



OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

CHRISTMAS MEETING

OF CHIEF PLEAS

OF THE

ISLAND OF SARK

HANSARD

Assembly Room, Sark, Wednesday, 17th January 2024

*All published Official Reports can be found on the
official Island of Sark Chief Pleas website www.sarkgov.co.uk*

Volume 9, No. 1

Present:

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Maj. C M Beaumont Esq.

Speaker of Chief Pleas

P M Armorgie Esq.

Deputy Prévôt

J Godwin

Greffier

T J Hamon

Treasurer

S Hudson

Constable

C Turner

Assistant Constable

Jonathan Godwin

Conseillers:

Edric Baker MBE

Tony Le Lievre

Paul Williams

Kevin Delaney

Pippa Donovan

Jolie Booth

John Guille

Helen Plummer

Marcus Barker

Benjamin Harris

Christopher Bateson

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Christmas Meeting of Chief Pleas

Chief Pleas met at 5 p.m.

[THE SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

PRAYER

The Greffier

The Speaker: Thank you.

Good afternoon, and welcome to the Christmas Meeting of Chief Pleas. The media have asked to take a few photographs before we start the proceedings in proper, so we will crack on, if we may.

Greffier, the roll call, please.

ROLL CALL

The Greffier

The Greffier: There are 11 Conseillers, the Seigneur and the Speaker of Chief Pleas present.

The Speaker: Very good. Thank you, Greffier.

Apologies received

The Speaker: I would like to offer apologies at the start from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of Guernsey, who had hoped to be here this evening, but unfortunately he is not able to join us. But he does send his apologies.

We have also received apologies from Conseillers Miller, Makepeace, Kennedy-Barnard, Sullivan, Sandra Williams, who cannot be here this evening, either because they are absent from the Island or feeling under the weather.

Welcome to Deputy John Gollop

The Speaker: I would, however, like to make a very warm welcome to Deputy John Gollop. Welcome to you, sir. Deputy Gollop is a member of the Guernsey Policy & Resources Committee and the Acting Presiding Officer of the States of Deliberation and States of Election in Guernsey. And I think with responsibility for small Islands, I do believe.

Deputy Gollop: With Deputy Trott, as the Chief Minister. He's ... *[Inaudible]*

The Speaker: Very good. You are very welcome.

Deputy Gollop: Be pleased to meet people afterwards ... *[Inaudible]*

The Speaker: You are very welcome, Deputy Gollop.

**December general election –
Statement by the Speaker**

The Speaker: My second statement is to just take the opportunity to remind Conseillers and the Sark electorate that there will be a general election in Sark on Wednesday, 11th December 2024. Currently we have nine seats available to be filled. That may change, of course,
30 but currently it is nine seats available. I would encourage anyone who wishes to stand for election or to vote to register on the Sark electoral roll. Registration forms are available from the Greffier.

In the interests of our democracy and the principles of good governance, please register in good time and remember that if you do not register, you cannot vote and you cannot stand for election. So we are really encouraging people to put their name forwards, put themselves on the
35 electoral roll and have the opportunity both to vote and potentially stand for election.

STATEMENT

**Sark reserves –
Statement by Conseiller Plummer**

The Speaker: Before we proceed, I would just call on Conseiller Plummer, who has requested to make a short Statement.

Conseiller Plummer, thank you.

40 **Conseiller Plummer:** Thank you, sir.

It is about Sark reserves. I have made some enquiries. I would like to make a comment about the sum of money that Conseiller Ben Harris thought Chief Pleas in 2008 owned £6 million total reserves, including cash. I thought at the time that was incorrect, so I contacted the Treasurer, who gave me the figures as follows.

45 In 2008, the total reserves were £2.2 million, including cash of £1,063,352; 2022, total reserves, £3,343,392, including cash of £1,342,910. And that was the highest level in 14 years. In the interceding years we have weathered COVID, purchased two cranes, one road roller, built the Abattoir and also bought various pieces of equipment. I just wanted you all to be aware of the information.

50 Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Plummer.

**Procedural –
Electronic devices**

The Speaker: Before we press on with the Agenda this evening, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, I would remind everyone present that mobile phones, cameras, recording devices
55 and other electronic equipment must be switched off now, less for those allowed to Chief Pleas Members in accordance with Rule 18.

Business of the Day

1. Matters Arising from the Michaelmas Meeting held on the 4th of October 2023

The Speaker: So let's move on to Agenda Item 1, which is matters arising from the Michaelmas Meeting of Chief Pleas held on 4th October 2023. Does anyone have any points that they would like to raise from the Michaelmas Meeting of Chief Pleas from last October? Very good.

60 Thank you.

2. Questions not related to the Business of the Day – The two senior civil servant positions: Question by Conseiller Harris

The Speaker: In which case, we will move along to Agenda Item 2, which is Questions not related to the Business of the Day, and we have one Question this evening, which is from Conseiller Harris to Conseiller Guille, the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee.

Conseiller Harris, thank you.

65

Conseiller Harris: Thank you, sir.

I must also apologise for inadvertently misleading the House in the last session. That was a most unfortunate occurrence.

70 My question is, in light of Dianne Marshall's contract finishing at the end of next month, has P&F given any thought to succession planning? Given the fact that the two senior civil servant positions will both be vacant at the same time, and there would not be any handover period if Dianne leaves our employ, is the Committee seeking to retain her services for another 12 months?

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Harris.

75 Conseiller Guille.

Conseiller Guille: Yes, thank you, Conseiller Harris, for the Question.

This is probably something we would have liked to have got to earlier. It has been a pretty fragmented period over Christmas.

80 P&F met last night. We unanimously want to retain Mrs Marshall's services and representatives of P&F will be meeting with her to discuss that this week.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille, for confirming that. Very good.

**3. The Public Notaries (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2023 –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled ‘The Public Notaries (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2023’ and to approve the Projet entitled ‘The Public Notaries (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2023’.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves the draft Projet de Loi entitled ‘The Public Notaries (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2023’.

85 **The Speaker:** Let’s move on, please, to Agenda Item 3, which is to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled ‘The Public Notaries (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2023’ and to approve the Projet de Loi entitled the Public (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2023. I would like to ask Conseiller Guille to introduce the Report.

90 **Conseiller Guille:** Thank you, sir.
Can I pass this to Conseiller Baker, please?

The Speaker: Very good, yes.
Conseiller Baker, thank you.

95

Conseiller Baker MBE: Thank you very much.

I think all the relevant documentation is here, but I would point out one thing in the Law. Guernsey will have the power to make Ordinances on this Law, but they will have to consult the Policy and Finance Committee. That is usually the case with many of these laws. The actual public notorieties is a very essential part of the Island life. We need this, it is bringing it up to date and it is ticking all the boxes for the Islands, basically.

100

Thank you.

The Speaker: Very good. Thank you, Conseiller Baker.

105

Are there any questions or debate from the floor regarding the Projet that is before you and the Report from P&F? Any questions to Conseiller Baker?

Yes, Conseiller Marcus Barker.

Conseiller Barker: Yes, thank you, Mr Speaker.

110

Yes, I understand, it is really difficult when P&F get new legislation, with our small resources and being a very small community and a unique community, I understand it can be really hard to make decisions. So my question to P&F this evening is do they have all the support they actually need and do they require any more, when they get given new legislation to make or put through the House?

115

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Barker.
Conseiller Baker.

120

Conseiller Baker MBE: Yes, sir, I think we do. There is a very good connection with Guernsey and we are very happy that the Law Officers help us out when they can and as we have heard, we have got a very good secretary as well.

The Speaker: Very good. Thank you, Conseiller Baker.

125 Any other ...? Yes, Conseiller Guille, thank you.

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir.

130 I would just like to add to Conseiller Baker's comments. We have a very good relationship with the Bailiwick Law Officers and a good team here in Sark. I think sometimes, when we are looking at international legislation that applies to the whole Bailiwick, we could do with some more assistance from Guernsey and some better briefings on what are sometimes 200-page documents that land in our offices with a matter of weeks to go through them. I know this is a pressure felt by Alderney also, and I am sure it is a pressure felt by Deputies themselves in Guernsey.

135 So I think it is never a bad thing to ask for more assistance and more thorough briefings, etc., when it comes to those arduous pieces of legislation.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille.

Are there any other questions of Policy and Finance from other Conseillers from the floor? Very good.

140 In which case, thank you for presenting that Report and we will therefore go to the Proposition contained within the Report, which reads as follows: that Chief Pleas approves the draft Projet de Loi entitled the Public Notaries (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2023. Those in favour? Thank you. Those against? That is **carried**.

Thank you very much indeed. Excellent.

**4. Reinstatement of Finance & Resources Committee –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'Reinstatement of Finance & Resources Committee'.

Proposition 1:

That Chief Pleas approves the reinstatement of the Finance & Resource Committee and to instruct the Law Officers to make the necessary legislative changes.

145 **The Speaker:** Agenda Item 4, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled the 'Reinstatement of the Finance & Resources Committee'.
Conseiller Guille to introduce that Report. Thank you.

Conseiller Guille: Yes, sir. Thank you.

150 I will not read out the Report verbatim, but we had hoped, rather optimistically perhaps, to be bringing Propositions to this Meeting of Chief Pleas to resurrect the Finance and Resources Committee, because we recognised the excessive workload on P&F and the need to focus more effort in planning the budget for the Island, looking into the future especially. Unfortunately, that was not to be as the Law Officers advise us that it is a considerable chunk of work, more than resurrecting the *status quo* as it was back in 2018. And also, really, I think the crux of it is they are under a lot of pressure at the moment with the various preparations for Moneyval.

155 So this Report is really for debate to bring back to the House and for support for the Policy and Finance Committee to continue these efforts to reinstate a dedicated Finance Committee. We have got here in the Report, literally as an example, the previous mandates of the Committees from 2018. No thoughts on the future construct of the Committees are hard and fast, but the previous mandates do serve as a good template.

