

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
ANNE FRENCH ROOM
25th FEBRUARY 2013**

0915 hours

Mr P Arditti, Chairman
Mr N Harvey
Mr L Jean
Mr R McDowall
Mr F Simonet

Mr R Burke, Chief Executive
Mrs K A Hatcher-Gaudion, Treasurer
Mrs S Pengilly-Price, EA to the Chief Executive
Mrs E O'Toole, Minute Secretary

In attendance: Mr R Berry and Mr C Rowley

ACTION

20/2013 **Minutes of the previous meeting** of the 29th January 2013 tabled and **approved**.
Minutes from the Finance Committee meeting of the 4th February 2013 and the Business Development, Tourism and Marketing Committee meeting of the 11th February 2013 tabled and **noted**.

21/2013 **Matters Arising****21.1 Matters arising from the minutes**

HSSD Liaison – Following the proposed appointments at the last meeting, it was noted that Mr Rowley has declined the position as Health and Social Services Department liaison. The Chairman requested that a replacement is appointed at the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM

The Chairman wished to clarify that the appointments proposed at the last meeting were subject to Members accepting the appointments. **Noted**.

Sport Centre – Mr Jean advised that new information had come to his attention regarding the proposed development of a Swimming Pool and Gym at St Anne's school and stated that the States may want to reconsider Capital investment in the project. Mr McDowall advised that he given guidance to Mr Kerry Wedd, Chairman of the trustees, on how a reconfigured business plan could be put together for future consideration. **Noted**.

21.1.1 Business Development, Tourism and Marketing Mandate tabled and **agreed**.

21.1.2 Housing Strategy Mr Simonet advised that following discussions with the AHA that he would now support their proposal for Cambridge University to undertake the task of producing a Housing Strategy.

RESOLVED unanimously to approve £2,500, from 2013 unforeseen expenditure, for the Alderney Housing Association to recruit Cambridge University to produce a Housing Strategy for the Island. Chief Executive to deal.

CE

21.1.3 Future of Business in Alderney Mr McDowall advised that he had been in contact with Sandpiper CI Ltd and is now awaiting further information. **Noted**.

21.1.4 Fort Albert Proposal The Chief Executive advised that he had circulated by email the progress on the development programme of UCP, compiled by the Engineering Assistant, following an inspection on the old Connaught and Fort Albert. It was noted that progress of the agreed development programme is behind schedule but is being done. Mr McDowall to meet with representatives of UCP when next on island. **Noted**.

The Chief Executive suggested that the leases with UCP be renegotiated with conditions with regards targets to be achieved.

The Committee agreed for the Chief Executive and Mr McDowall to progress the matter and report back at the next meeting.

CE/RM/AGENDA ITEM

21.2 Committee feedback from Chairmen (B&DCC and ESC) and Guernsey Representatives

B&DCC Mr Simonet reported that the Law review is progressing and he is satisfied with the contribution of those on the review panel.

It was noted that the members of the review panel were the following: Ms Debbie Lewis, Mr David Storer, Mr Alan Fulford and Mr Doug Hamon.

ESC – Press release dated 14th February 2013 tabled and **noted**. Mr Jean had nothing further to report.

Guernsey Representatives The Chairman and Mr Jean advised that the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Development of a Mental Health and Wellbeing Centre, put forward by the Health and Social Services Department and The Control of Borrowing (Repeal) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Ordinance 2013, are Billet items for debate at the February States of Deliberations. **Noted**.

Mr McDowall queried the Electronic Census Project being proposed by the States of Guernsey; The Chairman advised that enabling legislation will be on the March Billet of the States of Deliberations. Members expressed how vital a census is for the Island.

The Chief Executive and the Treasurer were requested to investigate Alderney undertaking its own census and to bring a proposal with costings to the Committee for consideration.

CE/TREASURER

21.3 Employment Permit report – February tabled and a slight increase in the number of permits issued was **noted**.

21.3.1 Employment permit query Letter from Mr N Dupont, Tickled Pink, dated 28th January 2013 tabled and discussed. The Chief Executive advised that the matter is under consideration and that he will respond to Mr Dupont.

CE

It was noted that the Business Development, Tourism and Marketing Committee had been tasked with reviewing the Employment Permit system at the January meeting. **Noted**.

BDMT

22/2013

Budgetary and Financial Matters

22.1 Management Accounts First draft of the year end accounts – summary of the general revenue income and expenditure tabled. It was noted that the accounts are subject to audit currently being held. The Treasurer advised that a full report will be provided at the next meeting of the Committee and the accounts will be required to be signed off for inclusion on the Billet for the April meeting of the States.

