

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

0915 hours

Mr F Simonet, Chairman
Mr R Berry
Mr M Birmingham
Mr N Harvey
Mr R McDowall
Mr S Roberts
Mr I Tugby

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

Apologies: Mr P Arditti, Mr L Jean, Mr C Rowley

ACTION

87/2013 **Minutes of the previous meeting** of the 22nd July and 15th August 2013 tabled and approved.

88/2013 **Matters Arising**

88.1 Matters arising from the minutes

88.1.1 New Connaught Care Home It was noted that the RCCH Board had met with the Chief Executive and Mr Martin Thornton from Law Officers Chambers and that a series of proposals had been put forward. A response from the Board is awaited. **Noted.**

The Chief Executive said that there was no intention for the States to manage the Connaught. If for whatever reason the current Board were no longer in place, the States would look to replace the Board rather than step in. He advised that the issues relating to the Long Term Care Scheme is that the Social Security Department will continue to make payments to the Royal Connaught Residential Home Ltd, the Company, irrespective of whether it is owned by the States. The payment is based on the needs of the residents. **Noted.**

The Chief Executive asked for clarification that at present until agreed otherwise, the Committee's view, is that the Board is requested to provide as follows:

- A monthly report if appropriate
- Finance i.e. accounts, profit and loss statements etc
- To undertake a full audit
- That the company is properly regulated

The Committee agreed.

The Chief Executive advised that although a request had been received from the RCCH Board for a reduction in rent, information on an appropriate rent level has yet to be received. **Noted.**

The Chairman proposed, and the Committee unanimously agreed, to continue discussion with the RCCH Board and report back to the Committee.

FS/AGENDA ITEM

88.1.2 St John Alderney Ambulance Letter from Dr Rosalind Michel, Chairman of St John Alderney Board, dated 1st September 2013 tabled and discussed. The Committee considered a proposal from St John's Ambulance to change the business model to include more permanent members of staff. The costs associated with the proposal were significant and the Committee required further information for consideration.

Mr Birmingham proposed that Guernsey Health and Social Services Department should be consulted on the matter as the service falls within the Transferred Services.

Mr Rowley as States Nominated Board Member to deal.

CR

It was noted that no increase had been factored into the 2014 budget, which remains at the agreed annual grant of £42K. **Noted.**

The Committee acknowledged the outstanding work done by the St John's Ambulance volunteers.

88.1.3 Taxation Policies Item deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

DEFERRED/AGENDA ITEM

88.1.4 Guernsey States of Election Memo from the President dated 16th September 2013 tabled and considered. It was noted that the Guernsey States of Election are the body that elects Jurats for the Royal Court. The Chairman stated that it would be beneficial to give new Members the opportunity to engage with colleagues in Guernsey. **Noted.**

The Committee proposed Mr Rowley and Mr Roberts represent Alderney on the Guernsey States of Election. Presidents Office to notify Guernsey.

PRESIDENTS OFFICE

88.1.5 Armed Forces Liaison Email from the Executive Assistant dated 26th July 2013 tabled and noted.

RESOLVED unanimously to ratify the decision reached by email to appoint Mr W J F Le Poullain as the States Armed Forces Liaison.

88.2 Committee feedback from Chairmen (BDCC and ESC) and Guernsey Representatives

BDCC – Mr Birmingham, Chairman, gave a brief report on matters discussed at the recent meeting of the Committee which included development at the Campsite and the Football Club training pitch. **Noted.**

ESC – Mr Tugby, deputy Chairman, gave a brief report on matters discussed at the recent meeting of the Committee which included St Anne's Church repairs, Harbour Revetment works and Quay FM premises. **Noted.**

88.3 Employment Permit Report – August and September to date tabled and **noted.**

Mr Birmingham recommended that because the Policy Committee now consisted of all States Members, that a group is established, similar to the previous Employment Legislation Committee, to deal with employment permit issues/matter which requires further consideration.

Approved. Mr Birmingham, Mr Roberts and Mr Tugby were elected to form an Employment Advisory Group.

It was suggested that the group undertake the review of Employment Permits system which had been delegated to BDTM earlier in the year. Copy of the consultation paper to be forwarded to Members of the group.

