

PARISH OF ST BRELADE**PARISH ASSEMBLY**

Minutes of an Assembly of Principals and Electors of the Parish of St Brelade held at Communicare, St Brelade on Tuesday 18 February 2020 commencing at 19:30 hours

President of Assembly:

Connétable Mr Michael Keith 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 26 November 2019, were adopted, and signed following a proposition by Centenier Amanda Wright, which was seconded by Mr Peter Norman.

2. Election of Officier du Connétable:

The Connétable called for nominations to fill the position of Officier du Connétable for the Vingtaine des Quennevais for a term of three years.

Mrs Sarah Cram proposed Mrs Nichola Hill for election. This nomination was seconded by Centenier Michel Bougeard.

The Connétable congratulated and declared Mrs Hill duly elected as an Officier du Connétable for a three-year term. Her date to appear before the Royal Court of Jersey to be administered the Oath of Office was to be confirmed.

3. Approve Carbon Neutral Strategy

The Parish Assembly held on 16 July 2019, agreed to form a Working Party to consider ways in which the Parish could aim to reduce their carbon footprint. They were to report to a later Parish Assembly with their proposed "Strategy" and after several months of meetings and considerations a Strategy has now been formed.

The Connétable then introduced Dr Louise Magris, Director of Environmental Policy, from the Planning and Environment department who had been invited by the working group to present a short presentation on the direction of the Government of Jersey. Dr Magris then advised that she would give a brief overview of how government are considering the climate emergency in order to provide context for actions the parish could take.

Dr Magris then outlined the bigger picture, she explained the working group was set up in July following a declaration of the States Assembly of a climate emergency in May 2019. A proposition (P.27) was lodged by Deputy Rob Ward, asking the States to agree, which they did almost unanimously, that an emergency exists and to deal with it in 3 parts. 1) Aim to be carbon neutral by 2030, the Council of Ministers (COM) to draw up a plan by the end of 2019, 2) The Minister for the Environment was requested to carry out an assessment of more ambitious policies to accelerate carbon reduction, and 3) task the Chief Minister to ensure action taken to tackle climate change was an item on every COM agenda.

On 31 December 2019 the Carbon Neutral Strategy (P.127) was lodged and is due to be debated on 25 February 2020 to 1) adopt the defining principles, 2) agree to the establishment of a citizens' assembly, and 3) request the Minister of the Environment to lodge by end 2020 a long-term climate action for debate by the States Assembly.

Carbon Neutral is defining a position whereby Jersey's contribution to global greenhouse gases are zero. There are two options, 1) NET-zero emissions, which are very real and attainable annual reductions and offsets, or 2) zero emissions, which would be no emissions whatsoever from on island activities, but is not the policy of any other jurisdiction.

There are 4 main Principles which are: -

Principle 1 – strategic focus on all emissions. Scope 1 emissions are greenhouse gas i.e. those generated on island direct from our activity, such as petrol, diesel, heating oil, agriculture, EFW plant, plane travel. The Island currently generates in the region of 360,000 tons per year. Scope 2 are those associated with the electric supply from France, 70% is nuclear and 30% hydro, in the reduction strategy we count those emissions as well as on island. Scope 3 are everything else i.e. goods and services we consume, food miles, embedded energy in laptops etc., there is however a difficulty in being able to count these emissions. Scope 1 and 2 are those most important to reduce and being able to help people make choices to reduce scope 3 emissions.

Principle 2 – is aiming to balance Scope 1 and 2 emissions produced against activities that capture, absorb, or reduce global emissions. Scope 3 are not counted in the carbon neutral “budget”.

Principle 3 – is about using carbon offsetting where carbon cannot be reduced. For example accepting that there will be some emissions such as plane travel as until other forms of energy are created to support this, there will still be these emissions. Therefore we aim to try to reduce these but are not able to negate them. An offset is obtained by buying accredited standard emission reductions, buying offset carbon, which represents a project, somewhere else in the world, which balances off carbon used. The States debate next week to see if this is an option, but it is clear that the offset purchased must be at the highest standards and be ethical etc.

Principal 4 - if Jersey chooses to accept being carbon neutral everyone has a part to play, it is associated with travel and heating of your place of work, play, home and leisure. To transition is a personal decision but the changes come from the community, if changes are made from within government only it would not be as effective. The government action must form part of a wider collaborative approach.

St Brelade are ahead of the curve, a community can take faster action whilst democracy dictates that high level decisions are made by the States. A community can make enormous changes to start the carbon neutral journey.

The States Carbon Neutral Strategy will be in two parts, it proposes a citizens assembly, comprised of the wider community to start discussions with all islanders. The community are then deciding the pace of change, dates, sources that are palatable to adopt. A document is to be presented to the States by the end of 2020. The debate on P.127 can be watched live online or listened to next Tuesday live from the States Assembly, there is information of this and the carbon neutral strategy on gov.je.

