



## PARISH OF GROUVILLE



<b>Minutes</b>	
<b><u>Minutes of the Parish Assembly</u></b> <b><u>Held in Grouville Parish Hall on</u></b> <b><u>Wednesday, 14 December 2022 at 19:00</u></b>	
<b>PRESENT</b>	Connétable Mark Labey – Chairman  Daryn Cleworth – Parish Secretary and Minutes
<b>Open Meeting</b>	Connétable Labey opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.
<b>Apologies</b>	Apologies were received from the following:  Bernard Rebours Deputy Carolyn Labey – Attending vigil at church John le Maistre – Out of Island
<b>1. Election of 2 members of the Grouville rates Assessment Committee</b>	<p>The Connétable asked for nominations.</p> <p>Robin Hamilton-Howes was proposed by Mr Philip Barber and seconded by Leonie Burnett</p> <p>Mr Barber informed the meeting that the Rates Assessment Committee was a close knit team with over 50 years' experience between them. He said Mr Hamilton-Howes is an integral member of the team with a strong understanding of the Rates Management System and is an important member of the Committee.</p> <p>Adrian Le Gal was proposed by Mr Chris Osgood and seconded by Mr Bruce Burnett</p> <p>Mr Osgood informed the meeting that Mr Le Gal was appointed as a Rates Assessor following the passing of the late Mr Colin Smith. He added that Mr Le Gal has been a member of the Grouville municipality since 1986. His service record reads:</p> <p>1986-92: CO 1992-01: Vingtenier 2001-07: Civil Defence Officer 2007-19: CO 2007-present: Firearms Officer 2020-present: Rates Assessor</p> <p>He continued that Mr Le Gal came from an accounting background with a wealth of experience in the Parish, so was well placed to continue in the role. He is fair, approachable and a good ambassador for the Parish.</p> <p>Mr Leslie Norman spoke to congratulate the Connétable and Parish Secretary on the excellent turnout on the evening. Having attended Parish Assemblies for a number of years, Mr Norman added that this was the best turnout for a Rates Assessors Electoral Assembly.</p>

Mr Norman proposed Mrs Anne Hargreaves, who was seconded by Mr Mark Houzé.

Mr Norman advised the meeting that Mrs Hargreaves was unable to attend the meeting that evening due to the short notice given and she sends her apologies. He continued that Mrs Hargreaves would be a very useful member of the Committee as she was an experienced Chartered Accountant, as well as a tax accountant. She is fastidious and, as a former Rates Assessor himself, Mr Norman felt she would take on the number crunching very well. He believes it would be good to have a lady on board the Committee and that she speaks fluent French. She knows the Parish well and will have frequently been seen cycling down every lane that exists in Grouville.

Mr Norman went on to say that Mrs Hargreaves hadn't been canvassing as she had inadvertently misunderstood that she would not be able to stand as she would not be back in the island for Friday's swearing in and, therefore, she stopped canvassing. It is now apparent that the swearing in can be deferred so she is exercising her right to stand.

Mrs Hargreaves seconder, Mr Houzé added that she paid great attention to detail, an attribute that the Rates Assessment Committee requires. He referred to some of the comments made by other proposers by acknowledging the close knit group that currently makes up the Committee. This, Mr Houzé explained, was a double-edged sword and Mrs Hargreaves presents an opportunity to bring in some new blood and challenge some of the existing practices. He felt it would be helpful to the Parish and the ratepayers to ensure everything is done correctly. Mr Houzé elaborated by saying that he has met with the Committee several times during the previous year, which left him with a number of questions.

With no further nominations coming forward, the Assembly proceeded to a vote by way of a secret ballot, the result of which was;

<b>Hamilton-Howes, Robin:</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Hargreaves, Anne:</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>Le Gal, Adrian:</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Spoilt:</b>	<b>01</b>

**Total Votes Cast: 54**

The Connétable, therefore, declared Mr Hamilton-Howes and Mr Le Gal elected for a further three year term as members of the Rates Assessment Committee and warned them both to appear for swearing in at the Royal Court on Friday, 16 December 2022 at 10:00.

Before ending the meeting, Mrs Caroline Anderson asked to address the meeting and said she hoped the Parish had taken note of the issues that Mrs Hargreaves had on this occasion that this was not the democratic way to elect members. Mrs Anderson added that there should have been more notice given and it appeared to her that the Parish had two existing members that were willing to stand and so went ahead with the Assembly regardless. This was despite someone wishing to stand but was out of the island at the time, and was then told that she couldn't stand as she wouldn't be back in time for the swearing in, which isn't the case.

	<p>Mrs Anderson felt that, if Mrs Hargreaves was present, she would have had more than seven votes.</p> <p>Mr Robin Alletson made the comment that anyone wishing to stand should contact the Committee and attend 2-3 meetings to establish what the role entails. He questioned whether Mrs Hargreaves had done so or whether she had merely decided she would like to be a Rates Assessor.</p> <p>David Cummins made the point that the Assembly had been publicised in the church box in accordance with law and procedure and sufficient time given for publicising the Assembly.</p>
<b>Meeting Closed</b>	The Connétable closed the meeting at 19:21