

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Anne French Room
22nd April 2021
0915 hours

PRESENT:

Mr W Abel, Chairman (left 12.45)
Mr C Harris
Mr G McKinley
Mr I Carter
Mr R Jenkins
Mr K Gentle
Mr B Kelly
Ms A Burgess
Mr A Snowdon
Mr S Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs S Pengilley-Price, Head of Govt Support (HoGS);
Mrs L Baines, Committee Secretary
Mr P Veron, Strategic Adviser (SA) (for item 4.2)
Mr Stephen Taylor, Strategic Financial Advisor (SFA);
Mrs E O'Toole, Finance Manager (TREASURY)

Apologies: Ms K Jones, Chief Executive (CE)

AGENDA ITEM

ACTION

PART 1

01/04/2021 **Minutes and Matters Arising**

1.1 **Minutes from the meeting held on 25th March 2021** – tabled and approved subject to addition of summarised 'confidential' items and other minor amendments.

The process of issuing draft minutes and then only finalising them at a following meeting was queried by some members, stating that other Committees such as the EDC, Finance Committee and BDCC only publish the final approved minutes.

To meet the 7 day website publishing goal P&F and GSC draft minutes were released and may exclude Confidential Items. A summarised version of confidential items may be included in Final Minutes, with a formal sign off of the minutes at the following meeting. However, it was agreed that Committees could follow their own 'release' processes.

CE OFFICE

1.2 Matters arising from previous minutes (other than on the agenda)

1.2.1 Plan/Strategy for 3rd Covid Wave Update

The Committee were advised that this strategy is making good progress Bailiwick wide and Guernsey are aware that Alderney will require variations. There is a further meeting tomorrow that will determine the timeline for a report coming back to P&F for information.

It was noted that Mr Kelly requested that he be involved with the review of the Alderney Emergency Plan as GSC Chairman. **Noted.**

Mr Gentle noted that this review (to be included in the April P&F meeting) had been requested by him at the February P&F meeting with a report for Alderney and not a Bailiwick version. Mr Carter also expressed that this was an excuse by the Bailiwick for not getting the work done.

Further follow up was required by the Civil Service.
It was noted that the GBA do not meet every flight – Mr Roberts expressed his concerns on this matter.

MATTERS ARISING

1.2.2 Energy Group ToR – FOR RATIFICATION – Reports circulated late at last month’s meeting from the Chairman were reviewed and discussed by members via email. The following recommendation is for ratification.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to ratify:

- a) **The formation of the Energy Group (EG) consisting of Bill Abel Chair, Kevin Gentle, and Alex Snowdon; and one non-States member recommended by AEL (EG to approve) and one non-States member to be recruited by open process.**
- b) **The Terms of Reference for the Energy Group.**

1.2.3 Route de Souffrance Update – Report from Chief Executive dated 15th April 2021 tabled and noted.

This point was raised recently with Richard Nash Interim CEO. He has been in contact with the Law Officers, and Helen Shorey has provided the written response.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to note the update from the Law Officers, and await any further clarification that may be provided after the 20th April 2021.

MATTERS ARISING

1.2.4 Data Breach Update

The Committee were advised that this matter was still with the Data Commissioner for investigation. **Noted.**

02/04/2021

Administrative Matters

2.1 Forthcoming meetings and visits (External)

The following forthcoming meetings and visits were noted:

- GFSC Visit to Alderney – 26th April at 10am
- Lt Governor Visit – 30th April for Stuart Trought Vin d’Honneur
- Partnership Laws Presentation by James Dent completed – 19th April at 11am
- HSC Visit – 20th May – details outstanding
- EDC meeting with Locate Guernsey – 26th April

2.2 External Relations Update (Bailiwick Council/ALG/MOJ/Normandie)

Alderney & Guernsey Joint Working – Report from Chief Executive and Adrian Lewis dated 13th April 2021 tabled and considered.

Due to the absence of the Chief Executive, the Committee agreed to defer this item until the Chief Executive is able to brief members on the report.

