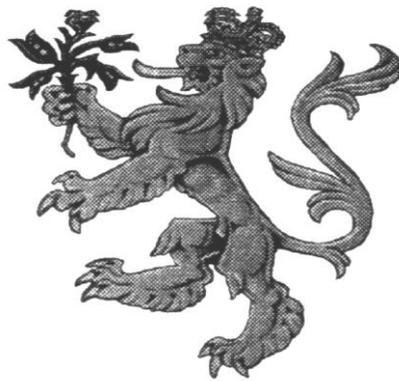


# STATES OF ALDERNEY



# BILLET D'ETAT

WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020

Price: £2.35

## **BILLET D'ETAT**

### **FOR WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020**

Members of the States:

I have the honour to inform you that the Meeting of the States will be held at 1730hrs on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020. This will be preceded by the People's Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 at 7:00 pm in the Island Hall.

William Tate  
President

**Item I**      **The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No.8) Regulations, 2020.**

**The following letter was received from Mr James Dent, Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee:-**

“These Regulations are emergency regulations made by the Civil Contingencies Authority under Part 3 of the Civil Contingencies (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2012 (“the Law”). They are made on the occurrence of an emergency, within the meaning of the Law, in the Bailiwick, arising from the urgent need to prevent, control or mitigate the spread of the virus Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 and the disease caused thereby, COVID-19 (referred to together in these regulations as coronavirus). They are prefaced with a statement by the Civil Contingencies Authority, as required by section 12(2) of the Law. COVID-19 was made a notifiable disease for the purposes of the Public Health Ordinance, 1936 on 10th February 2020.

These Regulations revoke and re-enact (with minor modifications) regulations previously made by the Civil Contingencies Authority in respect of the coronavirus pandemic.

These Regulations came into force on the 30 October, 2020 and shall have temporary effect only in accordance with the provisions of section 16 (duration and scrutiny of emergency regulations) of the Law.

*Part I - screening, assessment and powers to detain etc.*

This Part places a requirement to self-isolate on persons arriving in the Bailiwick, enables the Medical Officer of Health to place restrictions and requirements on other persons who are or who may be infected with coronavirus, and makes provision in respect of related matters, including powers for the Medical Officer of Health to impose screening requirements, to detain people and to require people to self-isolate.

The provisions also create criminal offences and confer powers of enforcement on police officers, and provide for applications to vary or revoke requirements or restrictions imposed under this part to be made to the Royal Court.

*Part II — miscellaneous and final*

The Schedule to these Regulations sets out the modifications to be made to mental health legislation having effect in the Bailiwick.

Paragraph 4 modifies the Mental Health (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2010 to permit an approved medical practitioner (rather than only a second opinion approved doctor) to provide a certificate for the purposes of section 56 where the practitioner is of the opinion that is not reasonably practicable or would involve unreasonable delay to comply with the unmodified requirement of that section.

Paragraphs 5 to 6 modify the Mental Health Review Tribunal Procedure Rules, 2012 to provide that the Mental Health Review Tribunal may properly be constituted according to specified criteria.

Regulation 17 makes provision in relation to Senior Decision Makers ("SDMs") appointed by the Guernsey Financial Services Commission, including providing for SDMs to hold oral hearings remotely.

Regulation 18 empowers the Medical Officer of Health to exercise her powers to require schools to take measures to prevent the spread of infection in Sark, and provide, for the avoidance of doubt, that such measures may include the immediate closure of any school.

Regulation 19 enables the Court of Appeal to conduct its proceedings remotely.

I would be grateful if The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No.8) Regulations, 2020 are placed before the next meeting of the States of Alderney with an appropriate proposition.

