



OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

OF CHIEF PLEAS

OF THE

ISLAND OF SARK

HANSARD

Assembly Room, Sark, Wednesday, 19th March 2020

*All published Official Reports can be found on the
official Island of Sark Chief Pleas website www.gov.sark.gg*

Volume 6, No. 4

Present:

Seigneur

Maj. C M Beaumont Esq.

Speaker of Chief Pleas

Lt. Col. R J Guille MBE

Greffier

T J Hamon

Conseillers:

Alan Blythe	John Guille
Peter La Trobe-Bateman	Christopher Drillot
Christopher Nightingale	Amanda de Carteret
Anthony Ventress	Ellen Lalor
Paul Williams	Rodney Lalor
Helen Plummer	Frank Makepeace
Philip Long	

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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 13 Conseillers, the Seigneur and the Speaker of Chief Pleas present.

Apologies received

The Speaker: I would like to give apologies for Conseillers Raymond, Couldridge and Sandra Williams, and inform you that the Lieutenant Governor is unable to attend due to other commitments.

Tribute to former Tenant Member of Chief Pleas, Mr Don Willis

5 **The Speaker:** I am going to make a very short statement about Mr Don Willis, who many of you will have heard has died recently and we will hold a silence for him.

As many of you will know, Don Willis died in February, shortly after his 97th birthday. Don was a Tenant Member of Chief Pleas from the time that he purchased La Collenette tenement in 1987, until selling in October 2008.

10 Don was a generous man and he helped a lot of people in Sark over the years that he was here. His biggest regret, which he spoke to me about often, was that he could not be in Sark for his last years due to his ill health.

The funeral service has taken place in Guernsey and there will be a memorial service in Sark, probably when the coronavirus epidemic is over. So there will be a memorial service here later.

15 Could you please stand for a silence.

Members stood in silence.

The Speaker: Thank you.

**Medical & Emergency Services Committee –
Resignation of Mrs Diane Baker and Dr Roger Norwich as non-Chief Pleas Members**

20 **The Speaker:** Another housekeeping item is that Mrs Diane Baker and Dr Roger Norwich have both recently resigned from the Medical & Emergency Services Committee as non-Chief Pleas Members. You may have noticed that on the Committee listings.

Both became non-Chief Pleas Members after they ceased their service as Conseillers. On your behalf, I would thank them for their service to Chief Pleas.

STATEMENTS

**Special Top Level Domain Committee –
Statement by Conseiller Makepeace**

25 **The Speaker:** We have a number of Statements now, and the first Statement is from the Special TLD Committee.
Conseiller Makepeace.

30 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Yes. Sark started the process for getting its own ISO country code many years ago. This international standard is used by many applications in the international domain. For example, shipping addresses, financial and tax recording, and so on.

This standard is also used by the internet authorities to assign internet domains, the letters after the full stop on an internet address indicating the country to which that address is linked. Using '.uk' says that we are a UK-linked address; '.gg' is a Guernsey address.

35 This is important, for example, with regard to financial matters such as banking, shipping addresses of goods bought on the internet and geographical identity for trade, tourism and travel purposes, and is a significant economic driver for Sark.

40 Finally, after much hard work, both on and off Island, the Special Committee for the Top Level Domain is very pleased to announce that the ISO Technical Board has accepted the application and recommended approval of a country code for Sark and inclusion on the ISO 3166 standard.

There will be a detailed report to Easter Chief Pleas on the next stages of this rigorous process.

Thank you.

45 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

**Medical & Emergency Services Committee –
Statement by Conseiller de Carteret**

The Speaker: One from the Medical & Emergency Services Committee.
Conseiller de Carteret.

Conseiller de Carteret: Thank you.

50 On behalf of the Medical Committee, we would like to inform you that Dr Gray's temporary contract will end at the end of March. We would like to thank her for all her hard work while she has been a Sark locum doctor over the past few months. We wish her and her husband, Jonathan, well on their return to the UK.

55 The Committee have begun the process of re-advertising for a new resident GP for Sark. In the past, our doctors have provided 24-hour cover, which has been greatly appreciated by all Sark residents and visitors alike. The previously identified issue of the Sark GP is providing 24/7 emergency cover. This remains a problem with the GPs now generally unwilling to work under these requirements.

