

## Summary Minutes of Douzaine Meeting – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Present: Mr D H Le Moignan (Constable), Mrs J M Tasker (Constable), Mrs C E Goodlass, Mrs K E Jones, Messrs. B J Cash, K R Pike & Mr R H Harding, Mrs J C Robin, Mr D Falla, Ms M B McDermott, Messrs. M G G Garrett & J Mooney, Mrs R Henderson, Mrs L Vahey, Messrs. A Gabriel & T A C Bush. Apologies were received from: Mr C Blin & Ms D Sebire

### **Declaration of Interests**

There were none.

### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes were accepted.

### **Matters arising**

There were none.

### **Constables' Report to the Douzaine**

The Constables had circulated a report.

### **Committee Reports**

Reports by the Profile and Floral Committees had been circulated.

Amenities Committee – A meeting had been held with the Committee for Environment and Infrastructure and Guernsey Water, who agreed to go forward in planning the surface water control scheme (SUDS) for the sunken garden. The Committee still needed to decide on a launch date for the community toilet scheme.

### **School Reports**

Baubigny Schools – Mrs Tasker had circulated a report.

### **Planning**

Braye Lodge Draft Development Framework was circulated and the Douzaine invited to comment directly to the DPA.

### **Waste Strategy Correspondence**

The latest correspondence had been circulated. Mr Falla and Secretary Mr Guilbert would be attending a meeting with other Parishes and the STSB members and civil servants organized by the St Andrews Constables on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Mr Falla had spoken to St Andrew's Constable Mr Thwaite, who confirmed that most Parishes were in agreement that they did not wish to be debt collectors (ie. collect the Trading Assets annual fixed charge) for the States of Guernsey. Mr Le Moignan had contacted the Law Officers with some questions regarding the legal aspects of the Waste Strategy.

### **Lord's Prayer at Parish Meetings**

Mrs Tasker had conducted a survey with the other Parishes and all have the Lord's Prayer at the start of Douzaine meetings and Parish meetings, and Grace at the end. This would be circulated by the office.

This resulted from a question posed to Mrs Robin after the last Parish meeting. The enquirer thought that the Lord's Prayer and Grace should not be recited at Parish meetings as it does not allow for other faiths. As the reciting of the Lord's Prayer at the start of Parish meetings and Grace at the end could be applied to the Ecclesiastical meeting only, a proposal was made that the Ecclesiastical meeting could be conducted first (at 7.30pm), including prayers, followed by a refreshment break of 10 or 15 minutes, followed by the secular meeting. This was accepted by the Douzaine (14 for and 2 abstentions).

### **Postal Votes for Douzaine Elections**

Ms Sebire had circulated an email asking if the Douzaine thought postal votes should be made available for Parochial elections. Several Douzeniers agreed with this suggestion. The Secretary advised that he had researched The Reform (Amendment) (Guernsey) Law, 1972, which had five pages dedicated to the procedure for conducting postal votes at General Elections, but this law did not cover Douzaine elections. To introduce postal votes for Douzaine elections a change in the Law would be required which would apply island wide. At this November's Douzaine elections, all parishes except St Peter Port had dealt with their elections at their Parish meetings (St Peter Port alone had a deferred election). Under the present law, deferred elections must be held not more than 15 days after Parish meetings, hence the procedure presently in place for General Elections could not be conducted (by the Registrar General) within the 15 days. The Secretary would circulate the relevant pages of the Law for further discussion.

There was discussion about the poor voter turn-out for the recent elections, with various suggestions made as to how to publicise the elections more effectively. This included posting manifesto on the website or publishing in the Townie (this may not be possible due to timing of the print run). It was also suggested that the Parish should have a public notice board, possibly under the Lefebvre Street arch (though this would be chargeable by the owner). Mr Le Moignan reminded all present that the most effective way to gain support was for candidates to post their manifestos through letter boxes.

### **Guernsey Douzaine Council Minutes & notes from Mr Harding**

Minutes of the latest meeting and Mr Harding's notes had been circulated.

### **The Parochial Church Property (Guernsey) Law, 2015 update**

A recent update from Mr David Way of the DLG had been circulated.

### **Silent Fireworks**

Several Douzeniers were concerned with the effect of noisy fireworks on animals and suggested that the States should only allow fireworks by professionals on strictly limited days, ie. November 5<sup>th</sup> and one alternative day. At the moment there is no restriction and fireworks can be let off at any time. The States of Guernsey operate a notification scheme to alert the general public. It was agreed that the Douzaine should write to St Peter Port Deputies to lobby for more control over use of noisy fireworks.

### **Any Other Business**

Mrs Jones – congratulated the Floral Committee on the recent Britain in Bloom results, but commented that the reporting of the result by the Guernsey Press gave no credit to the ten years of work by previous committees which led to the 2017 gold award.

Mr Harding – advised that one Deputy complained to him that he had not been invited to the Deputy session that precedes the Douzaine meetings. It was agreed that the office should send out all the meeting dates at the beginning of each year and send out further reminders a few days before each meeting.

Ms McDermott – asked that the Douzaine be reminded at the beginning of each Douzaine meeting that the meeting is being recorded.

Mrs Henderson – Commented on the recent resignation by Deputy Ferbrache from the Committee for Economic Development.

Mr Gabriel – pointed out that there had been a recent serious accident involving a pedestrian at the Fountain Street zebra crossing and his partner was lobbying Traffic & Highways for a safer crossing with more illumination.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

**D H LE MOIGNAN**

**J M TASKER**

Constables