



OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

MIDSUMMER MEETING

OF CHIEF PLEAS

OF THE

ISLAND OF SARK

HANSARD

Assembly Room, Sark, Wednesday, 2nd July 2025

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

Volume 11, No. 6

Present:

Deputy Seigneur

Ms S L Guille

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

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of the Bailiwick of Guernsey

Lt. General Sir Richard Cripwell, KBE, CB, CStJ

Conseillers:

Jolie Rose
John Guille
Andrew Miller
Helen Plummer
Benjamin Harris
Carol Cragoe
Michael Locke

Natalie Tighe
Christopher Bateson
David Curtis
Edric Baker MBE
Mary Nicolle
James Martin
Frank Makepeace

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Midsummer Meeting of Chief Pleas

Chief Pleas met at 5 p.m.

[THE SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

PRAYER

The Greffier

ROLL CALL

The Greffier

The Greffier: There are 14 Conseillers, the Deputy Seigneur and the Speaker of Chief Pleas present.

5 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Greffier.

Procedural – Removal of jackets and hats

The Speaker: Before we start proceedings, I will say what I said last week; ladies, if you would like to remove your hats, and, gentlemen, if you would like to remove your jackets, please by all means do so. It is already warm in here, and I am sure it is going to get even warmer. So please feel free to remove your hats and jackets now, if you so wish.

Apologies for absence

10

The Speaker: No apologies for absence have been received from any Conseillers, but the Seigneur cannot be with us this evening, so we very much welcome the Deputy Seigneur, Stephanie Guille. Welcome, Steph. Welcome to you.

15 **The Deputy Seigneur:** Thank you.

Welcome and congratulations to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor

The Speaker: We also welcome, absolutely, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of the Bailiwick. Welcome to yourself, sir.

20 Starting with that, if I may, on behalf of Chief Pleas, I would like to offer our sincere congratulations to His Excellency Lieutenant General Sir Richard Cripwell, the Lieutenant Governor of Guernsey, who was awarded the title Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, that is the KBE, by His Majesty the King, in the Birthday Honours, which were published on 14th June 2025.

25 This honour is given in recognition of His Excellency's services to the Bailiwick of Guernsey during his tenure as Lieutenant Governor. Chief Pleas offer His Excellency our very warmest congratulations and thanks. *[Members applauded.]*

Congratulations to Major Marco Ciotti

30 **The Speaker:** In no shape or form do I want to upstart that but I would also like to give a mention, if I may, to Major Marco Ciotti, who also on 14th June was awarded the title Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order, that is the LVO, once again by King Charles as part of his Birthday Honours.

This distinction is a personal honour granted by the Monarch in recognition of distinguished personal service to the Monarch, members of the Royal Family or any representative of the Monarch.

35 Major Ciotti received this award specifically for his service as an aide-de-camp to the Lieutenant Governor, having served at Government House since 2012. The Royal Victorian Order is unique among British honours because it is bestowed solely at the discretion of the Sovereign rather than on ministerial advice. Once again we extend our congratulations to Major Ciotti. *[Members applauded.]*

40 Thank you very much.

Resignations of Steve Lord and Christopher Kennedy-Barnard – Statement by the Speaker

45 **The Speaker:** Some housekeeping before we start, if I may. Steve Lord became a Conseiller following the general election on 11th December 2024. Steve resigned on 30th June 2025 after serving Chief Pleas for six months. During his time, he served on the Medical and Emergency Services Committee and the Online Identities Special Committee. We thank Steve for his service to Chief Pleas and we wish him success in his increasing commercial commitments.

50 Also, Christopher Kennedy-Barnard was elected as a Conseiller in the general election uncontested in December 2022. He resigned yesterday, on 1st July 2025, after serving Chief Pleas for two and a half years. During his time, he served on the Policy and Finance Committee, the Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries Committee, he was Chair of the Online Identity Special Committee and Deputy Chair of the Definition of a Resident Special Committee. We thank Chris for his service to Chief Pleas and we wish him well with his future commitments beyond Sark and Chief Pleas.

55 Connected with that, following the four resignations that we have received since 9th June, the vacancies on the Committees will be repopulated under Agenda Item 12 this evening. A by-election will be called to fill the four vacancies, sooner rather than later, on a date to be decided, but not later than six months after 9th June, as required under section 23 of the Reform (Sark) Law, 2008. This will require an Extraordinary Meeting of Chief Pleas to approve a by-election ordinance and a general election timetable.

60 In the meantime, before we do that, I encourage everyone who is eligible to enrol on the electoral roll to register with the Greffier as soon as possible and in good time for the by-election. If you could please pass that word around, I would be very grateful. There will be a campaign associated with moving in that direction.

**Liberation 80 celebrations –
Statement by the Speaker**

65 **The Speaker:** Next up, I have a very happy statement to make, which is regarding the Liberation 80 celebrations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone, the residents of Sark, the organisers, the volunteers, the performers, and the hundreds of visitors who contributed to a memorable weekend in Sark on 10th and 11th May 2025 in celebration of the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Sark from the Nazi Occupation on 10th May 1945.

70 Although we were commemorating the end of a traumatic five-year period in Sark's history, we were also celebrating 80 years of our freedom. Planning for the Commemoration started almost 12 months before the event. The Sark branch of the Royal British Legion, under the calm and assured leadership of Sandy Hunt, ably assisted by John Hunt, formed a small steering group of dedicated volunteers to assist with the planning and logistics for the 80th Commemorations.
75 Sandy and John hosted a garden party last weekend to thank the many volunteers who helped to make Liberation Day a truly historic and joyous occasion.

We are most grateful to the many volunteers who contributed to the success of the occasion. I have never seen the Island looking busier or better. I hope that we continue to celebrate in the same spirit, good humour and inspiring organisation.

80 Behind the necessary wall of secrecy, the visit of Her Majesty the Princess Royal was synchronised alongside Sark's own commemorations. The Seigneur and I were most grateful for the support and encouragement that we received from the Lieutenant Governor's office and the Bailiff in Guernsey and indeed the office of the Princess Royal in London. They were all tremendously helpful and supportive in the lead up to and on the actual day of the visit.

85 The Princess Royal and Vice Admiral Sir Tim Lawrence were captivated by their visit and the warmth of the welcome. They took many personal photographs as souvenirs and have written to us to thank us for a memorable visit.

In addition to the Royal visit, we were also honoured to welcome Monsieur Jean Morin, the President of La Manche Department in France, and his team. We also welcomed
90 Ms Stephanie Peacock MP, the Minister for Sport, Media, Civil Society and Youth in Westminster. Each visitor was very grateful for the warm welcome and hospitality that they received and we are confident that Sark can proactively explore some really valuable connections and exciting opportunities as a result of these connections that were made during the course of that weekend.

95 Once again, a big thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of that wonderful weekend.

STATEMENTS

**Office recruitment –
Statement from the Policy and Finance Committee**

The Speaker: Moving along, I would like to invite Conseiller Guille, the Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee, to make a statement.

Conseiller Guille.

100

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir.

It is a statement from the Policy and Finance Committee regarding office recruitment. We have started recruitment for an additional senior operations officer to join the Committee office team. It is vital we have a fully staffed Committee office to drive the work of Chief Pleas forward. The
105 role will be largely project based, focused on implementation. For example, a successful candidate may work on standalone projects such as an Island Plan public engagement exercise or tax reform

but be kept at arm's length from day-to-day operations. The new office structure of two SOOs will also be a flat one with no overall head. This system has been selected both to save cost and to ensure the focus is on delivery.

110 The job advert is now online on the Chief Pleas websites and will be advertised externally on other platforms this week. The recruitment will be handled in-house, not using external consultants, in order to save costs. A great deal about the operation of a recruitment campaign was learned from the previous round of recruitment with Insight HR from Jersey. Now that there is a stronger team in the current office, it will be possible to cover this in-house.

115 The interview panel will reflect wider Chief Pleas and the community with non-Policy and Finance Committee members and a person from the wider community included. We hope for the person to be in post in the late autumn.

Thank you.

120 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Guille for that statement.

**Switching on and off microphones –
Statement by the Speaker**

The Speaker: Before we move on to the Agenda proper, I have a short statement to make. Please can I remind Conseillers to switch on their microphones when they stand up to speak, and to turn the microphones off again when they have finished speaking. This helps the recording immensely. You have heard me say that before, but thank you.

125

**Procedural –
Electronic devices**

The Speaker: In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, I would now remind all present that electronic devices, mobile telephones, recording devices, cameras, etc., and other electronic equipment must be switched off now, less for those allowed to Chief Pleas Members, in accordance with Rule 19.2.

130

Thank you.

Business of the Day

1. Matters arising from the Easter Meeting held on 30th April 2025

135 **The Speaker:** To Agenda Item 1, which is to consider matters arising from the Easter Meeting of Chief Pleas held on 30th April 2025. Does anyone have any points they would like to raise from those minutes; the Easter Meeting of Chief Pleas. Very good.
Thank you.

2. Questions not related to the Business of the Day

140 **The Speaker:** We will move along to Agenda Item 2, which is Questions not related to the Business of the Day, and there are none unrelated to the Business of the Day. There are some questions related later on to various Agenda Items, but none not related to the Business of the Day.

145 **Conseiller Makepeace:** I submitted two questions.

145 **The Speaker:** You did, and they will be dealt with under those Agenda Items. Thank you.
Agenda Item 3, which is to consider a Report with Proposition from the Medical and Emergency Services Committee –

150 **Conseiller Makepeace:** I rise on a point of order.

150 Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order. At the January meeting of Chief Pleas, you made serious and damaging allegations about me in the Chamber. Since that time, I have made multiple respectful requests to you to either provide evidence to support those remarks or issue a formal apology and retraction. You have not replied or acknowledged any of those requests. This,
155 I believe, undermines the dignity of the Office of Speaker, the integrity of the Assembly, and my rights as an elected Member to be treated fairly and without prejudice. Therefore, I ask you, on record, will you now explain why you have not responded to my requests, and whether you intend to provide evidence to support your unsubstantiated claims, or you intend to withdraw your remarks and issue an unconditional apology?

160 Thank you.

165 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.
We will move on to Agenda Item 3.
Conseiller Guille.

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

I wish to correct the record, as Conseiller Makepeace has described it on several occasions in the House and both internally within Chief Pleas, that in fact his complaint about the Speaker which he claims did not happen; it is not so.

170 I was telephoned the day after the election by Michael Bertram, the former SEO, to say that Conseiller Makepeace had verbally abused the Speaker on the phone and he had overheard the conversation. The SEO had also confirmed to the SOO the same thing. While we sometimes thank Conseiller Makepeace for his useful challenges, this is not 2008.

175 The relentless harassment techniques of the former Sark newsletter is over. The sustained attacks of Conseiller Makepeace on Conseiller after Conseiller, and now Chief Pleas officials, is not

how we engage in good governance. Most Conseillers put a lot of hard work and a huge amount of their spare time into serving our Island, often while juggling full-time jobs too. This needs to stop and we need to move forward.

Thank you.

180

A Member: Hear, hear.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille.

185

Conseiller Makepeace: I would like to reply to that.

The Speaker: You made your point, Conseiller Makepeace, and you had a response from Conseiller –

190

Conseiller Makepeace: Allegations have been made about me which are untrue.

The Speaker: In that case, you bring them to the next Chief Pleas, we are not dealing with it now, thank you.

195

Conseiller Makepeace: I will.

The Speaker: We will move on.

Conseiller Makepeace: Once again, no right to –

200

The Speaker: Conseiller Makepeace, we are not dealing – no, no, we are not dealing with it now. Please –

Conseiller Makepeace: It is a total pack of lies.

205

The Speaker: Please respect what I am –

Conseiller Makepeace: Why is it taking so long?

210

The Speaker: Do you wish to remain in the Assembly, Conseiller Makepeace?

Conseiller Makepeace: Throw me out if you want. Go ahead.

The Speaker: I am just asking you to comply with the Rules, please.

215

Conseiller Makepeace: Well, why do you not comply with the Rules?

The Speaker: Conseiller Makepeace, hold your tongue. Hold your tongue.

