

**POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Anne French Room**

**25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 - 09.00 hours**

**Minutes**

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms K Jones, Chief Executive (CE),  
Mr J Laband, Project Support Officer (JL)  
Mrs E Maurice, Head of Finance (HoF)  
(Via Teams)  
Mrs S Pengilley-Price, Head of Govt  
Support (HoGS) (Via Teams)  
Mr S Taylor, Strategic Financial Adviser  
(SFA) (via Teams)  
Mr D Llewellyn, Strategic Adviser (DL)  
(For items 2.3 and 2.4 Only)  
Mr Paul Veron, Strategic Adviser  
(Transport)(For item 3.2 Only)(PV)  
Mr R Jenkins, States Member, (For  
Items 5.2 and 8.6 Only.)

**Apologies:**

**AGENDA ITEM**

**01/04/2022**

**Minutes and Matters Arising**

**ACTION**

**1.1 Minutes from the meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – Tabled and Approved.**

- Mr Kelly requested an update on the Duty-Free Concession item, it was advised that the Head of Government Support was liaising with the Strategic Financial Adviser on the submissions received.
- Mr Carter requested an update on the Sports Facility item, Mr Abel advised that he was yet to liaise with the Programme Manager as what that piece of work entails, it is yet to be outlined. **Mr Abel to Action.**
- Mr Abel queried the Import Control Amendment which should have been publicised as a result of the decision taken in March, it was advised that it would be issued today (25/4/22).
- Mr Kelly requested an update on the item relating to the storage of confidential minutes, it was advised that the individual would be contacted in order for the Committee to be provided with an update at its next meeting.

**1.2 Minutes – Confidential Annexure 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – Tabled and Approved.**

No further comments on the draft.

**1.3 Matters Arising**

**1.3.1 Named Voting – Law Officer Feedback Report from the Project Support Officer - Tabled and Considered.**

This item was discussed under the Rules of Procedure for Open Meetings agenda item 4.8.

**The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to approve the inclusion of an amendment to Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure which requires all votes to be named and names will be recorded in the minutes unless the committee votes for a non-named vote.**

**1.3.2 States Members iPads** – Report from the Project Support Officer - Tabled and Considered.

Some Members highlighted that they wished to be able to purchase the iPad that they currently have whereas a number of Members also stated that they wished to keep the iPad for the duration of their time in office. Members noted that the devices would not be supported, as advised in the report.

**The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to retain the iPads utilised by Members as they are a convenient tool alongside laptops, and to do so for the duration of a Member's time in office;**

**1.3.3 Tax Review Question Responses – Refer to Item 3.1**

**02/04/2022 Administrative Matters**

**2.1 External Relations Update (Bailiwick Council/ALG/MOJ/Normandie).**

Nothing To Report.

Mr Snowdon queried how the Policy and Finance Committee were being reported to by the President as a number of President's forums had not taken place. Mr Abel suggested he would produce a letter which is to be sent to the President inviting him to present and update the Policy and Finance Committee at each of its monthly meetings.

BA

**2.2 Finance (Grants and Subsidies)**

**2.2.1 States of Alderney Management Accounts – March 2022**

Currently deficit is shown as £4k for quarter 1, 2022, it was noted that this does not include the income from the Alderney Property tax.

**2.2.2 Economic Development Reserve – March 2022**

A meeting to discuss the Economic Development Reserve is to be arranged in order to discuss the projects for this year, and the Island Plan to form the basis of those discussions, along with identifying which projects have now run their course and so have no further financial impact on the reserve.

**2.2.3 SoA projected Summary of Accounts 2022**

Meetings with budget holders have commenced and outcomes of those meetings are reflected in the accounts.

Despite significant variances in the projected summary including expected Land Use Plan costs and provision of ambulance staff from off island, the expected surplus remains on budget due projected income for the Property transfer duties being higher than was originally expected.

