



BILLET D'ETAT FOR 18-05-2004

Date: 18th May, 2004

Members of the States:

I have the honour to inform you that there will be a meeting of the States at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 18th May, 2004.

Sir Norman Browse
President

Item I Tidal Power

The following letter has been received from Colonel Walter, Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee:-

At the last meeting of the States, following advice from HM Procureur and a Crown Advocate, I withdrew the item relating to tidal power so as to allow further discussions to take place. I also undertook to place a new submission in the Billet d'Etat for the May States meeting.

It is unfortunate that the arrangements for placing matters in the Billet have to be made some two weeks prior to the States Meeting and consequently, it is often difficult for a submission that deals with important and complex matters to be prepared in such a short time. Further, the Policy and Finance Committee, having lost one member by resignation, another member off island for a week and myself having to spend time in Guernsey at the States of Deliberation, a full meeting of the Committee could not be held. Nevertheless and as promised this submission, albeit brief, has been prepared.

Tidal power is a vast source of energy that can be harnessed for the generation of electricity and experimental turbines are being developed to tap into this resource. The sea in the vicinity of the Casquettes and in the Race have been identified and recognised internationally as sites with immense tidal streams and consequently high potential for the generation of electricity.

Discussions have taken place with a Crown Advocate and many advantages and problems identified the problems not necessarily insurmountable.

Our best advice is that a working group of up to 4 members be appointed who can eventually come up with a long term strategy for the development of tidal power to the advantage of Alderney. This would need to be a high powered group and should contain within its membership a lawyer with knowledge of marine related matters, a technical expert, a commercial expert, possibly in the energy field and a person with financial expertise.

In the first instance however, a graduate, with appropriate qualifications and interests could be recruited for three to four months to prepare an overview of the present situation with regard to tidal power, the marine conditions around Alderney and to identify matters that need addressing or alternatively it may be possible to obtain a suitable officer on secondment. This paper would be the

basis on which the Working Group could begin their work. A budget will be required.

In the meantime, the Crown Officers have identified a basic legal need, that is, the preparation of a Project de Loi allowing the States to "licence" the use of the sea bed for experimental and other works. This law will not only need to cover the licensing aspect of any operation, but also matters relating to exclusion zones, hazards to shipping, fisheries, States liabilities, the liability of commercial operators etc. Planning would also need to be addressed.

Other matters that need resolving include the territorial sea, 3 to 12 miles; formal agreements with France on the meridian line, discussions with France on the possible future need for a cable link to Continental Europe, our position with the European Union in relation to trade in electricity, electricity is a 'good' and we are within the EU for trade in goods and must therefore abide by EU regulations, competitive tendering may be required.

While it may be several years before turbines are perfected for use in the sea, it is necessary for matters to be taken forward with some expedition. In the first instance, the States need to agree that the Policy and Finance Committee take matters forward and consider :

1. Recruiting a graduate engineer or second a suitable officer for a period of 3 - 4 months to prepare an overview of the present situation viz a viz tidal power and its harnessing in the waters around Alderney;
2. Seeking out suitable persons to form a working group to take matters forward and prepare a long term strategy for harnessing tidal power in the seas around Alderney;
3. Setting a budget to finance 1 and 2 above.

The Committee will of course report back to the States as soon as possible.

In the meantime, it is imperative that H M Procureur be requested to prepare such legislation as is deemed necessary to allow Alderney to control the harnessing of its tidal power.

I shall be obliged if this matter can be placed before the States of Alderney under an appropriate proposition.

Colonel P F Walter
Chairman

The States is asked to agree that:

1. The Policy and Finance Committee proceed with their deliberations on the harnessing of tidal power in the sea around Alderney and consider whether :

- (i) to recruit a graduate engineer or second a suitable officer for a period of 3 - 4 months to prepare an overview;
- (ii) to seek out suitable persons to form a working group to take matters forward and prepare a long term strategy;
- (iii) to set a budget to finance (i) and (ii);
- and to report back to the States as soon as possible.

2. Request H M Procureur to advise the Committee on the need for legislation to deal with the harnessing of tidal power within Alderney waters and to prepare such legislation as is deemed necessary.

Item II Appointment of a Member to the General Services Committee

Due to the untimely death of Mr Allan Benfield there has become a vacancy on the General Services Committee and the States is asked to elect a Member to that Committee.

Sir Norman Browse
President

The States is asked to elect a Member to the General Services Committee.

Item III Questions and Reports

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