AGENDA ITEM

Summary of the January 2013 Management accounts **noted**.

22.2 CIEF and Revised Capital approval process Paper from Mr McDowall, Chairman of Finance Committee, and the Treasurer dated 19th February 2013 tabled and considered. The Treasurer reported on the current financial procedures for approval of capital projects, together with the proposed changes to include the Finance Committee as part of the approval process as per their mandate which now allows for a higher level of scrutiny and risk assessment etc than previously carried out by the Finance Advisory Group. It was noted that this is particularly relevant now that all States Members do not serve on the Policy Committee.

The Finance Committee has further recommended that the Estates and Services Committee be tasked with re-prioritising the 5 year capital projects list (CIEF) as the majority of capital projects form part of the ESC budget (i.e. Water Board, SWD, Harbour, Fire Brigade etc). The intention is to ensure that projects are rationalised and fit with their overall strategic plan, as part of the 2014 budget process which commences in May. The Committee recognised that this will

require significant input from the Engineering Department who are responsible for the majority of the projects/plant purchases.

It was further noted that amendment are being made to the documents required to formally apply for capital funding as part of the prioritisation process.

RESOLVED unanimously to approve:-

- (a) Amending the financial approval limits and procedures to include the Finance Committee in relation to any future capital projects i.e. those not already in process or forming part of the 2013 budget;**
- (b) The Finance Committee to scrutinise all projects over £20k once approved by ESC, BDCC or PC, prior to final approval by the Policy Committee, and the full States as necessary (approvals subject to sufficient funding being available);**
- (c) The Estates and Services Committee (and BDCC as necessary) to re-prioritise the 5 year capital projects list as part of the 2014 onwards budget process, pending scrutiny by the Finance Committee as above and subject to necessary approvals prior to approval by Policy Committee; and**
- (d) Implementing the revised format for proposing capital projects. Treasurer to deal.**

TREASURER/ESC/BDCC

22.3 Charges for consolidation of legislation Paper from the Chief Executive's Office dated 24th January 2013 tabled and discussed. Following a request from Sark's Chief Pleas regarding consolidated text for their legislation, the Chief Executive had been advised that Law Officers Chambers were investigating the option of charging users of the website (Guernsey Legal Resources) for access to the consolidated texts, which would include Alderney and Sark, on the basis that the Law Officers pay an external consultant to carry out the task of consolidating text. It was noted that other jurisdictions (including Jersey) charge for access to their consolidated texts, and that the texts would continue to be free to the States of Alderney and the Chief Pleas of Sark.

It was noted that the Committee was not in favour of the proposal to charge the public for access to the consolidated texts of Alderney legislation as it was considered a vital service.

The Chairman and Chief Executive to deal and report back.

PA/CE

22.4 Key Worker Housing Paper from Treasury dated 20th February 2013 tabled and discussed. The Treasurer advised that in December 2012 the Committee were advised that the Chief Executive would be vacating the Clerk's House early in 2013 and Treasury were requested to make enquiries regarding the rental of the property to key worker personnel and also to obtain valuations from local Estate Agents in order for the Committee to consider its options.

The valuations from Alderney Estate Agents and Bell and Co were noted and the Treasurer advised that key worker employers had been contacted and that the Royal Connaught Care Home (RCCH) expressed interest to rent the property for the new manager as offered on the same terms and conditions as previously agreed, including the rent revision wef 1st April 2013.

RESOLVED by a majority (Mr Simonet abstained) to agree to rent the Clerk's House to the manager of the Royal Connaught Care Home subject to a private agreement with the manager and not the RCCH, on the same terms and conditions as previously agreed, including the rental revision wef 1st April. Treasurer to deal.

TREASURER

22.5 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM – Royal Connaught Residential Home – See Confidential Annexure.

22.6 Water Board Capital expenditure Item was deferred to the March meeting.

DEFERRED

22.7 Campsite Capital expenditure Paper from the Chief Executive dated 5th February 2013 tabled and discussed. Members debated at length the need and necessity for further development at the Campsite.

The Chairman, having taken into account the comments from Members, referred the item to the Business Development, Marketing and Tourism Committee and the Finance Committee for consideration and recommendation prior to the Committee making a decision.

BDMT/FC

10:45 – 10:50 Coffee Break

23/2013 **Business Development, Tourism & Marketing Matters**

23.1 Draft Work Plan Paper from Mr Harvey of BDTM work plan to the 30th June 2013 tabled and **noted**.

23.2 Transport statistics – January 2013 tabled and **noted**. Members noted that the monthly passenger figures did not give an adequate indication of the percentages related to tourism/visitors and that of obligatory trade i.e. business and medical appointments etc.