60 Guernsey's Medical Director, Dr Peter Rabey, and his colleagues, are working alongside the Medical Committee to provide medical cover for Sark. Their assistance is invaluable and they are providing significant support at this difficult time.

They are also advising a new model of medical care for Sark, which needs to be developed and implemented as soon as possible if we are to continue to provide a resident GP.

65 With this new model in mind, the process has begun to introduce Community First Aid Responders, in conjunction with the help from St John Ambulance. The responders will be providing assistance for the GP with out-of-hours service. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, this training may be postponed to a later date.

70 Also, starting from today, Mrs Alison Stalton, who is a qualified midwife and practice nurse, has commenced part-time work in the surgery to provide clinical support and to allow the GP to have a full day of rest.

The Committee are working incredibly hard to solve this difficult situation and will continue to ensure Sark has medical and emergency care for our residents and visitors at all times.

75 As you are aware, the surgery is now operating an appointments-only service. This is to reduce the waiting times and provide the recommended personal distancing to reduce the possibility of contracting the COVID-19 virus. While the COVID-19 virus continues, please can the Committee remind everyone of the importance of contacting the surgery by telephone if you suspect you have any of the COVID-19 symptoms. Please do not go to the surgery.

80 The medical and emergency services are working extremely closely with Guernsey Public Health and other medical officials in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure we keep all our Sark residents as safe as possible during this very difficult time. We will continue to update Chief Pleas and the public with information as it becomes available.

The Speaker: Thank you.

**Education Committee –
Statement by Conseiller de Carteret**

85 **The Speaker:** We now have a Statement from Education, and I believe there are two Statements around here.

Once again, Conseiller de Carteret, please.

Conseiller de Carteret: Okay. I am going to start with this one first, because this is the one that has just come lately in.

90 There has been a Guernsey press release today in regards to the extended Easter Holidays for Guernsey schools as from Monday 23rd March. The Education Committee are taking advice from Guernsey Public Health and Law Officers in regards to the closure of Sark School.

95 Dr Roberts, the head of Sark School, has issued an email to all parents of schoolchildren updating them that the school will be open as normal tomorrow, Friday 20th March. There will be a decision made from the Education Committee regarding Sark School closures tomorrow, once the relevant information has been forwarded. The Committee will then follow the correct procedures to inform parents of that decision.

Statement 2. This is referring to tonight. Constable. I understand that the Douzaine will be bringing a new review for the Constable's office at Easter Chief Pleas Meeting. I would like to ask the relevant Members to please consider the following information.

100 The Constable of Sark has a very important role within the community, especially with safeguarding on the Island. Safeguarding protects vulnerable adults and vulnerable children who need our help to assist with their protection, health and wellbeing.

105 As you may know, MASH, the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, has become well established over the past couple of years. The Constable is a very key member of this MASH and in the past 12 months alone there have been 22 cases, 75 incidents reported, involving vulnerable children and vulnerable adults.

110 Residents have a growing understanding of the importance of safeguarding, the important role of our Island's Safeguarding Officer, and the designated safeguarding lead in the school and the church and the safeguarding responsibilities of the Doctor, the Procureur and the Constable.

The Constable has a very serious and extensive role with safeguarding and needs to understand the importance of his or her actions for the protection of vulnerable children and vulnerable adults.

115 They must also understand and acknowledge the major role the Island's Safeguarding Officer has within our legislation. The Island's Safeguarding Officer is in receipt of information that is not available to the Constable and can be required to make serious decisions regarding the protection of children that the Constable may not.

120 It is imperative that the Constable contacts the Island's Safeguarding Officer in all cases that the Constable is required to act or investigate if they involve a vulnerable adult or a child. Like the Constable, our Island's Safeguarding Officer is on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

125 Many of you may not realise the importance of safeguarding, so it has been suggested that all Chief Pleas Members receive the first level of training in safeguarding to assist with this understanding and this will also include all Special Constables prior to them receiving additional, focused training specific to their role.

