



| Minutes of the Shadow Conseil Municipal | |
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| Monday 14 September 2020 at 6.00 p.m. | |
| Meeting held in the Magistrates Court, Town Hall | |
| | Item 1: Welcome, Apologies, Scene Setting and Overview – |
| | <p>Present: Constable Simon Crowcroft (SC) Procureur Geraint Jennings (GJ) Procureur Peter Pearce (PP) The Very Revd Mike Keirle (MK) Mr Barry Le Feuvre (BLF) Mr Bernie Manning (BM) Mrs Lyndsay Feltham (LF) Mr Mario Pirozzolo (MP)</p> <p>In Attendance: Mr Jason Turner, CEO (JT) Mrs Alison Sweeney, Parish Secretary (AS) Miss Liz Sheehan, Minutes</p> <p>Apologies: Mr Julian Rogers (JR) Mr John Baker (JB) Mr Robert Le Brocq (RLB) Mrs Barbara Corbett (BC)</p> |
| | Item 2: Declaration of Interests. |
| | No declaration of interests were declared |
| | Item 3: Approve the minutes of the last meeting. |
| | The minutes of the meeting 27 th July 2020 were proposed by MP and seconded by MK and approved unanimously (SC,GJ,PP,BLF,BM,LF) |
| | Item 4: Matters Arising |
| | <p>SC enquired if there had been any progress with government departments, as previously it was reported they were unable to due to the pandemic. MP advised there had been no change; the Environment Group were finding it difficult to contact anybody in government, which was disappointing. JT confirmed the government were still dealing with COVID19, but he was hoping to have some conversations with them over the coming weeks. JT confirmed that the Parish had written to stakeholders to seek their views as part of retail and hospitality work being undertaking, the deadline for that consultation was the end of August. Feedback has been received and letters are being drafted to go out this week to the various Ministers, to request consideration of delegated powers, if only on a temporary basis. SC questioned if the members of the Conseil would see a copy of the letters and would the letters be public. JT confirmed the letters would be from the Constable to the individuals concerned, but if the Constable requested copies could be placed on the next agenda. SC asked, what happens if the media ask to see the letters. JT said he thought they would be available under FOI. SC asked even before they have been replied to, JT replied he could not see any reason why not.</p> <p>SC mentioned the noise item lodged by JR at the last meeting; he asked if there had been any progress. AS confirmed, that events contracts had to be changed and that she would pass the details to Infrastructure and the Town Centre Manager for changes to be made.</p> |
| 20/25 | Item 5: Forthcoming Elections: Roads Committee, Roads Inspectors, Rates Assessors |
| | JT brought to the Conseil's attention that elections for Roads Committee, Roads Inspectors and Rates |

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| | <p>Assessors were all due at the end of this year. The Constable intends to ask the Assembly to continue with the Shadow Conseil for a further 6 months and to elect members to the Shadow Conseil for that period. This reflects the impact the pandemic has had on the Conseil and the work it has been unable to achieve, it would allow the Conseil to finish their trial. Achievements could be fed into a proposition for the Constable to take to the States Assembly. SC commented that he thought 6 months to be too long. PP stated that 6 months had been lost and the government were still not responding to letters, he suggested it would take longer than 6 months, possibly another year. MP said the reason the Shadow Conseil was established on a trial, was not to make all the decisions, but to stress test, the system, as to whether or not, it would work; he thought by extending it for a further year it would pass its sell by date. The Conseil was set up to see if it could be a functioning body and that should be evident regardless of Covid as, the framework is either in place or it isn't, details and policy can follow on. GJ thought a year would not provide any extra evidence that it worked, if the trial went to the end of next year then there wouldn't be enough time left of the current States Assembly, as plans would have started for the next States election. His view was it would be good to have a year between the end of the experiment and the end of the current States Assembly. SC stated if we ask for 6 months, we don't have to use the whole 6 months before we put the proposition to the Parish Assembly, but it would give a little a margin. GJ felt if the Conseil could demonstrate what it has been able to achieve, even with a pandemic, it would be for the Assembly to agree or disagree. SC said he would hope to lodge the proposition in the States by Easter; there would be just over a year until the general elections, giving the States plenty of time to deliberate and to make a decision. If it is any later than Easter, it will hit the summer recess, and once you get to the Autumn this will not happen because of States business. GJ suggested that the proposed extension to the Shadow Conseil be announced as soon as possible, to enable time for people to consider standing for election. Elections for these posts usually take place on a Wednesday in middle of December; the date for elections would be confirmed at the next meeting.