220

Conseiller Makepeace: Throw me out then.

The Speaker: No, hold your tongue.
Thank you.

**3. The Capacity (Commencement and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2025 –
Medical and Emergency Services Committee report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Medical and Emergency Services Committee entitled 'The Capacity (Commencement and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2025' and to approve the Ordinance entitled 'The Capacity (Commencement and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2025'.

Proposition.

That Chief Pleas approves the draft Ordinance entitled 'The Capacity (Commencement and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2025' and to direct that the same shall have effect as an Ordinance of the Chief Pleas.

225

The Speaker: Let's move on to Agenda Item 3, which is to consider a Report with Proposition from the Medical and Emergency Services Committee entitled, 'The Capacity (Commencement and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2025', and to approve the ordinance entitled, 'The Capacity (Commencement and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2025'. I would

230

like to ask Conseiller Plummer to introduce the report.
Conseiller Plummer.

Conseiller Plummer: Thank you, sir.

235

This Ordinance will allow people a way to legally record their wishes for future treatment or refusal of treatment while they have the capacity to do so. It also allows for a way to hold those responsible for administering those wishes to account. It makes ill-treatment of such individuals an offence. If carried, the Medical Committee will, at its next meeting, agree to the regulations which prescribe the forms required.

240

There have been some small changes to the Ordinance since originally published, mainly the date of commencement. The amended version is online and has been circulated to all Conseillers.
Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Plummer.

245

Does anyone have any questions or debate from the floor regarding the Report that you have before you? Any questions for the Committee, Conseiller Plummer, regarding the Report? No? Okay.

In which case, Conseiller Plummer, do you have anything you would like to add before we come to the Proposition?

250

Conseiller Plummer: No, I do not have anything more really to add except for it is safety for the patient.

Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Plummer.

255

Therefore we go to the Proposition attached to this Report which reads as follows, that Chief Pleas approves the draft Ordinance entitled 'The Capacity (Commencement and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2025' and to direct that the same shall have effect as an Ordinance of the Chief Pleas. Those in favour? Thank you. Those against? That is **carried**. Very good.

**4. Change to Committee Membership –
Medical and Emergency Services Committee report considered –
Propositions 1 and 2 withdrawn, Proposition 3 carried**

To consider a Report with Propositions from the Medical and Emergency Services Committee entitled 'Change to Committee Membership'.

Proposition 1.

That Chief Pleas approves the Medical & Emergency Services Committee to comprise of five serving Conseillers.

Proposition 2.

That Chief Pleas approves the amended Medical & Emergency Services mandate attached to this report.

Proposition 3.

That Chief Pleas approves the removal of Dr Susan Wilson as a non-Chief Pleas member of the Medical & Emergency Services Committee.

260

The Speaker: Moving to Agenda Item 4, which is to consider a Report with Propositions from the Medical and Emergency Services Committee entitled 'Change to Committee Membership' and once again I would ask Conseiller Plummer to introduce the Report.

265

Conseiller Plummer: Thank you, sir.

The change to the Committee membership. The Committee wishes to withdraw Propositions 1 and 2. These were to increase the membership of the Committee from 4 to 5 and to make the necessary amendments to the Committee's mandate. The Committee has, following the resignation of Scott Sullivan and Steve Lord from Chief Pleas, two vacancies. These will be filled in a normal practice at the end of this meeting.

270

Regarding Proposition 3, the Committee still wishes to proceed with the removal of Dr Susan Wilson as a non-Chief Pleas member. The Committee wishes to thank Dr Wilson for her service.

Thank you.

275

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Plummer.

Once again, Propositions 1 and 2 have been withdrawn. Does anyone once again have any questions of the Committee or Conseiller Plummer regarding the Report and the remaining Proposition? Any questions of Conseiller Plummer and the Committee? Any points? Any debate?

280

Okay, Conseiller Plummer, would you like to sum up or are you happy to go as is?

Conseiller Plummer: I would like to just say many thanks to Mr Sullivan and to Mr Lord. They have been very helpful in the Committee and we will miss them. But the reason we did was sometimes we were not quorate, but I think hopefully with the new Committee we will be quorate all the time.

285

Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Plummer, for summing up.

Therefore we have just the one Proposition attached to this Report, which reads as follows, that Chief Pleas approves the removal of Dr Susan Wilson as a non-Chief Pleas member of the Medical and Emergency Services Committee. Those in favour? Thank you. Those against? Thank you. That is **carried**. Proposition 3, or the single proposition, is **carried**.

290

Thank you.

**5. Removal of Committee Member –
Policy and Finance Committee –
Proposition withdrawn**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled ‘Removal of Committee Member’.

Proposition.

That Chief Pleas removes by resolution Conseiller Kennedy-Barnard from the Policy & Finance Committee.

295

The Speaker: Moving on to Agenda Item 5, which is to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee, entitled ‘Removal of Committee Member’, and I would ask Conseiller Guille to update us on the Report.

300

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir.

As the Committee member has now resigned from Chief Pleas entirely we wish to remove the Item.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille.

305

So for the benefit of the recording, Agenda Item 5 has been removed from the Agenda and will no longer be debated or discussed. Thank you for that confirmation, Conseiller Guille.

**6. The Bank Resolution (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2025 –
Policy and Finance Committee –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled ‘The Bank Resolution (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2025’ and to approve the Legislation entitled ‘The Bank Resolution (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2025’.

Proposition.

That Chief Pleas approves ‘The Bank Resolution (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2025.’

310

The Speaker: That brings us to Agenda Item 6, which is to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled ‘The Bank Resolution (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2025’, and to approve the legislation entitled ‘The Bank Resolution (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2025’.

I would like to ask Conseiller Guille to introduce the Report.

315

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir.

I would like to ask Conseiller Rose to introduce it.

The Speaker: Conseiller Rose, would you like to introduce the Report, please?

320

Conseiller Rose: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

So this is the Bank Resolution Law; it is very lengthy as you will have seen. The Conseillers received an in-person briefing on the proposed legislation from the Guernsey Financial Services

Authority on 4th June. For the public record, a concise summary of the legislation is provided below, which I will read out for the record.

So this legislation introduces a technical framework for managing the failure or insolvency of a bank without relying on public funds, a process known as bank resolution. The framework aligns with international standards set by the Financial Stability Board (FSB), established by the G20 in response to the 2008 financial crisis. While Jersey and the Isle of Man have already established bank resolution authorities, the Bailiwick has yet to implement a comparable system, leaving it behind other international financial centres.

The law establishes a Bank Resolution Committee (BRC) that meets global standards. Its purpose is to enable the Bailiwick to respond effectively to a bank failure; safeguard depositors in Guernsey, Alderney and Sark; maintain the stability of the banking system; ensure continuity of essential services, such as payments and access to funds.

The BRC would be particularly important in the event of a failure of a major retail bank. In such cases, the primary responsibility for resolution would lie with the bank's home authority, e.g. the Bank of England. But the BRC would ensure the Bailiwick has a voice in the process, something currently lacking.

The proposed approach mirrors that of Jersey and the Isle of Man, drawing on their legislative models. However, unlike Jersey, the Bailiwick will not create a separate resolution authority. Instead it will establish a legally independent committee funded by the Guernsey Financial Services Commission (GFSC). Additionally, the law does not introduce a separate bank winding up process, relying instead on an existing provision in Guernsey's Companies Law. There will be no direct costs to taxpayers. The GFSC will fund the BRC's routine operations through its existing fee structure. Any extraordinary costs arising from a bank resolution will be covered by a dedication resolution fund financed by the banking sector or recovered from the failing institution.

We also have a list here of answers to questions and feedback that we have received from the office, and I just want to highlight the last one, which is: Sark is not giving away any powers or autonomy by passing this legislation, which merely reframes how banks operating in the Bailiwick are resolved if they run into trouble.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Rose, for introducing the Report.

Does anyone have any questions or queries that they would like to raise on the report or from what you have heard from Conseiller Rose?

Conseiller Makepeace, thank you.

Conseiller Makepeace: I wish to express serious concerns about the Bank Resolution (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2025 and the implications it carries for Sark. While the intent behind the law may be sound, aligning Guernsey with global financial standards, it presents real strategic and constitutional risks for our Island.

First, it centralises authority in Guernsey. The Bank Resolution Committee will be administered and funded by the Guernsey Financial Services Commission, which answers to Guernsey and not Sark. We are included in name but without any guarantee of a seat at the table or meaningful influence.

Second, it exposes Sark to liability without control. We are told there will be no direct cost to taxpayers, but extraordinary costs will be met from a resolution fund. If that fund is under pressure, Guernsey may well expect all jurisdictions, including Sark, to share the burden, directly or indirectly.

Third, it puts us at risk. If a bank serving Sark fails and the resolution is mishandled, our community could face service disruption, financial loss and reputational fallout, yet we would have had no say in the process.

Finally, we must ask, do we even need this? Sark has minimal exposure to the financial sector.
375 What we risk here, giving away sovereignty, assuming shared liabilities and accepting top-down decisions from Guernsey, seems far greater than any benefit.

I believe we should not approve this legislation unless three core protections are secured. First, a guaranteed representative from Sark on the Bank Resolution Committee. Second, veto power over resolutions that affect Sark-based clients or institutions. And third, annual reporting to Chief
380 Pleas on the BRC's activities. Until those conditions are met, I believe approval would be premature and potentially harmful to our independence and interests.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

385 Would anyone from the Committee, Conseiller Rose, Conseiller Guille, or anyone else like to come back on the points that have been raised by Conseiller Makepeace before we move on to a more general debate about it? Any response to those points?

Conseiller Plummer, thank you.

390 **Conseiller Plummer:** Yes, I feel that we should keep Sark in a safe place. If we are going to be honest, we have only got 500-odd inhabitants and we have not got a great deal of money, as everybody knows, but we are still solvent and I feel we have to make it a safe place. If it is not a safe place we may have undesirables trying to bank here, whatever, so I think it is good to go with this projet.

395 Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Plummer.

Conseiller Martin, thank you, followed by Conseiller Guille. Conseiller Guille first; who was first? Conseiller Guille, thank you.

400

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir.

I will be supporting this and I do not think some of Conseiller Makepeace's concerns are quite accurate to the intent of this – well, actually the specific application of this law. This is a bank resolution law to be exercised in the circumstances such in 2008 where major banks would fail
405 and a resolution needs to be made in order to (a) protect the consumers, which would be the public of the Bailiwick and (b) to protect the Governments of the Bailiwick from being liable for bailing out the banks themselves.

This law has been, I think, about 10 years in the making and is much needed here, having versions of it been implemented in Jersey and the Isle of Man. It is such that the banks themselves
410 are requesting that such a law is in place to give them the security to continue to operate.

Our banks in Sark are not Sark banks, we do not have a Sark bank in law. The bank in law sits in Guernsey and the banks in Sark are branches of Guernsey banks. I think we are very lucky in Sark, in such a small community, to still have a full branch of HSBC and services of NatWest provided in the Gallery Stores.

415 Failing to pass a law, which is standard in pretty much all other modern European jurisdictions, would set us apart and would make it even less attractive for these banks to continue to operate small branches on Sark for the benefit of our community. Even the branches in Guernsey are small branches when you compare them to towns in the UK. So I think this is just a very sensible and wise thing to do to protect the community, to protect the Government.

420 I also would beg to see the point of the expense or the feasibility of having somebody from Sark of our small population sitting on the Bank Resolution Committee when this is going to be populated by industry experts and employees working in that field within Guernsey. So I am quite happy to support this law.

We have had a couple of emails in the last couple of days railing against the introduction of this law and claiming that it would shut down future opportunities for the Island permanently in various supposed innovative financial services areas.

First of all, that is not true. Any law that we pass in Chief Pleas is not forever. It can be repealed if it really needs to be. Setting up innovative financial companies in Sark just is not possible at the moment, we do not have a company law in Sark. If we did have a company law in Sark, you would have to choose whether it was covered by it. But it is highly unlikely that we are going to be operating a bank in Sark anyway. But that is a decision for the future. So I contest the essence of the correspondence we have received that we are permanently closing off opportunities for the Island.

