

**POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Anne French Room**

**21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 - 09.00 hours**

**OPEN Meeting Minutes**

**PRESENT:**

**Mr I Carter, Chairman  
Mr W Abel  
Mr G McKinley  
Mr K Gentle  
Mr B Kelly  
Mrs L Maurice**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Mrs E Maurice, Head of Finance (HoF)  
Mrs S Pengilley-Price, Head of Govt  
Support (HoGS)  
Mr S Taylor, Strategic Financial Adviser  
(SFA) (Via Teams)  
Mr J Laband, Project Support Officer  
(PSO-JL)  
Mrs L Baines, Personal Assistant to the  
Chief Executive (PA)**

**Apologies: Mr A Snowdon  
Mr S Roberts  
Ms A Burgess  
Mr C Harris, Deputy  
Mr P Veron, Strategic Adviser (SA)**

**Declarations of Interest: Nil**

**AGENDA ITEM**

**ACTION**

**A01/11/2022 Minutes and Matters Arising**

**A1.1 Decision Progress Log – October Open Meeting - Tabled and Considered**

It was noted regarding the Hybrid Meetings item, that it's status amber on the open meeting decision log would be discussed in the closed section of the meeting as the feedback contained advice from the Law Officers.

**A1.2 Minutes from the meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – Tabled and Approved.**

**A1.3 Matters Arising**

Nil

**A1.4 Minutes from Special P&F held 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – Tabled and Approved.**

**A1.4.1 Import (Control) (Alderney) (Amendment No. 2) Order 2022  
– Tabled and Noted.**

Mr Carter noted that this order was the result of the decision taken at that Special Policy and Finance Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November regarding pork products.

**A02/11/2022 Administrative Matters**

**A2.1 External Relations Update (Bailiwick Council/ALG/MOJ/Normandie).**

**A2.1.1 Alderney Liaison Group – Points Discussed – Tabled and Noted**

Mr Carter noted that the Alderney Liaison Group had met and discussed the issues stated in the note that was tabled. He explained that the rationale for the group which discusses items and is not a decision-making group.

Mr Gentle raised the matter of planning support from the States of Guernsey, it was highlighted that support for the Alderney Planning department could be offered, if required.

**A2.2 Finance (Grants and Subsidies)**

**A2.2.1 SoA Management Accounts Summary – October 2022 –**

Summary from the Head of Finance - Tabled and Noted

The Head of Finance noted that since the accounts were circulated, Treasury have had the opportunity to meet with all budget holders to establish projections to the end of year.

There is no significant difference to the revised budget figure but there are significant variances within some areas of the budget, notably the provision of 30K for a project manager for the Land Use Plan which would not be appointed until 2023. It was noted that there is an overspend for the States Works Department, however this is being reviewed by the budget holders.

**The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to note the item.**

**A2.2.2 Economic Development reserve Fund – October 2022 –**

Summary from the Head of Finance - Tabled and Noted

The Head of Finance highlighted that there was no movement of note and that underspend on the budget would carry over the allocation to 2023.

**The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to note the item.**

**A03/11/2022 Transport, Economy and Renewable Energy**

**B3.1. Air Transport – No report**

**A04/11/2022 Legislation, Conventions & Policy and Finance**

**A4.1. Abortion (Alderney) Law, 2022 – Verbal Update from The Project Support Officer – Noted**

The Project support officer advised that notification had been received that the Abortion (Alderney) Law, 2022 was registered before the full court on 11/10/22.

**The Policy & Finance Committee resolved to note the update.**

**PSO-JL**

**A05/11/2022 Items for Development/Discussion**

**A5.1 Open Meetings review** – Report from the Project Support Officer – Tabled and Considered.

It was noted that prior to the commencement of the open meetings trial that a review of open meetings would be conducted following the conclusion of it. Civil Servants and States Members were able to provide their views prior to the item being tabled which were then relayed to the Committee. It was highlighted by Members that other than members of the press corps; no member of the public has attended any of the Open Meetings and that the administrative process around the meetings was more costly in terms of Civil Service resource.

A suggestion was made that a uniform approach to agenda compilation and minute taking should be adopted across all committees, sub-committees and working groups to improve the overall administrative process of the Government. This was agreed.

It was also noted that the Drop-in sessions held on Friday's in the Members Room, were not well attended.

It was noted that the rules of procedure would need to be amended to remove the protocols for Open Meetings, it was suggested that the version of the Rules of Procedure for States Committees of May 2022, should be sufficient as the version to adopt going forward subject to any amendments required.

It was suggested that a press release should be drafted to inform the public of the committee's decision.

**The Policy & Finance Committee resolved;**

- i. not to continue with the open meetings going forward;**
- ii. for the Rules of Procedure for States Committees to be amended to reflect the fact that there will no longer be open meetings and for those to be tabled at the next Policy and Finance Committee Meeting; and**
- iii. for a press release to be drafted on the Committee's decision.**

**PSO-JL**

**A5.2 Committee Meeting Dates** – Report from the Project Support Officer – Tabled and Considered.

The Committee was presented with 3 different options as to how to schedule P&F meetings for 2023, these comprised a 4-week cycle, a 6-week cycle and an 8-week cycle. Advantages and disadvantages were highlighted following on from the Open meetings feedback in relation to resource availability.

The Committee indicated that due to the number of meetings required, including scheduled meetings, special meetings, and briefings, that the 4-week cycle would be most appropriate.

Lead in times for the circulation of agendas were also discussed. It was raised that receiving the final agenda 7 days prior to the meeting was not necessary and 3 days prior would be sufficient for members. This would ease the impact on the Civil Service allowing work for committees to be undertaken with an appropriate lead in time.

