

PARISH OF GROUVILLE



An Assembly of the Principals and Electors of the Parish will be held in the Parish Hall on Thursday 10th December 2020 at 7.00pm to conduct the following business;

- 1) To receive and if deemed advisable approve the Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 19th November 2020.
- 2) To elect a member of the Assessment Committee, the Term of Office of Philip Barber being due to expire.
- 3) In conformity with Article 5 of the Loi (1914) sur le Voirie, elect three Principals residing in the Parish to act as members of the Roads Committee.
- 4) To conform with Article 5 of the Loi (1914) sur le Voirie, elect two Roads Inspectors for each of the Vingtaines of Des Marais, De Longueville, De La Rocque, and De la Rue.

Footnote to the Convening Notice

As current public health guidelines restrict the number of persons able to meet at the Parish Hall the Parish Assembly will be available electronically. If you wish to attend and vote either in person or electronically please contact Julie Wildbore-Hands, Parish Secretary E: j.wildborehands@pog.gov.je by Tuesday 8th December so that arrangements may be made. Masks must be worn at all times in the Parish Hall.

The Minutes of the previous Parish Assembly are available from the Parish website- www.parish.gov.je/grouville or they can be collected from the Parish Hall.

The Connétable presided over an assembly of 8 persons.

The Connétable explained that this was an unusual meeting held during a pandemic and read the following statement;

This meeting has been called under unprecedented and extraordinary circumstances. The law requires that we elect a Rates Assessor, three members of the Roads Committee and two Roads Inspectors for each of the four Vingtaines during December of this year. There was no leeway within the current law to allow us to postpone the meeting until a later date when it will be safe so to do.

Under the current restrictions and advice that is in place to control the Covid-19 virus pandemic, it would be impossible to have a conventional meeting with people attending in person. It is known that at least one of the elections will be contested. The

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last time there was a contested election for a place on the Roads Committee there were approximately ninety people in attendance. The current restrictions are that, for unorganised events no more than ten people should meet in any one place at a time, or twenty people at any one place at a time if it is an organised event. It could be argued that a Parish Assembly being a Statutory requirement was exempt these rules but we concluded that a large gathering was an unacceptable risk to public health. Therefore, we could not safely conduct the Assembly as normal.

We decided the meeting could only take place if we could organise online participation as well as limited attendance at the Parish Hall. There were significant challenges in so doing.

Our primary concerns were safety and fairness. It was vital that Parishioners were able to take part either in person or online. In order to manage the register of those wishing to attend in person or online, we needed prior notice of their intent to join the meeting. This would allow us to confirm that those wishing to attend were eligible to participate in the meeting. It would also allow us to contact those wishing to attend how to join the meeting. We issued a Convening Notice as required by law in the Government Gazette online and the church box in the usual way. We also advertised in the Jersey Evening Post. It is no longer a legal requirement to advertise in the Jersey Evening Post but more Parishioners would be made aware of the meeting using this outlet. The Convening Notice included an instruction to anyone wishing to attend the meeting, either online or in person, that they should contact the Parish Hall by midnight on Tuesday 8th December. The Convening Notice was issued on the 1st December.

It became clear that an online streamed meeting would be difficult to achieve in technical terms. A conventional meeting would attract ninety people or more. A meeting that can be attended online is easy for many therefore it is likely that numbers attending online would rise significantly. Meetings of this size often fail due to conductivity. Those attending on line meetings regularly lose contact leaving them unable to partake, potentially denying them access at crucial times in the meeting. Signing up to online meetings is not always straight forward. It requires downloading an application and once this is done a meeting number and code needs to be entered before a participant can join. This is not always a straightforward process. It is a difficult process for a person who is not used to joining a meeting in this way. It is impossible for some who do not have access to the technology. It is clear that parishioners may be unable to participate fully and freely. Those people who find it difficult to join or who cannot join on line would be disenfranchised.

It was known prior to convening the meeting that the positions on the Roads Committee would be contested. Four Parishioners had intimated that they wanted their names to go forward for three positions on the committee. No other indications have been received that any parishioner would want their name to be proposed for any of the positions that require an election at this meeting.

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For the reasons given above we decided that we would not proceed with the online meeting.

We have discouraged people from attending this meeting. We have informed all of those who wish for their names to go forward for a position that we would ensure that they would be proposed and second in accordance with the law. Other than a simple nomination no speeches or comments would be made concerning a candidate. We will hold a ballot meeting in the future. This meeting will be held when government advice allows. Any eligible Parishioner will be able to take part in the ballot whether they registered or not. Any person who is elected unopposed to other positions tonight will be declared elected and a date for attendance in the Royal Court for the taking of the oath of office will be arranged.

All Parishioners who registered to join the meeting before the deadline have been informed of the arrangements of this meeting.

- 1) The Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 19th November 2020 were agreed on the proposition by Bernard Rebours and seconded by Chris Osgood.
- 2) To elect a member of the Assessment Committee, the Term of Office of Philip Barber being due to expire.
Michael Labey proposed Philip Barber and Chris Osgood seconded

As there were no other nominations Philip Barber was duly elected.

- 3) In conformity with Article 5 of the Loi (1914) sur le Voirie, elect three Principals residing in the Parish to act as members of the Roads Committee.

There were 4 candidates nominated for the 3 available seats;

Michael Labey proposed David Cummins and Peter Hargreaves
Chris Osgood seconded David Cummins and Peter Hargreaves

Bernard Rebours proposed Stanley Payn and Peter Le Cuirot
Jasmine Le Maistre seconded Stanley Payn and Peter Le Cuirot

The Connétable advised that the ballot vote will take place when it is safe in accordance with Government guidelines to do so later in 2021.

- 4) To conform with Article 5 of the Loi (1914) sur le Voirie, elect two Roads Inspectors for each of the Vingtaines of Des Marais, De Longueville, De La Rocque, and De la Rue.

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Two Roads Inspectors nominated for the Vingtaine of Des Marais;

Michael Labey proposed Martin Shales and Jack Hanby

Chris Osgood seconded Martin Shales and Jack Hanby

As there were no other nominations the candidates were duly elected

Two Roads Inspectors nominated for the Vingtaine of De Longueville

Bernard Rebours proposed Michael Labey and Eric Gavey

Jasmine Le Maistre seconded Michael Labey and Eric Gavey

As there were no other nominations the candidates were duly elected.

Two Roads Inspectors nominated for the Vingtaine of La Rocque

Michael Labey proposed Claude Bertram and Barrie Hamel

Chris Osgood seconded Claude Bertram and Barrie Hamel

As there were no other nominations the candidates were duly elected.

Two Roads Inspectors nominated for the Vingtaine of La Rue

Michael Labey proposed Mark Labey and Andrew Labey

Chris Osgood seconded Mark Labey and Andrew Labey

As there were no other nominations the candidates were duly elected

Chris Osgood asked the Connétable if the existing Roads Committee are able to continue past the 31st December 2020?

The Connétable explained that they can carry on with meetings until the election by ballot to be held when it is deemed safe to do so. However, any decisions will need to be ratified by the new Roads Committee once they have taken their oath of office.

The Connétable congratulated all who were elected and advised they will be warned to appear before the Royal Court shortly.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

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