CE OFFICE

88.4 Quarterly Reports

88.4.1 Alderney Commission for Renewable Energy report dated 12th September 2013 tabled and **noted.**

88.4.1 a) ACRE Chairman Paper from the Chief Executive dated 19th September 2013 and letter from Captain Robert Barton, Commissioner ACRE, dated 16th September 2013 tabled and considered.

RESOLVED unanimously to agree to extend the period in office of the current Chairman of the Commission, Ms Pamela Dixon, by 6 months until 13th April 2014 and for this item to be placed on the October Billet for approval by the full States. Chief Executive's office to deal.

CE OFFICE/BILLET ITEM

88.4.2 Alderney Housing Association report dated 26th July 2013 and half year Management Accounts, Performance Indicators for Quarter 2 tabled and **noted.**

88.4.2 b) Potential for AHA to purchase properties from current housing market Letter dated 12th August 2013 tabled and discussed.

The majority of the Committee, Mr Tugby and Mr Roberts had reservations, was of the opinion that there are not enough good and affordable rental properties available and although the building/development programme the AHA is carrying out is commendable it does not satisfy the housing need.

There were concerns that the proposed purchases would be from the same stock available to first time buyers.

It was noted that no additional allowance had been factored into the 2014 budget at this stage, other than the annual grant as per the agreed business plan. **Noted.**

RESOLVED by a majority to invite the AHA to put forward a pilot scheme for purchasing houses from the market, for consideration by the Committee, on a case by case basis.

New Rent Policy for new Tenants of AHA housing Paper from Mr Steve Williams, Chief Executive of AHA, and Mr John Weir, Manager AHA, tabled and considered.

RESOLVED unanimously to agree to approve the new Rent Policy for new tenants in new builds or newly refurbished properties as outlined in the report.

Treasurer to deal.

TREASURER

89/2013

Budgetary/Finance Committee Matters

89.1 Management Accounts – July & August tabled and it was noted that the figures are superseded by the revised budget. **Noted**

89.2 Revenue Account Deficit Report dated August 2013 tabled and it was noted that the figures have been included in the revised budget and that funding from the Strategic Development fund remain crucial. **Noted**

89.3 Aged Debtors Report – Confidential Item See Confidential Annexure.

89.4 Company Fees 2014 Paper from Treasury dated 12th September 2013 tabled and considered.

RESOLVED unanimously to agreed to retain all Company Fees at 2013 levels for 2014 with the exception of late filing and restoration fees and this item to be placed on the October Billet for approval by the States of Alderney.
Treasury to deal.

TREASURY/BILLET ITEM

89.5 Isle of Sark Shipping Minutes from a special ESC meeting dated 6th August 2013, extract of ESC minutes dated 9th July 2013 and Harbour Dues and Fees 2012 tabled and considered.

Bumblebee Boat Cruises & Vedettes du Cotentin (VDC)

RESOLVED unanimously to endorse the decision made by ESC to continue with the concession not to charge harbour dues etc for Bumblebee Boat Cruises and VDC Fundi for 2013.

Isle of Sark Shipping

The Committee noted that following a meeting with the MCA IOSS had not been granted an appropriate license to operate year round.

RESOLVED unanimously to endorse ESC's proposal to waive harbour dues (not pilotage fees) for Isle of Sark Shipping's proposed service from Guernsey to Alderney for a period of 6 months once the company indicated it was ready to run the service
Chief Executive's Office to deal.

89.6 Inventory of all States Assets Paper from Mr McDowall dated 6th September 2013 tabled and noted. The Treasurer advised that a register of all States owned properties, vehicles and plant etc is available as this is updated each year for insurance purposes. Mr McDowall and the Treasurer were requested to liaise to progress the expansion and updating of the current Asset Register.

RM/TREASURER

89.7 Strategic Development Fund – Request for funding Letter from the Chairman to Deputy Gavin St Pier, Minister Treasury and Resources, dated 23rd August 2013 table. The Committee noted that a bid had been submitted to the States of Guernsey to assist with the development of the various elements of the States Strategic Plan. A decision is awaited. **Noted.**

89.8 Capital Fund Reserve Paper from Mr McDowall dated 12th September 2013 tabled and considered. The Treasurer stated that appropriate criteria will need to be put in place regarding access to the funds. **Noted.**

The Committee unanimously agreed to maintain £1M as a Capital Reserve from the Capital account.

