

Paroisse de Saint Sauveur  
Minutes of the Douzaine Meeting held in Douzaine Room at the Community Centre  
at 7.00pm on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

Present	<p>Messrs D Bertrand (DB), J Brache (JB), Mrs C Connolly (CC), Mr R de Garis (RdG), Mrs K Fooks (KF), Messrs S Gibbs (SG), J Gillson (JG), P Harris (PH), J Norman (JN), P Connolly (PC) and N Le Poidevin (Constable – presiding).</p> <p>Mr G Chapman (GC), Parish Secretary was present to record the minutes.</p>	
Apologies	Mr R Murray (RM), Mr J Liddy (JL) had advised that he would be late.	
Minutes of Meeting held on 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	The minutes were agreed and signed by the Constable.	
Matters Arising	<p><b>Deputies attending Douzaine Meetings.</b></p> <p>NLP confirmed that following on from the October meeting Deputy Y Burford (YB) contacted the Constables offering to attend future Douzaine meetings. The Constables have replied indicating that the Douzaine did not need to have a Deputy at every meeting, but would request attendance if it was considered appropriate, depending on the matters to be discussed by the States.</p> <p>KF said that since the last Douzaine meeting, there had been a meeting of the Douzaine Council, where it became clear that some Douzaines are in favour of Deputies attending meetings, but without parish Deputies it is not exactly clear who it would be appropriate to invite.</p> <p>Additionally, there has been a suggestion (from the Guernsey Party) that they should send 3 Guernsey Party Deputies to each Douzaine every 3 months to ensure strong liaison between Deputies and Douzaines.</p> <p>JB said that he was not in favour of the decision made in October, and wished to see at least one Deputy attend every Douzaine meeting.</p> <p>RdG suggested that the attendance of Deputies is a pointless exercise because Deputies never take the views expressed by the Douzaine to the State’s Chamber.</p> <p>JB suggested that there is a definite need to build better relationships between Deputies and Douzaines and this would not happen if Deputies were not invited to Douzaine meetings.</p> <p>SG agreed, and said that it would be a mistake to not invite a Deputy to every Douzaine meeting, but was unsure which Deputies would be willing to come.</p> <p>KF said that all that the Douzaine could do was invite Deputies and see what the response was.</p> <p>RdG suggested that if the Douzaine wants to invite Deputies to meetings, that the 3 Deputies who currently live in St Saviour should be invited, namely, Deputies Murray (who is a Douzenier, Burford and Lyndon Trott (LT))</p> <p>KF suggested that Deputy Soulsby, who is the Policy and Resources Committee lead on the Douzaine Liaison Group should also be invited, preferably early in 2021.</p> <p>The Douzaine agreed to rescind the decision taken at the October meeting and invite Deputies to the first 3 meetings of 2021 and if the</p>	

