




PARISH OF GROUVILLE

Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Assembly

Held at Grouville Parish Hall on
Thursday, 19 June 2025 at 19:00

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 at the Parish Hall. 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>Rod Amy, Robert Hurley, Collette Labey and Terence Noel.</p>
1. To receive and if deemed advisable approve the minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 20 May 2025.	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 20 May 2025 were proposed by Tracy Laurent and seconded by Peter Jolley. The Assembly voted and the minutes were approved unanimously.</p>
2. To allow the Parish to acquire the lease of Sandy Park play area from the Chef Tenants du Fief du Roi de Grouville and allow the Connétable and/or Procureur du Bien Public to appear in the Royal Court to acquire said lease.	<p>The Connétable disclosed to the Assembly that he is a member of the Chef Tenants, who will be receiving rent from the Parish of Grouville should this item be approved by the Assembly. In light of this conflict, the Connétable transferred the chair for this portion of the Assembly to Procureur du Bien Public, Peter le Cuirot.</p> <p>Peter Le Cuirot welcomed all attendees and explained that there has been ongoing speculation over several months regarding the future of Sandy Park and its lease agreement with the Government of Jersey. To take a proactive approach, the Parish arranged for an inspection report of the park in March 2025. The report identified no major issues; however, it recommended minor repairs to existing equipment and replacement of the fence, which is deemed unsafe to users of the park. The estimated cost for replacing the fence was under £3,900, while refurbishment of the park equipment was estimated at under £4,500.</p> <p>Peter Le Cuirot advised that it was not until the beginning of June 2025 that confirmation was received from the Government of Jersey that they would be relinquishing the lease for Sandy Park. Peter Le Cuirot continued and announced that the Chef Tenants agreed to donate £15,000 to the Parish to assist with the initial costs associated with the park. Furthermore, the Chef Tenants have agreed a £50 annual lease which will include a mutual break clause and provisions for cost-of-living adjustments, subject to this outcome of this Assembly.</p>

The annual expenses to run Sandy Park were confirmed as follows:

- Cleaning of the play area twice a week in the summer and once a week in the winter: £2,700
- Quarterly inspections: £860
- Land rental: £50
- Insurance: £500

Peter Le Cuirot informed though the equipment in the park is robust, the Parish intends to establish reserves for Sandy Park to support future costs to avoid the need for a potential large, one-off payment to be borne by ratepayers.

Before opening the floor to questions and comments, the Connétable informed that he thanked the Chef Tenants, on behalf of parishioners, for their generous donation.

Peter Le Cuirot invited questions from the floor for the Connétable to answer.

Mary Young requested clarification regarding Sandy Park's lease and the Government of Jersey. The Connétable explained that the Government of Jersey granted the Chef Tenants a one-year grace period in 2024, allowing the Chef Tenants sufficient time to make necessary preparations.

Roger Russ inquired who else will be party to the lease agreement. The Connétable confirmed that the other parties will be the Chef Tenants and the Receiver General.

Jane Simpson asked if the Parish could install disability-accessible equipment in the future. The Connétable said that he hopes to and enquiries have already been made by the Parish.

Mary Young referred to Peter Le Cuirot's comment regarding the condition of the equipment as being robust and said that two years ago the Department of Infrastructure advised that consultants from the UK confirmed that the equipment at Sandy Park was no longer fit for purpose. The Connétable replied that a local contractor was used to undertake the inspection of the park, as Jersey locals are fed up of UK contractors visiting the island and telling us what to do for a large expense. The Connétable stated that only the recommendations provided by the local contractor would be taken into account.

Charles Pinel questioned the ownership of the equipment in the park and who will be looking after the maintenance of the trees in the area. The Connétable said that the ownership of the equipment will be transferred to the new leaseholder upon signing and the Receiver General will assist with legal costs and maintenance of the trees, but there will be some cost to the Parish.

