

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
ANNE FRENCH ROOM
24th JUNE 2013**

0915 hours

Mr F Simonet, Chairman
Mr M Birmingham
Mr N Harvey
Mr L Jean
Mr R McDowall

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

In attendance: Mr P Arditti; Mr R Berry and Mr S Roberts

ACTION

The Chairman welcomed Mr Birmingham as the new Member on the Committee following his appointment as Chairman of Building and Development Control Committee at the June States meeting.

60/2013

Minutes of the previous meeting of the 28th May 2013 circulated to Members by email and Mr Jean requested more time to review the minutes. The Committee was content with the accuracy of the draft minutes and the Chairman agreed for it to be approved by email following review by Mr Jean.

Minutes of the special meeting of the 23rd May 2013 tabled and **approved** subject to the following amendment:-

- Item 49/2013 States in Committee Part II – “the President to *assume* the *Chairmanship* of States in Committee Part II *meetings* as *opposed* to the Chairman of Policy Committee...” & “...*that* the President *is instated* as the Chairman of States in Committee Part II meetings...”

Notes from the Finance Committee meeting of 17th June 2013 and the notes from the Business Development, Tourism and Marketing Committee meeting of 10th June 2013 to be circulated by email.

CE Office

61/2013

Matters Arising**61.1 Matters arising from the minutes**

61.1.1 BDCC Law Review – update Mr Birmingham, Chairman of the Building Development Control Committee (BDCC), advised that expressions of interest for the consultation work was sent out to interested parties and 4 replies with quotations have been returned. A paper with recommendations and associated funding will be brought to the Committee for consideration. **Noted.**

MB/AGENDA ITEM

61.1.2 The Clerks House Rental – For Ratification Emails from the Treasurer dated 12th June and 18th June 2013 tabled and noted. Mr Jean declared an interest.

RESOLVED to agree to ratify the decision made by email to lease the Clerks House to the interested party on the same terms and conditions as previous and for rental of £900 pcm. Treasury to deal.

TREASURY

The Treasurer stated that the article in a local publication had incorrectly quoted that Bell and Co Ltd had not been contacted to market the property as email exchanges is evidentiary. **Noted.**

61.1.3 New Connaught Care Home – See Confidential Annexure.

61.2 Committee feedback from Guernsey Representatives Mr Jean advised that an item to be debated at this month's States of Deliberations will be 'Managing the Size and Make Up of the Island's Population' brought forward by the Policy Council. The Alderney Representatives have been included to speak on this item and Mr Jean advised that he would be raising the issues relating to Alderney residents living and working in Guernsey in order to improve the situation as it is at present. **Noted.**

61.3 Employment Permit Report – June tabled and noted.**61.4 Quarterly Reports – Alderney Commission for Renewable Energy dated 14th June 2013 from Ms P Dixon, Chairman, tabled and noted.**

New Commissioner – Mr McDowall reported that himself, Mr Harvey and the Chief Executive had a meeting with Ms Pamela Dixon, Chairman of ACRE, to advise the Mr Mark Wordsworth would be proposed as a Commissioner of ACRE. It was noted that Mr Wordsworth would be waiving the remuneration associated with the post until such time as the Commission has more substantial revenue streams.

RESOLVED unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr Mark Wordsworth as an additional Commissioner of ACRE and for item to be placed on the July Billet d’Etat for approval by the States.

BILLET ITEM

See Confidential Annexure.

62/2013

Budgetary Matters**62.1 Management Accounts – May tabled and noted.****62.2 Revenue Account Deficit monthly report tabled and noted.** The Treasurer advised that no new items had been identified since May however there are some mitigating action listed following the special Estates and Services Committee meeting to reprioritise capital expenditure as well as identify ways of reducing the current revenue deficit.

ESC agreed to:-

- Capitalise the Longis Bay Toilets at £25K and a paper will be submitted to the Committee for approval at the next meeting.
- Incorporate the re-roofing of the Fishermans Sheds at the Inner Harbour with re-wiring works required on the workshop as capital expenditure which will result in saving in revenue of just under £5K.

AGENDA ITEM

It was noted that a list of further proposals to reduce the revenue deficit was verbally reported at the special ESC meeting however the Chairman, Mr Jean, requested that this be consolidated into a paper for consideration by ESC. **Noted.**

The Chief Executive advised that untimely bills owed to the States also contribute to the revenue deficit. **Noted.**

62.4 Alderney Housing Association Papers from the Royal Bank of Scotland International Limited (RBSI) tabled and noted. The Treasurer advised that this is in keeping with the Framework Agreement between the States and the AHA. It was noted that the Law Officers have reviewed the documents.

Mr McDowall queried whether the 1% arrangement fee was standard practise; the Treasurer advised that the comment would be forwarded to the AHA as this is a matter between the two parties concerned as opposed to the States.

TREASURER

RESOLVED unanimously to agree to instruct the Chief Executive to sign the letter to RBSI, on behalf of the States of Alderney, to act as guarantor of Alderney Housing Association’s overdraft facility with RBSI.

