

States of Alderney



DELIBERATIONS

WEDNESDAY 25TH JULY 2018

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

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

His Excellency Vice Admiral Sir Ian Corder, The Lieutenant-Governor of the Bailiwick of Guernsey was in attendance.

Apologies were received from Mr Jean and Mr Barnes.

Item I **Legislation to introduce a new single Property Tax**

The States of Alderney resolved that the Law Officers be instructed to prepare the necessary legislation for the implementation of a new single Property Tax to be in place by 1st January 2020.

Proposer: Mr Dent
Seconder: Mrs Paris
Approved by a majority
FOR: Messrs Birmingham, Roberts, McKinley, Dent, Snowdon, Dean and Mrs Paris
AGAINST: Mr Tugby

Item II **Elections 2018**

The States of Alderney resolved that:

- i. the date of the Ordinary Election be Saturday 1st December 2018; and**
- ii. the Plebiscite be held on Saturday 8th December, 2018.**

Proposer: Mr Dent
Seconder: Mr Roberts
Approved unanimously

Item III **The European Union (Brexit) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2018**

The following amendment was received from Mr Dent:-

"I propose the following amendment to Billet Item III:

that 'The European Union (Brexit) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2018' be deferred until the States Meeting on Wednesday 12th September 2018."

Amendment Proposer: Mr Dent
Amendment Secunder: Mr McKinley
Approved unanimously

Item IV **The International Trade Agreements (Implementation) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2018**

The States of Alderney resolved to approve the Projet de Loi entitled "The International Trade Agreements (Implementation) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2018" and to authorise the Bailiff to present a most humble petition to Her Majesty in Council praying for Her Royal Sanction thereto.

Proposer: Mr Dent
Secunder: Mr McKinley
Approved unanimously

Item V **Code of Conduct Review Panel**

The States of Alderney resolved that Mr Peter Allen be confirmed as a Member of the States Members Code of Conduct Review Panel until the next Annual January Meeting of the States of Alderney.

Proposer: Mr Dent
Secunder: Mr Roberts
Approved unanimously

Item VI **The Renewable Energy (Alderney) (Exemptions) Regulations, 2018**

The States of Alderney resolved that 'The Renewable Energy (Alderney) (Exemptions) Regulations, 2018' not be annulled.

*Proposer: Mr Dent
Secunder: Mr Tugby
Approved unanimously*

Item VII **Questions and Reports**

The following question was received from Mr Dent for the two Alderney Representatives, Mr McKinley and Mr Roberts:-

“Would you like to comment on: (i) any matters relevant to Alderney raised during the recent debates in the States of Guernsey; and (ii) on any recent representations you have made to Guernsey politicians or officers in their civil service concerning our transferred or other services?”

Mr McKinley’s response – available in due course on the Hansard Report for this meeting.

Mr Roberts’ response:-

“In my maiden speech, I told them that I had worked at Aurigny for 21 years, and I could say without any doubt in my mind, that without the Southampton connection, Alderney, with our sick struggling economy, would go to the wall. I said I would guarantee that fact, I guaranteed it to all in the chamber.

Mr McKinley spoke well on this subject and I congratulate him.

But our runway has still not been upgraded.

I reminded the states of Guernsey of the words Deputy Fallaise spoke back in 2014 when the requête for the runway upgrade was lodged.

Briefly he had said, “Sir, I know there has been some criticism of the requête, for its rather ambitious time-table of action to be taken in support of Alderney, but what Alderney does not need right now, is a whole series of investigations and reports, and protracted analyses over the next several years.”

I also reminded them he had been correct. That was the last thing Alderney needed. but unfortunately his warning turned out to be a prophecy of what Alderney got.

I again reminded them that four years later nothing had been advanced, and it was not what the States of Deliberation had decided either.

Four years later and nothing done.

I then reminded them that it was not just Alderney’s view, it was the view of Mr Parkinson, Chairman of Economic Development, who in a letter to the states of Alderney on February 26, wrote...

“It was clear from discussions that the completion of the rehabilitation of Alderney’s runway will be an important factor in any PSO agreement”. He added “I am confident that if we, and our colleagues, work together constructively, we can ensure both projects run on time.”

I asked if we could indeed do what Deputy Parkinson is advocating. Let’s work together in sync, let’s work together on time.

I reminded them of the implications of a pothole on the runway appearing at the wrong place at the wrong time, implications to life risk, and implications to huge financial litigation to the States of Guernsey.

I commented that the 1948 agreement is to be reviewed, it must have involvement of the UK. No-one marks their own homework.

I then addressed the States of the Aurigny losses. Consideration should not be based on losses incurred by poor management. These losses should be stripped out of the accounts, only then, I said, would a true figure reveal the true figure of the support Alderney would indeed require.

I said that there should have been an impact assessment on the changeover to dornier from trislander, as it had ruined the service.

I praised the Aurigny staff whose jobs are now much harder, staff turnover is now much higher in Alderney, as you all can see.

I concluded that this is now much deeper than the balance sheets that we argue over.....it is about people, not politicians. It is about our survival.

I asked us to now move forward together. Let's stop these attacks on my island. We are friends and family, I urged more conversation and working together for mutual benefit, move on from petty blame, and fix ourselves.

I then thanked the chamber for listening

I met with many deputies in my time in Guernsey, and forged good warm relationships, with some lovely people, and I believe that is the way forward.

Alderney has got problems in the States of Guernsey, but i will tell you this..... there are more warm and friendly deputies that sympathise with us on just how Alderney has been treated, than you could ever imagine. I made many new valuable connections.

I also received advice on a possible way forward with the lack of action on our runway from several people.

Open skies in Guernsey was commented on by Deputy Ferbrache. He said "do nothing and we stay the same". Well I agreed with him, as long as Alderney is protected, which i know is his own personal wish.

If Guernsey do well..... then so should we."

Meeting Closed: 1830hrs

Issued: 27th July 2018