I would urge Conseillers to support this law.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille.
Conseiller Martin, you had your hand up.

Conseiller Martin: Yes, thanks, sir.

It was just to point out to Mr Makepeace, when he suggested that does Sark really need this, just reading it at the top of the line, it is an actual law that we have been asked to join up for. So it is part of law that we need to go and do, so we did not have any choice of signing up as such.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Martin.
Any other – Conseiller Makepeace, thank you.

Conseiller Makepeace: I notice there is never any mention of us signing up to health and safety laws or protection for tenants or landlords or employment laws or such. We seem to go along and commit ourselves to such laws when it suits the outsiders but we never introduce anything that actually helps our own people.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.
Conseiller Miller, thank you.

Conseiller Miller: I cannot understand how anyone would not vote for this. It protects us all from losing our deposits with these banks. If we do not, we may not be looked after in the event of a failure.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Miller.

Does anyone else have any other points they would like to raise regarding the Report and the Proposition at this stage before we go to a summing up? Any other comments, any other observations? No.

In which case, I will ask, Conseiller Rose, would you like to sum up before we go to the Proposition?

Conseiller Rose: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

It is just to highlight again that it is something the Sark needs to have in place to protect its residents from harm. I urge Conseillers to support this proposition.

Thank you.

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

475 So the Proposition attached to this Report reads as follows, that Chief Pleas approves the Bank Resolution (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2025. Those in favour? Thank you. Those against? **Carried.** Thank you very much indeed. Very good.

**7. Sark Commissioner for Standards and Island Trustees –
Policy and Finance Committee –
Propositions carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled ‘Sark Commissioner for Standards and Island Trustees’. and to approve an ‘Amendment to The Reform (Sark) Law, 2008’.

Proposition 1.

That Chief Pleas approves the Project de Loi entitled ‘The Reform (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2025’ as set out in Appendix A.

Proposition 2.

That Chief Pleas for the purposes of The Reform (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2025 agrees the ‘relevant date’ to be 2nd April 2024.

Proposition 3.

That Chief Pleas approves the Code of Conduct for Members of Chief Pleas as set out in Appendix B.

480 **The Speaker:** On to Agenda Item 7, which is to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled ‘Sark Commissioner for Standards and Island Trustees’ and to approve an ‘Amendment to the Reform (Sark) Law, 2008. I would like to ask Conseiller Guille to introduce the report.

Thank you.

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

It is a very important subject which has been on the Agenda at several Chief Pleas meetings over the past year and therefore I think I should read the Report for the purposes of *Hansard*.

Policy and Finance Committee presents three propositions to Chief Pleas regarding the appointments of the Sark Commissioner for Standards and the replacement of the Island Trustees.

490 At its Extraordinary Meeting held on 19th March 2025 on the Old Island Lease Report, Chief Pleas resolved the following:

That Chief Pleas directs the Policy and Finance Committee to instruct the Law Officers of the Crown to prepare the necessary legislation to establish the Office of the Sark Commissioner for Standards. That Chief Pleas directs the Policy and Finance Committee to instruct the Law Officers of the Crown to prepare the necessary legislation to effect the transfer of the trustees’ functions.

495 This Report with Propositions and the accompanying appendices is to give effect to these resolutions.

The Sark Commissioner for Standards. Appendix A contains the amendments to the Reform (Sark) Law, 2008. Among other changes, these amendments empower Chief Pleas to adopt a new Code of Conduct applying to all Members of Chief Pleas. Members will be required to comply with the Commissioner’s investigations, including the obligation to produce relevant documents.
500 Failure to provide documents or appear before the Commissioner will constitute an offence.

Additionally, the amendments mandate that the Commissioner must submit an annual report for provisions for appeals. The proposed amendments require Chief Pleas to set a relevant date by resolution. The Commissioner will be able to investigate acts or omissions involving Conseillers,

which took place on or after this date under paragraphs 1.3 to 1.7 of the old Code of Conduct
505 Conseillers of Chief Pleas, up to the date of the commencement of these amendments.

The amendments will come into force following the grant of Royal Assent and the subsequent making of commencement regulations by the Policy and Finance Committee, at which the new Code of Conduct for Members of Chief Pleas will apply.

510 The Policy and Finance Committee recommends setting the relevant date as 2nd April 2024, which is when the Code of Conduct Panel began its investigations into the Old Island Hall. The rationale is that during the course of these investigations, the Code of Conduct Panel was unable to accept any new allegations or complaints.

A modified version of the Code of Conduct for Members of the States of Deliberation, (Guernsey), is included as appendix B. The Guernsey's complaints model, the Commissioner in
515 their capacity as the Guernsey Commissioner for Standards, is responsible for receiving and investigating allegations and complaints. The findings are then submitted to the Assembly, which determines any appropriate sanctions. It is proposed that Chief Pleas adopts this similar model and code with the Commissioner's recommendations sent to the Policy and Finance Committee to bring to Chief Pleas.

520 Transfer of trustee functions. The amendments also allow for the replacement of the trustees, commonly referred to as the Island Trustees, with the Douzaine and the Policy and Finance Committee. The trustees have already indicated their willingness to relinquish their functions. Specifically, this is for the Douzaine to take on the role of the trustees for acquisition, management, and disposal of property (section 57), and for the Policy and Finance Committee to
525 take on the role of the signing of contracts (section 58).

Personally, I think this is a fantastic opportunity for Sark. We are very lucky, I think, to have Dr McCullough to offer her services as the new Sark Commissioner for Standards and also to put forward a very kind offer of running all the complaints in the first year at no charge.

I think it is an important step forward for Chief Pleas and I urge all Conseillers to support this
530 Item.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille.

Does anyone have any questions or debate from the floor relative to the Report or from what you have heard from Conseiller Guille?

535 Conseiller Makepeace, thank you.

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes, sir, I would like to congratulate Conseiller Guille on his speech and all his hard work. I really do look forward to Conseiller Guille participating in the Code of Conduct complaint against yourself, which I will bring, and to see the miraculous new evidence witnessed
540 and presented by Conseiller Guille and the new witnesses that he has produced six months after the event. I really look forward to seeing that as part of the inquiry.

However, what I would like to say as well, the Code of Conduct proposal is based on Guernsey's model, which is a sound starting point. However, my concerns are, and this may be a procedural thing, in Guernsey, when a complaint is investigated, the Commissioner submits the findings to
545 the full Assembly. I understand this goes through the Constitutional Committee, as I understand, who determine whether sanctions are appropriate. That is democratic oversight in action.

My concerns are, with the findings going to the Policy and Finance Committee, will each and every Member of this Assembly receive a copy of the findings on the same day? There is no mention of any time limit that the Policy and Finance Committee can hold these findings for. There
550 is no mention of whether they will make recommendations according to the Report or whether we will follow directly the recommendations of Ms McCullough.

This really concerns me that this is not sabotaged or altered in favour of the privileged few who seem to have protection at all costs. This concerns me that we are not following the Guernsey model to the T. Can Conseiller Guille reassure the House that when this report of any findings
555 comes through that each and every Member of this House will receive the findings on the same

day? There will not be a delay or there will not be any excuses, 'Well, people on holiday, we need to look at this' and that we are waiting three months later to get the Report.

Thank you.

560 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.
Conseiller Guille, would you like to respond to any of those points?

Conseiller Guille: Yes, certainly. As Conseiller Makepeace pointed out, this is purely procedural. There has to be a mechanism for the Commissioner for Standards report to enter
565 Chief Pleas and the Report would enter Chief Pleas unchanged, just merely through the Policy and Finance Committee. It is the Policy and Finance Committee in Sark because we do not have a Constitutional Committee in Guernsey. It was incorrect. The Constitutional Committee in Guernsey does not decide or make judgement on the findings of the Report. It is brought to the whole States Assembly to do, as will be the same case in Sark.

570 I cannot see any reason for delay in bringing this, mainly because there is a very sure and specific appeal process as well in the new Code of Conduct which will be handled directly through the Commissioner, who will pass it on to another independent person.

That would all be handled before it comes to the Policy and Finance Committee, and it is just merely a mechanism to bring the reports to Chief Pleas.

575 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Guille.
Conseiller Makepeace, thank you.

Conseiller Makepeace: The question is then, will we all receive the Report on the same day as
580 P&F receives it?
Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.
Are you able to confirm that, Conseiller Guille?

585 **Conseiller Guille:** I do not know if I am able to; I do not think so. I think the report comes to the Policy and Finance Committee who then arrange a date with the Speaker for the next available Chief Pleas meeting, be it a statutory meeting or an extraordinary meeting, if the period is going to be too long until the next statutory meeting.

590 I believe that all Conseillers would receive the report when the papers are published. I think that is probably a safe and fair way to do it. We have had problems in the past with reports being leaked to the media before they were in the public domain. So I think that sounds like a fair way to conduct this.

595 As I said, the Policy and Finance Committee is merely a mechanism for these reports to be brought to Chief Pleas.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille. Conseiller Cragoe, I will come to you in one second.
Conseiller Makepeace, thank you.

600 **Conseiller Makepeace:** So is Conseiller Guille then perhaps suggesting that the members of the Policy and Finance Committee can be trusted and are more honest than the rest of us, that they will be party to the information for maybe months on end, and the rest of us mere mortals will have to sit and wait until Conseiller Guille decides that we are worthy of viewing this thing?
I do not see why there should be a delay because already we are looking at – we can see the
605 excuses forming, 'Well, we cannot get an Extraordinary Meeting. Well, we cannot get a' – this gives the Policy and Finance Committee an unfair advantage over the rest of us because they will

have had a period of maybe months to digest this information, to challenge it, to change it, to do whatever they want for it, before we even get sight of it.

Thank you.

610

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

Conseiller Cragoe, do you want to go next? Conseiller Cragoe, thank you.

Conseiller Cragoe: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

615

Yes, I am very much in favour of this. I think this is a very good idea and the Policy and Finance Committee is to be commended for getting this through.

I think Conseiller Makepeace is making certainly some good points, and perhaps the Policy and Finance Committee would consider putting out some guidelines about how – slightly more detailed guidelines about what happens at the – to add some timelines, just to reassure everyone that things will be brought in a timely manner.

620

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Cragoe.

Conseiller Guille, thank you.

625

Conseiller Guille: Yes, I thank Conseiller Cragoe for the suggestion. I am just hesitant to make a commitment right now because this is an important matter where we have sought expert advice at every step of the way. I think the suggestion that it would be months is just clearly not going to be the case. We have a statutory meeting of Chief Pleas every three months and we have got the ability to have Extraordinary Meetings of Chief Pleas in between should it be needed. So yes, I am absolutely taking Conseiller Cragoe's suggestions on board and I will commit that I will bring to the Policy and Finance Committee a suggestion that we seek further advice and come back to the House with clarification. But I would still very much encourage Conseillers to support the propositions before them.

630

635

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille.

Conseiller Locke, thank you very much indeed.

Conseiller Locke: Thank you, sir.

640

Inasmuch as the Proposition and law changes involve transfer of the trustee functions in part to the Douzaine and in part to Policy and Finance, I would like to make a brief comment, which is that while we have not discussed this specific report in Committee – our next Douzaine is tomorrow night – the principles within it have been discussed at the previous Chief Pleas. We are more than aware of the split between the functions that are to carry on and I, for one, will be grateful to have clarification so that I can get on and finish the guidelines that we are supposed to bring to the House in respect of leases and whatever. This is good as far as I am concerned, and I will be supporting it as a whole.

645

Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Locke.

650

Conseiller Makepeace back to you. Conseiller Harris, one second. Conseiller Makepeace first, thank you.

Conseiller Makepeace: On the subject of transferring the trustee responsibilities. I would like to know where is the oversight of this? In principle I support rationalising functions but the proposal lacks any mention of how these new powers will be overseen, reported on or reviewed. Property transactions, land management and contract signing are serious matters, not routine administration. They deserve clear processes, checks and balances and transparency to the public.

655

Could we not require annual reporting to Chief Pleas on decisions made under sections 57 and 58, or establish a scrutiny mechanism for review?