11:15 Treasurer left the meeting.

24/2013 **Legislation and Conventions**

24.1 CIMREG Paper from the Chief Executive dated 19th February 2013 tabled and discussed. It was noted that the Guernsey, Jersey and Sark authorities had agreed a Joint Statement of Intent to work together, on aspects of marine renewable energy. Alderney had opted, by a previous decision made by the Policy and Finance Committee, not to become a signatory, preferring to observe with the Chief Executive and ACRE being active participants at meetings. It was further noted that the Isle of Man had also joined the meetings over the past 6 months.

A Member raised a concern that if Alderney became a signatory whether Alderney would lose its current perceived advantage in marine renewable energy over the other islands. The Chief Executive advised that a key factor to consider is the UK Government's requirement that an "all islands approach" should be adopted to secure incentives (Renewable Obligation Certificates or Feed in Tariffs) for connection to the UK and EU grid. **Noted**.

The Chairman advised that he would meet with the Chief Executive of Alderney Renewable Energy Limited to discuss ARE's thoughts on Alderney becoming part of the Statement of Intent.

PA

The Committee unanimously agreed, subject to confirmation from Alderney Renewable Energy Limited, to Alderney becoming a formal signatory to the Statement of Intent and for the Chairman to attend the political meeting in Jersey on 18th March. Chief Executive and Chairman to deal.

CE/PA

24.2 Amendments and Additions to the Immigration (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Rules, 2008 Letter from Mr P J Taylor, Assistant Chief Officer, Head of Immigration and Nationality Guernsey Border Agency, dated 16th January 2013 tabled and the Rules amendments were **noted**.

24.3 Terrorist Financing, Money Laundering and Weapons Proliferation Financing Letter from Ms Vicky Lajoie, Policy and Legislation Manager Home Department, dated 24th January 2013 tabled and **noted**.

24.4 Rehabilitation of Offenders (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 Letter from Mr P J Taylor, Assistant Chief Officer, Head of Immigration and Nationality Guernsey Border Agency, dated 5th February 2013 tabled and **noted**.

25/2013 Fort Tourgis The Chairman reported that agents Knights Frank had turned down the offer of advising the States on the options with Fort Tourgis. It was noted that Savills Estate Agents are considering the offer to advise the States and the majority of Members were content to adhere to the Committee's resolution for a further month. A report to be provided at the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM

26/2013

Alderney Renewable Energy Mr McDowall advised that Alderney Renewable Energy Limited are progressing their 4kw turbines project and a number of onshore implications will need to be addressed, such as:

- Identifying the executive resources required in the next 3-5 years which may include regulation, services, planning issues etc, with funding to achieve this to be taken from the budget allocated to ACRE for a finite period of time, possibly 5-7 years; and
- Committee to address the number of onshore proposals likely to be brought to the Committee for consideration.

The Chairman requested that Mr McDowall bring a formal proposal on the executive resources and associated funding relating to the ARE 4kw turbine project to the next meeting of the Committee for consideration.

RM/AGENDA ITEM

It was noted that the review of ACRE and an Energy Policy being carried out by Mr McDowall is separate from this matter. **Noted.**

27/2013**Any Other Business**

27.1 Alderney Performing Arts Festival Foundation - Grant Request Mr McDowall declared an interest. Mr Harvey reported that the matter had been raised in the Finance Committee and was then referred to BDMT for further consideration.

RESOLVED by a majority (Mr McDowall abstained) to agree to underwrite (to the sum of up to £5k) the Alderney Performing Arts Festival in the event of any losses within reasonable terms. The accounts for this event to be requested for review after the event.

Finance Committee and Treasurer to deal.

FC/TREASURER

27.2 Connaught Square update The Chief Executive reported on the decision made at ESC with regards to filling the hole and reopening the square. Further progress would be provided by email to Members. States Engineer to deal.

CE/ENGINEER

27.3 AEL Mr McDowall was requested to bring a proposal with regards to a presentation by the Chairman of AEL to the Committee, for consideration at the next meeting.

RM

27.4 States Nominated Director – AEL The Chief Executive advised that Mr McDowall, as States Nominated Director of Alderney Electricity Ltd, agreed with AEL to receive a £100 per annum directors fees and the remainder to be retained by AEL, rather than received by the States of Alderney as previously. **Approved.**

/eot

Meeting closed: 12:05pm

Signed: Mr P Arditti**Date: 25th March 2013**