**2.3 Healthcare Review** – Confidential Item - Verbal Update from Strategic Adviser – Noted

See Confidential Annexure

**2.4 Nunnery – Update on Use** – Report from the Strategic Adviser - Tabled and Considered.

It was advised the States of Alderney are continuing to work with various parties to find a tenant for the one-bed Flat 1b at the Nunnery. Discussions continue with the Alderney Housing Association (AHA) but as yet have been unable to find an interested tenant.

Flat 1b is currently unoccupied until August 2022 by which time future use of the Nunnery's may be known, as it is part of the Nunnery's current Expressions of Interest (EOI) scope.

**The Policy and Finance Committee resolved;**

- **to not approve a three-month let of Flat 1b Nunnery, to visiting intern graduate, at a rate of £550 per calendar month, commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 (Mr Mckinley Against);**
- **for Flat 1B to be advertised as a permanent rental opportunity; and**
- **to request that resolutions of previous meetings are investigated in order for it to understand the current position of the Expressions of Interest and not include Flat 1B in that Expressions of Interest piece of work.**

**2.5 Fort Albert** – Confidential Item – Commercially Sensitive

See Confidential Annexure

**2.6 ACRE** – Confidential Item

See Confidential Annexure

**03/04/2022** **Transport, Economy and Renewable Energy**

**3.1 Guernsey Tax Review** – Report from the Project Support Officer - Tabled and Discussed

The Committee were provided with responses to its queries raised at its previous meeting, Members highlighted their disappointment at the responses received and requested that further information be provided on those original questions prior to the next Tax Review meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

**The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to request further information on the questions put to the States of Guernsey at the next face to face meeting.**

CEOoffice

**3.2 Air Transport** – Confidential Item - Verbal Update from the Strategic Adviser (Transport) Noted  
See Confidential Annexure

**04/04/2022** **Legislation, Conventions & Policy and Finance**

**4.1 Secondary Pensions Scheme** – Policy Letter from Deputy De Sausmarez - for Ratification - Tabled and Approved

**The Policy and Finance Committee Resolved to ratify its support for the Proposed Secondary Pensions Scheme to Alderney.**

**4.1.1 Secondary Pensions Scheme** - Policy Letter Response to SOG – Tabled and Noted

CEOffice

**4.2 War in Ukraine – Statement and Proposition – for Ratification** Tabled and Approved  
The Policy and Finance Committee Resolved to ratify its support of the Statement and Proposition condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine which Mr Abel delivered at the States of Alderney Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

CEOffice

**4.3 War in Ukraine – States of Alderney Donation – For ratification** Tabled and Approved

The Policy & Finance Committee resolved;

- to ratify the decision to donate £15,000 to the Ukraine; and
- for the Head of Finance to report back on the current transfer status of those funds.

CEOffice

**4.4 Introduction of Ukraine Family and Extension Schemes – Proposal Letter for Ratification** - Tabled and Approved  
See Confidential Annexure

CEOffice

**4.4.1 Introduction of Ukraine Family and Extension Schemes** – Response letter to SOG - Tabled and Noted

CEOffice

**4.5 Matrimonial Causes (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law 2022 – Draft for Consultation** – Report from Patrick Aboagye, Policy Support Officer (SOG) - tabled and Considered

Post meeting note - update – Project Support Officer has obtained feedback from the relevant Policy and Law Officers and briefed Members following that advice being received, the item has now been approved and the item is to be ratified at the Policy and Finance Meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

JL

**4.6 Gambling (Alderney)(Amendment) Commencement Ordinance** – Tabled and Approved

The Gambling (Alderney) (Amendment) Law, 2021 was registered on April 24<sup>th</sup> and requires the tabled commencement Ordinance to be approved for the law to be brought into force.

The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to approve the Gambling (Alderney)(Amendment) Commencement Ordinance, and for this item to be placed on the Billet for the May meeting of the full States for formal approval - Proposed by Mr Abel, Seconded by Mr Harris.