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

I will come back to Conseiller Locke first, and then I will come to Conseiller Harris, if I may.

Conseiller Locke, thank you.

Conseiller Locke: Thank you, sir.

It is the case that we are already starting to follow some of the McCullough principles in reporting leases and other arrangements to the entire Chief Pleas membership for comment and any response. Now that these transfer functions are in place, we will be formalising those guidelines to bring to the Chief Pleas again for their comment and any amends that may be needed so this is in hand, but could not really start until this Proposition gets passed.

Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Locke.

Conseiller Harris, you have been waiting patiently, thank you.

Conseiller Harris: That is perfectly all right, sir.

I just wanted to reiterate the points made by Conseillers Cragoe and Makepeace. I think this is obviously the most effective and efficient way to make the system work, but I think it is important for us to have a codified set of guidelines, if you like, I think to make sure that things do not end up going into the long grass and to ensure that there is at least relative parity of information between different Members in the Chamber. We do not want a situation where things are kept back because they are sensitive. I think we need to have a timescale and so forth. I am relaxed about – obviously it has to go somewhere. P&F seems like it is the place for it to go and I am relaxed about members of P&F having sighted the information before the rest of us, but I do not think that should be the case for a long period of time.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Harris.

There we are. There is some debate on that. Does anyone have any further points, questions or debate?

Conseiller Locke, thank you.

Conseiller Locke: Yes, thank you, sir

Apologies, I forgot one bit and that is that under the new law or the new amendments to the law, ultimately it is Chief Pleas who decides on what happens with the management and disposal of property should there ever be any question about it. Ultimately the scrutiny is for this House at the appropriate time.

Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Thank you for confirming that, Conseiller Locke.

Conseiller Nicolle, thank you.

Conseiller Nicolle: I am grateful to Dr Melissa McCullough for offering to attend to the first year free of charge because we should also be mindful that over £16,000 of taxpayers' money already went on the investigation into the Old Island Hall.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Nicolle, for making that point.

Conseiller Guille, thank you.

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, Conseiller Nicolle for that. Dr McCullough made it very clear in her report that the Old Island Hall Lease investigation was not a Code of Conduct matter, it was a stand-alone investigation. She was not our Commissioner at the time. We asked her to conduct a wide-ranging investigation at the time, not just into Members of Chief Pleas, but across the board with everybody involved.

She made it very clear it was far, far in excess of the time normally spent on Code of Conduct investigations. So I hope that gives some comfort, Conseiller Nicolle, that that is certainly not what would be expected in the normal course and after the first year.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille, for answering that question from Conseiller Nicolle. So there we have it. Does anyone have any further points that they would like to raise, any questions, any debate regarding the Report and the Projet de Loi and the appendices attached to the Report? Any further comments or debate?

In which case, I will come back to Conseiller Guille and just ask you if I may – no. It is as presented. You have heard the debate, you have had the discussions. Therefore, the three propositions attached to the Report, and we will therefore deal with each proposition in turn.

Proposition 1 reads that Chief Pleas approves the Project de Loi entitled ‘The Reform (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2025’ as set out in Appendix A. Those in favour? Thank you. Those against? That is **carried**. Thank you very much indeed.

Proposition 2 reads that Chief Pleas for the purposes of The Reform (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2025 agrees the ‘relevant date’ to be 2nd April 2024. Those in favour? Thank you. Those against? That is also **carried**. Thank you.

Finally, Proposition 3, which reads that Chief Pleas approves the Code of Conduct for Members of Chief Pleas as set out in Appendix B. Those in favour? Thank you. Those against? **Carried**.

Thank you for that.

**8. Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Sark Branch –
Policy and Finance Committee –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled ‘Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Sark Branch’ and to approve an Amendment to the ‘The Constitution and Operation of Chief Pleas Committees’.

Proposition.

That Chief Pleas amends The Constitution and Operation of Chief Pleas Committees to establish a Sark Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The Speaker: Moving along to Agenda Item 8, to confirm a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled ‘Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Sark Branch’ and to approve an amendment to ‘The Constitution and Operation of Chief Pleas Committees’. I would like to ask Conseiller Tighe to introduce this Report.

Thank you, Conseiller Tighe.

Conseiller Tighe: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I have not much more to add to the Report, which is relatively self-explanatory, but would like to clarify that the current structure follows the recommended model used widely across the Commonwealth.

In accordance with CPA practice and model branch constitutions, the presiding officer is expected to serve as Chair of the local CPA branch. This reflects the Speaker’s role as the head of

750 the legislature and provides continuity and neutrality in the branch's leadership. While some flexibility exists, this structure is the established norm in CPA branches, especially in jurisdictions of comparable size and nature to Sark.

In accordance with Commonwealth Parliamentary Association practice and model branch constitutions, the presiding officer is expected to serve as Chair of the local CPA branch, reflecting
755 their role as the head of legislature and representative in inter-parliamentary affairs.

As to the point of impartiality in conduct, the CPA operates on the basis of institutions and not individuals. The appointment of the Speaker as Chair is based on the office held and not on personal circumstances. I will be supporting this proposition as it constitutes best practice and democratic norms in other jurisdictions.

760 The legitimacy and standing of the Sark branch within the wider CPA depends on adhering to the structures and expectations that underpin the Association as a whole, and I urge the rest of the House to support it as well.

From my own personal perspective, the Welsh Parliament recently hosted the 54th British Islands and Mediterranean Region (BIMR) Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)
765 conference addressing the needs of a modern parliament which the Speaker, the Senior Operations Officer and I were able to attend and, in my opinion, was phenomenal.

The welcome extended to delegates was warm and genuine and the entire event was impressively well organised, and we are truly grateful to them for their generous hospitality and professionalism throughout the week. We were also fortunate to personally engage with
770 parliamentarians not only from the host nation of Wales but also from Jersey, the Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, Malta, Gibraltar, Cyprus, Quebec and the Western Cape, all of whom expressed enthusiasm in welcoming Sark into the CPA family and showed great interest in our unique position as an emerging democracy.

We were fortunate enough to be allowed to remain for the Annual General Meeting despite
775 our membership not yet being fully finalised. I was especially grateful for the opportunity to attend the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Steering Committee meeting, which provided valuable insight into the work of the Women's Branch and underscored the importance of gender equity and support within parliamentary systems, issues highly relevant to Sark's evolving democracy.

780 Having participated in the conference, I was able to see first-hand just how valuable membership of the CPA will be for Sark. As a democracy still in its infancy, engagement with the CPA will not only support Sark's development but also affirm our capacity to govern effectively and to meet internationally-recognised standards. Membership will strengthen Sark's independence and self-determination by visibly aligning us with best practices and democratic
785 norms.

I was particularly struck by the emphasis on the benefits of inter-jurisdictional networking, especially among the smaller islands. The opportunity to share experiences and access peer-to-peer support through other jurisdictions could help Sark avoid the need to reinvent the wheel and instead to learn from the success of others. Across several sessions, the theme of sharing best
790 practices repeatedly emerged, reinforcing the value of collaboration.

I believe that CPA membership will greatly support the professional development of Sark's elected Members, and will be a strong statement of our commitment to strengthening good governance. I also look forward to seeing Sark take steps towards joining the Small Islands Branch and the Women's Branch of the CPA, both of which are currently chaired by Deputies from
795 neighbouring Guernsey. These branches present an excellent platform for dialogue and support for our unique context and aspirations.

Personally, I felt deeply honoured to represent Sark on the wider parliamentary stage. Wearing the Sark badge gave me a strong sense of pride and responsibility. I look forward to hearing the views of other Conseillers as opportunities for further engagement are presented, and I encourage
800 ongoing dialogue on how Sark can take forward its relationship with the CPA in a meaningful and practical way.

The next steps are for the Secretary General, Stephen Twigg, and CPA UK Chief Executive, Sarah Dickson, to visit hopefully later this year.

I will be supporting this Proposition and I hope that my fellow Conseillers will as well.

805 Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Tighe. Thank you very much indeed.

Does anyone have any questions or queries?

Conseiller Makepeace, thank you.

810

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes, I would like to thank Conseiller Tighe for that, however I think her description of the mention of the Speaker is slightly distorted, perhaps to influence the Item that she has introduced, because the CPA constitution and branch guides and rules for Small Branches has no mandatory requirement to appoint the Speaker automatically. The standard CPA practice is for the elected Members of the Assembly, i.e. Chief Pleas, to nominate its Chair, Deputy Chair and Treasurer, and for elected Members to vote on it.

815

What I think Conseiller Tighe is becoming confused with is that most of the participants in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, for example, have Speakers who are sitting Members, for example like the UK chooses its Speaker from the elected MPs, so does Guernsey. These people have been elected by the people of the land and then they are chosen from within the Members. There is no automatic right anywhere in any of these countries for the Speaker to be automatically nominated. The choice is very, very clear.

820

The choice is made from the House, from the elected representatives, and they appoint the person. They may well choose to appoint the Speaker, and if he receives enough votes, then that carries. But there is nothing at all in the rules that says that it is mandatory that the Speaker has to be chosen.

825

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

Conseiller Tighe, would you like to respond to that, please?

830

Conseiller Tighe: Yes, as I just mentioned, while some flexibility exists, this structure is the established norm in CPA branches, especially in jurisdictions of comparable size and nature.

Thank you.

835

The Speaker: Thank you.

Does anyone else – Conseiller Harris.

Thank you.

840

Conseiller Harris: Thank you, sir.

I think this is a good idea. Our neighbouring islands have been a member of the CPA for a long time. I know my mother, when she was a Senator in Jersey, attended on a few occasions. I thought it was very useful. It is about relationships, really. So I think it is a good thing for us to take our role on a more international stage. You will not be surprised to hear me say that I think that is a good idea.

845

My one concern is funding and financing, and I wonder if it would be worthwhile thinking about a maximum expenditure that we might be willing to make on a particular trip or a particular issue, because I am mindful that finances are rather tight at the moment. I think there is a need to balance off the benefits of networking, which I think are real. I am going to be voting for this, but I think there is a need to balance off the benefits versus the costs because some of these events can be in distant locations halfway or fully across the world. We might want to think about what it is sensible to spend on a particular event.

850

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Harris.

855 Before I come to Conseiller Cragoe, Martin and Locke, Conseiller Makepeace next.

Conseiller Makepeace. Yes, I welcome the points made by Conseiller Harris that we should obviously have an eye on the costs of these things.

860 I questioned the operations officer, or whatever his title is these days, William, as to who gave the authority for himself and Conseiller Tighe to attend the event, and he kindly informed me that the Policy and Finance Committee gave the go-ahead for himself and Conseiller Tighe to attend.

865 I have asked Conseiller Tighe if she would explain to me how the Speaker was invited. Was he invited by P&F? Was it approved? Was there a vote? What was the vote? Conseiller Tighe reluctantly has not replied to me yet and I would like to ask her who actually gave the go ahead to approve the Speaker's inclusion.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.
Conseiller Tighe, thank you.

870 **Conseiller Tighe:** Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.
Are you happy that I respond to your questions one by one?

Conseiller Makepeace: Of course.

875 **Conseiller Tighe:** So the first question Conseiller Makepeace recently communicated was who authorised the Speaker, Mr Paul Armorgie, to attend the recent CPA Conference in Wales as an official representative of Chief Pleas? The invitation to attend the British Islands and Mediterranean Region Conference was issued to Sark as a new member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. This is not a private or ad hoc opportunity but part of our engagement
880 as a recognised parliamentary jurisdiction.

At its meeting on 19th May 2025, under Agenda Item PF064.25(e), the Policy and Finance Committee discussed the invitation and agreed that both the Deputy Chair, myself, and the Speaker, Mr Paul Armorgie, would attend on behalf of Chief Pleas. There was agreement among the Committee, and this is properly recorded in the minutes of that meeting, which are available
885 publicly online.

Question number two: was this decision formally taken by the Policy and Finance Committee and if so on what date and with what recorded vote? As previously noted, the decision was made during the Policy and Finance Committee meeting on 19th May 2025. The approval is minuted under item PF064.25(e).