RM/TREASURY

89.9 Airport Hangar Paper from the Estates and Services Committee dated 11th September 2013 tabled and considered. Members were of the opinion that an appropriate rent review should be in place and the ownership of the building at the end of the lease should be determined.

RESOLVED unanimously to approve a 25 year lease for the proposed new hangar at the airport effective from 1st January 2017 with the level of rent and appropriate review mechanism to be determined by ESC at their next meeting, prior to approval by the full States.

ESC

90/2013

Business Development, Tourism & Marketing Matters

90.1 Alderney Enterprise Group update Mr Harvey, Chairman of the Business Development, Tourism and Marketing Committee, reported on the following matters which were noted:-

- Business Development The new website to target business and residents will be launched early October with the advertising campaign to follow.
- Transportation Mr Coombs from Aviation Economics will meet with the Committee and Transport Group later today. Contact has been made with Condor Ferries whilst they negotiate a longer-term licence with Guernsey/Jersey.
- Energy Representatives from Be a Tiger and New Generation Biogas will visit the island from the 7th – 9th October to present their proposal of anaerobic digestion of waste. The Chief Executive advised that he has received feedback from Alderney Electricity on the Energy Policy and will pass this on to the Energy Savings Trust.

AEL Generator – Following the debate at the recent States meeting, Members felt it necessary to raise the matter and proposed that an audit review of AEL is undertaken.

It was noted that IPA carried out a review of AEL in 2006/2007 and produced a report with a number of recommendations.

The Chief Executive was requested to re-engage with IPA to determine the costs and possibility of a review being carried out and to bring a proposal with the associated costs to the next meeting of the Committee for consideration.

Copy of the previous report to be circulated to all Members.

CE/AGENDA ITEM

90.2 Transport Statistics – 1st May to 30th September 2013 tabled and **noted.**

90.2.1 Charter Angler numbers It was noted from the Transport Statistics that the number of charter anglers visiting the island has significantly declined from the previous year, specifically the number of crew and number of nights spent, rather than the number of vessels.

Mr Harvey stated that more information on the issues should be obtained.

11:50 Mr Birmingham left the meeting

11:50 – 12:00 Break

12:00 Mr Tim Coombs, Managing Director Aviation Economics, joined the meeting

91/2013 **Aviation Economics** The Committee welcomed Mr Coombs to the meeting and Mr Harvey, as Chairman of BDTM, stated that the purpose of Mr Coombs attending was to discuss the issues relating to Alderney's air travel and identifying ways/options of how to improve service provision.

He further reported on the recent discussions at the Alderney Liaison Group (ALG) meeting. He advised that ALG had agreed that work should be undertaken on the economics of Alderney's air links, including optimum type of aircraft, frequency of services and prices before considering airfield requirements. A report will be carried out on all three runways and it is anticipated this will be funded jointly by Alderney and Guernsey. **Noted.**

13:00 Mr Coombs left the meeting

Lunch Break 13:00 – 14:00

Mr Birmingham rejoined the meeting

90/2013 **Business Development, Tourism & Marketing Matters (continue)**

90.3 Island Development Projects The Committee noted that there were proposals for three significant development projects being considered: Fort Tourgis, a Marina and Fort Albert. Each of these projects required a significant amount of professional input.

The Committee considered it appropriate to investigate the establishment of a Development Corporation to advise the States on major development opportunities and the Chairman, Mr Roberts and Mr Tugby were nominated to work with the Chief Executive.

CE/FS/SR/IT

92/2013 **Legislation and Conventions**

92.1 The Al-Qaida (Restrictive Measures) (Alderney) Ordinance, 2013 tabled and considered.

RESOLVED unanimously to approve 'The Al-Qaida (Restrictive Measures) (Alderney) Ordinance, 2013', and this item to be placed on the October Billet for approval by the States of Alderney.

BILLET ITEM

92.2 Arms Trade Treaty memorandum from Right Honourable William Hague MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, tabled and considered.

RESOLVED unanimously to support The Arms Trade Treaty. Chief Executive's Office to deal.

CE OFFICE

92.3 Memorandum of Understanding on E-Gambling Letter from Deputy Peter Harwood, Chief Minister States of Guernsey, dated 5th September 2013 and Briefing Note of MoU tabled and considered.

RESOLVED unanimously to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Alderney and Guernsey on eGambling and authorise the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Committee.