</p> <p>The Shadow Conseil adopted the proposal to extend by 6 months and all were in favour (SC,GJ,PP,BLF,BM, LF,MK,MP)</p> <p>SC asked should we pursue the idea of a youth member for the last six months. GJ thought it was a good idea; even if nobody came forward, at least we have contributed to young people's engagement. LF agreed it is important that the Parish aspire to engage with young people, this could be work for the Public Engagement Committee.</p> <p>Those present should be aware that as the Roads Committee form part of the Shadow Conseil, it might be that the same people are not elected. In this case, if members were no longer on the Roads Committee, but wished to continue to be part of the Shadow, they would need to put themselves forward for election for one of the additional positions. LF enquired if there could be a change of time for Road Committee meetings as this may encourage more people to seek election. JT said it would be difficult to change the current schedule for the remainder of this year, but once a new Committee was elected, it would be for them to decide when to meet. GJ stated he thought discussion at the Conseil had resulted in the Roads Committee meetings being more compact. MP was conscious of the additional cost of parish officer's time, with yet another meeting in the evening. JT confirmed it didn't make a difference to cost as those present attend at no extra cost whether it be day or evening.</p> |
| 20/26 | <p>Item 6: Public Engagement Portfolio Committee: Receive update from the chairperson of progress since the last meeting</p> |
| | <p>LF explained that Covid has stunted progress; one of the Engagement Committees aims was to encourage the public to attend Parish meetings. The Committee were building upon the good work Parish employees had undertaken on social media and by publicising the Rates Assembly, including how money was spent in the Town Crier.</p> <p>Next year the Committee have agreed to produce a publication that will go to every parishioner, as they are conscious that not everyone receives the Town Crier. Work on the publication will begin in January 2021, the publication, which will be similar to an annual report, will go out in May as a letter box drop, to explain how public money is being spent and the work the parish has achieved. Discussions were taking place with Parish groups to encourage them to spread the word on Facebook about parish events, including Parish Assemblies.</p> <p>MK and SC are to produce a visitor's leaflet; a meeting to progress it will take place soon. LF and AS are to meet the States Greffe with regards electronic voting, to understand the work the Privilege and Procedures Committee are doing regards online public engagement and to establish whether the Parish could be considered as a piolet scheme. Electronic voting will require a law change, which would take some time to</p> |

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| | <p>achieve and so to begin with online voting could encourage participation and provide an indicative result. It is thought this could be established within the Committee' timescale. SC stated the law change could be earlier, when the States are asked to make a decision about setting up the Conseil Municipal, as a key part of that is to allow more people to vote on parish matters, without turning up to a Town Hall that is not big enough to accommodate them.</p> <p>GJ said if there was wider democratic voting, it would give opposition to the Conseil being a small number of people trying to power grab and insulates it from that accusation. The Conseil is trying to be effective but also needs wider participation, those two things together makes for a better proposition.</p> <p>PP has already done some good work on increasing Mandataires, with the mailshot that went out to businesses with their rates information. The Committee have discussed advertising further by taking the opportunity to have a stall at events such as the Fete de St. Helier; it's about getting the message out there and opening doors by engagement with people.</p> <p>GJ expressed concern that the Rates Assembly demonstrated some journalists do not have a clue about what goes on at the Parish. He thought there was a case for information to be sent to the media as part of an induction for new journalists, so they understand the basic facts in relation to Parishes and the matters they may be reporting on, his thoughts were this might make them more receptive when passing on informative information. LF suggested producing a pack not just for Journalists but for all parishioners, giving basic facts on what happens i.e. at a Parish Assembly. SC suggested the Parish hold a press conference prior to the Parish Assembly; this could be coupled with a press release that is targeted at the media to generate interest to attend. There was some media interest before this year's Rates Assembly; this was the first in many years, as they appear to have lost interest.