

**Minutes of an Assembly held in The Parish Hall
on Wednesday 21st July 2021 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Connétable Andrew Jehan, Reverend Beverley Sproats, Deputy Trevor Pointon, Don Connolly (Alex Picot) Secretary & 18 Parishioners. Mark Capern + 1 (Jersey Youth Service) Carolyn Labey +1 (Identity Jersey)

APOLOGIES: Nicholas Crocker, Maxine Ferguson

Le Connétable welcomed everyone and read the convening notice.

An Assembly of Principals and Electors of the Parish will be held in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21 July 2021, to conduct the following business: -

- 1) Receive and if deemed advisable approve the Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on Wednesday 14 July 2021.
- 2) Receive and if deemed advisable adopt the audited accounts of the Connétable for the financial year ended 30 April 2021. The said accounts having been examined and unanimously approved by the Committee named for that purpose.
- 3) Vote a sum of money for the upkeep of the by-roads of the Parish for the financial year ending 30 April 2022.
- 4) Approve the estimates of the funds required by the Parish for the financial year ending 30 April 2022.
- 5) Approve a rate of an amount that will produce for the Parish, income that is at least sufficient to satisfy the requirements as set out in the approved estimates and that the said rate be levied.
- 6) Name a Committee to examine the accounts of the Connétable for the year ending 30 April 2022.
- 7) Appoint auditors to prepare the Constable's accounts for the Parish for the year ending 30 April 2022.

Copies of the accounts will be available at the Parish Hall from Tuesday 13th July or at parish.gov.je/StJohn

Andrew N Jehan
Connétable

13 July 2021

Le Connétable informed the meeting that the Official Notice had been duly signed by the Rector, confirming that it had been displayed in the Church Box for the statutory period in accordance with the law.

Le Connétable thanked everyone for attending. He gave mention to Don Connolly, our Auditor from Alex Picot, Mark Capern, Mark Patterson and Mal Cunningham from Jersey Youth Service and Carolyn Labey from Identity Jersey. He advised that Deputy Labey would give a short presentation at the end of the Assembly about the Island Identity Project. This would then be followed by 30 minute Q & A with Le Connétable and Le Deputé.

1. Le Connétable asked for a proposer for the minutes of the Parish Assembly held on Wednesday 14th July 2021. These minutes were proposed by Andrew Bisson and seconded by Richard Dupre. They were approved unanimously.
2. Le Connétable began by recording his thanks to the previous administration for an excellent set of results in a challenging year. There had been a concern that maybe not all rates would be recovered, however this was not the case. Christopher Taylor asked for a vote of thanks for the Volunteers who assisted during COVID, this was seconded by Lord Louth. Thanks and appreciation was also given to the Parish Hall team of Christopher Taylor, Sue Rodrigues, Sandra Coutanche, Keiranne Grimshaw and Sue Baudin for keeping the Parish Hall open, the only Parish Hall to do so.

Don Connolly then took over. He advised the Assembly that the Parish Rate had remained the same now for 14 years, with a general increase in quarters due to new builds. He had been very pessimistic about rates recovery last year but due to good Government support there had been a great result in recovery and write offs. The main income had come from the rates. There was an increase in revenue from the closure of the magazine and the increase in the cost of a dog licence which went up from £5 to £10. There had been a decrease in bank interest received, which is a worldwide issue.

Expenditure – DC went through the Expenditure accounts giving a brief summary of main factors.

- Roads – Main funds used for potholes and general upkeep
- Parish Hall Costs – increase due to new trophy cabinet in foyer. Cleaning Contractors employed for two months to cover sick leave. Hall Hire was down due to COVID closure which in turn resulted in decrease in cost of heat/light/water.
- Church/Rectory - £4500 spent on playground maintenance.
- Administration – There was a budgeted £10K increase due to the recruitment of the new Parish Secretary
- Legal and Professional – the £7K cost from 2020 had all been repaid and was shown in the 2021 accounts.
- Senior Citizens – No events were held last year. Hampers and vouchers were given out at Christmas
- Liberation expenses – No events held but flags/bunting was purchased and 'Red Cross' tin boxes were given out to Parishioners here during the Occupation.
- Bus Shelter - £7,500 had now completed the project.

DC then explained the Surplus accounts where a sum of money was set aside each year in case of large purchases ie vehicles/re-decoration. The only major expense in the last year had been the re-surfacing of three roads – where £70K had been spent leaving £92K in the 'Roads Fund'

The Assembly were asked if there were any questions.

Christopher Taylor asked if the funds due from the Bailiff's Office towards Liberation Expenses in the amount of £2K had been received. Le Connétable advised that he did not know at this time but would make enquiries.

