

BILLET D'ETAT FOR 20-04-2005

Date: 19th April, 2005

Members of the States:

I have the honour to inform you that the Meeting of the States will be held at 5.30p.m. on Wednesday, 20th April, 2005. This will be preceded by the People's Meeting which will be held on Wednesday, 13th April at 7.00p.m. in the Island Hall.

Sir Norman Browse
President

Item I Postponed Chief Plea by Mrs Gladys Randall

Item II Audited Accounts, 2004

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

"In accordance with Section 61 (5) of The Government of Alderney Law, 1987, as amended, and the mandate of the Policy and Finance Committee, I attach the accounts of the States of Alderney and the States Water Board together with the Auditors' Reports thereon.

States of Alderney Accounts

Revenue Account

The detailed breakdown of the income and expenditure of the three committees is given in the published accounts, with the accounts 2003, original budget and revised budget (Probable Outturn) also shown for comparative purposes.

The following comments highlight in round figures some of the material differences between the accounts and the revised budget: -

Building and Development Control Committee

Expenditure for the year at £27,000 is £6,000 over budget, savings due to a staff vacancy only partially offsetting the cost of the planning enquiry, which at £12,000 was £11,000 more than budget.

General Services Committee

The General Services Committee has continued to deliver the range of public services under its mandate and has achieved this with a saving of £65,000 on its budget. However part of this saving was due to the export of waste to Guernsey not starting in the latter part of the year as anticipated.

The Harbour account was very close to the budget, although had the summer weather been more favourable mooring fees could have been higher.

The General Services Committee also fulfils the functions of the Water Board, which in 2004 returned a deficit on operating costs of £6,000, against an estimated deficit of £29,000. After interest on bank balances is added the overall surplus was £16,000, a very similar result to 2003.

Policy and Finance Committee

Expenditure by the Policy and Finance Committee was £35,000 less than budget and income was £21,000 more than budget. Numismatic royalties exceeded the budget by £34,000 but this was offset by reduced receipts from philatelic sales during the year. This was the first year in which CongÃ© and other property transfer duties do not appear as a revenue income but are treated as capital income.

The overall position on Revenue Account at the end of 2004 showed a saving on budget of £110,000, which has been added to the Accumulated Surplus, which now stands at £391,000.

Capital Account

Expenditure on Capital Account was £961,000 against an estimate of £1,245,000, a number of projects not having been completed or in some cases commenced by the end of the year.

Income on Capital Account at £828,000 exceeded the estimate by £454,000. Of this £218,000 relates to the transfer of part of the currency reserve to capital, £170,000 more than expected from CongÃ©, and £67,000 more was raised from the sale of Banquage freeholds.

The increase in capital income, together with an allocation of £250,000 from the States of Guernsey Treasury and Resources Department has boosted the capital available at the end of 2004 to almost £500,000.

Conclusion

Once again, despite inflationary pressures, States committees have continued to control net revenue expenditure against a cash allocation that has remained at the same level since 2000. It will however require renewed efforts to contain or reduce expenditure in 2005 in which we have at present a budgeted deficit of £130,000.

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

P. F. Walter

Chairman"

The States is asked to approve of the Annual Accounts for 2004 of the States of Alderney and of the States Water Board.

Item III The Fees (Amendment) (Alderney) Ordinance, 2005

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

" Members of the States will know that a proposed revised Fees Ordinance which was published in the Billet D'Etat for 17th December 2004 was withdrawn, mainly due to concerns over the substantial increase in vehicle import licence fees which were then proposed.

After further consideration by the General Service Committee which has taken into account some of the objections raised by members of the public, particularly operators of commercial vehicles, a revised Ordinance is now presented for approval of the States.

In this import licences for private vehicles will be charged on a sliding scale based on vehicle weight, with a higher charge on vehicles over 30cwt, as the Committee still wishes to discourage the importation of large private vehicles. The fee for commercial vehicles over 30cwt will be capped at £250.

As it is now two years since the last increase in the remaining fees they have all been increased by 10%.

An amending "Fees Ordinance" has been prepared and approved by H M Procureur and is attached hereto: it is entitled "The Fees (Amendment) (Alderney) Ordinance, 2005". It is proposed that the new fees should come into force on 1st May, 2005 and I will be obliged if you will place the Ordinance before the States with an appropriate proposition.

Colonel P F Walter

Chairman"

The States is asked to approve of "The Fees (Amendment) (Alderney) Ordinance, 2005"

Item IV Purchase of land at Le Val and provision of additional car parking

The following letter has been received from Mr Pengilley, Chairman of the General Services Committee:-
"My Committee has been aware for some time of the lack of sufficient car parking spaces in St Anne"s.
In order to alleviate this problem an agreement has been reached with Mr David Thornburrow to purchase a part of Le Val field (AY1097).

This is a section along the northern boundary of Le Val field measuring approximately 883 square metres, which would provide parking spaces for up to 35 cars, and also provide access to 25 garages which are to be constructed by Mr Thornburrow on the inner field. A plan of the proposed development is attached for further clarification. Pedestrian access from this site to Victoria Street is available and adds to the suitability of this site for parking.

The purchase price, which is pro-rata to an independent valuation of the whole of Le Val field carried out in 2002, and updated by inflation, is £84,386 if completion is before the end of May.

It has further been agreed that the cost of construction of the access road, together with a contribution towards future maintenance costs will be shared equally between Mr Thornburrow and the States of Alderney, and a reduction of approximately £6,500 will be applied to the purchase price to cover these costs.

The estimated cost of construction of the car park and boundary is £37,340.

Total costs are therefore estimated to be as follows:-

Purchase of land	£84386
Less shared cost of central roadway	£6500
	£77886
Cost of construction of car park	£35340
Boundary structure to car park	£2000
	£115,226

To allow for contingencies my Committee asks the States to vote a sum not exceeding £125,000 for this project. If approved this will be subject to the further approval of an allocation of capital by the Guernsey Treasury and Resources Department.

The Policy and Finance Committee have been consulted and have approved this expenditure.

B Pengilley

Chairman"

The States is asked to approve an amount not exceeding £125,000 for the purchase of a part of Le Val field (AY1097) and the construction of a car park and boundary structure on this area of land.

Item V Emergency Powers Legislation

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

"The above Projet de Loi was approved by both the States of Guernsey and Chief Pleas of Sark on 30 March, 2005. The Law Officers have advised that the need for this legislation is urgent and we have been asked to seek the approval of the States at this month's meeting.

I attach the Policy Council statement setting out the purposes of the proposed law and the Policy Council's recommendations relating to it, together with a copy of the Projet de Loi.

Local initiative is necessary in order to update the law in the Bailiwick so as to follow the lead taken on the mainland when Civil Contingencies Act was enacted in 2004 and, as it is put in the Policy Council statement, so that we are best able to "plug into" the new arrangements so that we can react quickly and decisively to any threat.

I shall be obliged if you will place this matter before the States at its next meeting with an appropriate proposition.

P F Walter

Chairman"

The States is asked to approve of "The Emergency Powers (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Law, 2005".

Item VI Questions and Reports

Issued : 8th April, 2005