James Dent, Chairman"

**The States of Alderney is asked not to annul "The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No.8) Regulations, 2020"**

Proposed by Mr James Dent  
Seconded by Mr Alex Snowdon

**Item II      Code of Conduct Amendment to reflect - Absolute Privilege**

**The following letter was received from Mr James Dent, Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee:-**

"Law Officers Chambers advise that amendments to the Code of Conduct for States Members relating to absolute privilege should be made prior to the Government of Alderney (Amendment) Law, 2020 being registered in the Royal Court and the Court of Alderney, otherwise the Code of Conduct will be inconsistent with the Government of Alderney Law when the changes relating to absolute instead of qualified privilege come into force.

The amendments substitute references and text relating to qualified privilege for States Members to refer to absolute privilege as provided for in inserted section 48B of the amending Law. The amendments reflect the text relating to absolute privilege in Part IV of the Code of Conduct for Members of the States of Deliberation (with the necessary adaptations for Alderney). This is because the provisions on absolute privilege in the 2020 amending Law are based closely on those in Guernsey.

The amendments to the Code of Conduct for States Members are as follows:

1. For Part II of the Code (Qualified Privilege for States Proceedings) substitute –

## "PART II

### **10. Absolute Privilege for States and Committee Proceedings etc.**

- 10.1 Part IIIA of the Government of Alderney Law, 2004 confers absolute privilege on Members in respect of words spoken before, or in any report to, the States, a States Committee or a people's meeting. This includes requêtes, amendments, questions, reports and other legal documents. Absolute privilege is a complete defence to any legal proceedings arising as a result of what is said or published. It confers protection even when the words complained of are spoken or published maliciously, or when their being spoken or published would otherwise amount to a criminal offence.
  - 10.2 Members are afforded immunity to enable them to air any matter, regardless of the power, wealth or status of those criticised.
  - 10.3 The counter-balance to privilege, however, is responsibility; and Part III of this Code sets out the mechanism for the investigation of allegations of abuse of privilege and, where such an allegation is found to be substantiated, the penalties which may be imposed on the Member concerned. "
2. In Part III of the Code, for each reference to "qualified privilege" substitute "absolute privilege".
  3. In the Definitions section, for the definitions of "qualified privilege" and "abuse of privilege" substitute –  
  
" "absolute privilege" is the privilege conferred on Members, in respect of immunity from civil or criminal proceedings, under section 48B of the Government of Alderney Law, 2004 "abuse of privilege" means abuse of absolute privilege. "

The consequential amendments to the Code of Conduct to refer to absolute instead of qualified privilege can only come into force on or after the Law coming into force, the amending Law will come into force on the date it is registered on the records of the Island of Alderney which is likely to be only a couple of weeks after Royal Assent is given. As mentioned the advice is that every effort should be made to bring the amendments into force at the same time as the Law or as soon as possible afterwards.

I would be grateful if this matter is placed before the next meeting of the States of Alderney with an appropriate proposition.

James Dent, Chairman"

**The States of Alderney is asked to approve the consequential amendments to the Code Conduct for States Members to refer to absolute instead of qualified privilege.**

Proposed by Mr James Dent  
Seconded by Mr Louis Jean

**Item III**      **Alderney Commission for Renewable Energy: Appointment of Commissioner**

**The following letter was received from Mr James Dent, Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee:-**

“The Alderney Commission for Renewable Energy (ACRE) was established under the Renewable Energy (Alderney) Law 2007 in order to regulate renewable energy production. ACRE is a body corporate and may carry out the functions conferred on it in the Renewable Energy (Alderney) Law 2007. The Law makes it clear that ACRE is not a Committee of the States of Alderney, although the States may give guidance or directions to ACRE “of a general character.” ACRE must prepare annual accounts which must be laid before the States of Alderney. The Commission must consist of a Chairman and no fewer than two Commissioners (and a maximum of four) who are remunerated.

The Policy and Finance Committee at its meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019 resolved to reduce the Commission to consist of a Chairman and two other Commissioners (the statutory minimum); that notice be given to the existing Commissioners as required under their contracts and recommended that the two Commissioner posts be filled by States of Alderney Civil Servants to discharge the basic functions of the Commission. On the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019 Policy & Finance Committee recommended the appointment of a third temporary commissioner from the Civil Service and to commence a process to seek a permanent replacement of the Chairman.

