main roads.

The total estimated expenditure for the year ending 30 April 2020 for the amount of £1,787,913 which includes transfers to various Reserve Funds was approved following a proposition by Mr Norman which was seconded by Mr Arthur Morley. The Assembly voted 23 in favour and 0 against.

6. Parochial Rate 2019

The Connétable read a statement in regards to issues relating to the setting of this year's rate and recommended that the Parish Rate for the year 2019 remain at 0.96p per quarter.

Mr Videgrain proposed a 0.96p per quarter Rate which was seconded by Mr David Levitt. The proposition was voted on with 22 in favour and 0 against.

7. Committee to examine the Connétable's Accounts for the year ending 30 April 2020

The Connétable asked for nominations for members of the Accounts Committee, all members of the current committee were willing to stand again.

On a proposition by Mr Norman, Messrs William Nixon, Michael Videgrain, Kenneth Corbin and Ian Wright were nominated to examine the Connétable's Accounts for the year ending 30 April 2020. The proposition was seconded by Mr Haycock and carried with 22 votes in favour and 0 against.

The Connétable thanked the Accounts Committee for their help and guidance with this year's accounts and estimates.

8. Appointment of firm of Chartered Accountants:

On a proposition from Mr Norman, which was seconded by Deputy Graham Truscott Messrs Alex Picot were appointed to audit the Connétable's Accounts for the year ending 30 April 2020. The proposition was carried with 22 votes in favour and 0 against

9. Consider the formation of a working party to investigate the consequences of climate change:

The Connétable explained that following a proposition to the States regarding the climate change emergency, it had been felt by some parishes that something should be done closer to home.

Deputy John Young, Minister for Planning and the Environment, stated that the Islands plan to meet the problem needed to be tackled on 2 levels, by the States for the island as a whole and also the parishes on a lower level. He had not had any parishioners of St Brelade approach him, but felt that it was a good idea to start if there was the enthusiasm. Advice would be made available by his department if it was needed.

Reverend Bond stated that he felt the over 90's or under 40's are those that would be most interested in the matter and that it should be put out to parishioners to show interest.

Mr Curtis agreed that this matter needed to be taken from a grass roots level and if everyone contributes small steps, this then makes a large impact, he felt a working group could be made to produce some inexpensive suggestions.

The agreement to form a working party to investigate the consequences of climate change on the Parish and its ability to act was proposed by Deputy Young and was seconded by Mr Morley. There were 20 votes in favour and 2 against.

All votes taken during this Assembly were by voting slips issued by the Parish prior to the start of the Assembly.

The Connétable then thanked the 23 persons remaining for their attendance, and also Stephen Phillips of Alex Picot and all their staff, the Accounts Committee and the Parish Secretary.

Mr Norman then thanked the Connétable for his time and presentation of his Accounts and Estimates.

The Connétable declared the meeting closed at 2035 hours.

Signed: _____
M K Jackson
Connétable

Dated: _____