



PARISH OF GROUVILLE



Minutes	
<u>Minutes of the Parish Assembly</u> <u>Held at Grouville Parish Hall on</u> <u>Wednesday, 12 March 2025 at 19:00</u>	
PRESENT	<p>Connétable Mark Labey – Chairman Peter Le Cuirot – Procureur du Bien Public Chris Osgood – Procureur du Bien Public</p> <p>Patricia da Silva – Parish Secretary and Minutes</p>
Open Meeting	<p>The Connétable opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance and pointed out the fire exits. The Connétable informed that the meeting will be recorded for the purpose of accurate minute taking.</p> <p>The Connétable advised that all votes taken this evening will be by a show of hands.</p> <p>The Connétable invited the Parish Secretary to read out the Convening Notice.</p>
Apologies	<p>Apologies were received from the following:</p> <p>Mark Houze, Andrew Le Cheminant, Deputy Carolyn Labey, Rod Amy, Rev. Helen Gunton and David Cummins.</p>
1. To receive and if deemed advisable approve the minutes of the Parish Assemblies held on 02 and 03 December 2024.	<p>The minutes of the meetings held on Monday, 02 and Tuesday, 03 December 2024 were proposed by Leslie Norman and seconded by Andrew Koester. The Assembly voted and the minutes were approved by the majority.</p>
2. To approve the proposed new Parish reserves and approve amendments to existing reserves, to take effect from the start of the next financial year.	<p>The Connétable advised that information regarding the proposed new reserves has been made available on the Parish website and at the Parish Hall. Amendments were made to the policy following feedback from parishioners and the updated policy was published yesterday. The Assembly were made aware that copies of the updated policy were also available this evening.</p> <p>The Connétable said the objective of the policy is to avoid large expenditure items falling on a single year’s budget and to avoid increasing the rate by a substantial amount.</p> <p>The Connétable mentioned the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Grouville Church and Rectory Reserve will be merged with the Property Reserve. - The Community in Bloom Reserve will cease once it’s been used up on floral projects as the reserve is no longer required. - With regards to the Roads Reserve, planned maintenance will still be budgeted for and the reserve will be used for approved items at a Parish Assembly and provides a mechanism to hold funds for major repairs without a big hit to expenditure in one financial year. <p>The Connétable invited any questions or comments from the floor.</p>

	<p>Caroline Anderson commented that it appears the Connétable has misunderstood the reason for setting up reserves. Reserves are important for setting funds aside for large projects to avoid fluctuations in the rate, however, reserves are not meant to be pots of money for the Connétable and Procureurs du Bien Public to agree and dip into without a Parish Assembly's approval. The reserves should only be used for large projects or non-recurring items and they are not to be used for repair and maintenance.</p> <p>Caroline Anderson proposed to have the Reserves Policy redrafted and brought back to a Parish Assembly. This was seconded by Anne Hargreaves. The Assembly voted by a show of hands with 5 in favour and 8 against.</p> <p>Peter Hargreaves suggested asking if Caroline Anderson would be in favour of redrafting the policy to which Caroline Anderson declined.</p> <p>Caroline Anderson referred to the Vehicle Reserve and proposed to remove the last paragraph as it is not necessary. This was seconded by Leslie Norman. The Assembly voted by a show of hands with 7 in favour and 6 against.</p> <p>Caroline Anderson referred to the fourth line of the first paragraph of the Vehicle Reserve and proposed to remove the line "or, if applicable, by a specified amount of any underspend from the General Account as determined at a Parish Assembly." This was seconded by Leslie Norman. The Assembly voted by a show of hands with 5 in favour and 8 against.</p> <p>Anne Hargreaves asked if the Financial Review Work Group (FRWG) have approved the policy put forward to the Assembly. The Connétable replied that the two remaining members of the FRWG have been involved in the process and their recommendations have been accepted.</p> <p>Peter Hargreaves proposed to remove the wording "repair and maintenance" from all the reserves. This was seconded by Caroline Anderson. The Assembly voted by a show of hands with 12 in favour and 1 against.</p> <p>Caroline Anderson expressed that the Connétable should remove that the Connétable and Procureurs du Bien Public are able to approve the release of funds from reserves for projects below 5% of the Parish's annual budget. The Connétable disagreed.</p> <p>Maggie Esson commented that following advice from the FRWG, the wording used in the policy must have been chosen for a specific purpose. The Connétable agreed, however advised that not everyone will agree with those reasons. Caroline Anderson asked if the two members of the FRWG agreed this document, to which the Connétable replied yes.</p> <p>No further comments or questions were raised.</p> <p>The Connétable asked for a show of hands for those in favour of approving the Reserves Policy with the agreed amendments. The Assembly voted with 11 in favour and 2 against.</p>
Meeting Closed	The Connétable closed the meeting at 19:25.