It was noted that if and when new licensing work is required, new appointments to the Commissioner posts can be made. The Civil Service appointees are temporary appointments in order to discharge the responsibilities of the Commission in the short term and no remuneration is required which will ensure that the costs are low during the temporary period. The reduced ACRE activity will not require office accommodation and any documentation or assets will be stored securely by the States of Alderney and made accessible to the Commissioners, together with any meeting facilities they require.

At its meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019 Policy and Finance Committee resolved to recommend to the States the appointment of Mr Paul Veron and Mrs Elizabeth Maurice as Members of the Commission in accordance with the provisions of section 6 of the Renewable Energy (Alderney) Law, 2007 together with a third temporary commissioner from the civil service; Mr Muter has since resigned his position as a temporary commissioner. At the meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> October the Committee resolved to recommend the appointment of Mr Stephen Taylor as the Interim Chairman of the Alderney Commission for Renewable Energy.

I will be obliged if this is placed before the States at its next meeting together with an appropriate proposition.

James Dent, Chairman”

Committee Meeting Attendees:-

Mr Bill Abel  
Ms Annie Burgess  
Mr James Dent, Chairman  
Mr Kevin Gentle, Deputy Chair  
Mr Christian Harris  
Mr Louis Jean  
Mr Graham McKinley OBE  
Mr Steve Roberts  
Mr Alex Snowdon

**The States of Alderney is asked to approve, on the recommendation of the Policy and Finance Committee and in accordance with section 6 of the Renewable Energy (Alderney) Law, 2007, the appointment of Mr Stephen Taylor as Member of the Alderney Commission for Renewable Energy.**

Proposed by Mr James Dent  
Seconded by Mr Louis Jean

**Item IV**      **States of Alderney Revenue Budget 2021**

**The following letter was received from Mr James Dent, Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee:-**

“Under Section 58 of the Government of Alderney Law, 2004, the Policy and Finance Committee is required to publish the proposed budgets for 2021 and report on the budgets for 2020.

The States of Alderney at its meeting on 14 October 2020 agreed the revenue budget for 2021 but did not agree the recommended increase of 5% to the new Alderney Property Tax for 2021 to meet the expenditure requirements. The consequence of this is that the States has a gap of over £80,000 in the revenue budget for 2021. Failing to address this will result in a deficit budget and compromises our ability to start building an appropriate reserve for future contingencies.

Our previous budget deliberations concluded that opportunities to raise additional revenue from existing sources are limited. However, we will continue to focus efforts into identifying new sources for the future. The earlier draft budget submitted by the Policy and Finance Committee was based on limited growth and new initiatives. The only significant new funding relates to the ambulance service which has been the subject of public consultation. The fact that we were able to propose such a modest increase of 5% following a year when we have incurred exceptional expenditure due to Covid 19 was, in my view, an achievement.

In our new financial environment where we are no longer reliant on a grant from the States of Guernsey, the emphasis will be increasingly on challenging all spending decisions to ensure we can demonstrate value for money. As you would expect of a responsible public organisation, an efficiency imperative is already reflected in our draft budget. A decision for a nil increase to our revenue base will require further efficiencies to be identified. This will be a challenge that may impact on delivery of the services that we provide for the community.

A revised budget is therefore being proposed which includes a modest increase of 3% to the combined 2020 Occupier's Rate and TRP tariffs to produce the new

Alderney Property Tax tariff. This will enable the States to meet its 2021 expenditures **(including the cost of the ambulance service)** and still deliver the budgeted surplus, essential to our new arrangements. The Acting Head of Finance will continue to work with budget holders to identify efficiency savings.

I appreciate that any increase to property tax tariffs will not be popular. However, the level proposed is considered to be reasonable. The impact will vary with size of property but will typically be £2 to £4 per month for a domestic property.

The enabling legislation for the Alderney Property Tax is expected to receive Royal Assent in December. A contingency plan is in place to manage the risk of any delay on the part of the UK Ministry of Justice or Privy Council due to other priorities at this time. This will not impact on the budget decision required here or our revenue collection.

