



PARISH OF GROUVILLE



Minutes	
Minutes of the Parish Assembly Held in Grouville Parish Hall on Tuesday, 15 August 2023 at 19:00	
PRESENT	Mark A Labey – Connétable (ML) John Lamy – Senior Procureur du Bien Public (JL) Peter Le Cuirot - Procureur du Bien Public (PLC) Antony Gibb – Historic Buildings Consultant (AG) Daryn Cleworth – Parish Secretary and Minutes (DC)
Apologies	Dep Carolyn Labey Centenier Drew Livingston Jerry Collins Andrew Le Cheminant Mark Houzé CO Robert Hurley Betty and Bob Hambly Beppe Vernaglione
Open Meeting	<p>The Connétable opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance. A minute's silence was held in respect of the victims and their families of the Fauvic road traffic collision tragedy on 5 August.</p> <p>The Connétable then invited the Parish Secretary to read out the Convening Notice.</p> <p>ML pointed out the fire exits and advised those present that the meeting will be recorded to ensure accurate minute taking.</p> <p>The Connétable introduced Antony Gibb to the meeting.</p> <p>The Connétable advised that voting will be carried out this evening by a show of voting cards that everyone has been furnished with upon arrival and after verification of entitlement to vote had been confirmed by the Parish Administration Team.</p> <p>The Connétable presented some background into the work of the Financial Review Working Group, who researched the history of the funds obtained through the Maison Le Maistre development and came to the same conclusion of the Parish in that there were no restrictions on the use of those funds.</p>

	<p>The Connétable went on to explain the current situation with regards to workloads, and referred directly to the bottleneck that the Parish is working with. At present, the Parish teams are working on the roof project, the financial review and the accounts and estimates. The Connétable took full responsibility for the late timing in bringing this matter before the Parish Assembly and apologised to everyone present, in particular those working on the projects.</p>
1. Approval of minutes of 8 June 2023	<p>The minutes of the Assembly held on 8 June 2023 were proposed by Anthony Powell and seconded by Robin Hamilton-Howes.</p>
2. To record one of the recommendations of the Financial Review Working Group, being the creation of reserve funds to avoid fluctuations in the rate	<p>The Connétable introduced this item by advising the meeting that the Parish has existing reserve funds for roads, the church and a small sum for Britain in Bloom. One of the recommendations of the Working Group was to remove depreciation from the balance sheet and create further reserve funds for future stability and avoidance of future rates fluctuations. There are several large building projects approaching and, rather than burdening the ratepayer, it is the intention to utilise the funds, wholly or in part, to pay for them.</p> <p>Caroline Anderson thanked the Connétable for his apology, before going on to say she felt the timing was unfortunate and, as the Connétable has alluded to, the Parish is late in bringing the findings of the Working Group before the Parish Assembly, which should have been done by the end of the financial year. By bringing this one item forward ahead of the rest of the report is unfortunate as its split up the report, which is far from ideal, and also because the working group aren't present this evening. It has also resulted in the roof project being rushed through.</p> <p>Mrs Anderson went on to ask two questions, the first of which was to seek assurances from the Connétable that the report of the financial review would be brought before the Assembly prior to the rates assembly. She further asked if the report will include the governance of the reserve funds, i.e. how it is funded, how the funds held in reserves are used and the definitions of maintenance and property. The Connétable replied that he could see no reason why he couldn't comply with all of those points raised and he will be bringing the report before the Accounts Committee initially and that the objective is to be as transparent as possible.</p>
3. To establish a property reserve fund in relation to the monies generated by Maison le Maistre.	<p>The Connétable reiterated to the Assembly that we currently have reserves for items such as roads, which is due to be utilised on an expensive roads project in the autumn. ML said he was pleased that this would be going ahead without impacting the ratepayer and this was an example of how reserves can be so beneficial.</p> <p>The Connétable asked the floor for a proposer for the proposition in principle to establish a property reserve fund through the funds held in the MLM account. Eric Gavey duly proposed, and said that the Parish had conducted a very thorough investigation into the matter</p>

	<p>and he felt it was entirely appropriate to use the funds available and also to create a reserve fund. He added that the Parish really needed these funds now and he was pleased to propose. Mr Gavey's proposal was seconded by Kevin Hervé and approved by the Assembly unanimously.</p>
<p>4. To receive a report from the Connétable on the Parish Hall roof project, detailing the background of the project, the damage to the roof areas and the construction works required to remedy the damage.</p>	<p>ML advised the Assembly that the roof report had been available to everyone for two weeks on the Parish website. He hoped everyone had found the report informative, with the information on bat activity hopefully interesting. He went on to say that the Grouville Battle of Flowers Association had kindly agreed to build several bat boxes in accordance with the requirements detailed in the surveys carried out by Nurture Ecology. The Connétable then introduced Antony Gibb, of Antony Gibb Limited, consultant on historical buildings. Mr Gibb was here to answer any technical questions that Assembly may have, and ML asked for questions from the floor.</p> <p>Maggie Esson asked if now, as the roof is being replaced, was the appropriate time to instal solar panels at the Parish Hall. ML replied that, unfortunately, the first meeting he held as Connétable last summer when he met with Planning Officers and he was advised that it wouldn't be possible to place solar panels on listed buildings. He had found this extremely disappointing but added that he hoped that we would see solar panels erected on other non-listed Parish owned buildings in the future. Antony Gibb added that it was important for everyone to be mindful that laws do change over time and it was possible that greater emphasis would be placed going forward on the placement of solar panels on listed buildings. AG reassured those present that, should there indeed be a change in legislation in the future, the current construction project would be able to accommodate this and it would be unlikely that the Parish would face large costs in installing solar panels after the roof had been replaced.</p> <p>ML added that it was also the intention of the Parish to instal a new fire system whilst the roof voids were exposed, as well as installing LED lighting to replace the current set up in the main hall.</p> <p>Caroline Anderson asked if the contract had been awarded yet and, if so, when it had been signed. ML replied that the Parish had approached six contractors, of which two had tendered. One of these was Horn Brothers Ltd, whose quote had been accepted by the Parish. The contracts, whilst agreed in principle and letters of intent duly issued, had not been signed at the time of the Assembly.</p> <p>Eric Gavey asked how long we could reasonably expect to hold the project off for. ML replied that it should have started around six weeks ago and, if the project hasn't started within the next two weeks, then it would be further postponed until next spring and it is</p>

	<p>entirely plausible that Horn Brothers Ltd will walk away from the project.</p> <p>With no further questions from the floor, AG advised those present that he was happy answering questions after the meeting had closed, should those in attendance wish to discuss the project further.</p>
<p>5. To consider and if deemed advisable approve the release of funds from the property reserve fund to pay for the roof project.</p>	<p>With the Assembly having heard all the information and reports made available, asked for a proposer to approve the release of funds to pay for the roof project. Eric Gavey proposed the item, which was seconded by Leslie Norman.</p> <p>Peter Hargreaves asked how much the total cost of the project was, to which ML confirmed it was £457,348, which included a 15% contingency totalling £55,571.</p> <p>The Connétable asked for a vote, which came in unanimously in favour of the release of funds as per the agenda item.</p> <p>Caroline Anderson then asked when the Assembly could expect to see the report of the financial review, as well as the date of the rates assembly. ML replied that the report was scheduled to be ready by 24 August and would be presented to the Accounts Committee first. The rates assembly would follow as soon as possible thereafter.</p> <p>David Cummins asked when the project would be starting, to which the Connétable replied the 29 August 2023.</p>
<p>Meeting Closed</p>	<p>The Connétable closed the meeting at 19:26.</p>