Mr Alex Pearce representing the working group then thanked the Connétable and Procureurs for their continued support, he also thanked Dr Magris and Jane Burns of Eco Active.

Mr Pearce started by explaining the original declaration of the States accepting the climate emergency. He further explained that the working group had met numerous times and have drawn down a list of 11 initial proposals to aim towards a greener future. All hopefully to be of zero or low cost to the parish. Mr Pearce then went through each item on the Strategy, which is attached to these minutes.

In summary, these are initial ideas and the working group will continue meeting to come up with new ideas. He asked the Assembly to show their support as working together as a parish will help to leave a better island.

The Connétable then asked for any questions or comments.

Miss Moz (Mary) Scott then commented that at a presentation at the Town Hall the percentage of emissions created by transport was shown, it was advised as 51%, methane has more greenhouse gas warming potential than carbon but carbon is what has been proposed by the COM. She then stated that in the Carbon Neutral strategy presentation, the information on heating and transport, to work towards carbon reduction, was shown in tons, which is hard to place. It was also asked when the parish were proposing to divest the parish from fossil fuel investments and how much is currently invested in fossil fuels. The Connétable advised that it was less than originally thought at 2.5% or around £20,000 in an investment block in Royal Dutch Shell (RDS), a recent instruction to our investment advisors was to look into other areas, RDS is returning a significant

amount in yield but its share value is not that good. We would like to get out but timing is important. The Connétable also advised that they are looking into two alternative potential investments at the moment. There are two investments Trust funds – Field 192 managed by the Rectorat, and a bequest Trust of which the proceeds are to go towards the Maison St Brelade residential home. Miss Scott asked if they specifically say high yield is required, she was advised that it is the responsibility of the trustees to get the best yield in investments, however they do feel it would be wise to diversify as soon as possible. Any decision made will be based on the best information available and they will go forward following that.

Ms Jacqueline Carrel felt the word “consider” was too woolly and vague, trying not to be cynical, she would like to see that we would consider and give answers by a certain date. She was advised that we cannot change the item on the agenda, but the Connétable was happy to feed the back to the working group. She also asked that instead of advertising just in La Baguette could there also be a Facebook page for the parish by the parish. The Connétable advised that we have the Parish website and twitter @StBreladeJsy, administration of Facebook can be a contentious area, but possibly something for discussion. Mr Pearce added that there were some radical ideas produced in the working group meetings that were not actionable and the Connétable has helped to balance what is practical, but that it is important to continue to address further actions.

Mr Arthur Morley stated that having been on the working group meetings, the parish is in same position as any parishioner. We all have something in our home or businesses that could be made more carbon neutral, but there is no indication that everyone will stampede from this meeting to buy LED lights for example. However if we all take steps gradually to move forward, when things wear out etc. this would have an overall impact. We could all in time for example buy an electric car, but not everyone is able to do so now. It would be far too extreme to say you must do it now. The implication that these Strategy items are low cost is not entirely correct, in tree planting for example you have to buy a tree, pay someone for the labour of planting and feeding and watering etc., with only a 20% chance that it will survive and only when a tree is big does it become efficient at processing CO2. The Connétable advised that the lamp standards in Parc du Pont Marquet are soon to be replaced and this will be a significant win. Mr Pearce added that they are not suggesting that you must go out and change everything to a more carbon friendly alternative, however if you feel the need to, then go ahead. There is absolutely a cost in planting a tree for example, but there is a higher cost to civilisation if we do not act.

Miss Scott then commented that tree protection had already been raised by St Brelades Bay Association, as there is little to no protection of mature trees. Miss Scott acknowledged that this was not a part of this Assembly but stated that she would be grateful if more support from the elected members went to protecting trees. The Connétable replied that he fully agreed and advised that there is some

work being carried out looking into a regime used in the UK where preservation orders are in place which affect the local area, even if the tree is on private property. There is also legislation that if a tree is cut down and its removal increased the value of the property, a fine can be served to that amount. It was noted that the fig tree at the Wayside site had recently been removed despite an apparent protection order being in place.