These items were considered by the Policy and Finance Committee at their meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2020.

I would therefore be grateful if you would place this matter before the States of Alderney with an appropriate proposition.

James Dent, Chairman”

**Committee Meeting Attendees:-**

Mr Bill Abel  
Ms Annie Burgess  
Mr James Dent, Chairman  
Mr Kevin Gentle, Deputy Chair  
Mr Christian Harris  
Mr Louis Jean  
Mr Graham McKinley OBE

**The States of Alderney is asked to approve a 3% increase to the combined 2020 yield of Occupiers Rate and TRP to enable rates to be set for Alderney Property Tax rates of charge in 2021 and to accept the amended States of Alderney Revenue Budget for 2021.**

**Item V Alderney Property Tax Tariffs 2021**

**The following letter was received from Mr James Dent, Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee:-**

“The States must, by way of Ordinance, set the level at which the Alderney Property Tax will be charged for the calendar year. This replaces the previous requirement to set levels of Occupier’s Rate. The baseline for the new Alderney Property Tax is the product of the tariffs for the Occupier’s Rate and Taxation on Real Property applied in Guernsey in 2020.

A 3% increase to all categories of Alderney Property Tax is proposed to the States as outlined in the revised budget report dated 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The States of Guernsey will levy a zero level of TRP in Alderney and Occupier’s Rate will no longer be billed.

Recommending any increase to the financial burden on households and businesses is a decision that is not undertaken lightly. However, core services must be maintained and I can offer reassurance that my Committee remains committed to safeguarding efficient and cost effective services in order to reduce any increases to this burden as much as practicable.

I therefore enclose a draft Ordinance entitled "The Alderney Property Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020" which was considered at a meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2020.

This draft Ordinance also includes an amendment to the Alderney Property Tax enabling legislation agreed by the States on 8 July 2020. This amendment repeals the clause which provided that the States could amend the new Alderney Property Tax legislation by Ordinance. In the view of the Ministry of Justice, this was felt to be too wide a power as it would allow the States to repeal the Law without appropriate scrutiny. The amendment was agreed at Policy and Finance Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

I would be grateful if you would place this matter before the States of Alderney with an appropriate proposition.

James Dent, Chairman"

**Committee Meeting Attendees:-**

Mr Bill Abel  
Ms Annie Burgess  
Mr James Dent, Chairman  
Mr Kevin Gentle, Deputy Chair  
Mr Christian Harris  
Mr Louyis Jean  
Mr Graham McKinley OBE  
Mr Steve Roberts

**The States of Alderney is asked to approve "The Alderney Property Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020"**

**Item VI      Occupier's Rate Tariffs 2021**

The following letter was received from Mr James Dent, Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee:-

"The States has agreed to a new system of Property Tax from 2021 which will replace the Occupier's Rate.

The previous enabling legislation required the States to set an annual level of Occupier's Rate by ordinance. In the interests of clarity as we move to the new arrangements, the Law Officers have advised that the States should set the Occupier's Rate level for 2021 at a zero rate.

I therefore enclose a draft Ordinance entitled "The Occupier's Rate (Level for 2021) Ordinance, 2020" which was considered by the Policy and Finance Committee at their meeting on the 18th November, 2020.

I would be grateful if you would place this matter before the States of Alderney with an appropriate proposition.

James Dent, Chairman”

**Committee Meeting Attendees:-**

Mr Bill Abel  
Ms Annie Burgess  
Mr James Dent, Chairman  
Mr Kevin Gentle, Deputy Chair  
Mr Christian Harris  
Mr Louis Jean  
Mr Graham McKinley OBE  
Mr Steve Roberts

**The States of Alderney is asked to approve “The Occupier’s Rate (Level for 2021) Ordinance, 2020”.**

**Item VII      Annual Reports of States Committees for 2020**

**On 4 May 1977, the States resolved to instruct all committees to prepare an annual report, and for that report to be debated at the December States Meeting.**

**(i)      Annual Report of the Policy and Finance Committee**

**The following report was received from Mr Dent, Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee:-**

“Mr President, the year has been dominated by three things:

- Coronavirus;
- Brexit and the defence of our marine assets; and
- Staff issues within our Civil service.