	<p>meetings with Deputies is deemed to be a success to continue the policy.</p> <p>NLP said that RM would always be at Douzaine meetings in his capacity as Douzenier, but in addition to RM, the Constables should invite YB to the January meeting, Deputy Soulsby to the February meeting and Deputy Trott to the March meeting.</p> <p>This was unanimously agreed.</p> <p><i>Subsequently invitations were sent to these Deputies, with YB and LT accepting.</i></p> <p><b>Guernsey Party attending Douzaine Meetings.</b></p> <p>NLP said that KF needed some guidance so that St Saviour's position could be conveyed to the Douzaine Council.</p> <p>RdG said that he wanted no part in 'Party Politics' and suggested that the Douzaine should not be seen to be in a position whereby it might appear to parishioners that a political party is having influence over Douzaine decisions – a position that was unanimously supported by the Douzaine.</p>	<p>NLP/PC</p> <p>KF</p>
<p>Douzaine Council Meeting update</p>	<p><b>Representation at Douzaine Liaison Group (DLG) Meetings.</b></p> <p>Deputy Heidi Soulsby (HS) has been nominated as the Policy and Resources lead for the DLG and is keen to encourage Douzaines to take on more responsibilities, but has not given any indication what they might be.</p> <p>It appears that Deputy Soulsby is keen to reduce numbers attending meetings of the DLG to a maximum of 10 persons and would like to see all of the Island's Douzaines represented by fewer people and not have a representative from every parish.</p> <p>SG said that he believes the benefit of the DLG is to make long term and strategic decisions, and not dwell on minutiae.</p> <p>KF said that she believes every parish should continue to be represented, because (for instance) if 'plurality' was an agenda item, St Saviour could not be certain that the parishes interests would be properly represented by others.</p> <p>KF said that she understands that those attending the first meeting of the DLG (under Deputy Soulsby's leadership) will be as at previous meetings and hopes that it will remain so until any change is agreed by all Douzaines.</p> <p>The Douzaine unanimously agreed that St Saviour wishes to be represented by one of its own officials at all future meetings.</p> <p><b>Ecclesiastical Matters - Rectories.</b></p> <p>There is growing frustration that a policy letter has not yet been presented to the States by the Policy and Resources Committee. It appears that the hold-up is with the Law Officers, and the particular officer who has been allocated the task has spent most of the year working on the General Election, and has only recently started to work on the backlog.</p> <p><b>Constables' Annual Accounts</b></p> <p>KF reported that it is not only St Saviour that is concerned by the requirement of the 2013 Parochial Administration Law that requires an 'audit' if annual income from ratepayers is over £250k annually. Currently, parishes such as St Saviour has an income of just less than £250k and can arrange an inspection of the accounts through a reputable accountancy firm for about £2,500. However, it is quite likely, especially given the expected demand for repairs to the Church, that the income from ratepayers will exceed £250k in 2021. Accountants see the</p>	<p>KF</p>

	<p>requirement for an ‘audit’ as stated in the 2013 law quite literally – (in the world of accountants) as a full audit and this would push the costs of the annual report up to the region of £8k, more than a 3-fold increase. The only way this can be paid for is to put extra charges on parishioners, - an unnecessary cost in the view of most parishes. If RPI or RPIX had been applied to the £250k figure, determined by the 2013 law, the figure would now be approaching £285k. The Law states that the Policy Council (assumed to have been taken over by the Policy &amp; Resources Committee (P&amp;R)) can issue guidance about any matter within the law, and KF and the St Martin representative are to draft a letter to be sent to P&amp;R requesting them to recommend a change in the maximum figure (£250k) to something more reasonable – at least £300k with provision for the figure to be increased by RPI on an annual basis.</p> <p>The Douzaine unanimously supported this move.</p> <p><b>Parish Rates</b></p> <p>Parishes are still concerned that the Cadastre Law and Waste Law are not aligned in terms of what is a habitable unit, which leads to confusion with some properties every year. There is ongoing work trying to resolve the matter.</p>	KF
Household Waste	<p>NLP confirmed that Christmas &amp; New Year collections for household waste would be changed so that collections each week would be 2 days later (overnight Saturday into Sunday each week) instead of the normal Thursday/Friday collection.</p> <p>NLP explained that Guernsey Waste would publicise the changes with all of the island’s media outlets and that the Constables have arranged for the information to be placed on the parish website and parish notice-board. In light of this the Douzaine agreed that there would be no need for the Constables to place a notice in Guernsey Press.</p>	NLP/PC
Guernsey Waste – Enforcement Powers	<p>NLP reminded the Douzaine that enforcement powers were delegated to Guernsey Waste (GW) on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018, and that this was for a period of 2 years. GW are now prepared to continue this arrangement indefinitely, - until the Douzaine indicates that it wishes to cancel. Any new Constable will have to enter in to a new arrangement.</p> <p>The Douzaine indicated that the enforcement powers should continue to be delegated to GW.</p> <p>NLP then asked the Douzaine to agreed to the following terms; -</p> <p><i>We the Constables and Douzeniers of the Parish of St Saviour agree-</i></p> <p>(a) <i>that specified functions of the Douzaine, relating to enforcement, under the Parochial Collection of Waste (Guernsey) Law, 2015 (“the 2015 Law”) were delegated by Instrument of Delegation on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and that the delegation was open ended so will continue in effect until it is terminated by the Douzaine in accordance with the 2015 Law; and</i></p> <p>(b) <i>that such delegation shall continue in effect beyond the initial two-year period referred to in the Douzaine minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2018, until terminated by the Douzaine in accordance with the 2015 Law.”</i></p> <p>And</p> <p><i>We the Constables and Douzeniers of the Parish of St Saviour agree –</i></p> <p>(a) <i>that specified functions of Constables of the Parish relating to enforcement, under the Parochial Collection of Waste (Guernsey) Law, 2015 (“the 2015 Law”) are delegated to the Waste Disposal Authority under that Law; and</i></p>	

