



# PARISH OF ST HELIER



## Minutes of the Rates Assembly

Wednesday 11 July 2018 at 7.00 pm

Assembly Room, Town Hall

45/18	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>
	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Jackie Hilton, Sarah Richardson, Steve Beddoe, &amp; Stewart Maurant</p> <p><b>Deputies in Attendance:</b> Stephen Ahier &amp; Carina Alves (arrived at approx. 7:10pm)</p> <p><b>Procureurs in Attendance:</b> Peter Pearce &amp; Geraint Jennings</p>
46/18	<b>Presentation of the Accounts for the Financial Year 2017/2018</b>
	<p>The Constable opened the Assembly by welcoming Stephen Ahier to his first Rate Assembly as a newly elected Parish Deputy. He explained how the Assembly would be run. Shortly a PowerPoint presentation of the Accounts for 2017/2018 would take place. This would be followed by the each Director making a presentation on their areas. Don Connolly from Alex Picot the Parish Auditors would then be asked to comment on the state of the audited accounts then there would be questions on the accounts before moving on to the budget for 2018/2019, questions and then setting the Rate. Before moving on to the presentation of the Accounts the Constable expressed his thanks and gratitude to all those involved with the Parish whether they be Honorary or volunteers for the many hours of service and dedication they gave.</p> <p>Neil Macdonald the Finance Director then took the Assembly through a PowerPoint presentation of the Accounts. This was followed by each Director highlighting the achievements in their areas over the last year and projects they have planned for the forthcoming financial year.</p> <p>The Constable asked Don Connolly from the Auditors Alex Picot &amp; Co if he would like to comment on the Accounts. Mr Connolly said that it had been a good year for the Parish. They not only review the accounts but also the policies, procedures and tender processes and he was happy with the controls the Parish had in place. As usual, they had written a management letter to the Constable but this year there was not a great deal to highlight. He thanked all the Directors for their assistance over the year, which had made the audit procedure much easier to complete and stated that in their opinion the audited accounts were a true and fair reflection of the financial position of the Parish.</p> <p><b><u>Questions on the Accounts</u></b></p> <p>Georgia Le Maistre said that the accounts show a drop in income for the Homes and asked if that was due to the closure of St Helier House or were there other factors, and what was the projection moving forward.</p> <p>The Finance Director said that the drop was in respect of the closure of St Helier House. Moving forward we should see an increase in the income and we will be working with the States in respect of the level of care fees we received and also the mix of the various levels within St Ewolds.</p> <p>The Constable stated that also moving forward it was the intention to create further bedrooms in the part of the building previously occupied by Avranches Day Nursery and create a Dementia unit, whether that would increase the income remains to be seen as the care required for dementia is more costly than residential.</p> <p>Georgia Le Maistre said she a further question in relation to the Homes that being that previously it was planned to also place flats on the site, and was that now just on the back burner or had the Parish given up on the idea?</p> <p>The Finance Director xxxxx</p> <p>The Constable thanked the Directors for their presentations and asked if there was a proposer and seconder for the Accounts.</p> <p>The Accounts were proposed by Joao Nunes and seconded by Mary Osmond and were unanimously adopted.</p>