When the Douzaine undertake the new review for the Constable, please may I suggest they contact our Island's Safeguarding Officer for information in respect of the safeguarding elements of the job description and advice about the Constable's role in safeguarding on Sark enshrined in the law.

130 On another note, it has also been brought to our attention, the recent use of social media by our Constables. Please could the Douzaine make this a priority in the review to cease this form of behaviour, as it is often a conflict of interest for the Constable to voice their own opinion on social media, and in some cases has a derogatory effect on the Island.

Thank you.

135 **The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Announcement of Royal Assent –
Land Reform (Sark) Law 2019 and Same-Sex Marriage Sark Law 2019**

The Speaker: I have been asked to inform you, if you have not already heard, that the Land Reform and Same-Sex Marriage Laws have received Royal Assent. That does not mean to say they are operative now. They will probably come into force some time during this year. There may well be Ordinances required to bring them into force.

**75th Liberation Day Constable's Committee –
Statement by Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman**

140 **The Speaker:** Right, we move on to the Business of the Day. Agenda Item 1, matters arising from the Extraordinary ... A hand up? Okay. Sorry, yes?

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Yes, I did email you about having a Statement and you said yes of course.

145

The Speaker: I did. Thank you for reminding me. *(Laughter)*
A Statement from Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman.

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Thank you.

150

This Statement is from the 75th Liberation Constable's Committee. As there is no public here, I would ask all of you to spread the word and I am sure there will be a poster up. This is a Statement from them.

Bearing in mind the current situation, advice and today's statement from Guernsey regarding coronavirus, we have made the difficult decision to postpone the Liberation Day celebrations.

155

Our plan is that we will celebrate the 75th-plus-one anniversary next year, 10th May 2021. We will be contacting the local media in the hopes that some form of commemoration will be broadcast for this year, 10th May, and will advertise this accordingly throughout the Island.

The Committee are very disappointed that we have had to make this decision, but ultimately we must safeguard the public and comply with medical and Government advice. We look forward to putting on a great day to celebrate the 75th-plus-one Liberation Day next year.

160

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.

At least we can all fly our flags on 10th May, if we do not do anything else.

Business of the Day

1. Extraordinary (Special) Meeting of Chief Pleas – No matters arising

Matters arising from the Extraordinary (Special) Meeting of the Chief Pleas held on Wednesday, 22nd January 2020.

165

The Speaker: Okay, let us return back to the Business of the Day.

Agenda Item 1, matters arising from the Extraordinary (Special) Meeting of Chief Pleas, held on Wednesday, 22nd January 2020.

Are there any matters arising?

Thank you.

170

**2. Christmas Meeting of Chief Pleas, 22nd January 2020 –
No matters arising**

Matters arising from the Christmas Meeting of Chief Pleas held on Wednesday, 22nd January 2020.

The Speaker: Agenda Item 2. Matters arising from the Christmas Meeting of Chief Pleas, held on Wednesday, 22nd January 2020.

No matters arising. Thank you.

**3. Extraordinary Meeting of Chief Pleas, 19th February 2020 –
No matters arising**

Matters arising from the Extraordinary Meeting of Chief Pleas held on Wednesday 19th February 2020.

175 **The Speaker:** Agenda Item 3, matters arising from the Extraordinary Meeting of Chief Pleas, held on Wednesday, 19th February 2020.

Are there any matters arising? No?

Thank you.

**4. Resignation and Replacement of the Constable –
Douzaine Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition with proposition from the Douzaine entitled 'Resignation and Replacement of the Constable'.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas accept the resignation of Ms April Rose Diaper from the office of Constable and to elect a Constable to complete the unexpired term of the office.

180 **The Speaker:** Agenda Item 4. To consider a Report with Propositions from the Douzaine entitled, 'Resignation and Replacement of the Constable' and I would ask Conseiller Blythe to introduce the report, please.

Conseiller Blythe: Thank you sir.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Proposition to this report seeks to remove the current Constable, April Rose Diaper, and replace her with Paul Burgess.

185 If the replacement being proposed is acceptable to Chief Pleas, then he will serve out the remainder of the term of office until October, at which point the normal process of replacing the Constable will be followed.

