

**POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Anne French Room**  
**26<sup>th</sup> July 2021**  
**0915 hours**

**PRESENT:**

Mr W Abel, Chairman  
Mr G McKinley  
Mr R Jenkins  
Mr K Gentle  
Mr B Kelly  
Ms A Burgess  
Mr C Harris  
Mr A Snowdon  
Mr I Carter

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms K Jones, Chief Executive (CE)  
Mrs L Baines, Committee Secretary via Teams  
Mrs E Maurice, Head of Finance (TREASURY)  
via Teams  
Mrs S Pengilly-Price, Head of Govt Support  
(HoGS) Via Teams

Apologies: Mr S Roberts; Mr Stephen Taylor, Strategic Financial Advisor (SFA)

In Attendance: Mr R Walker for item 4.9 via Teams

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>PART 1</b>	
<b>01/07/2021</b> <b><u>Minutes and Matters Arising</u></b> <b><u>1.1 Minutes from the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021; Emergency Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 &amp; Special Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021</u></b> – tabled and approved subject to minor amendments.	<b>CE OFFICE</b>
<b>02/07/2021</b> <b><u>Administrative Matters</u></b> <b><u>2.1 External Relations Update (Bailiwick Council/ALG/MOJ/Normandie)</u></b> The Chairman updated the Committee on the relevant issues that had been discussed at the Bailiwick Council meeting on 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2021. These were the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Territorial Seas.</li><li>• Paris Agreement re Climate Change and COP 26.</li><li>• Recognition of the Commonwealth Charter.</li><li>• Cannabis/CBD Production and Exportation from the Bailiwick – an MOU is now in place with the UK.</li><li>• Tax – presentation was planned for 29<sup>th</sup> July with SoG Deputies via Teams.</li><li>• Platinum Jubilee – civic honours competition.</li><li>• Guernsey’s Government Work Plan – overview.</li><li>• Trade Agreements – various free trade agreements were being advanced by UK and the Bailiwick was being consulted.</li></ul> <p>The Committee requested for the Chairman to circulate the minutes from the previous Bailiwick Council to all members for their information going forwards.</p>	

**BA**

**2.1.1 Alderney & Guernsey Joint Working Update**

The Chief Executive updated the Committee, advising that a number of discussions are being held with Guernsey colleagues. The current plan is up to the end of 2021, which is subject to change – CE to share with members. Main issues being reviewed/discussed are HR; LUP review and AGCC funds, where background works are currently being undertaken by the civil service. **Noted.**

CE

**2.1.2 Communications Review Update**

The Committee were advised that this is underway, with an off – island independent working on this via teams and face to face meetings. It was noted that Mr Carter’s ToR paper that was tabled at a previous P&F will be used within this review. **Noted.**

**2.2 Finance (Grants & Subsidies)**

**2.2.1 Civil Service Pension 1982 Scheme Update**

It was advised that a date for the meeting is still to be arranged, and will be done as soon as it is practical. **Noted.**

**2.2.2 School Bus Contract – CONFIDENTIAL ITEM** – See Confidential Annexure.

Tenders had been requested and were being evaluated. **Noted.**

**2.2.3 Budget Strategy & Principles 2022 – CONFIDENTIAL ITEM** – See Confidential Annexure.

**2.2.4 EDR Summary – May 2021 – FOR INFORMATION**

Tabled, expenditure was in line with budget. **Noted**

**2.2.5 SoA Management Accounts & Projected Summary – May 2021 – FOR INFORMATION**

Tabled, the situation was positive with property taxes and document duty ahead of budget and only the harbour budget of concerns due to reduced income. **Noted**

03/07/2021

**External Transport, Economy and Renewable Energy**

**3.1. ACRE Annual Report** – ACRE Annual Reports and Accounts 2019 & 2020 tabled and noted.

The Committee were advised that this report would be placed on the September Billet for information.

Clarification requested regarding the remit of ACRE regarding FAB. Chairman and Chief Executive to investigate.