Marina Noel wished to make a brief statement and stated the following:

- With busy schedules it can be easy to overlook the importance of children spending time outdoors.
- Being outdoors encourages big movements that help children to gain strength, coordination and confidence such as running and climbing.
- Fresh air and open spaces are important for mental wellbeing.
- Outdoor play encourages communication and cooperation and is a social area for grandparents and friends.
- Outdoor play is not an extra in life, it's essential.

William O'Brien asked if Sandy Park is covered by the park policing legislation that allows the park to be policed due to misbehaving individuals and urged the Connétable to seek amendments to the

legislation so this does not just cover other park users. The Connétable replied that he is not sure but he will investigate. If the Parish does take on the lease for Sandy Park the Connétable would like to look into the issues and concerns of the residents in the area with regards to noise.

Katherine De La Mare advised that she is in full favour of the park staying open for everybody to use and referred to the matter regarding issues with children who are in the park during the evenings. Katherine De La Mare expressed that it is important to explore alternatives and what can be offered to older children so they don't feel that Sandy Park is their only option and she is very happy to help with that. The Connétable agreed and added that he is on the committee of the Gorey Youth Club who are continually exploring new ways to engage and entertain the younger generation.

Tracy Beal expressed that children need a safe space to play, however a billiard ball was thrown into her own garden, which almost hit her daughter and would have caused a serious injury. Tracy Beal urged the Parish to consider repositioning the park away from the nearby residents. The Connétable said that relocating the park may not stop antisocial behaviour, however he will ensure that policing of the park is increased.

A young parishioner spoke and said that the park is close by to children living in the area, which encourages people to walk rather than drive.

Diane Farrow mentioned that she is a resident near the park and has not encountered any significant issues, aside from the rare occasion involving older children causing disturbances and the Honorary Police were contacted. Diane Farrow mentioned that noise is to be expected by residents who have chosen to live near a park and children must be allowed to play.

Mark Houze referred to the insurance quote of £500 and asked if the Parish is confident that there is adequate cover within that and has advice been taken on the extent of liability required as accidents will happen in play parks. The Connétable replied that the Parish's insurers have confirmed that public liability coverage would extend to include the addition of Sandy Park, however the Parish is renegotiating the policy to obtain improved terms.

Nina Lodwick-Campbell explained Sandy Park is very special as Jersey does not have many parks placed in sand and relocating the park would make a big difference to some parents. The park allows for parents to conveniently monitor their children, even when they are engaged in different activities, such as one playing in the sand and another on the play equipment.

Mary Young advised that she is a resident near Sandy Park and used to enjoy watching children play in the park. However, since the COVID-19 pandemic, the park has seen increased usage and noise generated from the park is carried towards the nearby residents, causing disturbance. Mary Young said she has been liaising with relevant officials for four years and assured that the residents by Sandy Park have never requested that the park is closed but expressed that measures must be taken to mitigate the noise. There is an existing noise nuisance legislation in Jersey and if no solution is reached, the residents may be left with no alternative but to submit a formal complaint, potentially escalating the matter to court, which could result in the park's closure.

Patricia McKenna said that the park has been used by many children and it would be a shame if it were to close.

Hannah Maden Adams expressed concerns that is it not clear what the annual fees are going to be and asked how the Parish intends to spend the £15,000 donation. Hannah Maden Adams also referred to the Connétable's comment regarding UK citizens and commented that they do not come to Jersey to spend Jersey's money and to negatively impact the island. They are here because they want to help the Parish and the island. The Connétable replied to Hannah Maden Adams' comment and

	<p>advised that is not what he meant. Procureur du Bien Public, Chris Osgood replied to the questions and said that the Parish intends to create a reserve for Sandy Park for any eventualities. Chris Osgood explained that, based on approximately 15,000 quarters, this would result in an increase to the rate of around £5.70 per household.</p> <p>There were no further questions or comments taken.</p> <p>The Connétable asked for a proposer and seconder to allow the Parish to acquire the lease of Sandy Park and appear in the Royal Court to acquire said lease.</p> <p>Fraser Martin proposed and Marina Noel seconded. The Assembly voted by a show of hands with 197 votes in favour and 3 votes against.</p>
3. Meeting Closed	The Connétable closed the meeting at 19:52.