Philip Rondel said that Donations had remained stagnant for many years and suggested raising this amount. Le Connétable advised that this would be discussed in the next agenda item covering '2021/2022 Budgets'

Approval of the Accounts was proposed by Philip Rondel and seconded by Deputy Trevor Pointon and they were approved unanimously

3. The assembly was asked to approve a sum of money for the up-keep of the by-roads of the Parish for the year ending 30 April 2022. An amount of £10,500.00 was proposed by Philip Rondel and seconded by Michel Larose.
4. Le Connétable then gave the Assembly details of his proposed Budgets for Expenditure for the year ending 30 April 2022.
 - Honorary Police - £25,000. An increase of £7,000 to cover costs of new recruits and the compulsory Driver Training Scheme.
 - Refuse and Recycling - £115,000. Increase to cover RPI and additional properties on round.
 - Parish Hall - £28,000
 - Church and Rectory - £23,000
 - Cemeteries and Gardening - £30,000
 - Administration - £124,000
 - Comite de Commune Rural - £1,000
 - Assessment - £2,500
 - Audit Fees - £5,000
 - Legal and Professional - £5,000
 - Senior Citizens - £6,000. Hopefully we will hold a Christmas Lunch this year
 - Youth Project - £20,000. An increase of £4,500 for a three year period to cover the cost of a youth worker for an extra hour a day – 5 hours a week. Youths are encouraged to come in and talk about anything they want, including home and school. The Youth Project stayed open during COVID but some work is needed to update the facility. Le Connétable asked if there were any questions. This was unanimously supported by the Assembly.
 - School House Expenses - £1,000
 - Le Pre Saline Expenses - £1,000
 - Bank Charges - £1,500. Card machines and online payments were now readily available at the Parish Hall. Our Bank has advised that the cost of using cheques on a business account would be increasing to £2.50 per transaction.
 - Emergency Planning – NIL
 - Website Development - £5,304. Parish contribution to a Website developer across 11 Parishes. Updating to offer more online systems whilst maintaining the personal touch.
 - Sundry Expenses - £3,000
 - Staff Training - £1,500
 - Liberation Expenses - £5,000 We are determined to celebrate in May 2022.
 - Sion Bus Shelter – NIL

The following amounts were also suggested for the Reserve Accounts

- Building Reserve - £10,000
- Special Reserve - £10,000
- Vehicle Replacement - £3,000
- Roads Re-Surfacing Fund - £40,000
- Donations - £9,000

Le Connétable gave details of the above. Income from Rates, Hire of Hall, Dog Licences etc amount to just over £475,000. As there is currently £502,000 in the Building Reserve, only

£10,000 has been added this year. There is currently work going ahead at the Parish Hall in the amount of approximately £12,000. There is also work required at the Church, on the gutters and facsias, the vestry and the cemetery gates. Quotes will be obtained for all works required. These figures would leave a budget surplus of approximately £2,800 for the year ending 30 April 2022.

As previously mentioned, Philip Rondel proposed an increase in donations to £11,000 to assist Charities who have struggled with fundraising over the last year. This was seconded by Richard Dupre.

Christopher Taylor said that they were constantly looking at the rate in relation to the amount per ratepayer, which was significantly higher than other Parishes and that this should be kept in mind when setting the rate.

Sharnie Olliver asked about Road Safety Initiatives. This topic will be looked at at a future assembly.

The estimates, with the amendment to the donations, were approved by Andrew Bisson, seconded by Sharnie Olliver and unanimously approved.

5. The Assembly was then asked to approve the rate proposed by Le Connétable in the amount of 1p per quarter, the same as last year. This was proposed by Michel Larose, seconded by Philip Rondel and unanimously approved by the assembly. The said rate was levied.
6. Le Connétable advised that at last week's Comité Paroissiale members of the Roads Committee and Rates Assessment Committee were invited to attend as observers. He advised that following on from that he would like to slightly change the make up of the Committee for the coming year. He proposes that the Committee is made up of the following:
 - Le Connétable
 - Le Rector
 - 2 Procurer's du Bien Publique
 - Centenier, representing the Honorary Police
 - Member of the Roads Committee
 - Rates Assessor
 - Two or three independent Parishioners.

Philip Rondel said he thought that this was a good idea and that the Comité was in need of change and that having representatives from other Committees was also good.

Christopher Taylor agreed that this was a good idea and went on to propose Richard Dupre, Philip Rondel and Ian Touzel to act as the independants for this coming year.

This was unanimously approved by the Assembly

7. Le Connétable thanked Don Connolly and his team for the work they had carried out this year in producing our set of audited accounts. He asked for a proposer for Alex Picot to continue in their work for the year ending 30 April 2022. This was proposed by Michel Larose, seconded by Philip Rondel and unanimously approved by the Assembly.

There being no further business Le Connétable thanked everyone for coming and the meeting closed at 8.05pm

Signed

Date

The meeting was followed by a presentation by Deputy Carolyn Labey from Identity Jersey and a 30 minute Q & A with Le Connétable and Le Deputé.