CE

63/2013

Finance Committee Matters**63.1 Channel Islands Financial Services Ombudsman Paper from Mr McDowall dated 5th June 2013 tabled and noted.** Further to the proposal to establish a Channel Island wide Financial Services Ombudsman, who would be based in Jersey, Mr McDowall has made a number of high level observations in the paper tabled.

Members were invited to forward any further comment to Mr McDowall following which a revised summary of the paper will be forwarded to the Commerce and Employment Department.

63.2 Public Consultation on Personal Tax, Pensions and Benefits – Response

Letter from Mr McDowall to Deputy Allister Langlois, Minister Social Security, and Deputy Gavin St. Pier, Minister Treasury and Resources, dated 7th June 2013 tabled and **noted**. Mr McDowall drafted a response with the proviso that further information/data would become available from the Census results. The Census data has clearly indicated that there would be more burdens on the pensions and social security among other things. Mr McDowall advised that he would draft a further letter to the Social Security Minister and Treasury and Resources Minister.

RM

Mr McDowall further requested to bring a proposal to the next meeting of the Committee regarding concession on royalties and licence fees and related taxation policies.

RM/AGENDA ITEM

10:25am States Engineer joined the meeting

62.3 St Anne's Church Tenders Paper from the States Engineer dated 18th June 2013 tabled and considered. The States Engineer circulated a paper with the final costings of the project and gave a brief history of project up to this stage. It was noted that that two tenders had been received and were assessed by Lovell Ozanne, the surveyors, and have now made their recommendation which is detailed in the report tabled.

Members queried a number of items such as contingencies in place, the contractors' previous projects, risks involved, start date of the project, costs associated with weather delays and areas where potential savings can be made; the States Engineer advised that this information would be obtained and reported at the special Finance Committee meeting on the 25th June 2013. **Noted**.

It was noted that Vaudin Stonemasons have indicated that local labour would be utilised. **Noted**.

RESOLVED unanimously to agree to approve:-

- a) Vaudin Stonemasons as the preferred contractor;
- b) The final sum of the project not to exceed £317K, which includes professional fees by Lovell Ozanne, to be taken from capital; and
- c) Lovell Ozanne to be appointed to supervise the repair works and administer the contract on behalf of the States.

Subject to endorsement by the Finance Committee.

Item to be placed on the July Billet d'Etat for approval by the States.

BILLET ITEM

10:45am States Engineer left the meeting

63.3 Alderney Community Sport Centre – Swimming Pool proposal circulated to Members by Mr Kerry Wedd, ACSC Chairman. It was noted that this is a revised proposal ACSC. Mr McDowall advised that Mr Rob Paris had attended the recent Finance Committee meeting to answer question etc. and advised that the biggest obstacle in the process of realising this project would be if funding from the Education and Health and Social Services Departments was not forthcoming. **Noted**.

The Treasurer sought clarification regarding their statement that they would not be seeking ongoing financial support/contribution from the States other than a mitigation of all rates (occupiers rates and TRP), water rates and ground rent which could be considerable and would be additional revenue expenditure. The Chief Executive stated that as there is an existing swimming pool at the school rates are paid for by the Education department therefore that requirement should continue at no additional cost to the States. **Noted**.

The Committee approved by a majority (Mr Jean against) to support matched capital funding raised by the Trustees up to £250K, subject to approval of the full States.

It was agreed to place a report before the States meeting on 17th July 2013.

BILLET

63.4 Events – Tourism budget Mr McDowall advised that during the past 6 months the Finance Committee have had a number of requests for grants from organisations that do not necessarily qualify under the grants system, i.e. being a charitable or non-profit organisation, however are for events which generate tourism for the island such as Alderney Performing Arts Festival, Carp Competition and the Rock 2 Rock Concert.

The Treasurer advised that the sums being requested are larger than other minor grants, although does not exceed the £5K limit, and the grants budget is only £11.5K. **Noted.**

Mr Birmingham stated that the Finance Committee considers that these requests for funding towards events should form part of the tourism budget in 2014 and the necessary mechanisms for eligibility to be put in place.

The Committee agreed that this should form part of the budget process.

BUDGETS/TREASURY/MB/NH

11:15am Treasurer left the meeting.

64/2013

Business Development, Tourism & Marketing Matters

64.1 Public Engagement Email from Mr Harvey circulated to Policy Committee members discussed. Mr Harvey stated Communication/Engagement form part of the aims for the Strategic Plan therefore it is necessary to consider ways of improving communication with the public.

1) **Committee Mandate Review** Mr Harvey stated that the current mandate only makes provision for financial matters above a certain level and constitutional/legislative matters to be taken to States meetings for debate/approval. It is therefore proposed that matters of significant public interest, for example the swimming pool proposal, should form part of the mandate in order for the Policy Committee to get guidance from other States Members and the public should such matters come to a future vote. This would also assist with the continued perceptions that important matters are being decided by the Policy Committee with no input from other Members or the public.