160

165 I do not think being a Member of both Committees should be ruled out and I also do not think, for our current numbers and pool of effort in Chief Pleas, that such things as, 'If you sit on the Finance Committee, you can't sit on any other Committee' would work either. But we very much welcome any debate, any thoughts from fellow Members of the House, and indeed from members of the public. We have had some useful comments so far, which are being factored into the thinking, but we would really welcome any further thoughts. So I leave this to my colleagues for any comments.

Thank you.

170

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille.

Are there any questions or debate from the floor to P&F regarding Agenda Item 4, the reinstatement of the Finance and Resources Committee? Any questions or queries to P&F? Nothing at all?

175

Oh, okay, Conseiller Baker to begin with.

Conseiller Baker MBE: Yes, sir. I echo what Conseiller Guille has said about not being able to serve on any other Committee. I was on the previous Policy and Finance Committee and ousted out because I wanted to stay with another Committee. So I know what it feels like. I do not think it worked then and it certainly will not work now.

180

The only other observation I would make is we have the Budget consideration at the Michaelmas Meeting. We do not have the Budget at Michaelmas Meeting, we have a Budget Meeting. So that would need to be changed, but that is the only thing I can see at the moment.

Thank you.

185

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Baker.

Do you want to come back on that one Conseiller Guille, or are you ...? No.

Conseiller Harris, I think you had your hand up.

190

Conseiller Harris: Thank you, sir.

I support this Proposition. I think it is a good idea for us to be able to have more focus on financial issues. I think that probably should be one of our core issues to contemplate going forward.

195

I know the Committee did have some submissions from members of the public, and I shall not mention any names, in case he does not want to be discussed here, but I know one of the suggestions was talking about possibly bringing a scrutiny aspect into the Finance Committee. I do not know if that is a natural place for it to fit or not, but I do know that a lot of people during the by-election I was elected were talking about scrutiny and scrutiny functions. I do not know if the Committee has given any consideration to that or, if they did, what they thought about it.

200

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Harris.

Would you like to come back on that one, Conseiller Guille? Thank you.

Conseiller Guille: Yes. Thank you, Conseiller Harris. That was a very useful email we had from a member of the public, and likewise, having not asked previous permission, I will not mention any names. But no, a very well-considered and useful email and I think the thoughts of the Committee are there is a recognised need to put a lot more effort into the planning of our finances and indeed the theory behind the Finance Committee was that the Special Tax Committee would be disbanded and absorbed into the Finance Committee, so this Committee could have a global view of things.

210

Certainly the feeling at the moment is that the scrutiny idea is incredibly valid, but our immediate problem is sorting out the finances and this new Committee should not be distracted from such an expansive remit as adding scrutiny of all the other Committees to it. Perhaps that is

215 better served, as it is in Guernsey, with an entirely separate Committee that just focuses on
scrutiny, but in terms of the immediate plans for a Finance Committee, I think we would be
dividing P&F into two, so that a Finance Committee can concentrate on finance, and then we
would be saddling them with a huge distraction in scrutiny and not getting to the core of the
immediate problem, which is more focus on the finances.

220 So that is certainly where my, and I think the rest of the Committee's thoughts are at the
moment, but we really did appreciate the well-considered input we had on that. I will leave it.

The Speaker: Very good. Thank you, Conseiller Guille.
Yes, Conseiller Donovan; thank you.

225 **Conseiller Donovan:** Thank you, sir.

I am fully supportive of this, and it is just worth mentioning, I think, that in the interim, as
Conseiller Guille said, we are not as far forward with this, for many reasons, as we hoped, we
thought we would be. But in the interim, with the focus on finances and forward planning as much
as practically possible with what we have, Policy and Finance will be inviting the Chairs of all other
230 Committees to attend a finance-focused meeting, finance-dedicated meeting, with the purpose
of forward planning. We hope that that would be once a quarter, but again, we are just going to
see how it goes and see the progress and change that accordingly.

235 But just to give assurance that finance and planning off the back of the November Budget
Meeting, and also concerns raised by people in the House and Islanders, that we are doing what
we can in this interim period until the two Committees can be formed formally.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Donovan.
Conseiller Barker; thank you.

240

Conseiller Barker: I will most definitely be supporting this Proposition. I am really encouraged
and pretty excited about it, actually, and I really hope it can help do some sound financial planning,
not only in the years to come, but even further than that, and maybe even help with controlling
our expenditure a little bit better.

245 Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Barker.

Does anyone else have any points or questions for the Policy and Finance Committee before
we go to the vote on the Proposition attached to this Report?

250 Conseiller Baker, thank you.

Conseiller Baker MBE: Yes, sir, just one thing I failed to mention, but it is understood in
conversation with our Civil Service, '*ex officio*' might be dropped in the future, because I believe
I am right in saying that it implies that the person has a right to vote in Committee and I do not
255 think it is desirable, really. So they are taking that into consideration anyway.

The Speaker: Very good. Thank you for confirming that, Conseiller Baker.

Once again, before we go to the vote on this, does anybody else have any points that they
would like to raise of the Policy and Finance Committee regarding this Report? No.

260 Therefore, we will go to the Proposition which reads as follows: that Chief Pleas approves the
reinstatement of the Finance and Resources Committee and to instruct the Law Officers to make
the necessary legislative changes. Those in favour? Thank you. Those against? **Carried.** Thank you
very much indeed. Very good.

**5. Sark Replacement Power System Update –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled ‘Sark Replacement Power System Update’.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas authorises those works and anticipated costs as outlined in this Report to progress to the generation and distribution system design phase work with IRL/Sancus Utilities.

265 **The Speaker:** Moving along, Agenda Item 5, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee, and indeed also the Future Energy (Special) Committee, which is not headed on the Report as it happens, but it is effectively a joint Report, albeit being led by the Policy and Finance Committee, entitled the ‘Sark Replacement Power System Upgrade’.

I would like to call on Conseiller Guille to introduce the Report, thank you. Conseiller Guille.

270 **Conseiller Guille:** Thank you, sir.

We have had some good briefings for Conseillers and we had a very well-attended and useful public meeting last week and also plenty of emails from the public going back and forth, and plenty of conversations between Conseillers. So I will not read out this Report verbatim and I will keep my introduction short, because I think it would be very useful to have questions and debate from the floor on this.

275 But I just want to set out, very clearly, what we are voting for here. Or rather, what we are not voting for. We are not voting for an £8.6 million spend. We are not voting for whether we have renewable electricity or diesel-powered electricity. We are not voting about the Island taking on debt. So we are voting about a crucial, detailed design phase, that this Chamber needs in order to inform those decisions down the line about the aforementioned major topics.

280 We cannot make any decisions, we cannot make any serious enquiries about finance until we have got some serious costings for this. And we cannot sit still. This is a topic which has been rumbling on in Sark, not just from 2018 and the threat to turn the power off to the Island, but from a long time before that. The lack of investment in infrastructure in the Island has been apparent for decades, some would say. We have had two independent reports, which have highlighted serious concerns in reliability, but most importantly, safety. I think the phrase has been used a number of times by several people, but we cannot simply do nothing.

285 Where we are with this Proposition, for this recommendation of two companies to proceed with, we are partway through a process which was started in October 2022 and it has taken that time to get to this situation. We had seven companies apply for this design-and-build tender. We shortlisted down to three and now we have got recommendations for what is one, but it is actually two companies; one to do the generation design and one to do the grid design. But they are in a partnership working together.

290 The three shortlisted companies all proposed a design phase because so far the figures we have are based on their propositions. None of these companies has been paid to do any work towards this. We cannot share all of the numbers for commercial confidentiality, but the other shortlisted companies, we are talking about £100,000 more for the design costs that were being proposed.

295 If we were to drop this now, then we cannot get away from the fact that a major upgrade/rebuild needs to happen to the electricity infrastructure in the Island. The generation side, which is generators which are twice past their overhaul life at the moment, causing the engineers a lot of stress just to keep these units running and keep the power on. But perhaps more worryingly the grid and the various safety implications which have been pointed out by professional reports and also recent events.

305 If we were to drop this now, we would have to revisit it down the line. And like I said, we have taken over a year to get to this point. It is not going to be a quick matter to re-engage somebody to do a design further down the line. Then the added ... not the added bonus, but the reason that we pursued this method in the first place of seeking companies to do a design and build is that that is a more pragmatic and more efficient way to do it.

310 What will happen if we approve this Proposition tonight is the first two or three weeks engaging this company will be about working with several commercial lawyers from the Bailiwick Law Officers, it will be working to agree the contractual terms, not just for the design, but also for the build as well. That is the advantage of engaging people for design and build is that you are not just engaging a company that will give you a design and then walk off into the distance.

315 These are the people who in the future, whatever we decide, what level of project we decide to go to, if we decide to go for all-renewable or if we decide to go diesel-only, these same companies are committed to deliver the build phase as well. And it means we can lock them into contractual obligations at the beginning of the design phase. So you can lock them into performance agreements, you can lock them into reliability agreements, you can lock them into late deliverable clauses. But it is a more efficient and a safer way to do it in terms of the funds that you are committing to it.

320 So I will open the floor up to questions, but I would just like colleagues to be aware of all the hard work that has gone into this, all the help that Communities for Renewables, as our consultants ... have also received a lot of help from Guernsey Electricity in reviewing the propositions and from energy people. Bill Slegg in particular is a friend of the Island and has done a lot of work for us in the past.

325 We have had a lot of opinions sent in to us, but I would urge fellow Conseillers to listen to the professional reports, to listen to the professional advice. The Propositions before you are recommendations, not just from Policy and Finance and from Future Energy, but it is from a range of professionals who have had experience in the sorry situation that Sark is facing. They have had experience in this for many years.

330 Like I said at the beginning, I hope we can move forward from this, for the security and the safety of all Islanders. I would like to open up the floor to questions, please.

335 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Guille, for that summary of the Report.