190 There is to be an Item at the Easter Chief Pleas concerning a new proposal for the role of Constable, which may amend the way the Constable office is run. In this case, if a replacement Constable is approved this evening, he will serve until the new arrangement is in place if sooner than October.

We feel confident that the reappointment of Paul Burgess will obviously help us in our current situation and will be beneficial in the setting up of the new system, if agreed at Easter.

195 **The Speaker:** Thank you.

Conseiller Blythe: Thank you sir.

200 **The Speaker:** Any questions or debate, please.
Yes, Conseiller Plummer.

Conseiller Plummer: Thank you.
May I ask, is there a Vingtenier set up to help Constable Burgess?

205 **Conseiller Blythe:** Yes there is, and I will move on to that as soon as this Proposition has been done.

Conseiller Plummer: Thank you very much indeed.

210 **The Speaker:** Yes, Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman.

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Yes, just one question.

215 When the new Constable roles are proposed in Easter, when they are coming into force – I do not know if you have said this, sorry; I was zoned out a little bit – (*Laughter*) will the current Constable have to reapply for the position, or as the Chief Constable on the proposed set up, or will he automatically become the Chief Constable on the new set up?

Conseiller Blythe: That is a good question, Conseiller Bateman.
We have not crossed that bridge yet. Let's get a Constable first. Okay?
Thank you.

220 **The Speaker:** However, I think that is an aspect that does need to be covered in the report, because it is one thing getting an approval for a short-term appointment, slightly different for a longer-term appointment.

225 **Conseiller Blythe:** Sir, can I just say something?

The Speaker: Yes.

230 **Conseiller Blythe:** Yes, that is important, very important. The whole idea of this format has actually come from the Constable that we are hoping just to ... are just about to vote in. So hopefully it will just take its natural course.

Thank you.

235 **Conseiller Drillot:** Could I just ...

The Speaker: Yes, Conseiller Drillot.

240 **Conseiller Drillot:** Just on that one, obviously if we vote in Mr Burgess now, as Alan pointed out before, he will have to be re-voted in in October, whether it is under the new system or under the old system. So basically, he will have to reapply and be voted in by this Chief Pleas again. So he will not automatically get the new role if it is taken. It will come back to Chief Pleas, unless it comes before October. Then – I am thinking off my head here – we might have to bring another Chief Pleas to bring all four new candidates in. (**A Member:** Yes.)

245 So whatever decisions we make tonight will come back to Chief Pleas if there are any changes on the roles, as far as I – Alan will back me up – can work it out.

Conseiller Blythe: Yes, certainly.

Conseiller Drillot: Yes. Thank you.

250 **The Speaker:** And I would also say that of course, the Constable is a Reform Law role, and therefore consideration needs to be made as to whether there is any requirement to make amendment to the Reform Law before this goes ahead.

Can you provide us with that assurance; that that has happened?

255 **Conseiller Blythe:** The way we are moulding this new system is to avoid any alteration to the Reform Law.

The Speaker: Okay.

260 **Conseiller Blythe:** Thank you.

The Speaker: Could you please check that out with the Law Officers (*Interjection*) before going too far, so that we do not end up with a stumbling block.

265 **Conseiller Blythe:** That has been done already, sir.

The Speaker: That has been done already? That is very good. Thank you.

270 Anybody else? No. Then we will go to the vote on the Proposition that Chief Pleas accept the resignation of Miss April Rose Diaper from the office of Constable, and we have a Proposition from the Douzaine that Mr Paul Burgess be elected to complete the unexpired term of office.

Those in favour; those against? **Carried.**

**Suspension of the Rules of Procedure
to introduce a new Proposition**

The Speaker: Conseiller Blythe.

275 **Conseiller Blythe:** I would like to ask to suspend the Rules of Procedure temporarily to introduce a new Proposition.

The Speaker: Yes, thank you. My advice was sought on this, and we would introduce a new Proposition which is dealing with the Vingtenier ... would need us to suspend the Rules, because we cannot bring Items on to the Agenda with the current Rules.

280 So the proposal from the Douzaine is that the Rules of Procedure be suspended for this next Item. Those in favour; those against? **Carried.**

**Douzaine –
Mr Dan Gale elected Vingtenier**

Proposition:

That Mr Dan Gale be elected Vingtenier to complete the term of Office of the vacant post.