Reverend Mark Bond advised that he personally supported the working group, the church has been working towards being more carbon neutral for a long time, as the lighting in the church was converted around 6 years ago, this reduced their costs to a quarter of what it was previously, resulting in a letter from the JEC suggesting that they must have been stealing electricity from elsewhere! One difficulty the island has is what the island makes in direct taxation on fuel, as this income will have to be replaced due to a reduction in the use of fuel, as electric cars become more popular. This is likely to mean that the electric car will be taxed to ensure that the States income is not affected, and the public should be prepared for this. These things need considering as each change will have an implication, the important thing is working in partnership with our world, caring and living here, it is all the little things we do. The Rector for example grows his own food, collects seaweed from the beach, and we must all prepare to do more work to get the benefits. Change starts with individuals, it starts with us and our thoughtfulness in our footprint on the earth. He and his wife had recently made a simple pact that they do not buy any new clothing unless they dispose of one first. We can recycle even our amazon boxes, say to companies who supply our food that we do we need plastic packaging, put sustainability in paper bags made of bamboo paper to encourage places we shop to become carbon neutral.

Mr Clive Pearce suggested more pollinator patches in public spaces, such as the grass verge between Route Orange and Clos des Sables balancing the current cost to the parish and environment due to being cut with diesel mowers and strimmer's, to a lower maintenance cost plus creating an area for insects and it would be nice to look at.

Deputy Graham Truscott commented that he had also sat on the working group but was not able to attend every meeting. He agreed they were a very dedicated bunch of individuals. The subject is about future generations and looking after mother earth, as coined by Tesco "every little helps". Jersey is only 9x5 miles but a cumulative effect makes the big difference, so at least we are trying to make a start. He felt that there would be some interesting debates in the next 2 years but the cost of all of this work by the States is in the region of £600million, the cost of a hospital, but that it is an important thing and we must all get behind it to do our bit. He also recommended that any future candidates print their manifesto on recycled paper.

Mr Tony Pike echoed the comments on communal areas, he felt that it was good to have allotments such as Les Creux and it would be great to create more. Mr

Pike advised that he cycles an electric bike and has done 17000 miles since June last year. There is free easy parking and it is very de stressing.

Miss Scott asked about the La Baguette plastic wrap and was advised that it was no longer being used.

Reverend Bond commented that we all know we have to cut our cloth but it is important to keep aspirations high as a community, to keep a reality check and to aspire to be carbon neutral one day, we must always aim even if there are limitations, that way we are always moving forward.

The Connétable then asked Jane Burns to comment on recycling trends. Miss Burns wished to confirm that all recyclables are recycled, nothing else happens to it, it does not go anywhere else. The Connétable confirmed that he has seen the factory in the UK where the plastic bottles go.

Mrs Gillian Davies advised a small word of caution that 70 years ago the States Nurseries gave out free trees to anyone, but they got too big, she asked if there would be any guidance on the type of trees to plant. The Connétable agreed that it is good to encourage the planting of trees, but that it is important to plant them in right place. Road heave repairs have cost the Parish a lot of money. Miss Scott advised that Jersey Trees for Life would give free advice.

Mrs Ana Jouault asked if solar panels could be put on lampposts or would it be possible to offer people a deal to buy solar panels through subsidies.

Centenier Raoul Gear asked whether solar panels could be sold similar to UK schemes where the electricity grid buy back the electricity from houses. Mr Pearce replied that it does happen at the moment but you must be able to calculate how long it would take to be effectively generating free electricity from the cost of installation. Dr Magris confirmed there is a direct buy back with the JEC. Concrete policies for grants for electric vehicles are going to be looked into. However, as a community, people will have to understand the cost implications and it must not have an adverse effect on low-income households. To move towards decarbonisation there will be costs, however there are also costs to not decarbonising, such as health, pollution etc.

Mrs Ana Jouault commented that if every child over 11 years had to catch a bus, which was free at the cost to the community, then this would help to reduce the carbon footprint.

Mr John Searson commented that he had been to a presentation by the late John Rive approx. 15 years ago, regarding reduce/reuse/recycle and having refuse collections every other week, but that nothing had changed except the addition of recycling collections. He felt that surely there must be less general waste and therefore room to look at reducing the collections to fortnightly as a cost saving.

Miss Burns advised that not every parish has kerbside recycling yet, which is a States priority.

Mrs Julie Pearce commented that her general waste has reduced to one third of previous. Others felt a weekly collection was still required.

Mrs Shirley McGhee supported the composting of food waste, and asked how this could be done. She currently collects vegetable and food waste, but lives in a flat and takes it to a friend who has a compost bin. She asked if there was anyway for a communal compost. The Connétable advised that a trial one was brought in at the hemp farm and that Longueville Manor have just bought one. At a parish level, though this would need a lot of man-hours and therefore there would be cost implications. There are also environmental considerations in putting food waste on the land.

There being no further questions or comments recommendation of the “Strategy” was supported by 59 votes in favour and 0 votes against.

In thanking the remaining 61 persons for their attendance, the Connétable declared the meeting closed at 20:27 hours.

Signed: _____

M K Jackson
Connétable

Dated: _____