Clearly a critical report with a lot of connections attached to it and people will have attended the meeting last Wednesday to hear some more details. Can I open up to the floor with any questions for Policy and Finance, Conseiller Guille, regarding the report that you see before you? Any questions for Policy and Finance?

340 Conseiller Barker to begin with, followed by Conseiller Bateson, thank you.

Conseiller Barker: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

345 First of all, the reports and the consultations I thought have been extremely good. So well done to everybody involved. I am going to ask a question that Conseiller Guille has already answered, but for clarity I really do think I would like to ask it again. Could the cost of £175,000, which is nearly 20% of our reserves, be reduced if this was a generator-only option?

Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Barker.

350 Conseiller Guille, would you like to answer that question?

Conseiller Guille: Yes, sure.

355 I think what Conseiller Barker is asking, just to clarify, is he is saying that if on the generation side of the design, if we asked for a design that was for diesel generators only, would it reduce the cost? So out of the £175,000, £75,000 is on the grid design; £45,000 is on the generation design.

And the generation design is hard to break apart because the diesel generators are still going to need a lot of the same things as a renewable system would need. You are going to need your control systems, you are going to need your distribution board, you are going to need your power station building. And, arguably, if we are going to have a new design, then even if we do not go
360 for renewables at the start, would we not want the control systems, etc., to be able to accept renewables in the future?

So I have not got a figure for how much you could reduce that £45,000 by, but in the scheme of the £175,000 spend on the design effort as a whole, I think the House would be much better served, rather than saving, say, £10,000, by commissioning a design that is going to look at all the
365 options for the Island.

The whole idea behind renewables, as much as it is good for the environment and everything, the bottom line is it is to save money for the consumer, at the unit rate in the long run. So even if we cannot afford the capital to upgrade to renewables straight away, I think that needs to be factored into the design effort upfront.

I am sorry I cannot be any more clear on that, but I think any savings would be, out of that £45,000, you certainly would not be cutting it in half by going for that. So I think it is a false economy to try and save £10,000 on what we are talking about as a multi-million-pound project.
Thank you.

375 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Guille.
Conseiller Bateson, next, please. Thank you.

Conseiller Bateson: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Conseiller Guille has just effectively answered much of what I was going to ask. Can we make
380 sure, then, that when the report comes in, they do it in, say, four chunks – the generation; the grid; the solar; and that – so we can have ...? You obviously have some figures there, which I do not think I have seen, but anyway, if we could have it so it was itemised and then we can make a choice of what we can afford or what we prefer.

385 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Bateson.
Conseiller Guille, do you want to come back on that?
Thank you.

Conseiller Guille: Yes, thank you very much, Conseiller Bateson.

I hope I can get across that that really is the whole point of this design process. It is being able
390 to inform us of what we can afford. We are not standing here to make a decision that we can afford £8 million. We are just standing here to make a decision to go out to experts and commission a piece of work which will tell us what we can afford and it will also tell those bodies, those institutions, whatever, who are lending us money, it will tell *them* what we can afford.

I just digress on to that as well, because I think a lot of the worry in the Island has come from, despite a couple of examples in here, how the cost of electricity would be affordable, a lot of the concern and the fear amongst Islanders has come from this is something we cannot afford. I would like to try and pose this in another way. It is something we cannot afford, and we are going to be left with a turkey that will bankrupt the Island. Well, I would like to pose it this way: we are never
400 going to be able to buy that turkey. If the business case for this does not stack up, then we are not going to find anybody who will lend us the money to start this project in the first place.

And in order for a business case to stack up, to be put in front of financiers, we need some solid figures from a paid-for design effort. So this is the first step on the way to finding out, exactly as you put it, Conseiller Bateson, what we can afford. I think that is a crucial point that we need
405 to remember.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille.

Does anyone else have any questions for Policy and Finance from the floor?

410 Conseiller Harris; thank you.

Conseiller Harris: Thank you, sir.

Just picking up on that last point, am I correct in understanding from the public meeting – I was not there – there may be the possibility of borrowing the funds from the Guernsey Bailiwick Bond? That there was some ...? Or have I misunderstood; has somebody misinformed me on that?

415

The Speaker: Conseiller Guille, thank you.

Conseiller Guille: Yes, the Bailiwick Bond is something that we have made initial enquiries about and there is an infrastructure section to the bond specifically for Bailiwick projects like this, and we are very much in a chicken-and-egg situation. We need firmer costings. Like I said, all these costings so far are based on work that has been performed for free for the Island in the tender process. We have had positive conversations about the Bailiwick Bond and we have made enquiries to the UK as well in initial stages about what lending or grants might be available. But until we are able to present a serious business case, I am afraid those conversations cannot go any further.

420

425

I did mention earlier that this project is designed to be self-funding from the unit price that consumers pay on their electricity. It is the only way to make it sustainable for future generations. But this initial spend, what we have spent so far and the spend on the detailed design work, has to come out of Chief Pleas' reserves. But it is intended this will be included in the overall project costings, so when we come to borrow to fund whatever project we go down the road with, these funds will be paid back into Chief Pleas' reserves for this design exercise.

430

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille.

Conseiller Harris again; thank you.

435

Conseiller Harris: Thank you, sir.

My concern would be that there is a big difference between potentially 7% from a commercial lender and maybe 3¼%/3½% with support from our friends and neighbours in Guernsey. It is a bit of a dilemma, isn't it? I do not want to vote for this, but I am going to because I do not think there is really any other alternative.

440

However, having said that, some things I agree with Conseiller Guille about: it is not about cheap electricity. There is not a cheap electricity future for the Island, I do not think, but it is about sustainability. Clearly we do need to do something. Conseiller Guille made the point to me before this meeting, actually: I was thinking about two forms of sustainability, although he was quite correct to say there are three actually. Certainly the two I was thinking of are energy security, but also financial security. But of course there is the safety leg as well, which he quite correctly points out.

445

I was gratified to hear that we will have the option for a generator-only option. I am not committed to that at all. I do not have some irrational prejudice against wind energy. I am concerned about the capital expense, because of course the variability is if you are buying diesel, at least you are paying it out of current funds, whereas if you are spending a lot upfront to get the zero variability cost of a wind turbine or a solar field, obviously that becomes borrowing.

450

So I am hopeful that we will have some very granular details in terms of what the borrowing amounts might be and costs and thinking about the costs to the electricity generator, but also Chief Pleas potentially in terms of ... I understand that the idea is that it will be revenue neutral for Chief Pleas and the plan is great, if it works. It is great, but my concern is that it could easily end up being more to be spent than £8.6 million. Obviously we have to wait and find out that.

455

460 But if it does go up, that is why I think we need to be thinking about maybe generators only,
because if the amount of capital to be spent goes up significantly, then obviously that changes
the ... I am sure you all see my point. I am not being very erudite about it, but it changes the
equation, shall we say.

465 I do think we should do it purely based on what is a reasonable financial basis. I am not biased
in favour or against the renewable aspects, but I am concerned by the upfront capital cost. I think
in a world where China is turning out new coal power stations every week, we can *not* worry too
much about the ideological or the ethical side of it. And I think we should remember that we are
a poor place and that cost of capital is important. I could easily foresee a situation where if the
cost of this was very significant, and we decided we wanted to go down a more capital-intensive
route, that it might not be payable out of electricity fees. Would people accept 80 pence,
470 90 pence, a pound on electricity? I do not know.

So I could foresee a situation where we do have to borrow, but I hope we can avoid that by
really paring it down and sticking to the costs. And I would hope that that would be a key agenda
here: to avoid Chief Pleas taking on debt itself. I think that is probably all I have to say about it and
I want to say thank you to Conseiller Guille for ... I had a series of questions I asked him about the
practicalities of it and he was very helpful in providing me with a better understanding of the
475 project. So I appreciate that.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Harris.

480 Has anybody else got any questions? Very good. Okay. So Conseiller Delaney first, followed by
Conseiller Bateson, followed by Conseiller Barker. Thank you.

Conseiller Delaney; thank you.

Conseiller Delaney: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

485 When I first read this Report, I immediately determined that I would be supporting the Report
and the Proposition, should I say, not because we are left with no alternative, but because it is
exactly what we should be doing at this moment in time. I had not prepared a long statement this
evening, because I had belief that Policy and Finance, and in particular Conseiller Guille, would
probably cover most of the issues, questions, that I might have, and he has certainly done that.
I have heard nothing this evening to make me change my mind on my first reading of the Report
490 and Proposition.

If I may, I perhaps have a little experience in commissioning multi-million-pound projects over
the years. An observation is I think at £175,000 for the design, that is an incredibly modest fee. So
I think, from my own position, from a professional position looking at this, if I was out shopping
for a design fee for a project of this size, and I was quoted that figure, I would be pretty happy.

495 I have nothing more to add than that, apart from the fact that Conseiller Guille has articulated
exactly where we are. We are not voting to go off and spend money, we are not voting on whether
we will have this item from the smorgasbord, or that item, that item ... We have to have this to
get ourselves in a position where we can make an informed, evidence-based decision on how we
go forward.

500 Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Delaney.

Conseiller Guille, do you want to come back on that point or should we go to more questions?
Yes, sure.

505 Conseiller Bateson, next, please; thank you.

Conseiller Bateson: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

510 Unlike Conseiller Delaney, I was against it from the start, this. Now I have found that we will
have a certain amount of choice in what we are going to end up with – I had the impression it was
all designed and that is what we were going to get – I am softening to it. My big worry is I get the

impression we owning our own generating station, requires to be the sole one. There is not room on the Island for two companies generating electricity.

515 So I want to know what P&F will do about SEL, because I do not see that it works, if we have got two suppliers on the Island. Because then the costs will go up, and the costs of fuel will go up ... not the cost of fuel, the cost of the electric, because if it is shared between two suppliers.

The Speaker: Very good. Thank you, Conseiller Bateson.
Would you like to answer that question, Conseiller Guille?

520 **Conseiller Guille:** Yes. Thank you very much, Conseiller Bateson. It is obviously a very pertinent question that came up at the public meeting last Wednesday as well.