CE/BA

*1020 BA and CE left meeting to join a CCA meeting held at short notice. IC in the chair.*

*1030 Mr R Walker (GFSC) joined the meeting via Teams*

**4.9. GFSC/MoneyVal Update from Greffier** – Report from Greffier dated 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021 tabled and noted. The Committee noted a verbal update on the subject from Mr Richard Walker.

The aim of MONEYVAL is to ensure that its member states (which includes the Bailiwick of Guernsey) have in place effective systems to counter money laundering and terrorist financing and comply with the relevant international standards in this matter.

**The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to support:**

**Introducing revised and more robust legislation with regards the Alderney Company Register regarding increased sanctions for noncompliance; and ability to obtain more information on a company's activities.**

**The Committee also requested that the Greffier circulate the set of regulations that SoA would be judged against to members for information, and for him to establish any costs associated with these compliance activities.**

**GREFFIER**

**3.2. ACRE Commissioners –Reaffirmation of Contracts** – Report from Strategic Financial Adviser dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 tabled and considered.

A working protocol has been agreed with the Policy & Finance Committee to clarify the roles and responsibilities and manage any potential conflicts of interest with the States of Alderney. Whilst the Renewable Energy (Alderney) Law, 2007 provides that there is no personal liability in respect of any of the Commissioners, it is important that they are all covered by appropriate insurance particularly in relation to the Settlement Agreement. Insurance arrangements are therefore being put in place to cover the Commissioners as part of the States policies.

**The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to agree:**

- **To the text of the draft appointment letter for signature by the Chair or Chief Executive and by doing so reaffirms the appointments of the three ACRE Commissioners, being Stephen Taylor, Paul Veron and Elizabeth Maurice (Mr Snowden against); and**
- **For legal advice to be sought with regards to what level of information can be made available from ACRE Commissioners to the States Members for making future decisions / directions.**

**SFA**

**3.4. Connaught Extension Budget Review** – Report from Programme Manager dated 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 tabled and considered.

Following the assessment of tenders it was apparent that the COVID impact on the escalation of costs to complete the extension were significant, and various options to reduce costs were being considered.

The GSC Chairman advised that this had previously been considered by the General Services Committee at their Special meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021. And that it has requested for further information on Options 1 and 3 for consideration before making any decision/recommendation. **Noted.**

**04/07/2021**

**Legislation, Conventions & Policy**

**4.1. BBC Simple Payment Plan for TV Licences – FOR RATIFICATION**

**The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to ratify the approval of the invitation made by the UK Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to extend the Simple Payment Plan for TV Licence Fee Payments to the Bailiwick of Guernsey. This would allow TV licences to be paid on a fortnightly or monthly basis, rather than annually.**

CE

#### **4.2. UK-EEA EFTA Agreement and other FTAs – FOR RATIFICATION**

As part of the continuing Brexit process, the UK is negotiating various treaties with other States and also agreements with the EU. The Bailiwick is being included in these agreements but consultation has been limited, as has the available time to comment. Alderney is being consulted and has followed the advice from the Guernsey External Affairs group.

**A consent process is required in respect of this agreement for the Bailiwick. The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to ratify the following:**

**To agree the extent of this agreement before it is ratified by the UK:**

- **Approve Alderney's inclusion in the following chapters of the UK-EEA EFTA FTA relating to trade in goods:**
  - (i) Chapter XX (National Treatment and Market Access);**
  - (ii) Chapter XX (Rules of Origin);**
  - (iii) Chapter XX (Customs Administration and Trade Facilitation);**
  - (iv) Chapter XX (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures); and**
  - (v) Chapter XX (Technical Barriers to Trade);**
- **Together with the territorial extension mechanism provided to facilitate potential inclusion in further parts of the FTA in future; and**
- **Approve the approach taken by the UK Government to agree a joint declaration in regard to further inclusion in the UK-EEA EFTA FTA in the future.**

CE

**4.4. Support to Alderney Housing Association** – Report from Treasury dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 tabled and considered.

**The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to defer this item, subject to seeking further information from the Strategic Financial Adviser and a meeting to be organised with AHA representatives.**

TREASURY/SFA

*1145 BA and CE re-joined the meeting (IC handed back the chair)*

#### **3.3. Future of Nunnery Proposal**

It was noted that the Chief Executive has spoken to the Law Officers, and a report for consideration by the Committee will be put to P&F at the September meeting.