Mr Jean raised concern that some Members may feel significant pressure from the public when such matters are debated at States and proposed that no vote is taken at these debates as is the case with Green Papers.

The Chief Executive advised that at present the Mandate allows for Green Papers to be submitted onto the Billet for debate by the States however the Mandate can be updated to include matters of public interest.

The Committee agreed.

CE OFFICE

2) **Newsletter** Mr Harvey advised that the matter was raised at the recent BDTM meeting following a comment from a member of the public that the States should consider publishing a periodic Newsletter of States news. BDTM considered that this would enable the States to report on projects, achievements and any other issues in an accurate and unbiased manner.

The Committee agreed for the Chief Executive to coordinate the newsletters with input from Committee Chairmen.

CE/FS//LJ/MB/RM/NH

3) **Members or Committee Surgeries** The Committee agreed to hold 'Open Meetings' from March until May this year as an initial 3 month trial and the meetings have proven popular with the public. Mr Harvey queried whether this format of Open Meetings should continue or would Members be minded to undertake a trial of one-on-one surgeries as was done at prior to the Elections Hustings in 2012.

Members agreed that this should be debated at States in Committee, with all States Members present, to determine whether changes to the current format of Open Meetings are necessary and a proposal then brought to the Committee for consideration.

SIC

The Chief Executive advised that the Committee had already agreed the Community Engagement Plan which forms part of the Strategic Plan therefore

the principles are in place however it is the mechanism that needs to be put in place. **Noted.**

64.2 Airport Mr Harvey reported that he had meetings with the General Aviation members and Mr David Chiswell, Chairman of the Alderney Flying Club, and they are fully in support of:-

- the main runway upgraded to the correct specification;
- the short grass runway is tarmacked as it is very important with the climatic conditions the island faces at times as well as turbulence; and
- the long grass runway is either tarmacked to save on maintenance costs or it is properly and regularly maintained and left as grass.

Mr Harvey further advised that an attempt was made to seek a view from Aurigny however that advised that their situation is complicated by the search to identify a replacement aircraft for the Trislanders therefore the airport is limited to the airline and the type of aircraft that operates. Mr Malcolm Coupar from Aurigny advised in the Economic Development workshop that cheaper airfares for the island would only be achievable with a larger aircraft however that would involve considerable costs to extend the runway as well as an environmental impact on the island. **Noted.**

Mr Jean made a proposal of how the States could prepare for an extension of the runway in the event that it should become a necessity and the Chairman requested a paper is submitted to the Committee for further consideration.

LJ/AGENA ITEM

64.3 Economic Development Workshop Mr Harvey advised of the following matters discussed at the workshop:

- Air Transportation – this was widely discussed and the importance to the island was evident.
- Teams identified which need to be formalised were Business Development; Transportation; Population; Growth and Relocation; Telecoms, Media and Technology; Energy Management Plan; and Island Spatial plan.
- Marketing of the island – there were reservation of how to appropriately advertise the island and this requires work and research.
- Business and Residents relocation – A lack of information available to any business or people wishing to relocate to the island was identified. It is therefore proposed that a 'contact person/relocation officer' should be put in place to assist with all inward enquiries relating to business and residential relocation to the island. This person could also assist with business development issues which could include supporting new project teams who would need research and basic support.

Mr Jean raised concern with funding to employ a person to undertake this task; the Chief Executive and Mr Harvey stated that the funding mechanism can be determined and this may involve the redeployment of current resources however this is necessary for the States and the island to begin to regenerate business and in turn increase the population.

The Chairman requested the Chief Executive and Mr Harvey formulate a proposal for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.

CE/NH/AGENDA ITEM

64.4 Transport Statistics – May 2013 tabled and **noted.**

65/2013 **Census Report** produced by Island Analysis dated June 2013 tabled and discussed. Members had a presentation from Island Analysis who carrying out the Census on the 17th June and were encouraged that the population was 1903. The data gathered will prove very useful going forwards.

66/2013 **Legislation and Conventions**
66.1 Myanmar/Burma (Restrictive Measures) (Alderney) Ordinance, 2013 tabled and considered.

RESOLVED unanimously to approve the Ordinance to be placed on the July Billet for approval by the States of Alderney.

BILLET ITEM

66.2 The Alderney eGambling (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 and paper from Alderney Gambling Control Commission tabled and considered.

RESOLVED unanimously to approve the Ordinance to be placed on the July Billet for approval by the States of Alderney.

BILLET ITEM

66.3 Companies Law – Confidential item – See CONFIDENTIAL ANNEXURE.

67/2013

Any Other Business

67.1 Marina The Chief Executive advised of a letter received from Braye Harbour Developments Ltd, the preferred bidders to construct a Marina.

Mr Harvey, Mr Simonet and Mr McDowall to meet with the company and report back to the Committee

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Meeting closed: 12:15pm

Signed: Mr F Simonet

Date: 22nd July 2013