</p> <p>AS commented that Zoom had enabled the media to ask questions at this year's Rates Assembly, it was suggested a Zoom invite be sent to the media so they didn't need to attend in person. LF said these ideas could be included in the Committees plan. MP stated that usually when there is a specific meeting covering important issues, an organisation would produce a media brief, an information sheet covers the background information and provides links to further information.</p> |
| 20/27 | <p>Item 7: Community Services Portfolio Committee: Receive update from the chairperson of Progress since the last meeting.</p> |
| | <p>BLF stated progress had been made by JR who had liaised with JT to improve website entries. The Committee is pressing on with navigating the long-term care system, but this is still in the early stages. BLF is working with the Town Centre Manager on various ideas to encourage older people in to town. It was reported the Group are finding it difficult, since the resignation of Malcolm L'Amy and could do with some help. It was suggested that members of the other portfolios could join them. BLF said he would speak to JR about it.</p> |
| 20/28 | <p>Item 8: Environment Portfolio Committee: Receive update from the chairperson of progress since the last meeting</p> |
| | <p>MP expressed his frustration at not being able to get an answer from the government officials or civil servants. He has been trying to get hold of them, as he believes Broad Street is a lost opportunity. GJ stated in generality local government wants to work within a framework and principals laid down at a higher level by central government; the Conseil has no principals to work to, in terms of how do we plan walking routes, cycling routes or access to countryside when there is no strategy from the government. It was hoped the Parish and government may have been able to work together, there has been no addition to cycle routes during Covid and St Helier is still not in a position where there is safe walking around town with proper physical distancing. There has been no adaptation of pavements and schools are opening with no provision for safe routes to school with appropriate safe distancing. If the frameworks had been followed through and if the minister had delivered his strategy much earlier, St Helier would be in a much better place to deal with movement of transport, keeping people safe and protected. MP agreed he thought the government and civil servants were not giving the Conseil a chance. He suggested for our own salvation, he wondered if members could accumulate some individual tasks apart from the portfolio as it would really help, he asked if other members were of the same view. SC said the Portfolio Committee plans had been adopted by the Shadow Conseil and needed to be delivered, if this is not possible and some of the ideas undeliverable we need to adjust them at the next meeting. BM agreed with what MP had said, he suggested not pushing everything to one side but if we could carry on and try to work on our own projects as well and bring those forward, it could help otherwise we may find out that we run out of time and have not achieved anything. BM suggested that the anti-letter campaign that he gave SC and JT could be enacted. SC stated that progress was being made on the litter front and that clearly cycling and walking had been tied up by the fact there is no policy from government, however there had been a push from the Conseil and Roads Committee which had led to an increase in cycle racks in Old Street for example. MP suggested a</p> |

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| | <p>task list of positives that have been achieved, other wise people will comment on why we are doing this. PP stated that we also need a list of negatives, of things we cannot achieve as the States are getting in our way. LF wanted to throw caution to projects that are nothing to do with an agreed plan based on resource and time available, she would prefer portfolio groups look at their plans to see what they may actually be able to achieve. MP said that he hears her caution but that is her individual opinion and that there are members who would like to be more involved with the Conseil. SC asked when the next meeting of the Environment was, as he would like to attend. AS confirmed, they are usually held on a Friday but there had not been one for some time.</p> |
| | <p>Date of next meeting 12th October 2020</p> |