The Speaker: The Rules are suspended and they will be reintroduced formally at the completion of the next Item that you are introducing.

Conseiller Blythe.

285

Conseiller Blythe: As we all know, it has been very difficult to get a Vingtenier to work with the Constables. But we have been very lucky today to be able to nominate Mr Dan Gale to the position of Vingtenier.

290 **The Speaker:** The Douzaine are proposing that Mr Dan Gale be nominated to the vacant position of Vingtenier. Are there any questions or debate on that? No.

Therefore we will go to the vote, that Mr Dan Gale be elected Vingtenier to complete the term of office of the vacant post. Those in favour; those against? **Carried.**

295 And on behalf of Chief Pleas, I would like to thank both Mr Burgess and Mr Gale for putting themselves forward to what is quite an onerous position. Thank you.

I reinstate the Rules of Procedure.

Before I move on to Agenda Item 5, the Court will sit at 2 p.m. tomorrow to swear in both the Constable and the newly elected Vingtenier.

300 **Conseiller Blythe:** They have been informed.

The Speaker: They have been informed. Thank you very much.

**5. Change of Government Domain Name –
Report from the Policy and Finance Committee considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled, 'Change of Government Domain Name'.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approve the domain name change from @gov.sark.gg to @sarkgov.co.uk.

The Speaker: Agenda Item 5, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled, 'Change of Government Domain Name'.

305 I would ask Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman to introduce the report, please.

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Thank you, sir.

As you are all aware, we have updated all of our IT systems to a better platform, which is easier to use and is entirely compliant with GDPR.

310 Our previous IT provider was unable to provide the level of service required to help us operate and manage the new system. Therefore, we are now using a company based in Guernsey called Prosperity, as most of the work required can be done remotely and they are providing us with a fantastic service to date.

315 Furthermore, our current websites have become overly expensive to operate, as we are being charged a considerable sum every time we wish to have new information added or changed to the websites. In addition, the current operation of the websites does not allow for us to make any changes to the website ourselves.

320 Fortunately, we are moving into phase 2 of the IT upgrade, and that is to build three new Government websites. This includes the Government website, the medical and the Court websites, making them more professional and user-friendly for both the administration and

visitors to the site. The new websites are almost complete and will hopefully go live by the end of this month.

325 The reasons we have chosen to change the domain names for the website is primarily due to the ownership of sark.gg and the security issues relating to this. Other domain names, such as, 'sarkgov.gg' were unavailable to purchase. So we do not know who owns them.

However, Sark Tourism and Sark School both have domain names ending in 'co.uk'. We feel that by changing the Government websites to also end in 'co.uk', Sark will have a more unified and recognisable online presence.

330 We now own sarkgov.co.uk, sarkcourt.co.uk and sarkmedical.co.uk, and they will be hosted from a secure server in the UK.

When the new website is ready, Prosperity will work with our Civil Service team to ensure a seamless transfer to your new email addresses, and hopefully no disruption.

335 My next bit has changed slightly, because Frank Makepeace has given us an update. I have heard on the grapevine that Sark has now been given its own country code – .cq, possibly?

A Member: Possibly.

340 **Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman:** But as of yet, we have received no information about this, and until information is provided to Chief Pleas, I cannot comment further. But should the domain name change and we have ownership, we can always change our websites to that new domain name.

Thank you.

345 **The Speaker:** On that comment, I am told that the original choice of name, cq, which was the one that was proposed for Sark, has now been allocated somewhere in China. So whatever the domain name ends up being, it will not be that and it could well be quite late this year before we get any further movement on that. It depends how quickly ISO turn the decision around, because it was one made against them on appeal. So if they act swiftly, we might get it more quickly. If not, it may take a little bit longer.

350 Right, any comments and questions on that?
Conseiller Drillot.

Conseiller Drillot: Yes, just a couple of quick ones on that.

355 On the gov.co.uk, just two questions. (1) What length of contract and how easy is it to get out of? And (2), what cost are we paying compared to what we were paying John for the domain name?