525 I cannot envisage that we will ever have two electricity suppliers at the same time. As stated repeatedly over the last few years, Chief Pleas is very willing to reopen negotiations with Sark Electricity about purchasing assets at a fair price. If you remember, we put a lot of effort down that route several years ago, we had Andrew Ozanne acting as a mediator in negotiations. But unfortunately, we were not able to get across a couple of barriers, such as a £2.7-million, I think, asking price and we could not find sufficient proof of ownership of the company. But we are very willing to open those negotiations again and we have also got the option of compulsory purchase available to the House, which was very sensibly passed a number of years ago.

530 As the Price Commissioner pointed out last week, the Island cannot support two electricity suppliers. He also pointed out how the price at the moment is artificially low just due to a chronic lack of investment in basic maintenance or rectifying the numerous safety and reliability issues that have been highlighted again and again.

535 So no, I do not think we will ever reach a point of two suppliers. I think it will be resolved a long time before that. But we are some distance away from beginning to supply electricity ourselves. I think once our plan becomes clearer, or our options become clearer, we can start those discussions again about purchasing Sark Electricity.

540 In fact, I think this question was put to me yesterday. Someone said, 'Well, shouldn't we just purchase Sark Electricity and upgrade their infrastructure?' I said you cannot tell how much would be reasonable for the Island to pay for Sark Electricity until we know how much a future safe and modern system is going to cost the Island. These things are all interlinked and we need to get some data points in our hands to inform what size project to do, to inform how much it is worth paying for the current assets. So yes, I think we just really need to push ahead and get the information in front of us to be able to make these big decisions going forward.

545 Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille.
Conseiller Baker, you were next; thank you.

550 **Conseiller Barker:** Yes, thank you, Mr Speaker.

Conseiller Guille has actually answered pretty much my first question. My first question was directed to him and it was pretty much would the door be open for SEL to sit down with the Policy and Finance Committee and maybe, if they so wish, even sit at the negotiation table?

555 My second question, Mr Speaker, and I have to apologise for this in advance to Conseiller Delaney, and if you will allow this question, it is about the power station. So my question is actually for Conseiller Delaney. I do not know, I only hear what I hear, but I believe there is only six years lease on it, but that is just Sark rumour, and for obvious reasons I would like to ask Conseiller Delaney, if he so wishes to answer – I would understand if he does not – what is the situation on the future of the power station, the lease and what are the future options?

560 Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Barker.

That is clearly a commercial question, which is potentially sensitive. I will direct that to
565 Conseiller Delaney, but he may well decline not to answer it and I quite understand the reasons
why. (**Conseiller Barker:** I understand.) So Conseiller Delaney, are you prepared to answer that
question or would you prefer not to?

Conseiller Delaney: Mr Speaker, I can answer just one aspect that would be in the public
570 domain anyway, were someone to come to the Greffe Office and check. Conseiller Barker is
correct in saying the current lease runs I believe until 2030. So there are six years. I do not see any
conflict of interest or any issues around just confirming what anybody could find out. So I am quite
happy to confirm, yes.

The Speaker: Very good, thank you.
575 Does that answer your question, Conseiller Barker? Thank you.

Conseiller Barker: Yes, thank you, and I apologise for that hospital pass.

The Speaker: No, we had to go down that route, and I am grateful for the question being placed
580 and answered correctly. Thank you.
Conseiller Guille, would you like to add anything to that?
Before we go ... Conseiller Donovan; thank you.

Conseiller Donovan: Thank you, sir.
585 I was not going to say anything because, again, I am fully supportive of this, but I would just
like to echo in particular Conseiller Delaney's points about this £175,000. It effectively is a sort of
architectural design, designed as part of a percentage of a larger project and build is, I believe,
very reasonable in terms of what we are getting, which is to give us our options and to arm us
with that knowledge and information that we need to be able to make the right decision.

590 And again, the overwhelming theme running through any feedback, either through
conversations that I have had or listening and reading emails that we have had from fellow
Conseillers and the public, is that they trust that we will do the right thing this evening. And the
right thing for Sark, the right thing now and right thing in the future, so that there is a future for
Sark, I believe that spending this money now is the considered, professional and responsible way
595 forward in our approach to this and I absolutely urge everybody to support this and do the
right thing.
Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Donovan. Thank you very much.
600 Would anyone else like to ask any further questions of P&F before we ask Conseiller Guille to
sum up?
Conseiller Guille, thank you.

Conseiller Guille: Yes, I would just like to say, sir, I think it is probably on something of this
605 magnitude, a named vote might be the order of the day on this. And I would just ask any Conseiller
who is thinking of voting against this Proposition, please, before the vote, give your reasons, ask
any questions. Just give your reasons and ask any questions so they can hopefully be answered
and it can be subject to debate in the House. I think it is useful to have every concern raised at
this time.
610 Thank you.

The Speaker: Very good. Thank you, Conseiller Guille.
Conseiller Harris, thank you.

615 **Conseiller Harris:** Sorry, sir, I personally will be voting in favour of this, but I think there are
Members in here who want to vote against it. That is entirely a matter for them and I do not think
they should be pressured into giving reasons or asking questions at this point. It is not
parliamentary to expect people to give some kind of justification for their vote and I think we
should be very clear about that, sir.

620

The Speaker: Okay. I take your point, Conseiller Harris, but Conseiller Guille has made a point.
Conseiller Guille, would you like to come back on that?

625 **Conseiller Guille:** Well, we are here representing the people of Sark who have elected us.
I think the people of Sark need to know our reasoning behind the decisions we make in this House.
So I do not think it is acceptable to remain silent.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille.
Conseiller Baker; thank you.

630

Conseiller Baker MBE: Yes, sir.

I had until very recently decided that I would vote against this Proposition. After a very long
P&F meeting last evening, and dozens and dozens of emails that have come through, and with the
security issue involved in this, I will be supporting this Proposition. It is probably one of the hardest
635 decisions I have ever had to make in Chief Pleas, but I will be supporting it.

The Speaker: Yes. Thank you, Conseiller Baker.

Before we go to a named vote on this, does anyone have any further questions that they would
like to put to P&F regarding this, before I ask Conseiller Guille to sum up? Any further questions
640 that you would like to ask; this very critical report?

In which case I will ask Conseiller Guille to sum up, if I may, please.

645 **Conseiller Guille:** I thank fellow Conseillers for the questions and for the informed debate on
this subject. And once again, I would just like to reiterate, this is not the beginning of the process,
this is something we started in October 2022, but this is not a final decision what money the Island
will be spending and what shape our new electricity system will be. But this is a crucial step
towards securing Sark's future. If we do not have electricity, we do not have water and we do not
have businesses and we do not have a tourism industry.

I would just like to encourage everybody to support this, please.

650

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille.

Okay, a very interesting debate and report, very critical. So I will read out the Proposition and
then we will go to a named vote. If you are in favour, please vote pour; and if you are against the
Proposition, please clearly vote contre.

655 So therefore the Proposition reads as follows: that Chief Pleas authorises those works and
anticipated costs as outlined in this Report to progress to the generation and distribution system
design phase work with IRL and Sancus Utilities. That is the Proposition.

Greffier, thank you.

There was a named vote.

Carried – Pour 10, Contre 0, No Vote 1

POUR

Conseiller Edric Baker MBE
Conseiller Tony Le Lievre
Conseiller Paul Williams
Conseiller Kevin Delaney
Conseiller Pippa Donovan
Conseiller Jolie Booth
Conseiller John Guille
Conseiller Helen Plummer
Conseiller Marcus Barker
Conseiller Christopher Bateson

CONTRE

None

NO VOTE

Conseiller Benjamin Harris

660 **The Speaker:** Thank you for that. We have 10 votes pour, 1 no vote, so that Proposition is **carried**. Thank you very much indeed.

**6. Rubbish/Recycling and Sewage Charges –
Douzaine Report considered –
Propositions carried**

To consider a Report with Propositions from the Douzaine entitled ‘Rubbish/Recycling and Sewage Charges’.

Proposition 1:

That Chief Pleas approves the increase to the Sark Public Works charge for the Rubbish/Recycling collection to £109.60 per person, per year (£27.40 per quarter).

Proposition 2:

That Chief Pleas approves the increase to the Sark Public Works charge for the sewage collection to £22.67 per load.

Proposition 3:

That Chief Pleas approves the increase to the Sark Public Works charges for the commercial rubbish collection, by the 23.4%.

The Speaker: We will move on to the next Agenda Item. Agenda Item 6 is to consider a Report with Propositions from the Douzaine entitled ‘Rubbish/Recycling and Sewage Charges’.

In the absence of Conseiller Makepeace, I would like to ask the Deputy Chair of the Douzaine, Conseiller Bateson, to introduce the Report.

665 Conseiller Bateson, thank you.

Conseiller Bateson: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

670 I think the Report is self-explanatory. I will point out it is something like five years since these prices have been looked at, so it does seem a very large jump in one go. It would have been better if it was done on an annual basis this and it would not be quite as noticeable to people.

The other thing I will point out is the commercial rubbish charges are still under review, they are still on the agenda of the Douzaine, and when we have sorted out what we are going to do, we shall bring it back to Chief Pleas. So the changes under the commercial things in this Report are only a temporary measure until we have established something better.

675

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Bateson.

Does anyone have any questions or debate of the Douzaine regarding the Report that you have before you? Any questions or debate on the Report? Conseiller Delaney, you are first, sir, followed by Conseiller Donovan, thank you.

680 Conseiller Delaney.

Conseiller Delaney: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I would just echo Conseiller Bateson's observations about leaving charges, taxes, whatever – charges in this instance, but I would include taxes as well – and not increasing them with inflation on a yearly basis. The old adage that it is much better to take the tablets one at a time than have to take a whole in one fell swoop.

685 So I just really would take that opportunity to echo that observation: that I think we really should, where we have got charges in place, where we have taxes in place for that matter, move them up with inflation on an annual basis.