DEFER

2.3 Bailiwick Council Meeting Note – Report from Mr Abel dated 15th April 2021 tabled and **noted.**

2.4 Items for May Billet

The following items for the May Billet were noted:

- Establishment of EDC as a States Committee
- Updates of Emergency Powers regulations

Mr Snowden stated that more items should be discussed in the full States.

It was noted that the 'Questions to States Chairpersons' process was seen as a means to keeping the public informed of any items that may have been discussed within Policy & Finance.

The Committee were advised that the Good Governance Group is to look at the rules of procedure.

It was agreed for this to be discussed further at the May P&F meeting looking at items for debate on the June Billet.

AGENDA ITEM

2.5 Finance (Grants & Subsidies)

Portrait of Former President – Report from EDC dated 10th February 2021 tabled and considered.

Ms Burgess was authorized to identify a new artist to produce a portrait of former President Stuart Trought. This came about after the previous artist sadly died before the commission was completed.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to approve:

- **The offer given by the Artist to complete the commission using the budgeted £4,000 put aside for the completion of the portrait painting of the former President; and**
- **To request Ms Burgess to liaise with the artist and the former President to bring about the completion of the previous resolution from P&F.**

AB/TREASURY

EDR Summary – March 2021 – FOR INFORMATION

Tabled and noted.

It was noted that a meeting to review the fund and determine budget and control responsibilities for the Economic Development Committee is ongoing.

AGENDA ITEM

SoA Management Accounts – March 2021 – FOR INFORMATION

Tabled and noted.

It was advised that Treasury are awaiting the Quarter 1 Royalties on coins. The April statement will provide a better reflection of the current status of the SoA Accounts. The SOA are operating within budget. **Noted.**

2.6 Civil Service Pension 1982 Scheme Update – Advisor & Actuary Meeting (info)

The Committee were advised that since the last meeting, the Trust has commissioned two pieces of advice to close the deficit, and minimise the risk. Further work is still to be done and an update will be provided at next month's meeting. **Noted.**

SFA/ STANDARD ITEM

03/04/2021

Appointments – Elections/Changes/Additions

3.1 EDC Appointment of External Members

The Committee were advised that 6 applicants had been interviewed and that 2 external members (Nigel Vooght and Richard Corkhill) have been appointed to sit on the Economic Development Committee.

04/04/2021

External Transport, Economy and Renewable Energy

4.1 FAB Link Update – Report from Alex Snowdon tabled and considered.

Mr Snowdon stated in his report that there has been a lack of information to the States of Alderney and community in recent years, yet the project is still developing. The former CEO was evaluating the FAB link agreements, where there needs to be clarification regarding the option agreement and if FAB Link is meeting the requirements set out in the legal agreement between SoA and FAB Link.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to have a separate P&F meeting with Law Officers to discuss the issues on Tuesday 4th May, date to be confirmed.

CE OFFICE/SFA

4.2 Alderney Runway Extension Meeting/PSO – Report from Strategic Adviser dated 15th April 2021 tabled and considered.

The Committee were advised that this is a critically important issue that requires a medium and long term solution. Political reassurances are required that there won't be any delays to the planned rehabilitation works. It is crucial that the States of Alderney are party to the terms of reference for the study; can observe the results; and are consulted on the final option put to Guernsey Policy & Resources and States Trading Supervisory Board. Communications to the community is also key on this issue.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to participate fully, as necessary, in the research being undertaken by Guernsey on the future-proofing of Alderney's Airport, and air services; while for the moment retaining an open mind on what may be the better solution(s) for Alderney in the mid and long-terms.

A letter was to be sent to Deputy Ferbrache regarding progress.

SA

4.3 Fort Tourgis – Verbal Update

The Committee were advised that the Chief Executive is in liaison with the Law Officers regarding the due diligence and viability of the project. A further update from the Chief Executive will be provided in due course.

The Developer has still not delivered updated financial information since 2019.

The Policy & Finance Committee agreed that no further work and expenditure on this project should be carried out until further notice; and that a letter be sent to the developer regarding the deadline of exclusivity.