Thank you.

360 **Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman:** As far as I am aware, we own those domain names now, and I believe that they were around £10 each. And that is it. (*Interjection*) That is it, yes.

I think there is an annual charge for hosting the website, but that is standard across the board, whoever. So at present we pay Mr John Hunt to host our websites, so it is no different now.

365 **The Speaker:** Anybody else? No.

In that case, we will go to the Proposition, that Chief Pleas approve the domain name change from @gov.sark.gg to @sarkgov.co.uk.

Those in favour; those against? **Carried.**

**Procedural –
Emergency Regulations for Chief Pleas**

370 **The Speaker:** Right, that concludes the Business of the Day, but there is one subject I would like to talk to you about, and that is Emergency Regulations for Chief Pleas.

There has been a lot of traffic today about Chief Pleas, the Meeting, excluding the public, distancing and all the rest of it. There is a Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (Chief Pleas Procedures) Sark Regulations 2020 being developed by the Committees of Chief Pleas with the Law Officers. I shall not read it all out, but what it effectively means is that once this Regulation
375 is in, then we have much more power to change Procedures in Chief Pleas which currently are restricted by the Reform Law.

The first one is:

Meetings of the Chief Pleas need not be open to the public.

The second one is:

Proxy voting at Meetings of Chief Pleas.

The Speaker may prescribe certain reasons for absence (“**Authorised Absence**”) from a meeting of Chief Pleas, which shall entitle a Conseiller (“**first Conseiller**”) to arrange for his or her vote to be cast by another Conseiller acting as a proxy if the first Conseiller’s circumstances require him or her to take an Authorised Absence from a Meeting of the Chief Pleas.

380 Now, an Authorised Absence is not because you have got toothache. It basically means that you have coronavirus or you have been ordered to go into lockdown. But what it does do, it means that any one of you can name somebody else to cast your vote in Chief Pleas.

You would need, probably, to be trying to listen in somehow as to what is going on, and in Guernsey they have also nominated an alternate proxy, so that the person who nominates a proxy, if that proxy becomes ill, there is another chance for somebody else to get in.

385 However, the proxy vote does not count when I ask for a show of hands and in Guernsey it does not count when they call for a shouted vote of *Pour* or *Contre*. It only applies for a named vote. So even if we do go into the situation of having proxies, it will only apply in named votes. And those named votes can only be cast for Propositions which have been made and/or amended by the Meeting of Chief Pleas.

390 That is where some of the difficulties may come in, because if a Proposition is amended in Chief Pleas then the person, the Conseiller, who is not able to attend may not know what that change is. But we will get round that.

Guernsey are actually using that at this Meeting that they have got this week, and they have, I think, 10 people in the Guernsey States on lockdown, because they have been in contact with
395 somebody or they have come back from abroad. And it is up to the Speaker to:

make directions as to the manner in which proxy arrangements ... shall operate in relation to an Authorised Absence.

The next one is in the meeting of Committees:

A member of a committee of the Chief Pleas who is in communication with the other members of the committee by telephone, live television link or any other means of telecommunications ... so that each member of the committee can hear or read what is said or communicated by each of the others, is deemed, ... to be present at a meeting of the committee for all purposes relating to meeting, including calculating the quorum at a meeting under [section X of the Law] and under Rule 13 of the Constitution and Operation of Chief Pleas Committee[s] ...
[...]

The emergency procedures include special arrangements so that public meetings do not need to be held, to allow for proxy voting at the Chief Pleas of Sark ... and to allow members of committees ... to take part in meetings remotely.

Now, I think the intention is, Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman, that you will be responding to, or your Committee will be responding to, these Emergency Regulations early next week.

400

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Yes, that is correct. We are taking it to our Monday meeting of P&F, where we will discuss it and then report back to the Law Officer.

The Speaker: Okay, thank you.

405

Now, the – I will come back to you in one minute, Conseiller Long. We do not make these Regulations. The Regulations are made at our request by the Civil Contingencies Authority which sits in Guernsey, and I am nominated by the Medical & Emergency Services Committee to be the Sark representative on that CCA body. There can only be one representative from Sark.