690 Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Delaney.

I think Conseiller Guille, Conseiller Donovan ... Conseiller Donovan first, I think, followed by Conseiller Guille.

695 Thank you.

Conseiller Donovan: Thank you, sir.

I half-understand the reasons for doing it and then the other part of me, probably quite facetiously, thinks we are just putting them up for the sake of putting them up and saying, 'Well, we haven't put them up for a while so we *can* put them up.' I am a bit disappointed in the overall lack of future planning and reasoning. If there was a direct link perhaps in saying there is an increase of, for example, £5, and this is because of X, Y, Z and this is what we are doing to improve our operational efficiencies within Public Works or within recycling, then I would be more supportive.

700 As it stands, I am on the fence about this, which is why I am saying something, because I too think it is important to say how you are feeling about it, and the reasons for either not being sure or which way you are voting. But it would be useful to have a little bit more context around the operational reasons rather than just hoping that we can get it in under RPI reasoning and hope that it gets passed.

705 I think it was Conseiller Harris who said this in the November Budget Meeting about looking really closely at our expenditure, rather than just keeping putting prices up. This is a small example of that and I think if this happened marginally across everywhere, then of course it creates a much bigger problem in terms of the expenditure in terms of where we are. So I am not sure it is a question *per se*, but any information from the Douzaine would be welcomed on that.

710 Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Donovan.

Conseiller Guille, you had your hand up I think. We will come to questions in a second I think. Conseiller Guille, thank you.

720

Conseiller Guille: Yes, thank you, sir.

Thank you, Conseiller Bateson, for the Report. Your last comment, I was happy to hear that you are looking at the commercial rubbish charges in more detail. I have had several builders and other tradesmen who do work both in Sark and in Guernsey commenting how it is cheaper to dispose of commercial rubbish over here, where Sark also has the added cost of then getting it from Sark to Guernsey.

725 So I know this is an inherited problem, but I would be really interested to see the further work that you can do on commercial rubbish charges and I think everything needs to be looked at in a

730 whole, obviously. But when you have even got the tradesmen themselves saying that they are not being charged enough, I think there is definitely some scope to look at the system.

And, in fact, I would encourage the Douzaine to reach out to some of these tradesmen on the Island. I have had some very useful conversations from individuals and I have really encouraged and tried to steer them towards the Douzaine. Sark people are very good at dealing with the practical problems in front of them and I am sure there are a lot of useful ideas out there.

735 Someone was talking to me about the billing and the notebook down the tip. I said what a burden it is to administrate and everything, they said, 'Well, put a card machine down the tip, you pay for it as you dump it' and then there are no bills that need to be sent out by the Office, there are no checks you need to make of have payments come through. To me, that was just a typically pragmatic Sark response: unless you have got a card with you and you pay for it, you do not
740 dump it.

So I do not know if a workshop or appealing to individuals or whatever might be the idea, but there are people out there who want to try and help improve things and I would encourage the Douzaine to take advantage of that, please.

Thank you.

745

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille.

Before I come back to Conseiller Bateson, Conseiller Barker next, please.

Conseiller Barker: Yes, thank you, Mr Speaker.

750

The Douzaine Committee has a lot of recent new Conseillers on it and I can assure Conseiller Guille that everything he has just said is under way and we are trying really hard to push this forward as best we can. The agenda for tomorrow was released last week, and on Monday this week we actually added on pretty much a lot of what Conseiller Guille was saying about the commercial. So it is on; we are on it.

755

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Baker.

Conseiller Bateson, would you like to come back on any of those points?

Conseiller Bateson: No, thank you.

760

The Speaker: No. Okay. Does anyone else have any questions they would like to ask of the Douzaine with regard to this Report before we go to the Propositions? No.

In which case I will just finally come to Conseiller Bateson and say do you wish to sum up or do you want to go straight to the Propositions?

765

Conseiller Bateson: Go straight to the Propositions, please.

The Speaker: Very good. Okay. If nobody has any further questions for the Douzaine, then we will do just that. There are three Propositions before you and therefore Proposition 1 is that Chief Pleas approves the increase to the Sark Public Works charge for the rubbish/recycling collection to £109.60 per person, per year – and that equates to £27.40 per quarter. Those in favour? Thank you. Those against? **Carried.** Thank you.

770

Proposition 2: that Chief Pleas approves the increase to the Sark Public Works charge for the sewage collection to £22.67 per load. Those in favour? Thank you. Those against? Thank you.

775

Carried.

And finally on this report, Proposition 3: that Chief Pleas approves the increases to the Sark Public Works charges for the commercial rubbish collection by the 23.4%. Those in favour? Thank you. Those against? **Carried.** Thank you. All three of those Propositions are carried.

Thank you for your debate and input on that. I am sure the Douzaine will take on board all
780 those comments.

**7. Changes to Education Committee Mandate –
Education Committee Report considered –
Propositions carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Education Committee entitled ‘Changes to Education Committee Mandate’.

Proposition 1:

That Chief Pleas approves the Education Committee to comprise of five serving Conseillers.

Proposition 2:

That Chief Pleas approves the amended Education Committee Mandate, as attached.

The Speaker: Moving along to Agenda Item 7, to consider a Report with Propositions from the Education Committee entitled ‘Changes to Education Committee Mandate’ and I would like to ask Conseiller Booth to introduce the Report.

Thank you.

785

Conseiller Booth: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

So yes, we have been struggling to meet in quorate for the Education Committee, so we would request that we can increase our members from four to five. So that is the first Proposition.

790 The second one is to echo what Conseiller Baker said: that we want to remove where it says ‘*ex officio*’, because it does legally mean that under legislation they would have a vote. So I would urge all of the other Committees to look at their mandates and remove it from theirs as well.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Very good. Thank you, Conseiller Booth.

795 Does anyone have any questions of Conseiller Booth and the Education Committee regarding this Agenda Item, the changes to the Education Committee Mandate? Any questions?

Conseiller Donovan; thank you.

Conseiller Donovan: Thank you, sir.

800 I am supportive of Proposition 1, and I think I just need a bit of clarification from a Proposition 2 perspective. I understand that presumably if someone is *ex officio* on the Committee and is there for their skills, expertise, knowledge, previous history, information, why would you not want them to vote on important matters, presumably, that the Committee is dealing with? If they have had the input towards discussion and information, I would just be curious as to why you would not want their voting input on those key points.

805

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Donovan.

That is a question for yourself, Conseiller Booth.

810

Conseiller Booth: Yes. So it is a legal term, they are not voted in. In theory, they could outvote the Conseillers who are voted in. They would actually make it quorate by being there. It means they are non-elected members, it is just a legal term. So they can be non-elected Committee members, we would still have their input, but at the moment the term that we are using legally means that they actually have a vote and they have not been voted in. So it is just a term that we should not be using.

815

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Booth.

Are there any other questions for the Education Committee regarding this proposal?

820 Conseiller Baker; thank you.

Conseiller Baker MBE: Yes. Just a bit of clarification. I think if you have got co-opted Members of the Committee, they are co-opted for their expertise, as we have at the moment with an ex-teacher, but she is not *ex officio*.

825 Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Baker. Would you like to come back on that, Conseiller Booth? (**Conseiller Booth:** Just agree.) Yes; accept that. (**Conseiller Booth:** Yes.) Okay. There we have it. Are there any other further questions or debate on this Report?

830 In which case, let's go to the two Propositions before you. Proposition 1 reads that Chief Pleas approves the Education Committee to comprise of five serving Conseillers. Those in favour? Very good. Thank you. Those against? **Carried.** Thank you.

835 Proposition 2: that Chief Pleas approves the amended Education Committee Mandate as was attached. Those in favour? Thank you. Very good. Those against? **Carried.** Thank you. Both those Propositions are carried. Thank you very much indeed. Very good.

**8. Progress Report –
Taxation Review (Special) Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Taxation Review (Special) Committee entitled 'Progress Report'.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves the Taxation Review (Special) Committee undertaking a public consultation seeking comment on the proposal presented in this report and inviting further input from the people of Sark.

The Speaker: Let us now come to Agenda Item 8, which is to consider a Report with Proposition from the Taxation Review (Special) Committee with a Proposition entitled 'Progress Report' and I would ask Conseiller Delaney to introduce the Report.

Thank you.

840

Conseiller Delaney: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

845 This is what it says at the top of the page. It is a progress report, with the desired outcome that we get the support of the House, and we acknowledge we do not have to have it, but we would like to feel the House is behind us, to go out for, at this stage of our work, public consultation. We have done a fair bit of what I might call the grind action and I do not think there is anything to be gained by me going through on a line by line of the Report itself. I would imagine most people in the room have read it.

850 We have had some input from the public so far, some very valuable input, and one might say on covering both sides of the spectrum. People who are very supportive, 'Yes, we need to get in, we need to start moving towards getting a report into Policy and Finance, so that then they can come to Chief Pleas with any one or all of the suggestions that go forward to them.' And then the other end of the spectrum, we have had representation saying, 'But we have a perfectly adequate tax system in place at the moment, why do we need to do anything else?'

855 This is a very important, very fundamental part of Chief Pleas' planning for the future. And at the danger of repeating myself, we do believe now we would like to go out for a good public consultation. I would hope we would get some comments perhaps from the floor of the House,

860 to give some indication. As I said, we have been getting something in from the public; not a lot. What we have had has been good, it has been valuable and it has been very much appreciated and we are very grateful for it, but we really need to mobilise and get a considerable input from the public now, so we can progress our work.

But I think it might be helpful if people would like to make any suggestions from the floor of the House on what is in the Report, or anything they feel we might have missed, or anything they feel perhaps should not be in there.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

865

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Delaney.

870 So there you have it: a request, please, any comments or debate from Conseillers regarding the Taxation Review (Special) Committee Report, Progress Report, that you have before you. Now is your opportunity to ask the Committee any questions that you might have. Does anyone have any questions they would like to ask Conseiller Delaney?

Conseiller Booth; thank you.

