PARISH OF ST HELIER

Minutes of the Rate Assembly

Wednesday 15 July 2026 at 7.00 pm

Assembly Room, Town Hall

44/26	**Welcome & Apologies**
	Apologies: The Dean, Deputy Lee Carrpenter, Sarah Richardson, and Heather-Ann Hubbell **Deputies in Attendance**: Max Andrews, Catherine Curtis, Lyndsay Feltham, Gerald Voisin, Samantha Gleave and Victoria Li **Procureurs in Attendance:** Peter Pearce and James Corbett
45/26	**Item 1: Presentation of the Accounts (Financial Statements) for the Financial Year 2025/2026**
	The Constable opened the Assembly by thanking parishioners for voting for her in the recent elections. Parish employees received thanks for their continued commitment, and thanks was also given to those who helped with the election. The Constable expressed appreciation to the Procureurs, members of the municipality and parish volunteers. A special thanks was given to the outgoing Constable of twenty-five years, Simon Crowcroft and to former Procureur John Baker. James Donald, CEO, provided an overview of the year 2025/2026; thanking employees and honorary volunteers, who undertake their roles in an unassuming way. He listed the achievements of the Parish, including Poonah Road Neighbourhood Improvement Area, a mural in Old Street, introduction of a new Residents Parking Zone, restoration of Allix Shipyard, Liberation 80 events, and the recent island-wide elections. Throughout the year the Parish continued to deliver value to rate payers, having been awarded commercial contracts for refuse, recycling, gardening, and street cleansing. The Parish had performed ahead of budget in 2025/2026, by receiving one off income and continued management of expenditure, thus providing an increased Rates reserve. The current financial position will enable the parish to propose increase to the rate, of below the cost of living. **Accounts 2025/2026** Andrew Boustouler, Finance Director took the Assembly through a presentation of the Parish's Accounts/Financial Statements for 2025/26. He explained that the Parish achieved £19M expenditure against a £19M budget, and income of £20M against a £19M budget. The surplus income was a result of government funding towards Neighbourhood Improvement Areas, and an increase in bank interest and increased income at St Ewold's because of an uplift in Long-term Care Allowance. Expenditure: increased by 1% year on year but was below budget by 1%. Material increases in costs were attributed to the 2026 pay award and a lower than anticipated vacancy factor. However, these were offset by a year in year reduction in maintenance, due to the playground in Parade Gardens being completed in the previous financial year. The roads program experienced a delay, with some projects being rolled over in to the forthcoming year. Income: increased by 3.4%, and was ahead of estimate by 2.6%, due to last year's rate increase, an increase in St Ewolds's revenue due to increased Long-term Care rates, a prior year government grant for roads, and bank interest. Capital expenditure: the Parish has invested £1.6M in fixed assets, including the purchasing of vehicles and ongoing refurbishment of St Ewold's., Balance Sheet: has seen investment of £0.9M, which has been offset against a reduction following a £2.6M re-valuation reduction of land and building values, resulting in a decrease to fixed assets of £47.9M Cash balance: lowered this year with a corresponding reduction in creditors payable. Net assets remain in line with the prior year at £5.7M. The Rates reserve has increased slightly and now represents 18-weeks expenditure; Parish policy determines that it remain at 16-weeks. **Auditors Report:** Don Connolly, Auditor, from Alex Picot & Co. informed the Assembly, that when a new Finance Director is appointed, it is perceived there is an increased risk of errors. Due to a successful handover