	<p>(b) <i>that a new delegation shall be entered into by any new Constable when he or she is elected which shall continue in effect until terminated by the constable in question in accordance with the 2015 Law.</i>"</p> <p>The Douzaine unanimously agreed that enforcement powers should be delegated to GW.</p>	NLP/PC
Motor Rally 2021	<p>NLP Advised the Douzaine that there had been no further correspondence received concerning the proposed 2021 motor rally, - in total there have been 5 letters/emails sent to the constables and each has been replied to. One email (sent to Traffic &amp; Highways) was copied to the Constables – this has not been replied to.</p> <p>JN said that he would like it to be on record that had received a call from 2 parishioners (representing 1 household) with various complaints about how the rally organisers having failed to liaise with those householders along the proposed route, and other concerns about approvals for the rally, access to properties, access for emergency services and the potential for contamination of the reservoir.</p> <p>JN responded to the points raised by explaining that the Douzaine has no authority to grant approval for the staging of the rally – this is the remit of Traffic &amp; Highway Services – and that the Douzaine is neither supporting nor objecting to the staging of the 2021 rally. JN also referred the complainants to the various emergency services and Guernsey Water who he believed had been consulted about the fears of access and contamination.</p>	
	JL attended the meeting at 7.45pm.	
Christmas Lights at SSCC	Arrangements were made to put the Christmas lights up at SSCC on 28 <sup>th</sup> November.	
Parish Rates	<p>NLP reported that, as previously agreed, the Constables have taken steps to issue 6 Petty Debt Court summonses to ratepayers who had not only failed to pay parish rates, but despite 4 letters having been sent to them, not contacted the Constables to make arrangements for paying their accounts.</p> <p>In 5 of the cases payments have been made in full without having to go to Court and the 6<sup>th</sup> case is paying the account at £20 per week. All costs associated with Court proceedings have been recovered (in the case of the account being paid weekly the costs will be recovered).</p> <p>By previous arrangement, there are 2 accounts being paid by instalments – both will be fully paid by 31<sup>st</sup> December, and one account outstanding since 2016, where there is a complication about inheritance after the owner died, should be paid when the matter is resolved.</p>	
Montebourg Association	RdG (the Douzaine representative on the Association) reported that the Association's AGM had taken place recently, but there was little to comment upon because of travel restrictions imposed by the COVID pandemic.	
Correspondence	<p><b>Trees on Parish Land at Les Buttes.</b></p> <p>NLP reported that it had been brought to his attention that pine trees on parish land at Les Buttes were in need of survey to ensure that they continued to be safe.</p> <p>A tree consultant has already visited the site and commented that (in general) the trees appear to be in good condition, but that a detailed survey is recommended at a cost not to exceed £600.</p> <p>The Douzaine agreed that the survey should be carried out and that any work recommended should be part of the 2021 rates request – unless work was required immediately - to ensure the area remained safe.</p>	

	RdG commented that, as a point of interest, he could remember his father talking about how he (the father) was involved with the planting of the trees soon after the war to replace trees used for fuel by the occupying forces.	
	At 8.00pm JN left the meeting.	
Any Other Business	<p><b>Christmas Disbursements.</b> NLP said that he had been given £600 by a local organisation (and anticipated a further £600) for distribution to need parishioners this Christmas. JB and CC agreed to distribute these funds.</p> <p><b>Christmas Hampers.</b> NLP said that La Houquette School has asked if Douzeniers could distribute some Christmas Hampers to needy elderly parishioners. No Douzenier was able to suggest any worthy recipient, so NLP asked those present to consider the matter and advise the Parish Secretary before 27<sup>th</sup> November if any people could benefit from receipt of a hamper so a reply could be sent to the school. <i>Subsequently no names were suggested and a reply sent to the school.</i></p>	JB/CC
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm.	
	The next meeting is to be held at the Community Centre, at 7.00pm on Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2020.	