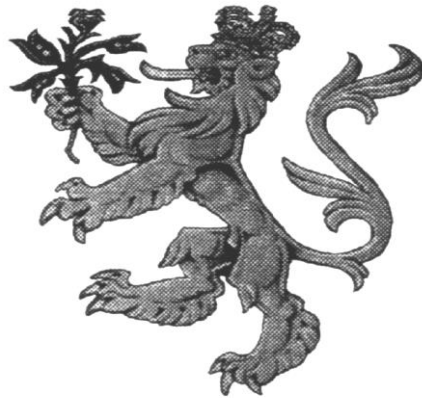


States of Alderney



DELIBERATIONS

WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2015

STATES OF ALDERNEY

DELIBERATIONS FOR THE MEETING

ON WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2015 AT 17:30

Present: Mr Stuart Trought, President
Mr Matt Birmingham
Mr Louis Jean
Mr Neil Harvey
Mr Francis Simonet
Mr Robert McDowall
Mr Chris Rowley
Mr Steve Roberts
Mrs Norma Paris
Mr Graham McKinley

Lieutenant G T Workman RN (Rtd) represented His Excellency The Lieutenant-Governor of the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

Item I Alderney Electricity Limited – Capital Funding for Improvements to Distribution Grid

Prior to Item I being presented, Mr Jean proposed the application of Rule 24 in the Rules of Procedure in order to suspend Rule 21.1(c) of the said rules for the purpose of debating and voting upon Item I. This motion was seconded by Mr McKinley and was approved by a majority, all in favour apart from Messrs Simonet and Rowley who voted against and Messrs Birmingham and McDowall who abstained.

The item was then voted on with Rule 21.1(c) temporarily suspended and The States of Alderney resolved to approve:-

- 1. Granting Alderney Electricity Limited a maximum of £1.2M over the three years 2015 to 2017, to be funded from the States of Alderney Capital Account, and reflected accordingly in the revised budget.**
- 2. Authorising the Chief Executive of the States of Alderney, in conjunction with the legal advisors of the States of Alderney, to agree and sign the Heads of Terms of Agreement and associated contracts.**
- 3. Authorising the Chief Executive of the States of Alderney, in conjunction with the legal advisors of the States of Alderney, to agree and sign the fully repairing lease on transfer of the assets.**

Proposed by Mr Harvey and seconded by Mr McDowall

Approved by all apart from Messrs Birmingham and Simonet who abstained

Item II **Proposed increase in Water Rates**

The States of Alderney resolved to approve “The States Water Supply (Rates of Charge) (Alderney) Ordinance 2015”.

Proposed by Mrs Paris and seconded by Rowley

Approved by a majority, all in favour except Mr Birmingham who voted against.

Item III **Questions and Reports**

Mrs Paris summarised the following report which was subject to debate and consultation thereafter:-

“Living Islands Initiative 2013/2015

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the States with regard to the Living Islands Initiative.

Background

The Living Islands Initiative was set up two years ago and has now drawn to a close in its current form. It is a project that has been jointly managed by the States of Alderney, the Alderney Wildlife Trust and the Alderney Society, with a full time Project Manager and Assistant.

Our own Wildlife Trust negotiated the receipt of £50,000 from the Strategic Development Fund of the RSWT and the States of Alderney matched that funding and subsequently provided further funding so that work could continue until December 2015. Quite apart from these generous sums, in the true Alderney way, a great many volunteer hours and expert knowledge have also been given and this is very much appreciated.

There are many problems which face small island jurisdictions – transport links, the need for economic drivers to stem depopulation, the loss of shops and services and the consequent reduction in the quality of life for residents. The thrust of the project was to seek ways of identifying solutions for these issues on Alderney, such that our experiences would become a case study to help other islands. Feedback from our RSWT partners indicates they feel many useful pointers have emerged.

The overall objective could be summed up as the intention to maximise the economic benefits of our natural and heritage assets and encourage our community to value and help look after them.

Over the two years this translated into a very wide range of action plans, many of which have been achieved or are work in progress. It is only fair to say that the complex stakeholder relations did lead to some dissent amongst the partners with regard to the project’s priorities.

Key Achievements

For the sake of brevity only a few will be highlighted. The most obvious have been the opening of the two heritage sites at Tourgis and Bibette Head, the WW2 Homecoming and Evacuation Events, and our involvement in the Channel Islands Heritage Festival, which is hopefully the start of a closer relationship with Visit Guernsey.

Perhaps most important for the future is the success of the specialist tour operators campaign. A good example is NatureTrek who brought two successful trips here this year and are planning another six in 2016. They have 40,000 subscribers all of whom are, by definition, already interested in wildlife holidays.

Tourism

Tourism is very important to Alderney. It employs about 10% of our economically active population and because it is labour intense more jobs are created per % of sector growth than in other industries. 2015 data indicates that the value of economic activity associated with wildlife tourism could now be in excess of £4 million. (Simon Woodward, Leeds Beckett University).

From the States point of view Living Islands has emphasised the value of our wildlife and heritage to our tourism market.

Nature and heritage tourism is a growth sector. In the UK, visits related to the natural environment increased by 10% between 2005/09 despite a general decline in tourism of 9.2% over the same period (RSBP).UK figures for the popularity of heritage visits are similarly optimistic.

We are confident that we are appealing to some of the fastest growing sectors in tourism and should continue to focus on these high spending niche markets, especially as much of their interest occurs in our shoulder months.

This will bring challenges:

- *our transport links still have limited capacity and a premium fare structure,*
- *our heritage sites (most of which would be Grade 1 in the UK) need to be presented in ways expected by our target market,*
- *our accommodation sector must continue to acknowledge that these tour operators will not use ungraded accommodation.*

Where Now?

- *Martin Batt, the Project Manager, has agreed to stay on until Christmas to ensure a smooth handover of the Living Islands brand to Visit Alderney.*
- *There will be an appointment within Visit Alderney to build upon the marketing, nature guiding, community involvement and links with France that Living Islands has developed.*
- *The importance of the maintenance and improvement of our natural environment will be emphasised in the work undertaken by the States Works Department, the Alderney Wildlife Trust and other important bodies such as the Alderney Society with the use of Service Level Agreements.*
- *Negotiations for inclusion in Guernsey's Island Hopping tourism initiative.*
- *Plans for the opening of the Roman Fort at the Nunnery as a third heritage site so our military history can be seen to span nearly 2,000 years.*
- *Consideration of the Marine Park proposals from Plymouth University, acknowledged experts in this field, to help us safeguard and enhance our marine environment.*

Lastly, a very large thank you is due to both Martin Batt and Anne-Isabelle Boulon for all their enthusiasm and hard work over the past two years and their unfaltering commitment to putting Alderney on the nature and heritage tourist map.”

Meeting Closed: 1852hrs

Issued: 24th November 2015