Conseiller Booth: This is more just an observation, and it was coming from looking at my circumstances when looking at what these situations would be.

875 With the Sark Personal Tax, number 2, because I am fully in support of us bringing in more revenue through taxes, we need to look at how we do this, and I thought loads of the ideas here were brilliant and I do support what you are doing here. In respect of a Sark resident who spends more than 270 days, but more than 180 days in Sark in the year, then the Minimum Personal Tax would be increased five times. I am a low earner, but I work in theatre, and that means that I am
880 out of Sark for quite big chunks of time. I would not be able to afford that tax. So I would have to choose leaving here or giving up my career.

885 So that is something to flag up and it just made me think about people who are Sark residents who live here, but who are seasonal workers and go away snowboarding in the winter or something like that, that actually that would put them over the tipping point as well, because I am not away that much, so it was quite a low number for us to then go up that high. So I just wanted to flag that up.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Booth.

890 Conseiller Delaney, would you like to come back on that particular question?

895 **Conseiller Delaney:** Only to thank Conseiller Booth and to just state this is exactly the kind of input we are looking for. (**The Speaker:** Very good.) And if do not get too much coming back from the House, I would ask Members of the House to please do go out, preach the gospel that we need input on this. And, as I said, each individual item will have things that have not been considered. We have done our best to consider them. There is a prime example of another level of thinking that needs to happen around one of the Propositions on there.

Thank you.

900 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Delaney.

Conseiller Harris, thank you.

905 **Conseiller Harris:** Thank you, sir; and I would like to thank Conseiller Delaney and the Committee for putting in all their hard work into this. Certainly overdue time for some tax reform and I think that is good work well done.

I know the Committee has proposed these options without prejudice, as it were. They have not said which ones they support and which ones they do not. I think lots of them are a good idea. I would, however, like to echo Conseiller Booth's comments. I have been asked by more than a

910 couple of residents to comment on the Personal Tax suggestions here. I think that there are people in the Island who are quite scared of this proposal.

I do not think it necessarily sits within the consensus traditions of Sark. Many people have said to me that they feel it is quite immoderate. I understand what is trying to be done here and I do not oppose the principle of trying to encourage people to spend more time in Sark and indeed to get some more money from those who might be more here in the breach, rather than in actuality, shall we say.

915 So I would support that, but I would prefer a more measured approach. Somebody suggested to me that we could make a charge for TIN numbers for people who are not here very often, if they cannot prove that they are around that much. Or my personal preference might be for a single change, to say that taxpayers who cannot prove 100 days on Island, should pay, I think we should start off quite moderately, actually, maybe five times the minimum amount, because we do not know what the economic consequences of these sorts of proposals are.

920 We have got a drop in population. I think that is clear. You just look around the Island, the population has dropped over the last 18 months, and I think a measure like this might perhaps encourage some people to move away. It is quite laborious to demand that people spend nine months of the year on Island, otherwise they might have to pay more tax.

925 We should remember, of course, actually, that this is the minimum amount. So many people, if they are paying their tax properly – and that is *another* question that I think perhaps we should give some thought to, is if you have over £130,000 in assets, you should be paying more than £525 anyway.

930 So on the face of it, this proposal affects people without assets. It affects those officially who are poorer. Whether people are paying exactly what they are meant to pay is a different question and maybe we should look at that. I think we should, actually. But this is maybe not the right way to go about this and I think it is immoderate. And I wanted to reassure people in the Island who might be listening to this that I have faith in this House, actually, in that I do not think we will make precipitate decisions, and I think it is unlikely that we would pass a measure like that. So I just wanted to reassure people.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Harris.

940 Conseiller Delaney, would you like to respond to that or should we take some more questions? *(Interjection by Conseiller Delaney)* Yes, very good. We will store that question for the time being.

Conseiller Booth first, followed by Conseiller Le Lievre, thank you.

Conseiller Booth.

945 **Conseiller Booth:** Yes. I just wanted to flag up as well that in the UK, because I am a low earner and I have to pay tax in the UK as well, because my income mainly comes from the UK, the cap on being under £15,000 changes each year, but is like £535. So it is just to point out that I know we do not do income tax, but those on low incomes in the UK only pay as much tax as what we are at. So if we started increasing it for our low earners on the Island, then that is going over what they do in the UK, and that is a lot. It is a lot for people to be able to afford and I think people would leave.

The Speaker: Right. Thank you, Conseiller Booth.

Conseiller Le Lievre; Thank you.

955 **Conseiller Le Lievre:** Thank you, sir.

This is more of a comment on taxes rather than a debate about what has been proposed. On the subject of raising taxes for the Island, we all understand the need to raise taxes for the upkeep of services for Sark, and I appreciate that those taxes do need to keep pace with the increasing cost and the dreaded inflation that plagues us all too often.

960 What I think we should also be very mindful of is that increasing cost and inflation also apply to those who are being taxed. Whilst we think of the Government purse keeping up with the fiscal demands of running our Island, we must put into place the opportunity for the taxpayer to earn more money to actually pay the increased taxes. That, in my opinion, is equally as important as looking after the Government purse.

965 We need an economic strategy that will increase the opportunities for our businesses to themselves increase their prosperity. First on the list of opportunities must be the long-sought-after implementation of a port of entry for Sark to enable the direct international arrivals and departures at our Harbour. If it is in our interest to raise taxes to keep up with the ever-changing world economy, then it must surely also be in our interest to help our economy thrive in order to pay those taxes.

970

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Le Lievre.

Conseiller Delaney, would you like to come back on any of those points? Sorry, Conseiller Barker. Just one second, Conseiller Delaney. Conseiller Barker, do you want to ...? Take another question, Conseiller Delaney, and we will come to yourself. Thank you.

975

Conseiller Barker; thank you.

Conseiller Barker: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I will make it really quick, actually. Really interesting by Conseiller Le Lievre there – *really* interesting, actually – and I will just finish off on the more we can focus on having more residents here, the more taxes will come in.

980

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Barker.

Sorry, before I come to Conseiller Delaney, Conseiller Baker next; thank you.

985

Conseiller Baker MBE: Yes, sir. Just an observation: derelict buildings. There is a little paragraph here:

Derelict buildings could be registered on the Cadastre by the owner and charged a percentage of the property tax that would be payable if they ... [had been] habitable –

– something like that. That makes me think that the owners are saying they are not habitable, therefore they do not pay tax. I am a bit worried about that because when the tax was introduced, we measured the property to the outside of the buildings, the outside of the walls. If they stood, they were taxed. So has anything changed?

990

The Speaker: You would like clarity on that? Yes. (**Conseiller Baker:** Yes.) Okay. Thank you very much indeed.

995 Some very good questions there all rolled together. Conseiller Delaney, are you able to assimilate those and respond?

Conseiller Delaney: Yes, very happy to and delighted we got some feedback from the floor of the House.

1000 I think in the instance of the points that Conseiller Harris and Conseiller Booth raise, they probably highlight something that is quite critical to our work: that in looking at any method of raising more revenues for the Island, there can be primary, secondary, tertiary benefits, but we have to balance that with looking beyond just the primary and do they actually in some instances cause primary, secondary, tertiary pitfalls? It is that, what in the first instance may look ... This is where an awful lot of time and very good-natured debate has gone round the table in this Committee. Sometimes what seems a fantastic idea in the first instance, you start chiselling away and think, 'Well, what happens if three, four moves ahead if X, Y, Z happens?'

1005

1010 So we are considering that side of life and a beauty of the recording of this, and *Hansard* of course, is that we will have full details of what has come from the House this evening, and we will be able to bring that to our next meeting.

1015 On Conseiller Le Lievre's point, I think he is broadening the point, the debate. I take on board what he is saying; I *support* what he is saying. That probably comes into play when we actually get to a point where the lead Committee is coming to the House saying we need to raise taxes, we need to raise this much money for X, Y, Z. And at that point I think there is probably lots of debate to be had on the floor of the House.

1020 Are we heading in the direction of higher state expenditure and, in doing so, higher state taxation? Is that what the House wants? Are we bringing revenues in or increasing revenues in to help grow the economy; and of course nobody would doubt that that would be a good thing. But if we are just increasing the tax burden *per se* for the sake of increasing the tax burden, is that a good thing? It is for the House to decide.

1025 In respect to Conseiller Baker's point, I would perhaps remind everybody of many years ago a Conseiller Moerman making a very valid point saying that in his opinion Sark did not need more taxes, it needed more taxpayers, i.e. more residents. But they are beyond ... I am tackling these points because they have come up from the House – tackling the best I can – but I would argue that they are really for the bigger Committee, the lead Committee, to bring to the House at some point in the future.

1030 In respect of Conseiller Baker seeking clarity, I must acknowledge I should be able to give him clarity on that, but the impression that I have got from the Committee and feedback we have also perhaps had from members of the Civil Service who have attended was this is not the case at this moment in time. But we will get clarity and I will respond to Conseiller Baker. And of course will try and find some way of getting that into the public domain, that response. It is no good if it is just Conseiller Baker who is the beneficiary of that.

1035 I am also of course interested in what the House thinks of what public consultation should look like. Public consultation, in my opinion, should penetrate all areas of the Island, not just those who are commendably politically active and do come out, attend all the public meetings, but it is everybody's opinion who matters. And should it be just a flyer, should there be a public meeting or two.

1040 There is always this concept, when one goes out with questions, whoever gets the chance to set the questions is really setting the agenda for the answers. We do not want to fall into that pitfall. We just want to try and be as open and transparent, absorb as much as we can from the public, and get to a point where we produce a report, that will, as I said, enable us to get to that point where the lead Committee has got a smorgasbord of options that we believe can work and then comes, in the opening of the report, gives an evidence-based case as to why a particular tax should be raised. I think I will leave it at that, if I may.

1045 Thank you.

The Speaker: Very good. Thank you, Conseiller Delaney.
Conseiller Donovan, thank you.

1050 **Conseiller Donovan:** Thank you, sir.