410

So P&F will respond to the Regulation with any comments, then it has to go to the CCA to approve it. The Regulation only lasts for 30 days. So any Regulation that we bring in will last for 30 days and then, near the end of the 30 days, if the coronavirus situation is the same/worse, what have you, then there needs to be an extension made by the Civil Contingencies Authority to extend it for another 30 days. So that is going on in the background at the moment.

Conseiller Long.

415

Conseiller Long: Thank you sir.

I just want to enquire, when we are talking about proxy voting, I have got a simple question. When we are putting this in place, if we are going to have these ideas and we are making it that this is a possibly in the situation we are in at the moment, is there any intention of making this, that in future reference, when Conseillers are off Island, they will be able to proxy vote?

420

The Speaker: No.

Conseiller Long: There is no intention whatsoever?

425

The Speaker: None at all. They are Emergency Regulations, they do not overrule, they just temporarily put aside, the Reform Law. And remember what I said: you will not be an authorised absentee if you have got toothache. It has to be linked to the coronavirus situation.

430

So it is a temporary measure, lasts for 30 days, can be extended by a further Order, but it is not designed to overturn the current situation with the Reform Law, other than on a temporary basis.

Somebody wanted to speak? Conseiller –

435

Conseiller Makepeace: Well, you have answered by question, actually, sir. I was just going to say that it is a temporary measure, isn't it?

The Speaker: Yes, yes it is.

440

Conseiller Makepeace: It is 30 days. So you have answered my question. Thank you.

Conseiller Long: I think you have just answered the question I was going to put, sir. Thank you.

445

The Speaker: Yes.
Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman.

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Just another question about tonight's Chief Pleas. Obviously we have no public here, would it be possible to get the points, the Propositions and decisions

450 put on to the website fairly quickly, so the public can have access to what decisions were made tonight?

The Speaker: Greffier, I think you get them up normally in about 48 hours?

455 **The Greffier:** Hopefully, sir, they will be there by Monday for sure, depending on our workload tomorrow. I am in Court tomorrow afternoon. So work the weekend again! *(Laughter)*

The Speaker: Well, we will get them out as quickly as we can. However, I think it could be quite well if you spoke to people about it in your daily rounds, when you are six foot away from somebody, *(Laughter)* they are going to ask you what went on at the Meeting tonight.

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Yes, I did not mean the whole process, because I know that takes a long time; to write up everything. I thought that possibly just a single line of, 'Constable proposition passed', you know ...

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The Speaker: I can try and do that tomorrow and put it out as a ... Can you try and do that tomorrow?

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Sorry Greffier.

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The Greffier: Sir, if I am allowed to speak, **(The Speaker: Yes.)** it is me that prepares, as Greffier, the Resolutions.

The Speaker: Yes.

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The Greffier: I do not see that you can prepare them. You can approve them, and I will endeavour to get those Resolutions out as quickly as possible. But as I say, I do have other commitments within the Greffe Office.

480 **The Speaker:** I am not trying to say I am going to write the Resolutions. I could just make a statement up, including the statements that have been made today, not in detail, but saying what they were about, not at all impinging on the Greffier's role whatsoever. Because it is a public meeting, we could say the new Constable is Mr Paul Burgess, the Vingtenier is Mr Dan Gale, and things like that which could go out, probably, by tomorrow night.

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Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Yes, I think that is exact ... Just very short and just say, 'Change of Government domain name: approved'.

The Speaker: And then we will wait for the official Resolutions to come out whenever they come out, which will take the pressure off the Greffier and it will be a statement from the Speaker's Office.

Conseiller Makepeace.

495 **Conseiller Makepeace:** I think, sir, with the people that I have spoken to today, that it would be very useful if you were able to put out just a summary of events for tonight, tomorrow if could get that out, rather than us waiting until Monday.

I think that it would be great if we could just have a short summary or statement.

The Speaker: Right. Can I just have a general show of hands that, as Conseillers, you are quite happy that I put out a statement from the Speaker's Office tomorrow?

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Yes, I think I have got a quorum there. Okay.

Thank you. Greffier, if we can just close with the grace.

PRAYER

The Greffier

Chief Pleas closed at 7.39 p.m.