890 Three, if the Speaker's attendance was not approved by the Policy and Finance Committee, who gave the go-ahead for his participation and the use of public funds? This question is now answered. Attendance was discussed and agreed at the Committee meeting. Any suggestion that it was not approved or that public funds were used without authorisation is simply incorrect.

895 Four, in the absence of any formal approval process should Members conclude that the Speaker's invitation arose perhaps through private channels? The Speaker's invitation arose through official CPA channels as part of our participation in the BIMR region. To suggest otherwise is misleading and undermines the integrity of our engagement with the wider parliamentary community.

900 In summary, I appreciate the need for transparency and scrutiny, both are essential in public service. Any Member with questions about these processes is of course welcome to raise them, but equally important such scrutiny should be based on facts, not innuendo. The Speaker's attendance was formally discussed and agreed by the relevant Committee and the details of this are available publicly online.

905 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Tighe.

I will come to Conseiller Cragoe, Locke and Martin in a minute.
Conseiller Makepeace, thank you.

910 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Yes, I just wonder why it has taken Conseiller Tighe so long to explain this if it was so straightforward, because if she had have replied more timely, I would not have actually put the questions in, because the answer would have – the information, therefore I understand then, must be incorrect that William Spooner, the civil servant, gave me. Because he assured me that only yourself and himself had been approved.

915 I would suggest that you sort that out between yourselves because there is something missing there. And I do not know why it has taken you so long, because I would have withdrawn these questions if you would have replied to me and told me that this was the case. But you chose tonight to reply.

Thank you.

920 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Tighe, then I come to Conseiller Bateson who has got his hand up.
Conseiller Tighe.

Conseiller Tighe: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

925 I apologise for not responding sooner with the questions but I wanted it on *Hansard* as a matter of record in response to your questions, for members of the public as well.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Tighe.

Before the hands on this side, Conseiller Bateson would you like to respond?

930 **Conseiller Bateson:** I would like a clarification on a point of order really, point of order 13.6, debate must be relevant to the matter before the meeting. The matter before the meeting, as far as I can see, is that we are going to establish a branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. This is the Agenda Item we are supposed to be discussing. All this is not relevant to whether or not we do that, is it?

935

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Bateson, I hear what you are saying.

One second, Conseiller Makepeace, I will come back to you in a minute. There were some hands up over here. I will start with Conseiller Cragoe for next.

Conseiller Cragoe.

940

Conseiller Cragoe: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

945 Yes, I fully support this and I think it is a fantastic opportunity for Sark to join in an organisation that really will provide us with a lot of opportunities, quite a lot of them free as well. Online training courses and things that you can just – and things you can read that are really interesting and useful, and that opportunity to make connections with people who have probably thought some of the same things that we are trying to think and done some of the same things.

I would like to correct something, though, that Conseiller Makepeace said. Sir Richard McMahon is the Bailiff and Speaker of the States of Guernsey. He is also the President of Guernsey's CPA branch, and he is not elected. He is an appointed official.

950

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Cragoe.

Conseiller Cragoe: Sorry, and I should say that I think, as a starting place, this is an excellent place to start with our branch organisation and I support the organisation as proposed.

955

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Cragoe.

Conseiller Martin, you had your hand up, thank you.

Conseiller Martin: Thank you, sir.

960 It was just to say that today I actually spoke with a member of the MSP from Scotland who was introduced to us by Natalie, who had obviously been up to the CPA in Wales. The help that this chat gave me on the disabilities that I am trying to put forward for disability awareness and so on, it was unbelievable. I now, instead of having a small book of things to go and try, I have got a massive book to go and do. I am definitely for getting behind that one and saying it is a go.

965

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Martin.

Conseiller Locke, you had your hand up.

Conseiller Locke: Thank you, sir.

970 I would just like to echo the positive comments made by Conseillers in this meeting. I was interested in CPA once it was introduced to us by the States of Guernsey Greffier in our briefing meeting all those months ago, and when Conseiller Cragoe and I were over at the States of Guernsey when our item involving Sark was being debated, we were told in very positive terms about how membership of the CPA benefited Guernsey and would help members of the CPA punch above their weight on the international scene.

975

So quite apart from the information interchange and the best practice, this is a really good thing as far as I am concerned for Sark, and I will be very happy to support the proposition.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Locke.

980 I pick up on Conseiller Bateson's point, please can we keep this debate relevant to the Report and the Proposition that we have before us and not go wandering off in different directions because it detracts from the Report and the debate.

Thank you, point well made, Conseiller Bateson.

Conseiller Makepeace first, followed by Conseiller Tighe.

985

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes, I agree with Conseiller Bateson. However, I would say that the problem arose because I asked – the questions I asked of Conseiller Tighe were supposed to be questions not related to the Business of the Day. It is yourself that said that they would be answered later. This is why it has crossed over into the proposal, this is where the confusion has come from.

990

In response to Conseiller Cragoe's comment regarding Richard McMahon. Yes, I understand that and that is correct. However Guernsey is not classed as a Small Branch. Guernsey is a Major Branch, so the rules do not apply.

995

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

Conseiller Tighe, thank you.

Conseiller Tighe: Just to say, Conseiller Makepeace, Guernsey is actually the head of the small islands branch with Deputy Adrian Gabriel heading up that branch.

1000

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Tighe.

Conseiller Makepeace, is it relevant?

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes.

1005

Yes, I would like to thank Conseiller Tighe for that reassurance and I really do welcome this and I look forward to then our participation in perhaps introducing a minimum wage here, introducing protection for tenants, health and safety laws and all the other laws which we seem to be well behind, that we have never even given any thought to. I welcome the mutual discussion and

exchange of information we can have with these territories or countries so we can introduce the same items here.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

Back to Conseiller Tighe, thank you.

Conseiller Tighe: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Just to add another point with sharing best experience, so having benchmarking parity with other jurisdictions, one of the conversations I actually had was with the head of the legislative aspects of Tynwald. His wife is actually the first person to be pregnant while serving in office and they were having to create policies themselves for maternity leave. Other jurisdictions are also going through the same issues that we face as a small parliament as well, so I think there is benefit again from sharing best practice.

I would also like to address the other questions that Conseiller Makepeace raised. There were two emails that Conseiller Makepeace raised, so if you are happy I will answer those questions as well. Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace, again for your questions regarding the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association held in Wales.

Question one: what specific benefits, financial, training-related or otherwise, have been secured for Sark as a direct result of attending this conference? Well no direct financial benefits are offered or were secured. The training-related and strategic benefits for Sark are potentially considerable. These include: insight into best practice for inclusive governance, youth engagement, digital communications and mental well-being, critical topics for our evolving democracy.

Professional development opportunities for exposure to high-calibre workshops on topics such as mental health for parliamentarians, digital engagement and accessibility in governance, positioning Sark for future inclusion in the CPA's Small Islands and Women's Branches which will offer ongoing training, mentorship and institutional support. These represent foundational benefits that will support the long-term development and resilience of Sark's democratic institution.

Question two: were any formal offers of support, resources or partnerships made to Sark by other jurisdictions or CPA officials? No formal written offers were made during the conference and none were expected as this was the introductory initial foray into CPA membership. However, the reception to Sark's participation was overwhelmingly positive.

Key outcomes include: personal expressions of support and invitations for continued dialogue from delegates and CPA officials, encouragement from the Secretary General and CPA UK Chief Executive to visit Sark later this year, indicating a willingness to explore future collaboration and support structures, expressions of interest from other jurisdictions in providing informal peer support and exchange opportunities. These initial connections are an important step towards establishing more structured partnerships as our CPA membership progresses.

Question three: how will lessons or contacts gained at the event be shared with all Members of Chief Pleas and used to inform the work of our Committees? To ensure transparency and collective benefit, I have circulated a summary of key sessions attended and I am happy to expand on any particular topic at Members' requests. I am happy to share any insights at an upcoming PDG meeting and I believe that lessons can be learned also by channelling into relevant Committee workstreams, particularly where youth engagement, digital communication or well-being are under consideration.

To this end, Conseiller Martin has been introduced to MSP Jeremy Balfour who is the Regional Champion for the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities. I hope that this will be the start of a long working relationship. Furthermore, when CPA membership is formalised, future training resources and workshops can be shared across the whole of Chief Pleas.

1060 Question four: In light of public funding used for this trip, does Conseiller Tighe consider this to have been a good return on investment for Sark? Yes, I believe this has been an invaluable return on investment for Sark, especially at this critical stage in our democratic development. The CPA Conference enhanced Sark's visibility on the international stage, facilitated strategic connections that could unlock future training and partnership opportunities, provided governance insights that are directly applicable to improving our institutions, and laid the groundwork for future institutional support through CPA membership.

1065 The importance of CPA membership should not be underestimated. I believe that it provides an essential platform for smaller jurisdictions like ours to access training, build relationships and strengthen democratic practice. Participation in such conferences supports the long-term development of Chief Pleas and the individuals who serve within it.

1070 To clarify the financial arrangements, travel costs were pre-approved by the Policy and Finance Committee. An informal expenses policy had also been agreed prior to the trip. Accommodation and subsistence in Cardiff were kindly provided by the Welsh Branch of the CPA, while Chief Pleas covered only the travel, and incidental subsistence were not otherwise provided.

1075 Given our small size and resource constraints, access to shared knowledge and regional collaboration is, I believe, essential. The conference offered precisely that and I look forward to ensuring these benefits are translated into tangible progress for Chief Pleas and the wider community.

1080 Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Tighe.
Yes, Conseiller Makepeace, thank you.

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes, thank you, Conseiller Tighe.
1085 I understand there are approximately 20 more planned events for the CPA this year; they offer worldwide destinations. How many of those does Conseiller Tighe intend attending with yourself and Mr Spooner, in the interests of Sark, of course?

Thank you.

1090 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.
Conseiller Tighe.

Conseiller Tighe: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.
1095 I think it will be over to the Sark Branch to decide which Conseillers attend and when they attend.

The Speaker: Thank you.

1100 There we have it. You have listened to the debate and the points. It has gone slightly off-topic, but we included questions which were relevant to it and therefore more appropriate under this Agenda Item than Questions not related to the Business of the Day.

Conseiller Nicolle, thank you.

Conseiller Nicolle: Could I just ask, please, would Policy and Finance consider allowing this to come back to Policy Development Group, PDG, so that every Chief Pleas Member would have the opportunity to comment on the structure as we move forward at this exciting stage?
1105

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Nicolle, for that question. Policy and Finance, would you like to answer that question?

Conseiller Tighe, thank you.

1110 **Conseiller Tighe:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Thank you, Conseiller Nicolle. I believe that by deferring this Proposition it could potentially harm our membership. As I said earlier on, I will be supporting this Proposition as it constitutes best practice and democratic norms in other jurisdictions. The legitimacy and standing of the Sark Branch within the wider CPA depends on adhering to the structures and expectations that underpin the association as a whole. I urge the House to support this Proposition tonight.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Tighe.
Back to Conseiller Makepeace, thank you.

Conseiller Makepeace: I wish I could support this Proposition tonight; however, as we are not being given the democratic right to elect the Chairman of this CPA Branch, I will unfortunately be having to vote against it because I think the elected Members of the House should have the say and should have the vote on who represents us.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.
There we are. You have heard the discussions and the debate. Before we go to the Proposition, Conseiller Tighe, would you like to sum up before we vote on the Proposition?
Conseiller Tighe, thank you.

Conseiller Tighe: Thank you, sir.
I have just been reminded this is Conseiller Makepeace's democratic right with this Proposition.

The Speaker: So you would like to take an alternative Proposition?

Conseiller Tighe: No.

The Speaker: No?

Conseiller Tighe: This is his right to vote on this Proposition.

The Speaker: Yes, okay. There we have it.
Let's, therefore, move to the Proposition before you, attached to the Report, which reads as follows, that Chief Pleas amends 'The Constitution and Operation of Chief Pleas Committees' to establish a Sark Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Those in favour? Thank you. Those against? Thank you. That is **carried**. Thank you very much indeed.

We have been going for almost an hour and a half. I think before we move on to the next Agenda Item, I will call a comfort break. Let's take up to, but no longer than, 10 minutes, back in here at 25 to seven.