I will deal with each in turn:

- *Coronavirus:* the fight against coronavirus has, of course, dominated the year – and has impacted the operation of the P&F committee, not least because the pan-Bailiwick Civil Contingency Authority has driven coronavirus policy. For this reason, and because health is a transferred service, Alderney has been subject to a set of regulations largely common to the three Bailiwick jurisdictions. Having said this, there have been variations to accommodate the occasional different circumstances in Alderney. And in this regard, P&F has, sought advice from our medical professionals, our Chamber of Commerce and others and advised myself as the Alderney representative on the CCA.

The travel restrictions at the Bailiwick’s borders have caused a large number of Guernsey residents to discover the attractions of Alderney. Our Staycation promotion brought in many visitors from other parts of the Bailiwick, many of whom we believe will return. The staycation initiative was, in fact, a rather

unexpected but, nonetheless, positive outcome from the otherwise very damaging coronavirus crisis

On the financial side, the coronavirus business support packages that were introduced by Guernsey have, of course, applied equally in Alderney and for this we are very grateful. As a consequence, we have fared financially much better than many other jurisdictions and, although we have been prudent, our originally intended pre-covid spending programmes, although perhaps delayed, remain largely intact.

Post Covid, we are keen to partner Guernsey in the Bailiwick "Revive and Thrive" initiative and to this end we have been working on an Integrated Transport Strategy. We believe a successful pan-Bailiwick partnership will be contingent on an agreed common position on connectivity and a clear programme for working together on economic issues.

Coronavirus has also prompted a change in the Government of Alderney Law that should allow us to cope better should we again find ourselves in a similar situation. The change in the law also allowed us to replace our "qualified privilege" with "full privilege" and to provide the Alderney States members with protection similar to that enjoyed by other legislatures.

- *Brexit*: the UK's withdrawal from the EU has caused us to have concerns over the long-term control of what we regard as our biggest asset – our seabed and the resources in, and above, it. We have noted the wider Bailiwick push to preserve our common previous positions in regard to both goods and fish and would thank Guernsey for their efforts on our behalf. While Guernsey has recognised that Alderney's balance of interests may be different to those in Guernsey, Guernsey have clearly not shied away from representing our interests when talking to the UK. Alderney's interests are, of course, focused more heavily on our marine resources than on our need to trade goods (that is other than products of the sea) with the EU.

Alderney would stress that, in common with Guernsey, we did not have a say in the UK's decision to leave the EU. And in Alderney we believe that this should be better recognised by the UK Government.

- *Staff Issues within our civil service*: our CEO left the island in June and a number of important civil servant positions have also been left vacant. These staffing issues have compounded delays to a number of projects caused by coronavirus and added to the burden of work carried by our remaining civil servants. We are, of course, grateful to those staff carrying this additional burden.

Other 2020 initiatives have included:

- *Employment law* – in January P&F resolved to introduce this to Alderney – the new law would be based on the "*Guernsey Conditions of Employment Law, 1985*". There would, therefore, be basic legislation entitling all employees to a contract of employment. Consideration of more detailed legislation such as might replicate the more comprehensive "*Guernsey Employment Protection Law, 1998*" would wait until an assessment of the success, or otherwise, of this first piece of legislation
- *Minimum wage* – in January P&F resolved to legislate that a minimum wage be introduced and the rate in Alderney set at the same rate as Guernsey
- *Partnership law* – in January P&F resolved that two pieces of legislation, one permitting ordinary partnerships and the second permitting limited liability partnerships be progressed – the latter would introduce the concept of administrative partners to the Bailiwick and, as such, might see persons

wishing to take up residence in Alderney in order to take advantage of the new legislation.