SFA/CE

05/04/2021

Legislation, Conventions & Policy

5.1 Good Governance Group Mandate 2021 for approval - Report from Mr Gentle dated 9th April 2021 tabled and considered.

At their meeting of 25 February the Policy & Finance Committee resolved under item 5.4 to approve the mandate of the Good Governance Group to reflect that four politicians, one Civil Servant, and a non-States member from the community would comprise the group. Following advertisement and an interview process the unanimous

view of the four political members was that two of the candidates (Andrew Eggleston and Richard Hunt) would be appointed. The mandate would be updated to reflect two non-States members.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to approve an update of the Good Governance Group mandate to reflect the appointment of two non-States members.

5.2 Public & States Member Surgery – Report from Ms Burgess dated 13th April 2021 tabled and considered.

Ms Burgess stated in her report that she would like to create an access point for the public, were they are able to approach States members in the form of an established weekly meeting area, where the public can come in and voice concerns, share ideas or make enquires with States Members. Clearly not all enquiries or conversations can come to an immediate conclusion, however assistance can be given and operational questions can be passed on to the relevant departments.

Mr Snowdon stated that he had tried a similar arrangement in his first term, but was stopped due to poor attendance.

It was suggested by Mr Carter that attendance may be improved if the ‘surgery’ was held at similar times when the Island Hall was in use i.e. for Jumble Sales.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to approve:

- **The initiative of having a 2 hour surgery for members of the public to come in to be assisted and helped by a States member (on a rota basis).**
- **To promote this initiative of a weekly service with a comprehensive advertisement campaign. To include a press release, notice on the SoA website, in the local press and on local radio.**
- **Ms. Burgess to lead this initiative.**

AB

5.3 The Police Force (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Law 2021 – Letter from The Bailiff of Guernsey dated 31st March 2021 and legislation tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to approve The Police Force (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Law 2021.

BILLET ITEM

5.4 Alderney Property Tax Appeals Panel & Tribunal Update

The Committee were advised that 3 applicants had applied from Guernsey, which provides a degree of independence, where both the membership of the TRP Panel and the APT Panel are identical. The Strategic Financial Adviser is working with the States of Guernsey to formalise the membership of both panels. **Noted.**

5.5 Moderna Vaccine (COVID) – Letter from Deputy Brouard dated 15th April 2021 tabled and considered.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to note that the Moderna Vaccine is a MHRA approved vaccine.

5.6 Partnership Laws

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to agree that the Chairman meets with the Law Officers to discuss the feasibility of enacting the Partnership Laws as a Bailiwick wide law.

5.7 Consultation on Draft Combined Substance Use Strategy for Guernsey & Alderney
– Letter from Committee for Health & Social Care dated 15th April 2021 tabled and considered.

Mr Carter provided a short explanation of the documents.

The Committee agreed for Mr Carter to liaise with the Chairman on the reviews of the strategy and for the Chairman to reply.

IC/BA

06/04/2021

Items for Development/Discussion

6.1 Alderney Census – Report from Mr. Carter dated 15th April 2021 tabled and considered.

It was noted that the Alderney Annual Electronic Census Report provides information on the population of Alderney using data collated by the Rolling Electronic Census IT System – distributed to all SoA members on 22nd March 2021.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to approve:

- (i) That P&F members make themselves aware of the key headline statistics and the implications these statistics have for the island now and as part of the tool kit for island development planning in creating the island plan now and in the future; and**
- (ii) When next year's data is made available a Civil Service resource (personnel with appropriate skill set) should be made available to analyse and report to P&F on the key aspects of the data and how this may influence the Island Plan.**

6.2 Bailiwick Council Membership – report from Chairman dated 14th April 2021 tabled and considered.

The Chairman advised that the Council is a briefing and feedback meeting with Guernsey acting in its Bailiwick role of advancing International and UK discussions. The Islands generally do not have the resources to handle these matters and it is appropriate that Guernsey - acting as the Bailiwick - leads this and keeps the Islands informed and involved. The current Alderney membership is the Chief Executive, Chairman of P&F and the President. The President has traditionally been involved as it is important for him to be up to date with the broader international relationships of the Bailiwick and the Islands.