Billet Item

**4.7 Proposed Legislation for the regulation of Notaries Public** – Consultation Request

The Committee discussed the item tabled and are happy with the proposals that have been tabled and this is to be conveyed to Deputy Ferbrache in a letter from Mr Abel.

CEOffice

**4.8 Rules of Procedure for Committees** – Draft Rules of Procedure from Mr Carter – Tabled and Considered.

Mr Carter provided an update to the Committee on the work undertaken to date and the feedback from Law Officers on the proposed amendments as agreed by the Committee at its previous meeting in relation to the distinction of Committees and named voting of items.

**The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to approve the revised Rules of Procedure for States Committees, subject to the ratification of the following conditions;**

- **the additional amendment in relation to named voting was included (RULE 9; see item 1.3.1 – “The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to approve the inclusion of an amendment to Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure which requires all votes to be named and names will be recorded in the minutes unless the committee votes for a non-named vote”;**
- **the inclusion of clarity around what Committees were defined as, in relation to what Committees / groups, the Rules of Procedure for open meetings protocols applies to (Rule 6 and at other points in the document); and**
- **for this item to be placed on the Billet for the May meeting of the full States for formal approval - Proposed by Mr Carter, Seconded by Mr Gentle.**

**BILLET ITEM**

**4.9 War in Ukraine – Confidential Item**

See Confidential Annexure

**05/04/2022**

**Items for Development/Discussion**

**5.1 Work Permit Exemptions** – Report with Recommendations from the Head of Government Support – tabled and considered.

A request was received by the Head of Government Support suggesting discussion by the Chief Executive and the Policy and Finance Committee that considers putting work permits for Carers, on the Exempt Work Permit List.

The Current exemptions listed in Ordinance are from 1980 and it was raised by Members that there is potential for a review of all those listed exemptions for work permits.

**The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to;**

- 1. request the Head of Government Support obtains a definition of “Carer” from the department for Health and Social Care, Guernsey; and,**
- 2. to seek law officer advice on the inclusion of Carer definition(s) to the exempted categories listed in the Employment Permits (Exemptions) (Alderney) Ordinance, 1980,**
- 3. to request a review of the ordinance and report back to the Policy and Finance Committee with a revised exemptions list at its next meeting.**

**5.2 Sale of Assets** – Report from Mr Kelly Tabled and Considered

See Confidential Annexure

**06/04/2022**

**Items for Future Billet Submission**

- **Gambling (Alderney)(Amendment) Law, 2021 Commencement Ordinance**
- **Rules of Procedure for Committees**
- **Sale Of Assets**
- **Energy Group Report**

**07/04/2022**    **Any Other Business – For Information & Noting**

**7.1 FAB Link Report**

See Confidential Annexure

**7.2 UK-France Maritime Security** – Memorandum of Understanding – Item for Information – Tabled and Noted

No further comments from Members.

N/A

**7.3 Commonwealth Parliamentary Association – Report for Noting**

Mr Carter extended his thanks to the Committee for approving the funding to allow himself, Ms Burgess and the Greffier's attendance at the Conference.

Mr Carter highlighted that following information provided at the conference, the States of Alderneys abilities to scrutinise government activity was quite superficial compared to some jurisdictions, and that for different aspects of the States activities there might be an opportunity to explore the implementation of a scrutiny panel, to give a greater degree of confidence in the decision-making process.

A number of considerations were tabled for the Committee including; pre and post legislative scrutiny; an independent scrutiny panel, utilising non-elected members in the scrutiny process, open public scrutiny meetings.

In relation to diversity, Ms Burgess highlighted to facility of hybrid meetings and Teams Voting as a means of promoting representatives with families to engage with the democratic process. This is being implemented in Scotland as it is believed it would reach out to a wider audience for potential elected members.

It was raised that if the Committee were minded for the States of Alderney to utilise any scrutiny function, that a range of items to scrutinise, either things that have already happened or things that are being worked on, could be identified and prioritised in terms of risk to the island of Alderney – the group should also publish what it intended to scrutinise within its scrutiny programme.