The legislative progress of these three initiatives was hindered by Covid and the consequent diversion of the Bailiwick's legal resources to Covid and Brexit issues. The legislative impetus has, however, now recommenced and it is hoped that these initiatives can soon be brought to a conclusion.

Other 2020 initiatives have include work in regard to legislation for:

- banning single use plastics; and
- environmental protection.

The drafting of an Integrated Transport Strategy has also been progressed.

On the economic front:

- The construction and housing sectors continue to do well – indeed it would appear that there may be something of a mini-boom as Guernsey resident have discovered real value-for-money in our on-island properties;
- A proposal to construct a marina has been revived;
- Our nascent cannabis/cannabis oil industry is progressing though there remain a number of import/export licensing issues that need to be resolved;
- Our ambulance service is being brought under States control;
- Work on the extension of our Connaught Care Home has restarted;
- Alderney week was able to go ahead, albeit in a reduced format; visitors continue to come attracted to our birds and wildlife and we have a newly refurbished hotel, La Ville. Some of our traditional annual events have had to be cancelled because of coronavirus – these included our annual Literary, Performing Arts and Chamber Music Festivals, the Fly-in and Air Races, and the archaeological Dig on Longis Common. However the Hill Climb and golf tournaments continued;
- We continue to monitor developments in the Tidal Energy market and watch particularly closely the developments in the Ras Blanchard on French side of the Alderney Race;
- We have finalised the work necessary to repatriate all property taxes, document and fuel duty and should shortly be able to set rates in a manner that most suits our economy.
- The Little Ferry although suffering because of the coronavirus restrictions at the beginning of the season was able to capitalise on the staycation initiatives – this service was, as you know, subsidised by the SoA.

Finally:

- work to progress the rehabilitation of our runway continues;
- our efforts to turn Fort Tourgis into an economic asset have been halted by coronavirus and uncertainty about our air links; and
- discussions concerning the 1948 agreement are on hold.

Mr President, as has been my habit, I have been brief. Next year it will be important to build our relations with the new Government in Guernsey.

I think you will note just how much of what I have talked about, requires that we can maintain good transport links.

And on that note, as I did last year, I will conclude.”

## **(ii) Annual Report of the Building and Development Control Committee**

**The following report was received from Mr Gentle, Deputy Chairman of the Building and Development Control Committee:-**

"With the Building and Development Control Committee (BDCC) welcoming Miss Burgess at the beginning of the year to replace Mr Earl to join Mr Dean, Mr Snowdon and myself the committee has dealt with 121 applications prior to the meeting of last week. In 2019 there were 117 applications. Miss Burgess has adapted very well to her role and has an excellent grasp of the planning process, a good understanding of the Land Use Plan (LUP) and how to deal with applications. I am sure that she will agree that when she joined the committee that she embarked on a steep learning curve.

I have found myself thrust to the forefront since the suspension of Mr Dean and I couldn't have done it without the guidance and support of Mr Snowdon, Miss Burgess, the Planning Officer Miss Roberts and the minute secretary Mrs Baines. I thank them all.

The LUP helps us get away from the short term solution over the long term goal mentality. The LUP has a five year lifespan and takes us up to the end of 2022, so work will need to start on the next version in the next year. Using it allows people to see that decisions are made rationally and fairly.

All of the applications have been dealt with at the 6 weekly open planning meetings which took on a new turn earlier in the year when we met remotely. These open meetings continue to demonstrate, hopefully, the effectiveness of the meetings being open to all.

However, despite the LUP being the bible there are issues that still need resolving. We have a flexible system that can be scaled up for major projects, a solid foundation for working from, balancing the needs of the island whilst still preserving a lot of what makes this such a special place to live. The advent of the LUP helps improve the economy which is much called for at present but also improves protection. We still need more planning reform on two fronts. More power to protect important archaeological, historical or geological sites that are not traditionally covered by a conservation plan, and simplifying the appeals process. I stood here a year ago and seconded the report given by Mr Dean when I remarked that I looked forward to seeing something happen with an appeals process overhaul.

