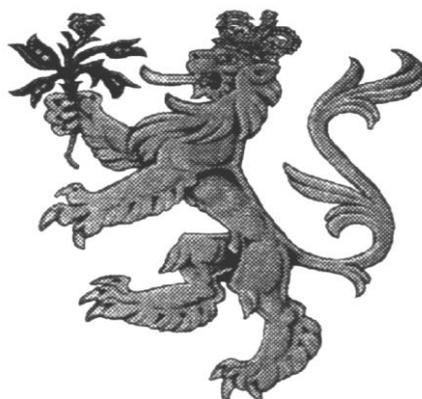


States of Alderney



DELIBERATIONS

WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL 2018

STATES OF ALDERNEY
DELIBERATIONS FOR THE MEETING
ON WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL 2018 AT 17:30

Present: Mr Stuart Trought, President
Mr Ian Tugby
Mr Matt Birmingham
Mr Louis Jean
Mr Steve Roberts
Mrs Norma Paris
Mr Graham McKinley
Mr James Dent
Mr Alex Snowdon
Mr Mike Dean
Mr Tony Barnes

Colonel Colin Mason represented His Excellency The Lieutenant-Governor of the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

Item I **Organ Donation – Opt Out Basis**

The above discussion was presented by Mr Dent and was debated without resolution.

Proposer: Mr Dent
Seconder: Mr Roberts

Item II **Alderney Partnership Law**

The States of Alderney resolved to approve the preparation of an Alderney Partnership Law in principle, subject to appropriate preparatory policy work and consultation being undertaken.

Proposer: Mr Dent
Seconder: Mr Barnes
Approved unanimously.

Item III **Armed Forces Covenant**

The President asked the Members to note that the Armed Forces Covenant has been signed.

Item IV **Questions and Reports**

1. **The following written questions were received from Mr Birmingham, Chairman of the Building and Development Control Committee to Mr Dent, Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee:-**

“Does the Chairman of Policy and Finance Committee agree with me that his committee now has a clear process to designate that a project has strategic importance to the island and are thereby able to steer such project towards the proper planning approval process?”

Also given the Chairman of P&F’s publically expressed views on the need for Governance reform, does he believe that there are lessons to be learned from the consultative processes with the public used for both the LUP and the associated reform of the Building and Planning Law that might be applied to a reform of Governance?”

Mr Dent’s response was as follows:-

“I would like to thank the Chairman of BDCC for asking me this. To the first part of his question: I would answer an unequivocal ‘yes’. P&F now has a clear and separate role in the process – it is now delegated to consider evidence. When considering whether or not to designate a project as having strategic importance, P&F will now need to ask themselves: what evidence is needed and if such evidence should, amongst other things, sensibly incorporate economic, financial and social impacts and risks. As there is no exact definition of strategic importance, P&F will have to make a judgement, but the tests are set out clearly in Section 13.2 of Schedule 1 to the BDC Regulations. This and future P&F committees have thus been given a clear framework in which to operate – and, I would like to think, the island is protected against any future temptation to drive through ill-considered or sweetheart deals. I would like to make it clear that, to me, the new delegation and division of powers has been a very important feature of the new regulations.

As to the second part of the question: again I would answer ‘yes’. Clearly the processes for preparing a LUP and reform of the Building and Planning Law and the processes for considering our options in regard to governance are different, but there are, if we wish, some salutary lessons we can take on board.

- *First: there is the process for convincing the public that our governance processes need improving – just as the BDCC had to convince people that a revised LUP and new Regulatory Framework was in the best interests of the island – and I note here that the strategy section of the LUP begins with a vision. I think the strategy for any changes to governance must begin in a similar vision. My own vision in regard to governance, if it is of any interest to my colleagues, would emphasise the need for improved democracy, transparency and efficiency.*
- *Second: there is the consultative process on options, the LUP process has convinced me that, in order for success, there will be a clear need for an outside professional change-manager; and*
- *Third: there is the process whereby all stakeholders views on the options are taken into account and the more concrete proposals are assembled – again something that we would need to replicate and where we would clearly need outside professional help.*

The LUP cost money and any changes to governance will also cost – we have demonstrated clearly that we cannot do this on our own. But I will say, that the long-term costs of doing nothing are likely to far exceed the short-term costs of the advice we receive.

If I might conclude by very briefly tying the Chairman of BDCC's two questions together. States Members are required to take decisions solely in the public interest. Quite naturally, we often have different ideas on where that interest lies. The final debate on the LUP and the Building Development Regulations in the last States meeting was very revealing. Our positions need to be as much evidence and scrutiny-based as it is possible to achieve - neither self-interest nor our take on the involved personalities should be important.

Sadly - and this is not a reference to the LUP - we are not set up to do, and therefore do far too little, scrutiny; we are also pretty poor at delegation and personality issues although important seem to figure far too often. Let me be very clear, decision-making based on anything other than scrutiny will be our nemesis."

2. The following verbal question was received from Mr Dent to Mrs Paris, Chairman of the General Services Committee:-

"In the Treasurer's Budget Report for 2018 (28 Sept 2017) and under the heading Capital Projects, it is stated that a provision has been made in the accounts of £100,000 for the "Extension of the Outfall at Fort Doyle" during the fiscal year 2019. Can the Chair of GSC tell us the current state of this project and provide an indicative timetable for its implementation?"

Mrs Paris's response was as follows:-

"We are looking to extend the Fort Doyle outfall further out to sea. We need to survey the seabed to see how challenging this will be. We plan to conduct the survey at the same time as the underwater sonar survey of the Breakwater to help defray the cost. The timing of this is dependent on Guernsey but we are in close contact with our colleagues there and they will be attending the GSC meeting in May.

We are also looking at on-land options but these are very costly - possibly in the region of £4 million pounds - will probably smell worse than our current system and take up valuable space.

Also the Longis Sewage Treatment plant has just been serviced and continues to be in working order."

Meeting Closed: 1820hrs

Issued: 30th April 2018