1055 Just a small point on Conseiller Delaney's reference to what should consultation look like, and I appreciate it has many forms, but I think here, just with these items that have even been listed here, it would be quite easy, she says – loose term – but easy to chunk up the key themes and identify the key stakeholders, particularly with respect of tourism tax, for example, and seasonal workers tax. That perhaps that segment and that target group could be easily identified with the help of Tourism or various things.

So I would urge proactive identification of key stakeholder groups as from the outset, but also to note that just giving a group of people a survey, for instance, might not be ... it is not a one and done for everybody and going, right, that is fine, we have done our consultation for that group,

1060 now let's see what they say. I think that as arduous as it might be, maybe multiple visits to particular stakeholder groups would be beneficial. So for example you would start with a written survey questionnaire type to set things out and share information and then based on those responses and engagement perhaps organise a workshop or a public meeting about it and invite those particular people and anyone else.

1065 But I think multiple bites at the same angle will obviously provide different responses because people can think differently and provide different answers and context and give information both face-to-face and written. So I would just urge that approach, rather than a one blanket approach for everyone on consultation. But this is a really good Progress Report, it is very useful as a basis from which to start and start gaining that feedback from everybody. So thank you to the
1070 Committee.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Donovan.

Back to Conseiller Booth, thank you.

1075

Conseiller Booth: Yes, thank you.

Just in terms of how to collect the data that you will be looking for, I think test groups would be good to actually identify the different groups of earners that there are in the Island, and to actually reach out and have test groups and run past different scenarios to see what the effect
1080 would be on those groups.

And also to consider, I do not know who is on the Committee, but it might be worth considering the diversity on the Committee as well, because quite often you will be making decisions based on obviously the people who are in the group, based on their experience and their ideas, but when you have other people in the group who are from different economic backgrounds, for example,
1085 that that would bring up different ideas from the Committee.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Booth.

1090 Are there any other questions or debate before I ask Conseiller Delaney to sum up and we go to the vote on this? Any other, further questions? Interesting points made so far.

Conseiller Delaney, before we go to the vote on the Proposition, would you like just to sum up, please?

1095 **Conseiller Delaney:** Yes, I will, Mr Speaker. I really am very grateful for the input we have had from the floor of the House tonight. I think it is a great example to the public, of what we ...

And I am also grateful for both ideas on how we should go about public consultation from Conseillers Donovan and Booth and also, if I may, the understanding that this is a significant task. It is not something we can just wave a magic wand and get there very quickly. We want to be thorough, we want to look, stress test everything that we are doing, and make sure it is right for
1100 the Island.

I have one or two notes from when I actually took the Chair of the Committee at the Easter Meeting in 14th April, which, I have a note to myself: 'It has the potential to be a poisoned chalice.' And the old adage that if you rob Peter to pay Paul you can always rely on Paul's vote, I think we have set that to one side. I believe the make-up of the Committee is such that it really is looking and addressing a point that I made at that time, that I hope that the Committee would tackle its work purely on the basis of what is right for the current, medium and future needs of the Island.
1105

So, Mr Speaker, I will leave it at that, and I would hope that we would get good support for our Proposition.

Thank you.

1110

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Delaney.

That message is loud and clear, both to the public and also to Conseillers: absolutely the Committee are very much looking for engagement and feedback based on what they are looking for and proposing and ways to achieve that.

1115 Therefore, the Proposition reads that Chief Pleas approves the Taxation Review (Special) Committee undertaking a public consultation seeking comment on the proposal presented in this Report and inviting further input from the people of Sark. Those in favour? Thank you. Those against? **Carried.**

Thank you very much indeed.

**9. Disbandment of the Development Control Law (Special) Committee –
Development Control Law (Special) Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Development Control Law (Special) Committee entitled 'Disbandment of the Development Control Law (Special) Committee'.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves the disbandment of the Development Control Law (Special) Committee, with any responsibilities it had being returned to the Development Control Committee.

1120 **The Speaker:** Moving along to Agenda Item 9, which is to consider a Report with Proposition from the Development Control Law (Special) Committee entitled the 'Disbandment of the Development Control Law (Special) Committee'.

1125 Sadly, the three members of this Committee cannot be here this evening, so at very short notice, the Chairman of that Committee, Conseiller Sandra Williams, has asked Conseiller Barker to step forward and present the Report that you see before you. So I hand over, therefore, to Conseiller Barker.

Thank you.

Conseiller Barker: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

1130 I think this is a little bit of housekeeping, actually, that perhaps should have got done a few years ago. The Development Control (Special) Law Committee does not have a Chair, does not have a Deputy Chair, has only met two or three times since 2015. It was set up for a reason. I actually do not know the correct reason. It used to be under the Development Control Committee (DCC) and basically the Proposition is to give all responsibilities back to the DC

1135 Committee, which I think pretty much they have actually been doing all this time anyway.

To put everyone's minds at rest, the DCC is a very experienced Committee, with Conseiller Williams as Chair, Conseiller Baker, who I believe was on the DCC before I was born, originally. *(Laughter)* We have got Conseiller Delaney, who has got vast experience, and Conseiller Bateson who is super experienced as well. So I think this Committee is in safe hands if it goes to the DCC;

1140 why I do not see any problems in supporting this Proposition.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Barker, for stepping in to present that Report.

Does anyone have any questions or observations regarding the Report and the proposal, the Proposition in the Report? Any feedback; any debate; any questions? No.

1145 Therefore, can I suggest, please, that we go to the Proposition in this Report, which reads: that Chief Pleas approves the disbandment of the Development Control Law (Special) Committee, with any responsibilities it had being returned to the Development Control Committee. Those in favour? Thank you. Those against? Thank you. That is **carried.**

Thank you very much indeed.

**10. Annual Medical Report –
Medical and Emergency Services Committee Report considered**

To consider an Information Report from the Medical and Emergency Services Committee entitled 'Annual Medical Report'.

1150 **The Speaker:** Next up we have Agenda Item 10, which is to consider an Information Report from the Medical and Emergency Services Committee entitled the 'Annual Medical Report' and I would like to ask Conseiller Plummer to introduce the Information Report, thank you.
Conseiller Plummer.

1155 **Conseiller Plummer:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.
This Report has been sent to us as an Annual Report by the responsible officer, Dr Peter Rabey, in Guernsey. We hope to bring a report annually from now on going forward. I am afraid I cannot answer questions on it, because it is his Report.
Thank you very much indeed.

1160 **The Speaker:** Very good. So there we are, there we have it before you; the Report, which I am sure you all looked at and read. I would just ask, does anyone have any comment to make, rather than necessarily questions? No? It is a moment in time, obviously, and it is an Information Report, which I would urge you to look at and consider in due course.

**11. Annual Information Report –
Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries Committee Report considered**

To consider an Information Report from the Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries Committee entitled 'Annual Information Report'.

1165 **The Speaker:** So moving along to Agenda Item 11, which is to consider an Information Report from the Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries Committee entitled 'Annual Information Report' and once again that falls to Conseiller Plummer to present that Information Report.
Thank you; Conseiller Plummer.

1170 **Conseiller Plummer:** Thank you, sir.
The Report is self-explanatory. I would like to thank the help of Mr David Cocksedge, who helps us on the Committee. Also to Miss Jo Birch and Mr Peter Cunneen about the Asian Hornet report. And also to Mr Alan Winstanley for the report on the Abattoir.
I would just ask that these reports are looked at and we try very hard, and we hope that next
1175 year we will have more scallops. It was not such a very good report; the catches were not very good this last summer, but we are hoping that they will be ... we have had indication that there will be more divers appealing for licences.
Thank you.

1180 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Plummer.
Does anybody have any observations; any comments? There is no Proposition attached to this Report, it is an Information Report. Does anyone have any observations that they would like to

share with Conseiller Plummer and the Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries Committee?
Any observations; any comments?

1185 Conseiller Baker, thank you.

Conseiller Baker MBE: Yes, just a simple question actually. The Asian hornet: we have seen people in all the garb, getting nests down and disposing of them. Does it cost Sark any money for that?

1190 **The Speaker:** That is a good question.
Conseiller Plummer.

Conseiller Plummer: Thank you.

1195 We do buy bait and we do buy bait. But the people that come over, we buy their tickets to come over. We have to have them over, because if this got out of control, it would be dangerous – very dangerous. I did ask questions this morning in fact and I was hoping that the cold weather would have got to the queens, but apparently it has not been quite cold enough yet.

1200 But they do come and we had an enormous find on the east coast last year and they came over and took it away. And if that had not gone, we would be in a terrible state this coming spring. We still have four nests that we have to find, but I would like to say thank you to *everybody* that helps and we are going to be putting out notices for extra help in the coming spring.
Thank you.

1205 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Plummer.
Conseiller Donovan; thank you.

Conseiller Donovan: Thank you, sir.

1210 It was just a note, really, in respect of the Abattoir. Just to note, make everyone aware if they have not been able to read it, that Jack Cullen, who has been our butcher for a number of years, is leaving and so I guess just a note of thanks, really, to Jack for his services to the slaughterhouse and to agriculture in the Island, helping everybody continue their agricultural businesses.

1215 I see that Denise Cross has been employed as a trainee to support the team there, which is really great news, and I just urge anyone on the Island, if they have got skills or contacts in that area, to just help so that we can support and make the Abattoir a more viable business for the Island to support our agricultural industry.
Thank you.

1220 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Donovan.
Conseiller Plummer; thank you.

Conseiller Plummer: Yes, I would support what Conseiller Donovan has said. We would like to say thank you to Jack, because he has done a most fantastic job, and Miss Denise Cross is settling in very well. We have had some very good feedback from her.

1225 Also, I managed to speak to another individual, and I have asked that they think about taking on ... They have had butchery experience, from the putting down to the butchery. They have had experience, so I am hoping that we may be able to come back with some more information.
Thank you.

1230 **The Speaker:** Very good. Thank you, Conseiller Plummer.