Conseiller Rose, thank you.

Conseiller Rose: Thank you, Mr Speaker.
I just wanted to say that we would like to pull the next Item from the Agenda, so maybe we could do that now and then take the break. We have realised that the wording for the Funding for Home Education Proposition does not quite fit what we were trying to do. We have had it highlighted from some questions asked from people in the House and so we would like to pull it and bring it back again to the Michaelmas, if that is okay.

**9. Funding for Home Education –
Education Committee Report with Proposition –
Proposition withdrawn**

1160 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Rose; I hear what you are saying, let's do that now. You have just heard what Conseiller Rose has said, that the Education Committee wish to pull Agenda Item 9 from this Agenda.

 We will take a comfort break now for 10 minutes and we will come back and recommence with Agenda Item 10 at 25 minutes to seven.

1165 Thank you very much indeed.

*Chief Pleas adjourned at 18.25 p.m.
and resumed its sitting at 18.35 p.m.*

The Speaker: Thank you very much indeed for returning promptly; it is 25 to seven.

1170 Just to recap, we heard before we broke that Agenda Item 9 has been withdrawn by the Education Committee so that no longer stands.

**10. An Update on the Development of a Scrutiny Function –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered**

To consider a Report from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'Update on the Development of a Scrutiny Function'.

The Speaker: We will move, therefore, on to Agenda Item 10, which is to consider an Information Report from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'An Update on the Development of a Scrutiny Function' and I would like to ask Conseiller Guille to introduce the Report.

1175 Conseiller Guille, thank you.

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir.
Can I ask Conseiller Tighe to introduce the Report?

1180 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Tighe, thank you.

Conseiller Tighe: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

1185 We bring forward Agenda Item 10 today in recognition of the grand consensus that robust independent scrutiny is essential to the good governance of Sark. The intention behind this Item is to initiate a structured conversation around the introduction of a scrutiny mechanism that is proportionate, functional and credible within our unique context.

1190 The Policy and Finance Committee is seeking to explore the idea of establishing independent scrutiny panels potentially composed of lay members of the community to review thematic issues or projects ranging from infrastructure and its service delivery, and to report findings to Chief Pleas. This proposal reflects both our commitment to improving accountability and our awareness that effective scrutiny cannot be performed by those simultaneously responsible for decision making.

1195 We are grateful for the thoughtful and constructive responses we have received so far. These contributions raise important points that merit serious reflection. They include concerns about independence, something clearly voiced. There is understandable hesitation around any scrutiny process that is too closely linked to or controlled by the Policy and Finance Committee.

Suggestions have included tasking panels through broader consensus mechanisms such as the Policy Development Group or, in specific instances, external input from impartial figures.

1200 The capacity and impartiality of on-Island panels has also been raised. While our community is rich in volunteers, finding members with the required expertise in law, finance and governance who are also truly independent may be challenging in a small and interconnected population. Several have suggested the inclusion of off-Island professionals with the relevant experience to help ensure objectivity and to build public trust.

1205 Clarification of purpose is another key theme. Scrutiny should not duplicate the existing oversight possibly already embedded in our Committee system. Rather, it should focus on areas not easily addressed under current structures: evaluating Government processes, assessing value for money and identifying structural inefficiencies, starting small with focused, achievable tasks.

1210 Finally, there are procedural matters we must resolve. These include how reports are submitted to Chief Pleas, how topics are selected and how to ensure transparency without compromising independence. Several have suggested that scrutiny reports should go directly to the Speaker to avoid any appearance of filtering or obstruction.

1215 There is broad agreement that effective scrutiny is a vital component of a healthy Government but for it to work in Sark, it must be tailored to our realities, limited human resources, a Committee-led system and a tight-knit population. We look forward to a constructive discussion that takes us closer to a scrutiny model that strengthens rather than complicates the governance of Sark.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Tighe.

1220 There we have it before you, an Information Report with a summary there from Conseiller Tighe. Does anyone have any points they would like to raise, any questions of Conseiller Tighe and Policy and Finance?

Conseiller Makepeace, thank you.

1225 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Thank you, sir.

I would just like to say, since the proposal in 2019 this is unrecognisable and has strayed away from the main purpose. The original intention behind developing a scrutiny function was simple and quite clear: to provide independent oversight of the workings and decisions of the lead Committee, the Policy and Finance Committee.

1230 This intention is rooted in long-standing concerns that P&F currently operates without meaningful accountability, despite controlling the agenda, finances, strategic direction and often making decisions without proper input or consultation with fellow Conseillers. At present no mechanism exists to hold P&F to account and this undermines both public confidence and the integrity of governance on Sark.

1235 While the update submitted by P&F references the formation of thematic panels and advisory reviews, it notably avoids any commitment to independent scrutiny of P&F itself. This is a fundamental omission. The scrutiny function must include oversight of the lead Committee. Any scrutiny model that fails to examine the performance, decision making and governance conduct of the most powerful Committee is not worthy of the name. The current proposal risks becoming
1240 a token exercise in service level transparency, while the real issues and power and process remain unexamined.

1245 P&F cannot oversee its own scrutiny. It is entirely inappropriate for P&F to propose, shape or control the scrutiny process that may be used to review its own performance. Scrutiny reports must not be filtered or submitted through P&F. This undermines independence, raises the spectre of interference and renders the process meaningless.

The need for scrutiny has been under discussion since 2019 and before. Throughout, the focus has been clear: to ensure the lead Committee is answerable for its actions, priorities and use of

power. To now shift this to a set of generalised, volunteer-led panels is a retreat from the original and necessary purpose.

1250 Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

Would anyone from Policy and Finance like to respond to those points? Conseiller Tighe, thank you.

1255

Conseiller Tighe: Just to thank Conseiller Makepeace for his comments and we will take them on board.

The Speaker: Thank you.

1260 There is obviously no Proposition attached to this; it is an Information Report. Does anyone else have any comments or observations they would like to make?

Conseiller Harris, thank you.

Conseiller Harris: Thank you, sir,

1265 I was not going to say anything but I have been inspired by Conseiller Makepeace's *tour de force* of a speech. I would like to say I second most of it. I think the other issue that I have noticed as a Member here is that effectively P&F is the Government. So although formally we are all in Government actually, really P&F is the Government. P&F determines the advice that the Chamber receives. I do not know how we would do it any differently, actually.

1270 What one faces as a Member of this Chamber is that Policy and Finance determines who the experts are that we listen to, that we hear from; they are all from the position that P&F supports. As a Member who might have some scepticism or some criticism it is quite hard sometimes to find a way to take a different view or to make one's way through the thicket.

1275 What I am trying to say, I suppose, is that we have a very heavily dominant Executive in our system here in Sark. As somebody who supports the rights of parliament, really, I suppose, that is how I would put it, I think that is something we need to think about and look at about how Chief Pleas receives advice more broadly, not just through P&F.

1280 Because what happens is P&F selects the advisers and then there are public meetings which are more 'tell' rather than 'ask' mostly. In the public meetings, the public are given the perspectives from the experts that P&F have chosen. I say this to put it on record, really. I do not know exactly what we should do about it, but there is a system that promotes and exacerbates an overpowerful Executive, I think.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Harris.

1285 Conseiller Guille, followed by Conseiller Locke.

Thank you, Conseiller Guille.

Conseiller Guille: Thank you.

1290 I think Conseiller Makepeace's and Conseiller Harris's comments are pretty generalistic and pretty sensationalist, really. It is not P&F who brings every Proposition to Chief Pleas; there are a number of Committees that bring every Proposition and they bring their own independent advice that accompany those Propositions.

1295 Also, on Conseiller Makepeace who said, 'P&F control the Agenda; P&F control the finances', last time I checked I think we have a dedicated Budget meeting every year where the whole of Chief Pleas votes on Chief Pleas' finances for the year. Likewise with the Agenda. All Committees bring Items to the Agenda. It is pretty easy to bash the Policy and Finance Committee who are mandated to bring quite a number of Items to this.

I think like Conseiller Harris said, I am hearing lots of criticism but no other suggestions for how things should be done better. I think it is a pretty similar makeup to how things work in Guernsey

1300 and probably how things work in the UK with the Cabinet as well. It is a small part of the overall
parliament that are mandated to get on and work on Propositions and bring them to the House.
There is nothing in this suggestion in the Information Report that precludes P&F from being
subject to scrutiny. In fact, the Report is saying that the whole of Chief Pleas will be subject to
1305 scrutiny, and all Committees will be subject to scrutiny equally. I cannot see why that is a worse
option than only having P&F being scrutinised.

The publication of this Information Item has definitely, as intended, inspired some public
feedback which has been really gratefully received. There have been suggestions to have some
off-Island people or suggestions to either have a scrutiny panel that is made entirely of off-Island
persons or to have a scrutiny panel that is a mix of off-Island and on-Island residents. I think we
1310 can investigate all of these options. I would tend to think that it would be useful on a scrutiny
panel to have local representation because you have got a better understanding of the
circumstances and the history on some of the subjects that will be discussed.

Conseiller Tighe very usefully met with some of the current tribunal members. A past idea has
been to amalgamate the current Appeals Tribunals and to reduce them from their number of 27
1315 to maybe a dozen and give them professional training. Conseiller Tighe met with some of the
current panel members and there were some interesting comments in that. Some of them
thought we should keep the Appeals Tribunal separate from scrutiny.

One comment was that there is a frustration among some of the Appeals Tribunal members
that unless they actually receive a formal complaint — I do not know, about a tractor licence or
1320 something like that — there is nothing that they can do. There may be a model in here where a
scrutiny panel would decide themselves what subjects to investigate and maybe they would take
suggestions from the public to decide on what subjects, what laws, what applications of the laws
to apply scrutiny to.

This is an Information Report; we very much welcome further input on this. It would be nice to
1325 bring this to Michaelmas, and that is certainly the intention. The more contributions we can
receive the better.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille.
1330 Conseiller Locke, I think you had your hand up. Thank you, Conseiller Locke.

Conseiller Locke: I did indeed, thank you, sir.

Conseiller Guille has in fact touched on the point I was going to bring up already slightly and
that is, it has been pointed out to me that the number of tribunals soaks up an awful lot of people
1335 who might otherwise be willing to stand and serve their community in other regards. Perhaps
something that was pulled with appropriate experts being brought in would enable them to
reduce the number of people who are on tribunals or, in this case, scrutiny panels, to allow some
of the others to stand for election and participate democratically.

Thank you, sir.

1340 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Locke.
Conseiller Makepeace, you have got your hand up.

Conseiller Makepeace: I may be off-track here but why could we not just task Dr McCullough
1345 with scrutinising the lead Committee once a year? Is that possible?

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

Would someone like to come back and answer that question? Are we able to answer that
1350 question at this stage, Conseiller Guille?

Conseiller Guille: Yes. That is not Dr McCullough's speciality, her speciality is in conduct. I think conduct where you are measuring Chief Pleas' Members behaviour against a specified Code of Conduct is a very different thing to the scrutiny of Committee decisions over a range of subjects which have a range of different influences.

Scrutiny of a Committee and their decision as a whole I certainly do not think should be done by one person, it should be done by a panel or a group. I think as I mentioned when I previously stood up, some people have advocated that we should have a panel made up entirely of off-Island members with very relevant experience. I am tending to think that certainly having some members of a panel who are Island residents, who do understand the context in which Propositions are brought and decisions are made which affect Sark, I think that is pretty invaluable; also the history behind things.

I am tending to think that, yes, some on-Island people on the panel probably would help to reinforce impartiality and then to assist with bringing in people of varied and relevant expertise. But, no, I cannot think that asking the Commissioner for Standards to perform a scrutiny function as well would be a sensible option.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille.

Conseiller Makepeace, followed by Conseiller Harris.

Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace first.

Conseiller Makepeace: The idea of my suggestion of appointing the Commissioner for Standards was really an example of the importance of appointing an off-Island neutral, impartial person to deliver the report. I understand Conseiller Guille's points about the experience and people chosen for panels but then we go back to the same question: who chooses those people? Will it be P&F that chooses and selects the panels to review themselves?

