

**This 25 day of July 2024**

**AN ASSEMBLY** of Principals and Electors of the Parish of St Ouen was duly held in St Ouen's Parish Hall on Thursday 25 July 2024 at 7pm to:

1. Receive, and if deemed advisable, approve the Act of the Parish Assembly held on Wednesday 29 May 2024.
2. Receive, and if deemed advisable, adopt the accounts of the Connétable for the financial year 2023/2024, the said accounts having been previously audited by the Parish Accountants and examined by the Committee named for the purpose.
3. Receive, and if deemed advisable, approve the Connétable's Estimates for the financial year 2024/2025, including grants to various charities.
4. Having approved the estimates, tax the rate accordingly and order that it be levied.
5. Name a Committee to examine the accounts of the Connétable for the financial year 2024/2025.

The Connétable welcomed those present and thanked them for their attendance on such a miserable evening.

He gave apologies on behalf of Rev. Ian Pallent, Centenier Teresa Anne Surcouf, Advocate Richard John Michel, Mr John Philip A'Court (Members of the Roads Committee), Mr Basil George Carre and Mr Paul Frank Batho (Roads Inspector).

The Connétable then asked the Parish Secretary to read the convening notice.

The Connétable advised that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 May 2024 were available on the chairs. There being no questions or queries, the minutes were unanimously approved on the proposition on Mr Allan John Quenault (Procureur du Bien Public) seconded by Mr Kenneth William Syvret MBE.

The Connétable then welcomed Mr Stephen Phillips of Alex Picot & Co and invited him to present the Parish Accounts.

Mr Phillips started with the Homes for the Elderly accounts and on conclusion asked for any questions. Mr. David Charles Sharp (Rate Assessor) commented that there was a substantial amount of cash held by the Homes for the Elderly and enquired if it was well managed. Mr Phillips confirmed that it was available should any potential developments occur.

The Connétable confirmed that the Parish had hoped to purchase three sites with a view to developing Homes for the Elderly, however there were major problems with drainage in the Parish so none of the sites were financially viable. The Parish would now be looking for more long term investment.

Mr Allan Quenault asked that a vote of thanks be recorded to the Connétable for his extensive work with the insurance claim following the explosion in December 2023 at Le Jardin de la Rue, adding that he had done well.

There being no further questions regarding the Homes for the Elderly accounts they were unanimously approved on the proposition of Mr David John Capps (Surveillant) seconded by Mr David Sharp.

Mr Phillips then presented the Parish of St Ouen accounts following which Mr Kevin Cronin enquired if the £9,000 spent to employ a new member of staff was money well spent. The Connétable responded that as it turned out, no. The Parish was very satisfied with the new recruit however she subsequently accepted an offer of employment with Government. The agency used by the Parish were happy to undertake the recruitment of a replacement at a discounted rate, however the Parish had found a new person at no extra cost.

There being no further questions, the Parish of St Ouen accounts were unanimously approved on the proposition of Mr Richard John Renouf, seconded by Mr David Sharp.

The Connétable then thanked Mr Stephen Phillips and his staff for their continued help and support and for the excellent way in which the accounts had been prepared and presented.

Item 3 on the agenda was to receive and approve the Connétable's Estimates. The Connétable ran through the estimates.

Mr Richard Renouf commented that the greatest change was in the salaries for the administration staff and enquired why this was. The Connétable explained that there had been 8% pay rises during that period and this also affected the pension and social security contributions. Mr Renouf responded by saying that the staff were worth it.

Mr Jean Amy Le Maistre pointed out that 2025 would be the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Liberation of Jersey and asked if there were any plans to celebrate. The Connétable confirmed that the Parish had already begun planning and there would be an event at St Ouen's Manor, although he had no further information to offer. With regards funding, there was a possibility of receiving a grant from Government, however this was all very much in the air.

Mr Ken Syvret MBE advised that both the Parish Millennium and Liberation 70 celebrations were mostly self-funding. The Connétable confirmed that he was hoping for that and there would be little or no cost to the Parish.

There being no further questions, the Connétable's Estimates for the financial year 2024/2025 in the sum of £760,833 were unanimously approved on the proposition of Mr David Sharp, seconded by Deputy Ian Joseph Gorst.

The Connétable advised the Assembly that the Island Wide Rate had previously been approved by the States Assembly. The domestic rate had increased by 03.p per quarter to 0.89p and the non-domestic rate by 0.6p per quarter to 1.37 p per quarter.

Item 4 on the agenda was to tax the rate and order that it be levied. Mr Kevin Cronin proposed a rate of 1.33p per quarter. This was seconded by Mr David Sharp and unanimously approved.

The Connétable declared that the rate for 2024 had been set at 1.33p per quarter and ordered that it be levied.

The final item on the agenda was to re-elect a Committee to examine the accounts of the Connétable for the year 2024/2025. On the proposition of Mr Richard Renouf and seconded by Mr David Sharp it was unanimously agreed to re-elect the Committee, those members being the Rector, the Procureurs du Bien Public, the Surveillants, the Centeniers, the elected members of the Roads Committee, the Seigneur, Mr. Christian Stead and Deputy Ian Gorst.

The Connétable then thanked the Procureurs du Bien Public for their support, the members of the Roads Committee for their continued dedication and hard work and the Roads Inspectors for their work at Branchage time. He also thanked the Centeniers and members of the Honorary Police for their continued work, Mr Nigel Hall and the Rate Assessors for their contributions and members of the Homes for the Elderly Allocation Committee for their support. Finally he thanked the staff for continuing to do an excellent job and the Parishioners for their support, loyalty and encouragement.

On the proposition of Mr Royston Le Bas, seconded by Mr David Sharp it was unanimously agreed that the minutes of this Assembly be read at the next Parish Assembly.

Before the close of business, Mr Allan Quenault asked that congratulations be noted to the Connétable and Parish Secretary for the excellent job they had done with the accounts.

There being no further business, the Connétable declared the meeting closed at 7.53pm and invited those present to partake in refreshments.