Mr Snowden's comment has not been included in the minutes.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to agree for the membership of the Bailiwick Council to consist of the Chief Executive, and Chairman of P&F, with other members to be invited as and when required. This is consistent with the membership of the other islands.

6.3 Alderney Liaison Group Membership – report from Bill Abel dated 14th April 2021 tabled and considered.

The Chairman advised that the President was the initial interface between the States of Alderney and the States of Guernsey and was involved in the ALG meetings. The President has stated that he would not be attending this meeting going forwards.

Mr Snowdon advised that previous Guernsey Deputies visited Alderney for a meet and greet as part of their induction. The Committee advised for Mr Snowdon to raise this in Guernsey.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to agree for the membership of the Alderney Liaison Group to consist of the Chairman of P&F, P&F Deputy, and one Guernsey Representative on a rota basis, and the Chief Executive. Dependant on the topics for discussion, other members would be invited to attend.

6.4 Alderney Community Think Tank – Report from Alex Snowdon tabled and discussed.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to welcome setting up the Alderney Community Think Tank and appointed Mr Snowdon to take the lead and be responsible for developing this project with support from the Economic Development Committee.

AS

6.5 Future Housing Policy

It was discussed that this should be reviewed as part of LUP review in 2022.

Mr Jenkins advised that he is still working with the Chief Executive to collate further information regarding the first time buyer's proposal. It was noted that there are issues with mortgages being approved for own builds.

The Housing Survey also requires a review which could be done in conjunction with AHA. The Committee agreed for Mr Kelly, Ms Burgess, Mr Jenkins and Mr Gentle (BDCC) to take this forward, and to report back at the next meeting. Mr Jenkins to lead.

BK/AB/RJ/KG

07/04/2020 Any Other Business - For Information & Noting

Presidents Forum – The Committee agreed that this forum should be arranged as and when required. It was noted that the P&F Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive planned to meet with the President once a month, and would relay any items/issues back to P&F for discussion as necessary. **Noted.**

Mike Harrison Letter – The Committee were advised that the Chairman had replied, but will not engage further until the Chief Executive is back in the office and legal advice has been sought. **Noted.**

Swimming Pool – This is being reviewed currently through the States of Guernsey Education Committee. A full report (including costings and expenditure) will be tabled at next month's P&F meeting. **Noted.**

Marina Update – Mr McKinley advised that the developers have not heard from the States of Alderney, and requested for a Teams meeting be set up with the Developers and States members.

It was advised that the Chief Executive is now dealing with this, and a meeting will be arranged once the Chief Executive is back in the office. Noted.

Presentations – Marina/Fort Tourgis – it was requested that the presentations from Mr Brock be circulated to States Members, and that no further work and expenditure on these projects should be carried out until further notice.

Book of Condolences – It was noted that the Book of Condolences for HRH the Duke of Edinburgh is being held in the Court Office.

PART 2

08/04/2020 Exception Reporting & Questions by Members

8.1 General Services Committee

Alderney Bird Observatory and Nunnery Lease – Report from GSC Chairman dated April 2021 tabled and discussed.

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to approve:

- That the termination of the Nunnery lease be debated in the full States (Mr Carter, Mr Kelly, Mr Harris & Mr Jenkins against);
- That a formal application should be made to the Finance Committee from the Alderney Bird Observatory for any grant funding for consideration; and
- That any grant request for a new ringing room also be made to the Finance Committee for consideration (Mr Gentle abstained).

BILLET ITEM/FC

8.2 BDCC

Nothing further to report.

8.3 Finance Committee

Nothing further to report.

8.4 Economic Development Committee

Nothing further to report.

8.5 Good Governance Group

Nothing further to report.

8.6 Energy Group

Nothing further to report.

It was agreed that Any Other Business should be the last agenda item and follow this section - Exception Reporting & Questions by Members. Noted.

Meeting closed: 1.20pm

Signed: Bill Abel

Date: April 2021