It was suggested a Risk Officer in the States of Guernsey could be approached, alongside Catherine Veron, to assess levels of risk for certain subjects that could be investigated prior to any scrutiny being undertaken.

IC

**7.4 UK Government support to the Crown Dependencies during our response to the Covid-19 pandemic** Draft Letter from Deputy Ferbrache – Circulated via Email and Approved.

The Policy and Finance Committee was provided with a draft response from Deputy Ferbrache conveying the gratitude of the government of Guernsey and also the governments of Alderney and Sark, for all the support provided by the UK Government to the Bailiwick of Guernsey over the course of the pandemic. The Committee was happy with this approach and for Deputy Ferbrache to include thanks from Alderney's government to the Secretary of State was requested and Approved.

BA

**08/04/2022**    **Exception Reporting & Questions by Members**

**8.1 General Services Committee (GSC)**

Nothing to report.

Mr Gentle queried whether work on the pontoon could commence as soon as it is removed from the water, rather than allowing it to be placed on land and left to accumulate further damage – the query was noted.

## **8.2 Building Development Control Committee (BDCC)**

Mr Gentle highlighted that the Guernsey Development and Planning Authority had been in attendance at the previous BDCC meeting and that useful discussions had occurred between the two committees regarding approaches to planning.

## **8.3 Finance Committee (FC)**

Mr Harris advised that the next meeting is due to take place on 16<sup>th</sup> of May.

## **8.4 Economic Development Committee (EDC)**

Ms Burgess advised that the meeting that was due to take place on April 16<sup>th</sup> is to be rescheduled as a result of absence and ill-health.

## **8.5 Good Governance Group (GGG)**

Mr Gentle Advised that the meeting that was scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022 had been postponed and had been rearranged to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May, and that the correspondence relating to that meeting was due to be circulated no later than the Monday of that week.

## **8.6 Energy Group**

### **8.6.1 Energy Goals Delivery – Progress Report**

Mr Abel provided the Committee with a presentation which outlined the current progress made to date by the Energy group.

At the October 2021 Policy and Finance Meeting a request for funding was tabled by Mr Abel, on behalf of the Energy Group, to award a contract to Ore Catapult Development Services Ltd to assist the Energy Group in the development of Alderney's Energy Policy and strategy options.

ORE Catapult were tasked, following a literature study, to assess the potential hybrid 'mix' of power supply and storage technologies which, exist or are being developed, and which could meet the island's strategic energy system objectives in the short (0-10 years), medium (10-20 years) and long term (20+ years) and would meet the island's objectives of:

- Minimising the cost of energy
- Reducing or mitigating energy supply risks, and
- Minimising or eliminating the use of carbon emitting energy sources

A number of preliminary conclusions and short-, medium- and long-term scenarios were provided to the Committee along with a notification that the Committee will be provided more information at its May meeting as regards a revised Mandate for the Energy Group.

## **8.6 Island Plan Group**

Nothing to report

The Chief Executive highlighted that there is to be a report submitted to Policy and Finance Committee at its Meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup> which sets out the Island Plan budgets and the prioritising of items.

## **8.7 Housing Task Group**

See Confidential Annexure

**09/04/2022**    **Reporting by Representatives**

**9.1 Alderney Representatives for States of Guernsey – Update**

Mr Snowdon advised that the following items are on the agenda to be discussed at the States of Deliberations;

- Rule 11 questions
- Aurigny questions to STSB

Representative of the Guernsey Investment Fund is on island next week and a meeting has been requested.

**9.2 AeGL Update**

Meeting being held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April

**9.3 AEL Update**

Next board meeting to take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

**9.4 AHA Update**

Ms Burgess reported an increase in the number of individuals on the waiting list.

Mr Abel queried when the public engagement would take place, it was advised that this would be relayed to the AHA for comment.

**10/04/2022**    **Resolutions Made**

**As stated within the minutes above.**

**11/04/2022**    **Items for Press Release**

**Meeting closed: 16:50**

**Signed: Bill Abel**

**Date: April 2022**