CE

#### **4.3. Route de Souffrance Law Officers Update**

The Chief Executive updated the Committee, advising that discussions are ongoing with the Law Officers on this issue, and a conversation has been held with the land user regarding this issue.

All options are being discussed and researched.

**The Policy & Finance Committee agreed for an official letter from the Chief Executive to be sent to the involved party, asking for access to SoA land (Mr Jenkins abstained).**

CE

#### **4.5. General Housing Standards Terms of Reference**

Mr Gentle advised that he had contacted Steve Williams of Guernsey Housing Association, and is awaiting further feedback.

This item was agreed to be deferred until further information has been received. **Noted.**

#### **4.6. Proposed Policy for Managing States Assets**

The Chief Executive advised that this policy has not been progressed further at this time.

**The Policy & Finance Committee agreed for a special P&F meeting to be organised to discuss this item, and then can be debated in the full States.**

SPECIAL MEETING

#### **4.7. IHRA Visit Update** – Report from Bill Abel tabled and considered.

**The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to approve:**

- **For a questionnaire to be mail dropped to all residents, as a form of public consultation, working with the community;**
- **For a press release to be issued regarding the questionnaire with the timescale; and**
- **For Mr Abel to reply to Lord Pickles.**

CE/BA

#### **4.8. Partnership Laws Update**

Nothing further to report. **Noted.**

#### **4.10 Any Other Business – Legislation, Conventions & Policy**

##### **For Ratification**

**Maritime Security Treaty** – Alderney has been consulted and is included in the Maritime Security Treaty between the UK, Ireland and France which is conditional on an MOU between the UK and the Bailiwick being agreed.

**The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to ratify to:**

- **Agree that Alderney should not object to the signing of ‘The Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on Cooperation in Matters Relating to Maritime and Port security, and Specifically in Relation to Passenger Vessels in the Channel’ (‘the Treaty’) by the UK and France, including references within the Treaty to the Channel Islands as set out in this paper.**
- **Agree that the position of not objecting to signature of the Treaty is subject to:**
  - **receipt of the Ministerial letter from the UK Government before the Treaty is signed confirming the constitutional relationship between the Bailiwick of Guernsey and the UK and respecting that in the Treaty and its implementation, the intention, contents of and deadlines for finalising**

- the UK-Channel Islands operational Memorandum of Understanding and the Note Verbale, and containing appropriate provision in respect of financial liability; and**
- **the operational Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and the Channel Islands being agreed and signed prior to ratification of the Treaty by the UK Parliament.**
- **Agree that officers will confirm to the UK ahead of the date of signature that the Bailiwick does not object to the Treaty being signed by the UK and France, subject to approval by the Committee for Home Affairs, and by the relevant Committees of Alderney and Sark. For clarity, that confirmation to the UK Government will include the condition that the Bailiwick will require the operational Memorandum of Understanding to be agreed and signed prior to ratification of the Treaty by the UK Parliament.**

**Draft Pensions Law** – The Policy & Finance resolved to ratify the approval of the draft Pensions (Guernsey & Alderney) Law, 2021. The draft covers Secondary Pensions and includes Alderney within the scope of the Law but Alderney will only participate if it wishes to do so.

**GFSC Licence Application Letter** – The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to ratify the approval of the licensing of the applicant.

CE OFFICE

**Emergency Regulations No.8** – It was noted that these had not been circulated to States members. Emergency Regulations to be circulated to all Members as soon as they are received. **Noted.**

HoGS

**05/07/2021** **Items for Development/Discussion**

**5.1. Review of Covid Compliance Measures Post 1st July 2021 Update**

The Committee were advised that the CCA has met several times and had briefed the Bailiwick as to changes in regard to testing of 'Blue travellers', Jersey travellers and other issues.

Members and the public are receiving daily updates regarding operational areas, and figures from Public Health.

Catherine Veron is collating all emergency planning documents within the SoA, and will be updating the plan accordingly. This will also be in liaison with GSC as Emergency Planning is within their mandate.

