

AT AN ASSEMBLY of Principles and Electors of the Parish of St. Ouen, was duly convened and held in St. Ouen's Parish Hall on Wednesday, 23 July 2025 at 7pm to:-

Agenda

1. Receive and, if deemed advisable, approve the Act of the Parish Assembly held on Wednesday, 30 April 2025.
2. Receive and, if deemed advisable, adopt the accounts of the Connétable for the financial year 2024/2025, 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 year 2025/2026, including grants to various charities.
4. Having approve 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 2025/2026.

Minutes

The Connétable welcomed everyone present and thanked them for attending.

He gave apologies on behalf of Rev. Ian Pallent, Centenier Bernie Connor and Advocate Richard Michel, member of the Roads Committee.

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

Following the convening notice, the Connétable moved on to item 1 of the agenda and advised all those present that the minutes of the previous Parish Assembly, held on 30 April 2025, are available on their chairs, and asked for any questions. There being no questions forthcoming, the minutes were unanimously approved on the proposition of Mr Roy Le Bas, Procureur du Bien Public, and seconded by Mr Kevin Cronin.

The meeting moved to item 2, with the Connétable welcoming Mr Stephen Phillips, Director of Alex Picot and Company, and invited him to present the Parish accounts for the year 2024/2025. Mr Phillips introduced, firstly, the accounts for the Homes for the Elderly. Following the presentation, he invited questions from the floor. There were no questions or queries raised and, on the proposition of Mr Allan Quenault, Procureur du Bien Public, and seconded by Deputy Ian Gorst, the accounts were unanimously adopted.

Mr Phillips then presented the accounts for the Parish. After completing the presentation, Mr Phillips invited questions from the Assembly. There being no questions or queries, the Connétable asked for a proposer and seconder. Deputy Ian Gorst duly proposed the adoption of the accounts, and Mr Ken Vibert seconded the proposition. They were adopted unanimously by a show of hands. Connétable Honeycombe thanked Mr Phillips and his team for all the hard work involved in compiling the two sets of accounts for the Parish.

Item 3 of the agenda, the estimates for the financial year 2025/2026, followed and the Connétable presented them to the Assembly. Having finished the presentation, Connétable Honeycombe asked for questions.

Mr Ken Vibert stood and informed the Connétable that he had been approached by several parishioners with concerns over the condition of Parish roads. He suggested that the sum included in the estimates was insufficient to meet its needs as there were numerous pothole repairs required around the Parish. The Connétable replied that a sum of £40,000 had been provided in the estimates for the roads account. In addition, a further sum of £2,000 was proposed for the road's reserves, which currently stood at £45,414. The Connétable added that it was his responsibility to make every feasible effort to keep the annual rate as low as possible and reminded Mr Vibert that there were a lot of people who struggle to afford to pay their bills. Furthermore, he advised that there was a sum of £3.9m in cash generated from the homes rentals over the years available, bringing a total of over £4m held in reserve should extraordinary expenses arise. He expressed surprise that this question had come up as it was a repeat of the same from 2 years prior. The Connétable reiterated that he was trying to keep the rate as low as possible as he felt the Parish could not keep hitting those who cannot afford it by raising rates, particularly when it is not necessary. He added that the Parish was in a strong financial position but there were huge reserves if necessary. The Connétable advised the Assembly that they can amend the sums as they wished, but it will hit those who can't afford it the hardest.

Mr Vibert responded by saying he was worried for the future and that the Connétable should have a program in place for road repairs and maintenance. Connétable Honeycombe replied that there was not only a program in place for the year, but an individual program for both winter and summer. He added that the roads were in the best condition they had been since he became Connétable and he would be interested in learning where these potholes were as his Manual Team were inspecting the roads everyday, as is he himself, and there are currently just three potholes that have been identified for attention. His team has spent considerable time on replacing damaged road signs as well as potholes and he didn't feel Mr Vibert's criticism was warranted. He went on to give the example of La Rue Freule, which had been the subject of repeated complaints over a 10 year period. This was resolved when he came into office, having drawn up a schedule of works, as no-one had carried out much in the way of repairs and maintenance on the roads for many years.

Mr Brian Follain said that he felt the Connétable should be credited for the work he has done, that he has complete confidence in him and should be congratulated.

Mr Hilton Carre questioned why the provision in the special votes for the Liberation Day celebrations appeared in this years' estimates, rather than last year. The Connétable replied that the financial year runs from 1 May 2025 to 30 April 2026, so the celebrations just fell within the current financial year.

With no further questions or queries, Mr Kevin Cronin proposed the approval of the estimates and Mr Brian Follain seconded, and they were approved unanimously by the Assembly.

The Connétable then, in accordance with item 4 of the agenda, asked for a proposer and seconder to tax the rate. Mr Kevin Cronin duly proposed a rate of 1.34 pence, with Mr Brian Follain seconding that proposition. With the Assembly unanimously approving the rate, the Connétable declared that it be set at 1.34 pence and ordered that it be levied.

The final piece of business for the evening was item 5, and the naming of a committee to examine the annual accounts for the financial year 2025/2026. The Connétable advised the Assembly that the current Accounts Committee consisted of:

The Connétable
The Procureurs du Bien Public
Elected members of the Roads Committee
The Centeniers
The Seigneur
The Recteur
The Surveillants
Deputy Ian Gorst
Mr Christian Stead

The Connétable advised that the Committee had all indicated that they would be happy to be re-elected and, therefore, suggested that they were proposed *en bloc*. Mr Hilton Carre duly proposed the sitting Committee for re-election, which was seconded by Mr Ken Syvret, MBE.

With the business for the evening concluded, the Connétable thanked the accountant, Mr Stephen Phillips, and his team for the excellent way with which the accounts were compiled and presented, the Procureurs du Bien Public for their support and expertise, the Roads Committee for their continued hard work and dedication, and the Roads Inspectors for the work carried out over the Visites du Branchage. He thanked the Honorary Police, and Mr Nigel Hall and the Rates Assessment Committee for their invaluable contributions, as well as the Homes For The Elderly Allocation Committee. Finally, he thanked the Parish staff for their excellent work.

Mr Allan Quenault, Procureur du Bien Public, thanked the Connétable from the floor for doing an extremely good job in running the Parish.

The meeting was then declared closed at 20:07.