FS

92.4 The Import (Control) (Alderney) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 tabled and considered.

RESOLVED unanimously to approve 'The Import (Control) (Alderney) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013', and authorise the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Committee.

FS

92.5 Disability and Inclusion Strategy Letter from Deputy Peter Harwood, Chief Minister States of Guernsey, dated 4th September 2013 tabled and considered. It was noted that ESC have already addressed the issue of making the town areas more accessible.

The Committee unanimously agreed not to participate in the development of a Disability and Inclusion Strategy. Chief Executive's office to deal.

CE OFFICE

92.6 North Korea and Syria – Amendment to Sanctions Confidential paper from Ms Emma Titterington, External Affairs Officer States of Guernsey Policy Council, dated 10th September 2013.

RESOLVED unanimously to approve to support the action to draft ordinances to implement the sanction regimes as set out in Council Regulations (EU) 696/2013 (North Korea) and No 697/2013 (Syria). Chief Executive's office to deal.

CE OFFICE

92.7 Legislation Select Committee It was noted that the following items, which may be of interest to Alderney, will appear on the Billet of the October and November meetings of the States of Deliberation:

- The Severe Disability Benefit and Carer's Allowance (Guernsey) Law, 2013
- The Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Services (Maritime Labour Convention 2006) (Guernsey and Alderney) Ordinance, 2013
- The Criminal Justice (Sex Offenders and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2013
- The Supplementary Benefit (Implementation) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013
- The Attendance and Invalid Care Allowances Ordinance, 2013
- The Health Service (Benefit) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013

Chief Executive's office to deal.

CE OFFICE

92.8 The Motor Vehicle (International Motor Insurance Card) Ordinance, 2013

tabled and considered.

RESOLVED unanimously to agree to approve 'The Motor Vehicle (International Motor Insurance Card) Ordinance, 2013'. Law Officers Chambers to be notified prior to this item being placed on the Billet for full States approval. Chief Executive's Office to deal.

CE OFFICE

92.9 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Letter from Deputy Jason Moriatry, Chief Officer Commerce and Employment Department, dated 5th September 2013 tabled and considered.

The Committee were content with draft legislation as tabled and offered no further comment on the draft Ordinance and States Report regarding the detailed arrangements for regulating trade in endangered species.

Chief Executive to deal.

CE OFFICE

93/2013 Alderney Gambling Control Commission See Confidential Annexure.

94/2013 Immigration Investors Programme Proposal from Henley and Partners dated September 2013 tabled and discussed. Members had a presentation on the 6th September and were in agreement for the Chief Executive to engage with the UK Home Office to progress the development of this proposal.

CE

95/2013 CIMREG – Memorandum of Understanding Paper from the Chief Executive dated 19th September 2013 tabled and considered.

RESOLVED unanimously to approve:

- a) **The letter to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change; and**
- b) **The Memorandum of Understanding between The South West Marine Energy Park and Channel Island Marine Renewable Energy Group**

Chief Executive to deal.

CE

96/2013 Any Other Business

96.1 Alderney Liaison Group and External Relations Group Following the change in membership of the Committee, the matter of the structure of the ALG and ERG groups was raised.

It was agreed to maintain the resolution the Committee reached in May 2013 that members of the Committee at that time, i.e. the Chairmen of the Policy, Estates and Services, Building and Development Control, Finance and Business Development, Tourism and Marketing Committees should be members of ALG and

ERG though it was not expected that all Members had to attend all the meetings as attendance of meetings are dependent on availability, and to report back to the Committee.

96.2 Committee meeting dates The draft Committee Meeting dates 2014 were circulated and noted.

It was unanimously agreed that Committee meetings should revert to Tuesdays, commencing from October 2013, in order to allow sufficient time for review of the agendas.

CE OFFICE

96.3 Fire Regulations Inspections The issue was raised by Mr Tugby of a number of comments on recent inspections of buildings and the short time allowance given for works to be carried out to be compliant with the Fire Regulations. The Chief Executive advised that the matter will be discussed at the next ESC meeting.
Noted.

ESC

96.4 Living Islands Mr Harvey advised that the office and manager Martin Batt is now up and running. **Noted.**

/eot

Meeting closed: 15:15pm

Signed: Mr F Simonet

Date: 29th October 2013