The BDCC has powers and procedures that oblige it to objectively determine facts and draw conclusions so as to provide a basis of official action. Pre-determined sets of guidelines and criteria can be challenged in a court of law. That is wrong. The LUP was a result of much consultation and much financial investment, but it doesn't stop me thinking that there may well be measures and solutions out there that could make the process even more efficient.

We could look at removing the need for using the BDCC on a daily planning level. We could give the job to a couple of suitably qualified civil servants, and use the BDCC for major projects and the Appeals process. It wouldn't even need to be the domain of purely States Members. There are members of the public co-opted onto various working groups throughout the States so why not use one or two with planning experience or knowledge? However, that is a discussion for another time. BDCC in its current form is enshrined in law so it is here to stay for now.

All that remains for me to say once again is thank you to all, and on behalf of the committee have a Merry Christmas. Let us hope that next year is better than this one"

**(iii) Annual Report of the General Services Committee**

**The following report was received from Mr McKinley, Chairman of the General Services Committee:-**

“Mr. President Sir. Fellow States Members

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on our island. The pandemic remains the key focus and continues to absorb resources. Projects have been re-prioritised, but continue to progress where possible.

Major projects are those with an estimated cost of over 150 thousand pounds.

Phase 1 of work on the Connaught Care Home, which was work largely inside the existing building, has been completed. The second Phase, which is work on the sub structure for the new extension, is ongoing and should be complete by Easter next year. Tender documents have been submitted for Phase 3, extension of the Care Home, estimated to cost 1.29 million pounds. Hopefully work will start after Easter next year.

Major works on the Old Connaught have been completed, but there are still some internal repairs required. These works have been delayed partly due to Covid-19 and partly due to weather. Decisions have yet to be made with regard to future usage.

The Harbour Crane replacement, which cost 850 thousand pounds, is due for delivery at the end of this month. We are currently seeking confirmation of progress from the manufacturer. I think that we would all agree that, as a lesson from recent events we should consider a maintenance and emergency repair contract with a relevant company, preferably one based in Guernsey or Jersey. We should also consider how best to protect the crane from the weather and sea air when not in use. Should we construct a large shelter And, if so, where?

The RNLI has confirmed that re structure of the harbour pontoon remains a priority. They have appointed Wallace and Stone to undertake the concept design work. They are due to visit before the end of the year, but this is likely to be delayed by Covid-19 restrictions.

We shall be considering a Harbour Review Plan next year. Work may include resurfacing and fencing of the Crusher and Glacis sites and possible relocation of the States Works Department and the Recycling area. Perhaps we should also consider a roll-on / roll-off facility.

Whilst on the subject of the harbour, I am not sure whether all present will know that during the first few months of Covid-19 the harbour office was open between 6am and 10pm every day, and there was always one staff member on the alert between 10pm and 6am. Each day, on average, they were able to stop at least 2 foreign based boats from entering the harbour. We owe them sincere thanks.

We continue to work with the States of Guernsey in respect of usage of Fort Grosnez. Some repair work is still required, and there is a requirement for an improved supply of electricity and water. The States of Guernsey will continue to use the fort for the Breakwater maintenance team, but It has been suggested that the offices of the States Works Department, currently located at the Butes, might be able to re-locate to the fort. Other possible uses are being considered.

The breakwater maintenance team, employed and funded by the States of Guernsey, have worked throughout the summer season. They have found no major breaches, but have carried out minor repairs both above and below the waterline.

The damaged crane at Mannez quarry has caused some concern regarding possible injury to children climbing on it. The crane belongs to the States of Guernsey, who have said that they are unable to accept responsibility for any

injuries, and wish to see the crane removed. I believe that the crane should be removed and scrapped.

With regard to Fort Doyle, work has not yet commenced. We need to re-engage with interested contractors to undertake surface and sewage water data studies and analysis. There is a possibility that we may align under a larger programme with Mouriaux and Platte Saline connectivity and treatment.