Plan for 3<sup>rd</sup> Wave – it was advised that the SoA are working with Public Health regarding the dynamic risk assessment. The Chief Executive agreed to find out the current strategy and report back in 2 weeks.

The Committee requested the clarification of the Alderney Operation Group role – and stated that political representation on the group is required.

**The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to approve for Mr Kelly to sit as the political lead on the AOG.**

CE

**5.2. Planning for Changes in Royal Protocol – Update**

Mr Abel to liaise with the President regarding the strategies in place, with a view to updating the members with the President in September with the proposals.

BA

### **5.3. Sports Facilities – Update**

The Committee noted the verbal update from the Chairman. Mr Abel stated that the SoA needed to take charge of moving the process forward, and would engage with Guernsey Education when the report from the Sports Foundation was presented.

**Noted.**

**BA**

**5.4. Fit for Purpose Government - briefing paper for discussion** – Report from Chief Executive tabled at the meeting.

**For further discussion at the next P&F meeting. Noted.**

**SEPT AGENDA ITEM**

## **06/07/2021 Any Other Business - For Information & Noting**

**6.1 Island Plan Workshop Agenda for 6<sup>th</sup> August 2021** – Agenda tabled and **noted.**

**6.2 Press Release – Alderney Still Open for Business** – Hotels are working with Visit Alderney on this message. SoA to issue similar communications to the media. **Noted.**

**6.3 Runway report** – due back in September, date to be confirmed. Chief Executive to speak to Steve Wakelin on this matter. **Noted.**

Disability Access – bringing back in September for a public consultation, and feasibility study. **Noted.**

**6.4 Grants for Alderney Week events** – It was noted that the Economic Development Committee would consider applications for costs incurred for cancelled Alderney Week events on an evidence basis, as this falls under their remit. **Noted.**

**6.5 Play Group** – request approved for the front grounds of the Island Hall to be closed to traffic from 11.45 to 12noon on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July to enable the children to do a cavalcade parade around the front grounds. **Noted.**

**6.6 Living with Covid** – businesses are receiving inconsistent messaging from Public Health in regard to testing and isolation requirements. **Noted.**

## **PART 2**

## **07/07/2021 Matters Arising**

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

### **7.1.1 Data Breach Update**

The Committee were advised that this matter was still with the Data Commissioner for investigation. To remind members, the data protection breach involved a report that had been previously tabled at P&F which was then featured in a BBC news report.

**Noted.**

## **08/07/2021 Exception Reporting & Questions by Members**

**8.1 General Services Committee**

Crane – Engineers arriving tomorrow. If it cannot be fixed, a further contingency plan is needed. It was noted that the crane engineer report cannot be made public at this time. GSC Chairman to circulate the report to members for their information.  
Pontoon – Site Weld can assist with the repairs, which will aid the Little Ferry with its transfers. Nothing further to report.

**8.2 BDCC**

Lager Sylt consultation - progress to be confirmed. Nothing further to report.

**8.3 Finance Committee**

Nothing further to report.

**8.4 Economic Development Committee**

Visit Alderney survey with Hotels being organised. General meeting with new Condor CEO is being organised. Pushing on with the EDC mandate – for September Billet. Nothing further to report.

**8.5 Good Governance Group**

Last meeting cancelled due to Covid outbreak. Rescheduled for Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July. Nothing further to report.

**8.6 Energy Group**

Currently progressing policy framework, and the selection of a non-States Members to sit on the group.

**8.7 Marina Group**

Letter has been sent to Braye Harbour Developments from the Chief Executive. Awaiting reply. Noted.

**8.8 Housing Group**

To look at their scope for going forwards, and include feedback from Steve Williams of GHA. Noted.

**09/07/2020 Reporting by Representatives**

**9.1 Alderney Representatives Update**

Education debate to be continued in September.  
Government Work Plan – passed.  
Tax Review Workshop organised.

**9.2 AeGL Update**

Intending to conduct contract/remuneration review in future. Nothing to report.

**9.3 AEL Update**

Board meeting cancelled for this afternoon. Nothing to report.

**Meeting to start at 9am going forwards. Noted.**

**Meeting closed: 2pm.**

**Signed: Bill Abel**

**Date: July 2021**