Does anybody have any further observations or comments for Conseiller Plummer and the Committee? No? There is no Proposition attached to that. It is an Information Report, which I am sure, once again, you have all taken on board and we again extend our thanks to Jack Cullen for his endeavours over the last few years.

**12. Seasonal Regulation No. 2 –
Douzaine Report considered**

To consider an Information Report from the Douzaine entitled 'Seasonal Regulation No. 2'.

1235 **The Speaker:** Next up we have Agenda Item 12, which is to consider an Information Report from the Douzaine entitled 'Seasonal Regulation No. 2' and I would ask Conseiller Bateson please to introduce this Report.

Thank you.

1240 **Conseiller Bateson:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Seasonal Regulation No. 2: it is just an Information Report and it should ... as it says on here, it is distributed to all tractor owners each year and so it should be. I know I do get comments from people that they have not got it, but anyway.

1245 Seasonal Regulation No. 2 is part of the annual ... to let people know about the annual one-way, two-way system on the avenue, which from my experience of working at the gallery, most people tend to ignore. So that is what this one is.

And then would you like me to sit down and then you can do the next one or –?

1250 **The Speaker:** I think so, yes, because I will just ... Thank you, Conseiller Bateson. That is good. Yes, there is a humorous aspect to this, but it is of course very important, and people do obey it, I know. But it is an interesting local piece of legislation and we have to bring it forward every year in order that it can be enabled. Does anyone have any questions for Conseiller Bateson and the Douzaine based on Seasonal Regulation No. 2? No.

Thank you for that. It is an Information Report.

**13. Seasonal Regulation No. 4 - 2024 –
Douzaine Report considered**

To consider an Information Report from the Douzaine entitled 'Seasonal Regulation No. 4 - 2024'.

1255 **The Speaker:** So we will move along to Agenda Item 13, which is to consider an Information Report from the Douzaine entitled 'Seasonal Regulation No. 4 - 2024'.

Conseiller Bateson; thank you.

1260 **Conseiller Bateson:** Yes. This is, this is the annual one for the carriages, about the one-way system, and not turning over as you come down by the Cider Barn. Again, it is an annual thing; just an Information Report.

The Speaker: Yes, absolutely. Thank you, Conseiller Bateson.

1265 Fairly straightforward, it comes to us every year to be approved, but it is important to keep the traffic flow on the Island moving during the summer months. It is a bit of quirky, local character, but very important. Without it, there would be chaos.

Conseiller Bateson, thank you for that Information Report. Any questions on it? I would expect possibly not, but thank you. Thank you for those two reports from the Douzaine.

**14. Committee Elections –
Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries: Conseiller P Williams elected –
Douzaine: Conseiller B Harris elected –
Education: Conseiller C Bateson elected –
Top Level Domain (Special): Conseiller B Harris elected**

To elect Conseillers to Committees as required.

1270 **The Speaker:** Right, moving swiftly along, Agenda Item 14, which is Committee Elections, to elect Conseillers to Committees as required. I have them listed in front of me alphabetically. I know some of you lose the will to live at this point. I would ask you just to concentrate for another five or few minutes or so, to deal with Committee Elections, to elect Conseillers to Committees as required.

1275 So first up, we have a vacancy on the Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries Committee; one vacancy there. Do we have any nominations from the floor or from the Committee to join the Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries Committee?

Conseiller Plummer: Thank you very much, sir. (**The Speaker:** Conseiller Plummer.)
1280 Yes, I would like to ask Conseiller Paul Williams if he would like to join us, please. (**The Speaker:** Very good.) Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.
Conseiller Williams, you are in agreement? (*Interjection by Conseiller Paul Williams*) Very good.
1285 Thank you. Do we have anyone else who would like to be proposed to join the Committee?
Conseiller Barker.

Conseiller Barker: May I ask where the vacancy has come from, please, sir?

1290 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Plummer, could you confirm?

Conseiller Plummer: Yes, certainly. It was from Conseiller Frank Makepeace. He resigned.
Thank you.

1295 **The Speaker:** Okay. So Conseiller Makepeace is no longer on the Committee.
So we have one nomination which is Conseiller Williams. Do we have any other nominations to join the Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries Committee? No.

In which case, I will just go through the protocol: if you are in agreement, please will you raise your hand to approve the appointment of Conseiller Williams to that Committee? Thank you.
1300 **Carried.** Welcome to the Committee, Conseiller Williams. (**A Member:** Again.) Yet again!
(*Laughter*) Welcome *back* to the Committee. A seasoned campaigner, you could say.

Moving down alphabetically, we have a vacancy on the Douzaine. Do we have any nominations from anyone who would like to join the Douzaine? Conseiller Bateson, do you have any nominations?

1305 **Conseiller Bateson:** Not that I'm aware of, no.

The Speaker: No. Do we have any nominations from the floor for anyone who would like to join the Douzaine? Okay. It has fallen on deaf ears, that one, so we will leave that one alone for the time being. But that will be brought back to the Easter Meeting, so please give it some thought,
1310 because the Douzaine would very much, I am sure, welcome extra input into that Committee. Their workload is significant. But we will leave that vacancy open for the time being.
Conseiller Barker.

Conseiller Barker: May I nominate Conseiller Harris and Conseiller Delaney, please?

1315 **The Speaker:** So two nominations to join the Douzaine. Conseillers Delaney and Harris, are you happy with those nominations.
Conseiller Harris?

1320 **Conseiller Harris:** I have no objection.

The Speaker: Is that a shrug of the shoulders or a –? (*Interjection by Conseiller Harris*) Is that a yes?

1325 **Conseiller Harris:** That's a yes.

The Speaker: Okay. Thank you. So Conseiller Harris is saying yes.
Conseiller Delaney?

1330 **Conseiller Delaney:** I am grateful for the nomination ... [*Inaudible*]

The Speaker: No. Okay. So that is the response that we have.

Therefore one nomination to join the Douzaine, which is Conseiller Harris. Any other further nominations to join the Douzaine?

1335 In which case we will go to the vote. Those in favour of Conseiller Harris joining the Douzaine? Please raise your hands. Thank you very much. Anyone against? No. That is **carried**. Thank you. Welcome to the Douzaine, Conseiller Harris. Thank you for that.

1340 Based on what we have just agreed, Conseiller Booth, we come to Education, and we have a vacancy. At the moment Education comprises, just for reference, Conseiller Booth as Chairman, Conseiller Sullivan, Conseiller Couldridge and Conseiller Edric Baker on Education, and we have just agreed to go to a fifth person.

Do we have any nominations from the Committee?

Conseiller Booth: Yes, I would like to nominate, Conseiller Bateson.

1345 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Bateson, okay. Conseiller Bateson, are you happy with that? (*Interjection by Conseiller Bateson*) You are? Very good. Do we have any other nominations to join the Education Committee? No?

1350 In which case we will go to the vote. Those in favour of Conseiller Bateson joining the Education Committee? Please raise your hands. Thank you very much. Those against? **Confirmed**. Welcome to the Education Committee, Conseiller Bateson.

What is next on my list? Obviously the Special Committee, the Development Control Law Committee, no longer exists, just for confirmation.

1355 Future Energy: Conseiller Kennedy-Barnard resigned from the Future Energy Committee on 9th January of this year. Is there anybody who would like to nominate themselves or anyone else to join the Future Energy Committee at this point? Any nominations; any nominations from the Committee itself?

1360 The Committee itself currently comprises Conseiller Guille, Conseiller Le Lievre and Conseiller Andrew Miller, with Anthony Beaumont being a non-Chief Pleas member and the Chief Secretary as *ex officio*, but we have a vacancy on that Committee due to Conseiller Kennedy-Barnard's resignation. Any nominations to join the Future Energy Committee? No, apparently not. Okay. In which case that will remain a vacancy and that will come back to the Easter Meeting yet again.

And finally, before we move on to the last Agenda Item, the Top Level Domain Committee. We have two vacancies on this Committee. We have tried previously to populate this Committee, but

1365 without success. Do we have any nominations, either from the Committee or anyone else who
would like to join the Top Level Domain Committee?
Conseiller Le Lievre.

Conseiller Le Lievre: Conseiller Ben Harris has said that he would be willing to join the
Committee, (**The Speaker:** Very good.) and we would like him to join. (**The Speaker:** Very good.)
1370 Thank you.

The Speaker: Okay. That is a nomination there. Thank you for that. Conseiller Harris, you are
obviously happy with that? Thank you.

1375 Do we have anyone else? There is a second vacancy on this Committee. Do we have anyone
else who would like to join the Top Level Domain Committee? No, apparently not.

But we will go to the vote for one additional member. Those in favour of Conseiller Harris
joining the Top Level Domain Committee? Please raise your hands. Thank you very much. Carried.
Those against? **Carried.** Conseiller Harris, welcome to the Top Level Domain Committee. Thank
you for stepping forward for that. That is Agenda Item 14.

15. Committee and Panel Elections – None

To elect non-Chief Pleas members and Panel members to Committees and Panels, as required.

1380 **The Speaker:** Finally, coming to Agenda Item 15, which is Committee and Panel Elections, to
elect non-Chief Pleas members and Panel members to Committees and Panels as required. Does
any Committee have any nominations for anyone that they would like to nominate to join their
Committee as a non-Chief Pleas member or Panel committees? Any nominations of any
Committees? No.

1385 Okay, in that case, we will pass over that one. The question will be asked again at Easter. I know
there has been some debate tonight about *ex officio*. That is obviously something that will
continue and perhaps reports will be brought back to Chief Pleas to look at that in more overall
terms moving forwards.

1390 Thank you very much indeed. That concludes the business. I would just, if I may, remind you
that the Easter Meeting of Chief Pleas is on Wednesday, 10th April, and that the Agenda for that
Meeting closes on Wednesday, 13th March. Please get your reports in in good time for that
Meeting, which will be on Wednesday, 10th April.

Thank you for that; and that concludes the business. Greffier, the closing prayer, please.

Chief Pleas adjourned at 6.58 p.m.