Road repairs and resurfacing are normally scheduled for alternate years at a cost of 300 thousand pounds. Repairs due for this year have been delayed to coincide with the Runway repair scheduled for next year.

We continue to have concerns about coastal erosion. The Arsenal wall is of serious concern, but the building is privately owned - more about that later!

Repair to the Corblets wall are planned for next year, and I believe that we should also look at Crabby Bay. I have mentioned the risk to the road from Fort Tourgis to Fort Clonque in previous reports, and some of you may know about the recent storm damage to the road at the Tourgis end where the States Works Department have been undertaking repairs. There are other sections of this narrow road which are at risk to damage during poor weather and high spring tides. Although there has been little or no use of Fort Clonque this year I believe that repairs on this road will soon become a high priority.

The General Service Committee has discussed possible solutions to the Whitegates housing. Should it be repaired and brought back to use by the Alderney Housing Association? Should it be offered for sale to a private developer? Should it be used for visitor accommodation? Should it be demolished? I strongly believe that we should make a decision within the next few months.

Many of you will be aware of the damaged wall at the top end of La Vallee. It is a sad sight and if it remains untreated it could result in further collapse of the slope. I understand that it is private property. If this is so the owners should be contacted and ordered to complete repairs as soon as possible.

To more positive developments -

Braye Harbour Developments 2020 have been granted an exclusivity period of 18 months to present detailed plans and costs of a marina in the waters adjacent to the Arsenal. They will almost certainly wish to use part of the Arsenal, and may be considering purchasing part of, or all, of the property. They will wish to use some States land and are presently in discussion with the Planning Department, Mr. Chris Brock and Miss Cynthia Roberts, and will have to seek agreement from the Building Development and Control Committee before they can start building work. To date they have given no indication that they will be seeking financial support from the States.

On behalf of the Committee and other States Members I congratulate Visit Alderney, the Alderney Society, the States Works Department and others for the hard work that they put into the Nunnery during the early months of the year. The building, which is a unique feature of the island's history, has been greatly improved, and has attracted numerous visitors.

There remain 2 issues which have yet to be resolved – whether or not to remove the 2 trees inside the nunnery, and what should happen to the Sun Room, a feature of great importance to the Alderney Bird Observatory.

The Committee has agreed to support proposals from the Alderney Society to make Fort Doyle into a public heritage attraction similar to the Nunnery. We are seeking details regarding costs of repairs, ongoing maintenance and caretaking,

and from where the finances for the project are to be funded. The Alderney Boxing Association will be allowed to continue use of part of the building.

One other major project on which we need to see some progress is the Swimming Pool. With a new government in Guernsey, some of whom are clearly supporters of Alderney, is it not a good opportunity for us to once again seek financial support? Perhaps our Alderney Representatives could ask the Chairman and members of the Education, Sports and Culture Committee to reconsider financial assistance.

And finally – town roads, pavements, parking, yellow lines and access for heavy vehicles. Once again, these important matters were due to have been reviewed by specialists from Guernsey, and once again they have been postponed due to “Covid-19, staff shortages and other priorities”. I sincerely hope that we shall be able to make progress on these important issues during 2021.

May I conclude by saying a genuine and sincere thank-you to my fellow committee members for their very useful contributions and hard work during this unique and difficult year. I also say thank you to the civil servants who contribute very positively before, during and after our monthly meetings and to the States Works Department, without whom much of critical work would never be completed. There are others – Alderney Electricity, the Water Board, the Post Office staff, the medical centre, the hospital staff, the airport staff and many more.

Thank you all – Happy Christmas and good wishes for 2021.”

#### **Item VIII**    **Questions and Reports**

No Questions or Reports received at time of publication.

Note:- The legislation referred to in this Billet d'Etat may be viewed online at [www.GuernseyLegalResources.gg](http://www.GuernseyLegalResources.gg) and [www.alderney.gov.gg](http://www.alderney.gov.gg)

**Issued: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020**