We are never, ever going to have an impartial review if we only rely on people from the Island. This is proven with the Code of Conduct, that we have looked at it, and I think the Code of Conduct Panel did a great job. But we have decided that we have to move on and we have appointed an outside person to move us forward. We had to do exactly the same with the scrutiny committee with a scrutineer, that there has to be a professional, an independent, and that is the only way it can be impartial.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

Conseiller Harris next, followed by Conseiller Cragoe.

Conseiller Harris, thank you.

Conseiller Harris: Thank you, sir.

I do agree with a lot of what Conseiller Guille said. It is correct that my comments are generalist. I think it is because it is a general problem, I am looking at the woods rather than the trees. Yes, I do not know, there is a sort of narrative about 'poor P&F', I think, about P&F getting bashed. What I noticed is the four Members who are no longer with us, apart from one of them who was very much a minority member of P&F, they were not members of P&F.

I think perhaps the fact that this Chamber has trouble keeping Members might partly speak to the dissatisfaction that some of them have about how information is controlled, how power operates in the Island, and how frustrating that has been for them feeling unable to get their views taken account of.

It is an interesting fact, is it not, that we are four Members down? I find that fascinating. I considered joining them, by the way. There was a serious possibility that we would be five Members down. I have decided for the moment to stay in and fulfil my promise to the electorate to finish my term but we will see if that remains the case.

1405 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Harris.
Conseiller Cragoe, you had your hand up, thank you.

Conseiller Cragoe: Thank you very much.

1410 I think this is a great step forward. I think it is interesting to think about what some other jurisdictions do. There are often Members of parliaments who are not necessarily on major committees who are also involved in scrutiny panels. I think the one thing, just from the reading I did around it, that we should be, I hope, treating this as learning opportunities rather than as pre-deciding decisions, if that makes sense, that the scrutiny panel does not become a gatekeeper to things going ahead but that it is learning for how we do things better.

1415 There is a lot of material out there. Every other jurisdiction out there pretty much has some form of scrutiny often made up, as is suggested here, of a range of people who might be different for different things. You might scrutinise Education with people who know about Education or, I do not know, the Douzaine with people who know about road traffic or whatever it is. I think I would see quite a range going forward, but I think this is a very exciting opportunity.

1420 Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Cragoe.
Conseiller Miller, thank you.

1425 **Conseiller Miller:** It is good to see the subject of scrutiny on the Agenda. The following are independent ideas and not put forward as anything else. They should not be seen as criticism, the Information Report from Policy and Finance Committee, just the sharing of thoughts that might or might not be taken into consideration.

1430 While one welcomes the establishment of independent scrutiny panels, should scrutiny need to be taken at a lower level, i.e., committee meeting level, this would perhaps prevent mistakes being made in their infancy as opposed to scrutiny being applied after the event, so to speak. Perhaps there should be a scrutineer in attendance of all Chief Pleas Committee meetings. This may not necessarily mean physical attendance but perhaps remotely via Teams.

1435 While one can understand that scrutiny panel members may well come from lay members of the community, perhaps it should be extended to those who are not resident on Sark but have expertise in a particular area that might be of assistance to the relevant Committees. For example, having a scrutineer on Harbours, Shipping and Pilotage Committee from the marine world, such as a captain of a ferry of the Island of Sark Shipping Company. Another example might be the inclusion of an off-Island farmer for the Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries Committee.

1440 Obviously there would need to be considerable debate on their participation, if any, on the relevant Committees. Perhaps it would be up to the relevant Committee to decide whether the scrutineer should be limited to just attending in silence. Please could anyone thinking that this situation indicates a lack of respect for local talent be disabused of such an idea.

1445 It is not suggested that any outside scrutineer would be paid but hopefully would be prepared to give their time for free and would do it out of their genuine interest in the welfare of Sark. Finding such volunteers may not be such a huge challenge but the agreement of their acceptability may be so, i.e., a challenge.

1450 While some may have concerns that this would lead to an unwelcome interference in the running of the Sark Government, perhaps we should accept that on occasions outside assistance could be beneficial where experience outside of the Island is not available on the Island. There may be concern that the completed reports be submitted to the House by Policy and Finance. Perhaps there may be a better way of bringing such reports to the attention of Chief Pleas.

1455 Obviously these suggestions are in their infancy but hopefully they will inspire thought in this matter. I would like to apologise for the repetition, that other people have made some of these points before I got up to speak.

Thank you, fellow Conseillers, for listening.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Miller.
Does anyone else have any point ...?

1460 Conseiller Tighe, thank you.

Conseiller Tighe: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

1465 Whilst I am not suggesting in any way that a Conseiller should be a scrutineer, the CPA Academy also offers online courses in scrutiny functions, financial oversight, how to be a new parliamentarian. If we can improve our professional standards and if all of us have an idea of scrutiny oversight, financial oversight, then we can bring our standards up, as well as being subjected to any oversight that may come in.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Tighe.

1470 This is, as we know, an Information Report. Before we close the debate, Conseiller Guille, would you like just to sum up in terms of what you have heard? Or is everything contained within the Report?

Conseiller Guille: It is in the Report.

1475

The Speaker: Thank you, it is. Okay.

Once again, I would draw your attention to the last section which says, 'Next steps' in the Report. P&F are very much welcoming feedback, both from the public and also from fellow Conseillers, about how we take this subject forwards practically.

1480 With that, we will draw Agenda Item 10 to a close.

11. Information Report – Education Committee Report considered

To consider a Report from the Education Committee entitled 'Information Report'.

The Speaker: We move on to Agenda Item 11, which is to consider an Information Report from the Education Committee entitled 'Information Report'. I would ask Conseiller Rose to introduce the Report.

Conseiller Rose, thank you.

1485

Conseiller Rose: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

This Report is in two parts and Conseiller Cragoe will share the first half and then I will come in with the second part.

Thank you.

1490

Conseiller Cragoe: Thank you very much.

1495 I think this is incredibly exciting and we are really pleased to be able to bring this to you. So in May of this year, an inspection of Sark School was undertaken by Shaun Jarvis, who is a former Ofsted Inspector, supported by one of our Education advisers, Vicky Matthews. They spent two days in the school, they looked at all aspects of teaching, learning, management. They watched, they spoke to literally every single child, sometimes more than once. They spoke to the Head, they spoke to teachers, support staff, members of the board; everyone was included. The parents were also able to put forward a questionnaire which was then considered separately as part of the Report.

1500 The inspection was very, very positive and the Report itself is appended to Item 11 and is, I think, about eight or nine pages long; it is really quite a substantial and very interesting document. It is very positive about the school but it also makes some suggestions for improvement and development. Conseiller Rose will be coming back to some of those at the end of this. The advisers and the Board of Governors are going to work over the next year to implement these.
1505 There will be what is called a 'soft' inspection in 2026 and then another 'hard' inspection in 2027. That will give a good sense of progress and being able to make sure that changes are being well implemented.

Do you want me to continue on home education? Because we have got a bit on home education.

1510 **The Speaker:** Just one second. Conseiller Cragoe, do you want to hand over formally to Conseiller Rose for part two of the Report?

Conseiller Cragoe: It is just a question; I am not sure.

1515 **The Speaker:** So it is a question?

Conseiller Rose: Just skip it.

1520 **Conseiller Cragoe:** Skip it, okay. Just leave the next paragraph; it went with the previous Item that we dropped, so just ignore that.

I will then hand over to Conseiller Rose to talk about the exciting things that we are going to be doing, unless you think we should do the question.

1525 **The Speaker:** No, I am just keen that for the purposes of the recording that we know exactly who is presenting what.

Conseiller Cragoe: Yes. I have presented the beginning of this Information Report; Conseiller Rose will continue presenting the end of the Information Report because there are several topics.
1530 She is going to be talking about the improvements the school is proposing to make.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.

1535 So that completes Conseiller Cragoe's presentation. Conseiller Rose, back to yourself, thank you.

Conseiller Rose: Thank you, Mr Speaker; and thank you, Conseiller Cragoe.

We were very excited about the inspection. It was positive and has given us some food for thought and things to work on which gives some clear guidelines for moving forward. I would like
1540 to give a brief update from the Education Committee regarding the development of our new hybrid 13-plus provision at Sark School.

Following an extensive process of research, discussion and consultation with staff, parents and governors, we have now made the decision to partner with King's InterHigh as our chosen provider for the online component of this new phase in education on Sark. Throughout our evaluation we
1545 considered a number of respected online schools, including Minerva.

Both providers were strong and both aligned well with the school's educational aims. However, King's InterHigh stood out as the safest and most reliable option due to its larger scaler, longer track record and greater flexibility of provision. It also received a positive response from many of the parents who attended the presentations, particularly in terms of its academic rigour and
1550 structure.

We are now moving into the implementation phase. This includes a thorough review of our WiFi and IT infrastructure to ensure we have the capacity and stability needed to deliver live online lessons effectively within the school environment. In addition to providing education for year 9 and above, we will also be using King's InterHigh to strengthen provisions in years 7 and 8, which was something that was highlighted in the inspection.

The specific subjects are still to be confirmed but they will be selected to enhance areas where the recent school inspection highlighted room for improvement, particularly where curriculum breadth and resources can be strengthened. This hybrid approach will enable us to maintain the close, personal support of Sark School, while also giving our students access to a wider range of subjects and qualified specialist teaching.

We look forward to updating Chief Pleas further as this provision is rolled out and thank all of those involved for their thoughtful contributions to the process. Today we had some information come through about some of the provisions that will be needed for IT and for costs. We feel that we are able to afford it within this year's Budget. We will be bringing the future improvements to the next Budget next year, but we are comfortable with what we are having to cost this year.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you Conseiller Rose; thank you Conseiller Cragoe for the first part of that presentation.

Does anyone have any questions – it is an Information Report obviously – of the Education Committee based on what you have heard or on reading the Report before you? Any questions or debate regarding the Information Report this evening? Okay. In which case, thank you to the Education Committee for presenting the Report and we look forward to the next phase as we move forwards.

Thank you for that.

12. Committee Elections –

Agricultural, Environment and Sea Fisheries: No nominations –

Development Control: Conseiller J Martin elected –

Douzaine: Conseillers J Martin and J Rose elected –

Education: Conseiller A Miller elected –

Harbours, Shipping and Pilotage: Conseiller C Bateson elected –

Medical and Emergency Services: Conseillers C Bateson and D Curtis elected –

Policy and Finance: Conseiller C Cragoe elected –

Definition of a Resident (Special): Conseiller J Guille elected –

Online Identity (Special): Conseillers F Makepeace and C Cragoe elected –

Taxation Review (Special): Conseiller J Martin elected –

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Sark Branch: Carried forward

To elect Conseillers to Committees, as required.

The Speaker: Turning the page, moving on to Agenda Item 12. This might take a few minutes, so if I could ask for a little bit of patience as we work our way through the repopulation of Committees. Obviously we have a number of vacancies that have occurred during the last month. The idea tonight is to attempt – Conseiller Cragoe.

Conseiller Cragoe: Is there another ...?

The Speaker: Is there an amended Item?

1585 **Conseiller Cragoe:** On the compulsory purchase. Did that not get out? It was the non-additional Item or is it simply laid? The regulations.

The Speaker: I am dealing with that at the very end, if I may.

1590 **Conseiller Cragoe:** End; quite.

The Speaker: Laid before.

Conseiller Cragoe: Laid before, thank you.

1595 **The Speaker:** I will deal with a laid before when we have dealt with Agenda Items 12 and 13, if I may.

Conseiller Cragoe: Thank you.

1600 **The Speaker:** Thank you for bringing that back to my attention.

So, yes, in terms of repopulating the Committees, I am going to work through the Committees pretty much alphabetically, so we will do them one by one, and starting, therefore, with the Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries Committee where we have one vacancy.

1605 Do we have any nominations for that vacancy on Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries?

Conseiller Plummer: No, we do not, sir.

The Speaker: No nominations; thank you.

1610 Do we have any nominations from the floor for anyone that would like to join the Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries Committee? No? Okay. That vacancy will remain until the Michaelmas Meeting.