47/18	<b>Presentation of the Estimates</b>
	<p>The Finance Director presented the estimates for 2018/2019, and confirmed that the recommendation was to keep the rate at 1.15, which had remained static for the previous four years during which time RPI had increased by over 11%, and that the Assembly would be asked to approve the creation of a vehicle reserve.</p> <p>Bernie Manning said he had a question on page 3 the Roads Account in relation to why there had been a decrease from £45k to £38 in respect of fuel.</p> <p>The Finance Director xxxxx</p> <p>Georgia Le Maistre asked if there was any money in the Roads account for the implementation of the 20mph speed limit within the ring road and particularly for signage to printed on the road as some drivers don't seem to know what constitutes inside the ring road and are more likely to see signs on the road then ones on sign posts.</p> <p>Silvio Alves the T &amp; E Director confirmed that the signposts and signs were already on order, and that generally the Parishes only indicate where roads are 15mph. He did not believe that there was anything within current legislation that says we can do it and he wondered if it was actually necessary because all the roads leading in would have a 20mph sign and most people know which roads are within the ring road.</p> <p>M/s Le Maistre said that she had lived here for 30 years and many people do not seem to know. In addition she lived just off the ring road and you would be surprised the speed some drive at. She also queried whether the legislation could be changed to include the printing of 20mph on roads.</p> <p>The Constable added that it was hoped that the honorary police would make it a priority to enforce the zones and that perhaps we would see an increase in speeding fines.</p> <p>Philip Johnson queried kerbside glass collection asking if there was money within the estimates to expand this service.</p> <p>The Finance Director said that there was no money in the estimates to do more than we but the Parish would be reviewing all of our services especially those in relation to commercial and domestic waste collections.</p> <p>The Constable said that the Parish had instigated a trial in an area and only a proportion of the parishioners in the area were interested and when the trial took place, an even smaller proportion actually took part.</p> <p>Mr Johnson asked if the Parish knew what the cost would be to provide the service to each household.</p> <p>The Constable confirmed that the figure was £30 per household per year.</p> <p>John Baker said that he had a question but before wanted to say that he had been involved with the Parish for a number of years, and he had never seen such a robust set of accounts. When you take into consideration the rollercoaster of a year the Parish had been through it was excellent, and his congratulations went out to the whole team.</p> <p>His question was in relation to the creation of the vehicle reserve and the long-term view, how will it run over the next five years, and will the money set aside each year be the same.</p> <p>The Finance Director said that we would be looking to match it to the useful life of the vehicles. Given the prices of some of the trucks xxxxx</p> <p>Mr Baker added how much greener does the parish expect to get when purchasing new vehicles, were we looking at electric vehicles for example</p> <p>The Director of Municipal Services Debra D'Orleans confirmed that the cost of a refuse truck was currently in the region of £145K an electric truck would cost in excess of £300k, however the parish was looking at things such as the lifting mechanism and also omissions and fuel efficiencies.</p> <p>Mary Osmond queried the state of the play area at St Andrews Park, which looked a complete shambles.</p> <p>Bob Kearsey Manager Parks &amp; Gardens explained that following some H &amp; S issues the playground had to be closed and that what was thought would be a simple turn around turned out to take longer than was expected, however it should be completed soon.</p> <p>The Constable added that again we have seen the inequality in respect of Parks here we have the Parish picking up the cost when recently the States have paid over £300k for works at Millbrook Park.</p>

	The estimates were proposed by Bernie Manning and seconded by John Baker and were unanimously approved.
<b>48/18</b>	<b>Approval of the Parish Rate</b>
	The Constable asked if there were any amendments to the proposed rate of 1.15p. <b>There being no amendments, on a proposition by Procureur Geraint Jennings and seconded by Procureur Peter Pearce the rate of 1.15p was unanimously approved by the Assembly.</b>
<b>49/18</b>	<b>Approve the creation of a vehicle reserve during 208/2019</b>
	Proposed by Julian Rogers and seconded by Robert Le Brocq the creation of a vehicle reserve during 2018/2019 was unanimously adopted by the Assembly
<b>50/18</b>	<b>Election of the Accounts Committee to examine the Accounts for the Financial Year 2018/2019</b>
	The Constable thanked the previous Committee for all the hard work conducted throughout the year, and informed the Assembly that the following Committee Members had indicated their willingness to seek re-election:  Jackie Hilton, Bob Le Brocq, David Croxford, Sarah Richardson, John Baker, Stewart Maurant, Bernie Manning, Steven Beddoe, & Deputy Richard Rondel.  On a proposal by Procureur Peter Pearce and seconded by Procureur Geraint Jennings, the nine members of the Accounts Committee from 2017/18 were unanimously elected enbloc for 2018/19, with the addition of former St Helier Deputy Andrew Lewis.
<b>51/18</b>	<b>Approval of the appointment of Parish Auditors for 2018/2019</b>
	On a proposition by Procureur Geraint Jennings and seconded by Procureur Peter Pearce the Auditors Alex Picot & Co were re-appointed for 2018/19 this gained unanimous approval of the Assembly. On behalf of the Parish, the Constable thanked Don Connolly and his team for all their hard work.
	The Constable thanked the ratepayers for their show of confidence in the Directors of the Parish, and he thanked the Auditors, the Procureurs, the Accounts Committee, the Directors and all the staff for all their hard work. The date of the next Parish Assembly was confirmed as <b>Wednesday 25 July 2018 at 7.00 pm.</b>