The committee requested that meetings of the Policy and Finance Committee should take place on Mondays, not Tuesdays, as listed on the draft meeting dates schedule.

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

- i. **proceed with option a, the 4-week cycle, and for those scheduled meetings to take place on Mondays, not Tuesdays in 2023; and**
- ii. **To receive the agenda 3 days prior to the meeting meaning a 14-day lead in period for the meeting.**

PSO-JL

**A06/10/2022 Proposed Items for Future Billet Submission**

- **Policy and Finance Committee Mandate**
- **Proposal for the elevation of the Economic Development Subcommittee to be a committee of the States**
- **Economic Development Committee Mandate**
- **Government of Alderney Law, 2004**
- **Energy Policies**
- **Good Governance Proposal**

**A07/10/2022 Any Other Business – For Information & Noting**

**A7.1. Amendment to the Government of Alderney Law, 2004** – Report from the Head of Government Support – Tabled and Considered  
It was noted that the recent election process has identified two areas within the Government of Alderney Law, 2004 which could be considered for amendment to assist in encouraging more candidates to stand for election and undertake States business in the event of a lack of States Members. The amendments proposed were, (i) changing the residency qualification from 36 months to 24 months and (ii) amending the Member quoracy required to pass legislation relating to the Government of Alderney law. Section 45 (3) of the law requires 7 States Members of 9 to vote in favour of a resolution to amend this legislation. It was raised that 7 of 9 in favour of amendment to the Government of Alderney Law is high and that 5 of 7 should be considered and relayed to Law Officers for advice. There were two votes for elements of the proposed amendment to the Government of Alderney Law.

- a. Reducing the residency qualification from 36 to 24 months
- b. To remove section 45(3) of the law, to make provision to amend the Law by a majority vote of the States of Alderney.

**The Policy and Finance Committee resolved;**

1. **To not reduce the residency qualification from 36 to 24 months (unanimous); and**
2. **To remove section 45(3) but obtain Law Officers for advice on whether 5 of 7 would be an appropriate majority to pass amendments of the Government of Alderney law**

*It was noted that the date on the amendment would need to be amended as the date of the December States meeting has been brought forward to December 12<sup>th</sup>.*

**Proposed: Ian Carter**

**Seconder: Boyd Kelly**

*Post meeting note – the item was withdrawn from the December Billet.*

- A7.2. By-Election** – Verbal Update from the Head of Government Support Following the result of the ordinary election – there will be a casual vacancy for a tenth States Member. As such, legislation states that a day has to be appointed for a By-Election to be held no later than 3 months after the seat becomes vacant, which is January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023. It is proposed that the Election takes place on the 18<sup>th</sup> February. Meaning, the nominations for the By-election open on 26<sup>th</sup> January and close on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. The advertising of the By-Election would commence on 5<sup>th</sup> January. The matter would need to go to the States of Alderney.

It was noted that the Plebiscite election process had already started and those eligible for the plebiscite would be those Members sitting on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

**The Policy and Finance Committee resolved to propose to the States that the By-Election for the casual vacancy that will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023, should be held on 18<sup>th</sup> February, and follow the timeline as set out in the minute above.**

**Proposer: Ian Carter**

**Seconder: Boyd Kelly**

#### **A08/11/2022 Exception Reporting & Questions by Members**

**A8.1. General Services Committee (GSC)**

No report

**A8.2. Building Development Control Committee (BDCC)**

Open planning meetings have concluded for the year, and there is one Policy meeting yet to take place.

**A8.3. Finance Committee (FC)**

No report

**A8.4. Economic Development Committee (EDC)**

It was noted that the next EDC meeting will be taking place on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

**A8.5. Good Governance Group (GGG)**

No Report

**A8.6. Energy Group – Energy Policies and Tidal Request for Proposal** –

Report from the Chair of the Energy Group – Tabled and Considered Mr Abel noted that the drop-in in relation to the energy policies was well attended. However, the discussion was more around energy in

general as opposed to the policies. It was highlighted that Policy 5 had been amended to align with a Bailiwick Approach to opportunities. Mr Abel proposed that the Policy and Finance Committee accepts the energy policies and submits them to the Billet for December. The Committee noted it's thanks to Mr Abel and the Energy Group for its work.

It was noted within policy 6 it suggests the States of Alderney should assess the market in terms of tidal energy projects to see whether there is appetite for Alderney to be used as a test/ project base. The request for such a proposal would require feedback from the Law Officers so there would be no obligation to pursue any such proposals once an advert was put into the public domain. Any request for a Proposal would not be circulated until after the December States meeting.

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

- 1. to approve the Energy Policies and agree that they are added to the December States billet for its approval.**
- 2. agree that the request for proposals for a power supply from the Island's marine resources can be issued by the Energy Working Group to possible providers after approval of the Energy Policies at the December States Meeting.**

*Proposer: Bill Abel*

*Secunder: Kevin Gentle*

#### **Energy Group/Billet Item**

**A8.7 Island Plan Group**

Due to meet in December for current position and review.

**A8.8 Housing Task Group**

No report

**A09/11/2022 Reporting by Representatives**

**A9.1 Alderney Representatives for States of Guernsey – Update**

No report

**A9.2 AeGL Update**

No report

**A9.3 AEL Update**

Board Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November

**A9.4 AHA Update**

No report

**A9.5 Connaught Liaison Update**

No report

**A10/10/2022 Resolutions Made**

**As stated within the minutes above.**

**Open Meeting closed: 10:30am**

**Signed: Ian Carter**

**Date: November 2022**