1615 Next up, we have the Development Control Committee. Once again, we also have one vacancy on the Development Control Committee. Are there any nominations from the Committee to fill that vacancy?

Conseiller Nicolle:

Conseiller Nicolle: We had a great deal of difficulty; we had two very good candidates. The one we would like to put forward is Conseiller Jimmy Martin, please.

1620 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Martin. Do we have any other nominations – Conseiller Makepeace, thank you.

Conseiller Makepeace: I would like to propose myself, sir.

1625 **The Speaker:** So we have two proposals. Any further proposals to join the Development Control Committee? So we have two names: we have Conseiller Martin and we have Conseiller Makepeace.

1630 We are going to do a show of hands on this one at a time. The first proposal was Conseiller Martin. Could I have a show of hands, please. Those in favour of Conseiller Martin joining the Development Control Committee? Thank you. Those in favour of Conseiller Makepeace joining the Committee?

Therefore, that is in favour of Conseiller Martin. Conseiller Martin joins the Development Control Committee. Thank you for that.

1635 Next up we have two vacancies on the Douzaine. I would ask the Chairman of the Douzaine, do you have any proposals to join the Douzaine?

Conseiller Locke: Yes, sir, I do. On behalf of the Douzaine, we would like to nominate Conseiller Jimmy Martin and Conseiller Jolie Rose, please.

1640

The Speaker: Conseiller Martin and Conseiller Rose. Do we have any other nominations from the floor to join the Douzaine?
Conseiller Makepeace.

1645

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes, sir, I would like to nominate myself.

1650

The Speaker: We have a third nomination, therefore, Conseiller Makepeace to join the Douzaine. So we have three nominations to join the Douzaine. Once again, we will do it one at a time. We have two vacancies, so you can vote twice on this, because we have two vacancies. Vacancy number one nomination is Conseiller Martin. Those in favour of Conseiller Martin joining the Douzaine? Thank you. Those in favour of Conseiller Rose joining the Douzaine? Thank you. Those in favour of Conseiller Makepeace joining the Douzaine?

I think that is fairly guaranteed. The new members of the Douzaine are Conseiller Martin and Conseiller Rose. Thank you very much indeed.

1655

Next we have Education. We have one vacancy on Education. Are there any nominations from the Education Committee to join the Committee?

Conseiller Rose: Yes, we have the nomination of Conseiller Andrew Miller.

1660

The Speaker: Conseiller Miller, thank you very much indeed. Do we have any other nominations from the floor to join the Education Committee?
Conseiller Makepeace.

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes, sir, I would like to nominate myself.

1665

The Speaker: Conseiller Makepeace nominating himself to join the Education Committee. We therefore have two nominations to join the Education Committee. To start with, can we have a show of hands, please, for those in favour of Conseiller Miller joining the Education Committee? Thank you very much. Secondly, can we have a show of hands, those in favour of Conseiller Makepeace joining the Education Committee? Thank you. That is **carried** in favour of Conseiller Miller. Conseiller Miller joins the Education Committee. Thank you.

Next up we have Harbours, Shipping and Pilotage. Once again we have one vacancy. I would ask the Chairman of Harbours, Shipping and Pilotage, Conseiller Martin, do you have any nominations from the Committee?

1675

Conseiller Martin: Yes, sir; Chris Bateson.

The Speaker: Conseiller Bateson to join Harbours, Shipping and Pilotage. That is one nomination there. Do we have any other – Conseiller Makepeace, one second.

1680

Conseiller Makepeace, thank you.

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes, sir, I would like to nominate myself.

The Speaker: Conseiller Makepeace, a second nomination.

1685

Conseiller Nicolle.

Conseiller Nicolle: That was exactly what I was going to do. Conseiller Makepeace has shown a great deal of interest and information on Harbours.

1690 **The Speaker:** Very good, so we have two nominations, therefore, to join Harbours, Shipping and Pilotage, thank you.

First off, let's have a show of hands, if we may, for those in favour of Conseiller Bateson joining Harbours, Shipping and Pilotage? Conseiller Bateson. Thank you. Those in favour of Conseiller Makepeace? That is **carried** in favour of Conseiller Bateson. Thank you very much indeed. Conseiller Bateson joins the Harbour, Shipping and Pilotage Committee.

Next up we have two vacancies on the Medical and Emergency Services Committee. Once again, Conseiller Plummer, do you have any nominations from the Committee?

1700 **Conseiller Plummer:** Yes, sir, we do. I would like to follow for Conseiller Chris Bateson and Conseiller David Curtis for Medical.

The Speaker: Thank you. There are two nominations there: one for Conseiller Bateson and one for Conseiller Curtis. Do we have any further — Conseiller Makepeace, thank you.

1705 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Yes, sir, I would like to nominate myself.

The Speaker: Very good. Thank you very much indeed. We have three nominations to join the Medical and Emergency Services Committee. Once again on this you get two votes because there are two vacancies.

1710 Once again, initially, please, a show of hands of those in favour of Conseiller Bateson joining the Medical and Emergency Services Committee? Conseiller Bateson. Thank you. Those in favour of Conseiller Curtis joining the Committee? Thank you very much. Conseiller Curtis, those in favour? Thank you. Those in favour of Conseiller Makepeace joining the Committee? That goes in favour of Conseiller Bateson and Conseiller Curtis joining the Medical and Emergency Services Committee. Thank you very much indeed.

1715 Next up we have the Policy and Finance Committee. We have one vacancy on the Policy and Finance Committee. Conseiller Guille, do you have any nominations from the Committee?

1720 **Conseiller Guille:** Yes, sir, we would like to nominate Conseiller Cragoe.

The Speaker: Conseiller Cragoe to join the Policy and Finance Committee. Do we have any other nominations from the floor?

Conseiller Makepeace, thank you.

1725 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Yes, sir, I would like to nominate myself.

1730 **The Speaker:** Very good. Thank you very much indeed. We have two nominations to join the Policy and Finance Committee. Once again, one at a time, a show of hands, please. Those in favour of Conseiller Cragoe joining the Policy and Finance Committee? Thank you. Those in favour of Conseiller Makepeace joining the Policy and Finance Committee? That goes in favour of Conseiller Cragoe. Conseiller Cragoe joins the Policy and Finance Committee. Tourism is next up and there are no vacancies on Tourism.

1735 Next up we have the Special Committees. The first Special Committee is the Definition of a Resident (Special) Committee where we have one vacancy. I would like to ask the Committee, do you have any nominations to join the Definition of a Resident Committee?

Conseiller Miller?

Conseiller Miller: Yes, I would like to nominate Conseiller Guille.

1740 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Guille to join the Definition of a Resident (Special) Committee. Do we have any additional nominations?
Conseiller Makepeace, thank you.

1745 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Yes, sir, I would like propose myself.

The Speaker: Very good. Thank you very much indeed. Any additional nominations? No? We have two nominations to join the Definition of a Resident (Special) Committee. Those in favour of Conseiller Guille joining that Committee, please raise your hands. Thank you. Those in favour of Conseiller Makepeace joining the Committee, raise your hands. Thank you. That is **carried** in
1750 favour of Conseiller Guille joining the Definition of a Resident (Special) Committee. Thank you very much indeed.

The next vacancy is, we have two vacancies on the Online Identity (Special) Committee. Do we have any nominations from the Committee itself?

Conseiller Locke.

1755 **Conseiller Locke:** Apologies, sir, we do not. The last resignation happened too late for us to take any soundings. Is it at all possible to defer till the next Chief Pleas?

The Speaker: Yes, it is, but I think we need to carry on to see if we have any nominations from
1760 the floor to join the Online Identity Committee. Therefore, any other nominations from the floor?
Conseiller Makepeace.

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes, sir, I would like to nominate myself.

1765 **The Speaker:** Very good. We have one nomination to join the Online Identity Special Committee: Conseiller Makepeace.
Conseiller Cragoe, thank you.

Conseiller Cragoe: Yes, I would like to nominate myself, thank you.

1770 **The Speaker:** You would like to nominate yourself. Thank you very much indeed. We have two nominations to join the Online Identity (Special) Committee. Any advance on those two nominations?

Given that we have two nominations, that is therefore **carried**. Let's have a quick show of
1775 hands. Those in favour of Conseiller Makepeace joining the Online Identity (Special) Committee? Thank you. Those in favour of Conseiller Cragoe joining the Online Identity (Special) Committee? Two nominations voted on. Therefore, Conseiller Makepeace and Conseiller Cragoe join the Online Identity (Special) Committee.

Next up, we have the Taxation Review (Special) Committee where we have one single vacancy.
1780 Do we have any nominations for the Taxation Review (Special) Committee to join the Committee?

Conseiller Miller: Yes, Conseiller Martin.

The Speaker: Conseiller Martin. Thank you very much indeed. Do we have any other
1785 nominations to join the Taxation Review (Special) Committee?
Conseiller Makepeace, thank you.

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes, sir, I would like to nominate myself.

1790 **The Speaker:** Very good. Thank you very much indeed, Conseiller Makepeace.

We have two nominations for the one vacancy on the Taxation Review (Special) Committee. Initially, could we have a show of hands, please. Those in favour of Conseiller Martin joining the Taxation (Special) Review Committee, please raise your hands. Thank you. Those in favour of Conseiller Makepeace joining the Taxation Review (Special) Committee? Thank you. That goes in favour of Conseiller Martin. Conseiller Martin joins the Taxation Review (Special) Committee. Thank you.

Lastly, as voted earlier this evening, we have the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Sark Branch. There are three vacancies on the Committee. One, a member of Policy and Finance elected by the Committee, and then two vacancies elected from the floor of the House. Can I ask Policy and Finance, do you have any nominations from your Committee?

Conseiller Tighe: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

No, the Branch has to be constituted and then we will vote the Members into place.

The Speaker: Okay. So you want to delay this?

Conseiller Tighe: Yes.

The Speaker: Right, okay. I did wonder about that fact actually. We will carry this forward, if we may, therefore, to the Michaelmas Meeting, which is the population of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Sark Branch where we will have three vacancies: one from Policy and Finance and two from the rest of the House, making up the Branch group. There we have it. Thank you very much indeed for that.

13. Committee and Panel Elections – None

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

The Speaker: Agenda Item 13. We have the Committee and Panel Elections to elect non-Chief Pleas Members and Panel Members to Committees and Panels, as required. Do we have any nominations from the floor of any non-Chief Plea Members and Panel Members to join Committees and Panels? Any nominations from the floor? No? Okay. Thank you very much indeed. We can pass on that until Michaelmas.

Addendum: The Compulsory Purchase (Electricity) (Sark) Law, 2021 (Commencement) Regulations, 2025 – Statement by the Speaker

The Speaker: I would, therefore, just draw your attention to the Addendum that was sent round after the Meeting last week, which is for your information purposes only. The following Law is laid before Chief Pleas. This was made on 25th June last week and it is The Compulsory Purchase (Electricity) (Sark) Law, 2021 (Commencement) Regulations, 2025. There is no debate on that; it is laid before for general confirmation purposes.

**Michaelmas Meeting deadline –
Statement by the Speaker**

1825 **The Speaker:** Before I close the Meeting, I would remind Conseillers that the next scheduled Meeting of Chief Pleas is the Michaelmas Meeting on Wednesday, 1st October 2025, at five o'clock. The closing date for Reports and submissions is Tuesday, 2nd September. Please get your Reports and submissions in in good time to the office in order that they can be processed. The Agenda will be published the following week in September.

1830 In the meantime, as I said at the opening of the Meeting, there is every chance that we will have an Extraordinary Meeting of Chief Pleas to approve the Ordinance for a by-election. The date on that will be confirmed, hopefully, within the next couple or three weeks. That is forthcoming and will happen prior to the Michaelmas Meeting, the idea being that we should be able to repopulate Chief Pleas with new Conseillers in readiness for the Michaelmas Meeting. That is the thought process that we are currently going through.

1835 With that, please be upstanding, I will ask the Greffier for the Grace.
Thank you.

PRAYER
The Greffier

Chief Pleas closed at 7.24 p.m.