



OFFICIAL REPORT
OF THE
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
OF CHIEF PLEAS
OF THE
ISLAND OF SARK

HANSARD

Assembly Room, Sark, Wednesday, 19th February 2020

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official Island of Sark Chief Pleas website www.gov.sark.gg*

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Present:

Seigneur

Maj. C M Beaumont Esq.

Deputy Speaker of Chief Pleas

P Armorgie Esq.

Prévôt

K N Adams

Greffier

T J Hamon

Treasurer

S Hudson

Constable

A Diaper

Conseillers:

Alan Blythe

Peter La Trobe-Bateman

Christopher Nightingale

Anthony Ventress

Paul Williams

Sandra Williams

John Guille

Christopher Drillot

Amanda de Carteret

Ellen Lalor

Rodney Lalor

Business transacted

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Extraordinary Meeting of Chief Pleas

Chief Pleas met at 7 p.m.

[THE SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

PRAYER

The Greffier

ROLL CALL

The Greffier

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

The Deputy Speaker: Very good, thank you. Good evening everyone.

Apologies received

5 **The Deputy Speaker:** The Lieutenant Governor is unable to attend the Meeting this evening due to other commitments.

I have received apologies for absence this evening from Conseillers Simon Couldridge, Phil Long, Helen Plummer and William Raymond.

Declarations of interest received

10 **The Deputy Speaker:** I have to announce good news that all the Conseillers' declarations of interest have now been received by the Greffier, so thank you very much indeed for completing those.

Procedural – Electronic devices

15 **The Deputy Speaker:** I would now say, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, I would remind all present that mobile phones, cameras, recording devices and other electronic equipment is switched off now, less for those allowed to Chief Pleas Members in accordance with Rule 18.

Business of the Day

1. Matters Arising from the Extraordinary Meeting of Chief Pleas held on Wednesday, 17th December 2019 – None

The Deputy Speaker: So we move on to Agenda Item 1, Matters Arising from the Extraordinary Meeting of Chief Pleas held on Wednesday, 17th December 2019. Are there any matters arising from that Meeting?

No, okay.

2. Agreement to Purchase and Loan Guarantee for Isle of Sark Replacement Passenger Vessel *Corsaire Des Iles 2* – Policy and Finance Committee Report considered – Propositions carried

To consider a Report with two Propositions from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'Agreement to Purchase and Loan Guarantee for Isle of Sark Replacement Passenger Vessel Corsaire Des Iles 2'.

Proposition 1:

That Chief Pleas approves the purchase of the vessel currently named Corsaire des Iles 2, by Isle of Sark Shipping Company Ltd, for the price of Euros 740,000.

Proposition 2:

That Chief Pleas authorises the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee to execute a guarantee to the lending bank to Isle of Sark Shipping Company Ltd in an amount of £300,000.

20 **The Deputy Speaker:** We will move on to Agenda Item 2, to consider a Report with two Propositions from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'Agreement to Purchase and Loan Guarantee for Isle of Sark Replacement Passenger Vessel *Corsaire Des Iles 2*'.

I would like to ask Conseiller Sam La-Trobe Bateman to introduce the Report.

25 **Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman:** Thank you very much.

Not much to add, really, to this Report. I hope you have all read the business case that has come from Sark Shipping. It is quite detailed. I think it covers most of their potential risks for purchasing a new vessel like this. It is a second-hand vessel, but it is, I think we all agree, a necessity. We need this boat for the season.

30 The purpose really for this Chief Pleas is for us to guarantee the loan. The company does have enough money to cover the whole purchase of the boat but feel that actually, if they use all that money, it leaves them in a pretty delicate position, should something unforeseen happen. So, by going to the bank and getting a loan, it keeps the business a lot more afloat.

35 So they are essentially asking for a loan of £300,000. They are putting in £350,000, so the total cost is £750,000 for this new boat. That includes quite a large sum for updates for necessities to bring it up to bring it up to code for the MCA. At the moment it is currently licensed under the French flag, and by bringing it here it has to come to the MCA, which is the

UK authority. I think that there will be a few changes, so that £135,000 which they have got for contingency in there is to do any of that.

40 So we are asked for a £300,000 guarantee. This does not have to be ring-fenced out of our reserves; it just has to be made available, should they default – which I cannot see them doing.

That is pretty much all I have got to waffle about for that.

45 One thing I would quickly draw your attention to is the draft timetable. I know this a bit off-topic for the loan, but this is a draft and I think that you should all study it and make sure that everybody on the Island studies it and gets back to Sark Shipping, because when the boat is here and tested, it will probably be amended slightly. They are aiming to get the boat, if everything goes well with the category, with the MCA inspections, to be in operation for 1st May.

Thank you.

50 **The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much.

Are there any questions from the floor? Would anyone like to put any questions to Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman?

Conseiller Sandra Williams, thank you.

55 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** I would just like to clarify, Sam, that the Isle of Sark Shipping are contributing £450,000, not £300,000? (**Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman:** Sorry, yes.) That is fine. And that we are being asked to guarantee the loan of £300,000; which is the £750,000.

60 And also, if I could confirm that yes, Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman is right, we have had lots of debating going on over the last few weeks about the schedule. We have moved things around already on the schedule, to try and suit everybody. We have had meetings with the carters, the Shipping Committee, and we feel that what we have put forward is workable.

So yes, that is an interesting point. Thank you.

65 **The Deputy Speaker:** Very good. Are there any other comments or questions from the floor regarding the Report? No?

In which case we will go to the vote, if we may. So Proposition 1 is that Chief Pleas approves the purchase of the vessel currently named *Corsaire des Iles 2*, by the Isle of Sark Shipping Company Ltd, for the price of Euros 740,000. Could we have a show of hands for those in favour, please? And those against? **Carried unanimously.**

70 Moving on to Proposition 2, that Chief Pleas authorises the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee to execute a guarantee to the lending bank to the Isle of Sark Shipping Company Ltd in an amount of £300,000. Those in favour? Those against? **Carried unanimously.**

Thank you very much indeed.

75 That, ladies and gentlemen, completes the business of the evening. Thank you very much indeed.

Greffier.

PRAYER

The Greffier

Chief Pleas closed at 7.08 p.m.