	and the predecessor remaining within the Parish, these risks were mitigated. His team were impressed with the standard of the work undertaken, there were no concerns, and few recommendations. The previous year's recommendations had been enacted, and so he was pleased to report that it was a clean audit, and the accounts were prepared in accordance with accounting standards. **Questions on the Accounts:** John Baker questioned the situation at St Ewold's. Whilst the Assembly were advised it had made a profit, in his view, the account doesn't provide a true value of buildings and the cost of repairs. He questioned how much the Parish was benefiting from operating a Care Home. The Constable confirmed the amount stated is operational profit. The aim is that in time St Ewold's will operate as a separate unit, however, on the plus side, last year it made a surplus of £16K, whereas only a few years ago it was making a loss of £250K. The completion of a property review will determine, moving forward, the amount, it should contribute towards the building reserve. The social benefit of a gold standard Home to parishioners, shouldn't be forgotten. Alison Marshall questioned £547K for computers and £625K for staff overtime . JD explained that depreciation on Parish assets is normally written off after 5-years and the reason why the figure is so high, is the Parish, for many years, hasn't removed computers from the balance sheet. The increase in overtime, related to an error when setting the previous budget, by not accounting for the Easter bank holidays, which sometimes fall into the next financial year. St Ewold's had increased overtime to meet the high levels of care required. The Constable asked for a proposer and seconder, the accounts were proposed by Deputy Gerald Voisin and seconded by John Baker. The accounts were adopted unanimously.
46/26	**Item 2: The Connétable to present, and the Assembly to approve, the Estimates of the Parish of St Helier for the Financial Year 2026/27, in accordance with the terms of Article 21 of the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005**
	Andrew Boustouler, Finance Director presented the Estimates (Budgets) for 2026/27, explaining that the planned income of £20.7M, would create a surplus of £500K. This considered, income from commercial contracts, an increase in non-rates income, the proposed employee pay increase, the reduction in pension contributions and overtime for the recent elections. A couple of roads projects were not completed in 2025/2026, and it is proposed to roll them over into 2026/2027. The Parish is proposing capital investment of £2.2M, with £1.5M being the ongoing refurbishment project at St Ewold's, as well as replacement of windows and a boiler. The remaining expenditure is for a further Neighbourhood Improvement Area, improvements to parks and vehicles. **Questions on the 2026/27 Estimates** Kevin O'Connell asked for an update on St Helier House. The Parish is conducting a property review, and still exploring offers for the site, as well as considering other options, as to how the site could be used. The Constable advised that following the review, within a year, she will bring a plan to a Parish Assembly. A parishioner questioned the amount spent on IT. The Parish relies on a number of third-party systems including, Parking Fines, Finance, HR, Health and Safety, and a Care package etc; all which have annual subscription/licencing fees. The figure is appropriate for an organisation the size and diversity of St Helier. Further information was requested around commercial contracts. It was explained that the Parish is exploring several opportunities, and where suitable, would submit tenders for work. The Comite des Connetable is exploring collaboration between Parishes, as it has advantages for rate payers in all parishes. A recent example, and first step is the contract signed with St John to provide refuse/recycling and gardening. The contract enables St John to receive, a value for money service, and St Helier to fully use its skill/assets, which increases non rates income. The Constable asked for a proposer and seconder; the estimates were proposed by Procureur James Corbett and seconded by Procureur Peter Pearce. The estimates were adopted unanimously.
47/26	**Item 3: Approve the Parish Rate for the Financial Year 2026/27**
	The Constable explained that the rate needed to be set to achieve the estimates, she was aware that parishioners are struggling financially and therefore suggested a rate of 1.37p, an increase of 2.3%, significantly below the cost of living (RPI). This was feasible if the Rates reserve was lowered from 18 weeks to 16-week expenditure, as per parish policy. The Constable asked if there were any amendments. There being no amendments, the rate of 1.37p was proposed by John Baker and seconded by Jackie

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	Hilton, the Assembly approved the Parish rate, 32 votes in favour, no abstentions and 2 votes against. John Baker congratulated the team for an excellent presentation and thanked all Parish employees for their hard work.
48/26	**Item 4: Election of the Accounts Committee to examine the Accounts for the Financial Year 2026/2027**
	The Constable thanked the Accounts Committee for the work undertaken throughout the year, and informed the Assembly that the following members had indicated their willingness to seek re-election: Jackie Hilton, David Croxford, Sarah Richardson, Jason Lagadu, Danny Scaife and Shirley Madden, put their names forward to stand again. The Accounts Committee was proposed on-bloc by Chef de Police, Danny Scaife and seconded by Mary Osmond, the Assembly unanimously approved the appointments. The Constable asked if anyone else wished to join the Committee. Jill Barnard was proposed by Alison Marshall and seconded by Pauline Orr. A vote was taken and she was elected 28 votes in favour, 3 abstentions and no votes against. John Baker was proposed by Jackie Hilton and seconded by Jane Pearce. A vote was taken and he was elected 29 votes in favour, 1 abstention and no votes against. Kevin O'Connell was proposed by Deputy Lyndsay Feltham and seconded by Procureur James Corbett A vote was taken and he was elected 30 votes in favour, 1 abstention and no votes against.
49/26	**Item: 5 Approval of the appointment of Parish Auditors for 2026/2027**
	On a proposition by Procureur Peter Pearce and seconded by Procureur James Corbett, Auditors Alex Picot & Co were re-appointed for 2026/27; approval of the Assembly was unanimous.
	The Constable thanked ratepayers for their show of confidence in the Parish. The date of the next Parish Assembly was confirmed as Wednesday 29 July 2026 at 7.00 pm.

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