

**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 14 July 2020 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 30 June 2020 were adopted and signed following a proposition by Centenier Michel Bougeard, which was seconded by Mr Peter Norman.

**2. Property Reserve Fund vote of £500,000 – Cimetiere des Quennevais**

The Assembly were advised that the contractor for the extension to Le Cimetiere de Quennevais had now been selected.

Enabling works have commenced to remove the shale and replace it with softer soil more suitable for digging for burials.

Mr Roger Bignell asked how many extra spaces the new cemetery would provide, Mr Nigel Bisson, Architect for the project advised that the formal section would provide approx. 340 plots with some areas to be used to inter ashes.

Deputy Graham Truscott asked whether there was a value put on the shale being removed and whether it was being used to offset the cost of replacement soil. The Connétable replied that an arrangement had been agreed to carry out the groundworks work at nil cost.

Mr Michael Videgrain asked whether the tenders had been received and accepted, he was advised that the tender was awarded but a contract was yet to be signed as it was subject to the vote at the Assembly to approve the funding. Mr Richard Sutton of Hartigan the parish engineers, advised that four companies had submitted tenders, two civil engineering companies had quoted between 1% of each other but were at the high end of the scale, two landscaping companies were substantially less expensive and had a 15% variance between costs, however the preferred bidder in the end is A1 Landscaping.

There being no further questions or comments the item was proposed by Deputy Graham Truscott and was seconded by Mr Eddie Baker. Following a vote by a show of hands the item was approved with 15 votes in favour and 0 against.

**3. Receive and adopt Financial Statements for year ended 30 April 2020:**

Mr Stephen Phillips, of Alex Picot, Parish Accountants explained the accounts of the Connétable for the year ended 30 April 2020, a copy of which is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

The following questions or comments were made:

- Deputy Montfort Tadier asked why many good charities had not received monies as per previous years. The Connétable advised that they did not provide accounts as were requested, The Connétable likewise questioned what obligation the parish has to support charities generally, he was fully in support of Parish clubs and associations, but feels that it may be suitable for the Assembly to propose the guidelines.
- Mr Bignell enquired about page 12 note 4, in which it advises that a loan from Barclays for Maison St Brelade refurbishment was set at 7.2% and wondered whether this could be changed. Mr Phillips advised that the rate had been set at the outset as the home felt more comfortable having a known expense. In hindsight it would be good to have been able to change it, however at the time it was felt that it was the best option on the day. The Connétable added that in retrospect they would like not to be in that position, but there are also penalties attached to get out of it, and neither the Parish nor the home have funding to pay it back. It was noted that it was possibly something to discuss with Barclays regarding a break out. Mr Morley responded that the amount payable is treated as a steady charge against every bed, so that Parish do not need to be involved in paying money on their behalf.

There were no other questions or comments.

The accounts were unanimously adopted following a proposition by Mr Bignell which was seconded by Mr Morley. There were 15 votes in favour and 0 against.

**4. Vote a sum of money for the upkeep of by-roads for the year ending 30 April 2021:**

Connétable Jackson explained the estimates for the Roads Account for the year ending 30 April 2021, a copy of which is attached and forms part of these minutes.

There being no question or comments, a proposition by Reverend Bond which was seconded by Deputy Tadier, approved the amount of £238,970 for use by the Parish Roads Committee for the upkeep and maintenance of the parish by-roads for the financial year ending 30 April 2021.

5. **Approve Estimates for the year ending 30 April 2021:** The Connétable explained the estimates for the year ending 30 April 2021, a copy of which is attached to, and forms part of, these minutes.
- There being no questions or comments the total estimated expenditure for the year ending 30 April 2021 for the amount of £1,800,355 which includes transfers to various Reserve Funds was approved following a proposition by Mr Frank Walker which was seconded by Centenier Bougeard. The Assembly voted 18 in favour and 0 against.
6. **Parochial Rate 2020** 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 2020 remain at 0.96p per quarter.
- Mr Norman proposed a 0.96p per quarter Rate which was seconded by Mr Morley. The proposition was voted on with 17 in favour and 0 against.
7. **Committee to examine the Connétable's Accounts for the year ending 30 April 2021** 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 2021. The proposition was seconded by Deputy Truscott and carried with 17 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 Videgrain, which was seconded by Centenier Bougeard Messrs Alex Picot were appointed to audit the Connétable's Accounts for the year ending 30 April 2021. The proposition was carried with 17 votes in favour and 0 against.
- The Connétable then thanked the 20 persons remaining for their attendance, and also Stephen Phillips of Alex Picot and all their staff, the Accounts Committee and the Parish Secretary.
- The Connétable declared the meeting closed at 20:17 hours.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**M K Jackson**  
**Connétable**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_