



OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

EASTER MEETING

OF CHIEF PLEAS

OF THE

ISLAND OF SARK

HANSARD

Sark, Wednesday, 22nd April 2020

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

Volume 6, No. 5

*Published by The Greffier of Sark, La Chasse Marette,
Sark, GY10 1SF. © Chief Pleas of Sark, 2020*

Present:

Seigneur

Maj. C M Beaumont Esq.

Speaker of Chief Pleas

Lt. Col. R J Guille, MBE Esq*

Greffier

Mr T J Hamon*

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor

Vice Admiral Sir Ian Corder KBE, CB

Conseillers:

Alan Blythe
Peter La Trobe-Bateman
Christopher Nightingale
Anthony Ventress*
Paul Williams*
Sandra Williams
Helen Plummer

Philip Long
John Guille
Christopher Drillot
William Raymond
Amanda de Carteret
Simon Couldridge
Frank Makepeace

*Note: All those other than officers/members whose names are marked with an * attended the Easter Meeting remotely, due to the Covid-19 pandemic precautions.*

Business transacted

Welcome to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor	5
Procedural – Remote Meeting	5
Addendum – The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2020	6
Resignations of Mrs Ellie Lalor and Rodney Lalor – Statement by the Speaker	6
Former Speaker, Mr Arthur Rolfe – Statement by the Speaker	6
Support for Isle of Sark Shipping – Statement by Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman	7
Thank you to pandemic workers – Statement by the Speaker	8
Conseiller Code of Conduct – Statement by the Speaker	8
Business of the Day	8
1. Questions not related to the Business of the Day – None	8
2. Future Energy Funding Request– Future Energy Special Committee Report – Item withdrawn.....	8
3. The Electricity (Sark) Law, 2020 – Policy & Finance Committee Report considered – Proposition withdrawn.....	11
4. The Same-Sex Marriage (Sark) Law, 2019 – Policy & Finance Committee Report considered – Propositions carried	13
5. Financial Statements – Policy & Finance Committee Report considered – Proposition withdrawn.....	16
6. Appointment of Deputy Treasurer – Policy & Finance Committee Report considered – Proposition as amended carried	19
7. The Independent Policing Panel New Terms of Reference – Douzaine Report considered – Proposition lost	21
8. Role of the Constable – Douzaine Report considered – Proposition carried.....	25
<i>Chief Pleas adjourned at 11.21 a.m. and resumed at 11.26 a.m.</i>	<i>30</i>
9. Development Control Law Special Committee – Policy & Finance Committee Report considered – Proposition as amended carried	31
10. Country Code Application – Top Level Domain Special Committee Report considered – Proposition 1 carried; Propositions 2 and 3 lost	35
11. The Protection of Vulnerable Adults Special Committee – Policy & Finance Committee Report considered – Proposition approved – Conseillers de Carteret, Plummer, Paul Williams and Sandra Williams elected to Special Committee	40
12. Sark Pandemic Emergency Committee – Policy & Finance Committee Report considered – Proposition carried	46
13. Medical & Emergency Services Mandate – Medical & Emergency Services Committee Report considered – Proposition carried	52

EASTER MEETING OF CHIEF PLEAS, WEDNESDAY, 22nd APRIL 2020

14. Term of office for the Speaker of Chief Pleas – Policy & Finance Committee Report considered – Proposition carried	54
15. Start Times of Chief Pleas Meeting – Policy & Finance Committee Report considered – Proposition carried	55
<i>Chief Pleas adjourned at 1 p.m. and resumed at 1.08 p.m.</i>	59
16. The New Slaughterhouse Project – Agriculture, Environment & Sea Fisheries Committee Report considered	59
17. Grants of Probate for Personal Property – Policy & Finance Committee Report considered	62
18. Draft Projet for Consideration – Changes to the Organ Donation Scheme – Policy & Finance Committee Report considered	65
19. Committee Elections – Agriculture, Environment & Sea Committee – Conseiller Long elected; Development Control Committee – Conseiller Drillot elected; Douzaine – Conseiller Sandra Williams elected; Tourism – Conseiller Plummer elected; Future Energy Special Committee – Conseiller Couldridge elected	66
20. Committee and Panel Elections – Mrs S Boerenbeker and Rev. D Stolton elected non-Chief Pleas members of the Protection of Vulnerable Adults Special Committee.....	73
Procedural.....	75
Closing Address by the Seigneur	75
<i>Chief Pleas closed at 1.55 p.m.</i>	76

Easter Meeting of Chief Pleas

Chief Pleas met at 10 a.m.

[THE SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

PRAYER

The Greffier

ROLL CALL

The Greffier

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

Welcome to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor

5 **The Speaker:** I would like to welcome the Lieutenant Governor to this remote Meeting, who is listening in. An historic first.
There are no apologies to present.

Procedural – Remote Meeting

10 **The Speaker:** I will go through some housekeeping notes before we move into statements. Once attendance has been confirmed and we are all present then thereafter that will be the order of speaking and voting, as we deal with each item. We obviously cannot conduct hand voting and all voting will be done by a recorded vote, taken by the Greffier.

15 Microphones – please ensure that your microphones are switched off now and that you only switch them on when you speak and then switch them off again immediately. Also, do the same with the video, as you do with the microphones installed in the Assembly Room. No person on this Teams site is to record any part of this Meeting. The only recording being made is that being taken by the Greffier for the official *Hansard* record. If you inadvertently switch on record during the Meeting, this comes up on screen in a pop-up and we will halt proceedings until the recording is turned off.

20 At the start of each item, I will ask a Conseiller to introduce the Committee's Report. At the conclusion of the introduction, I will use the roll call list to ask each Conseiller, in turn, if they wish to speak on the subject. Once I have compiled that order of speaking, I will ask each Conseiller who wishes to speak to do so. Once everyone has spoken, I will then ask the proposer of the Report to sum up. At the conclusion of the summing up, I will then call on the Greffier to conduct a vote on any Proposition or Propositions contained in the Report.

25 Committee elections – when we come to electing Conseillers to committees, if there is a greater number of candidates than there are vacancies, then a name vote will be required. This I

will do by asking each Conseiller in turn to vote for their choice of candidate by naming each Conseiller that they wish to support for the Committee. When the Greffier and I have totted up the totals, I will announce the successful candidates and declare them elected.

30 For the record, there are two Conseillers in the Assembly Room, due to technical difficulties with Teams and their home computers. They are Conseillers Anthony Ventress and Paul Williams and they will take part in proceedings as normal.

**Addendum –
The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision)
(Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2020**

35 **The Speaker:** Emergency regulations laid before Chief Pleas are listed at the end of the agenda and in the addendum. The regulations published on the agenda have all been repealed by the regulation contained in the addendum. This regulation affects the way that Meetings of Chief Pleas are regulated during the pandemic emergency.

I wish to deal with the addendum regulation first. I would inform you that I did not receive any motion to annul any of the regulations, as provided for in Rule of Procedure 13, therefore I declare that the regulation, made on 16th April 2020, is in force.

**Resignations of Mrs Ellie Lalor and Rodney Lalor –
Statement by the Speaker**

40 **The Speaker:** We have a number of Statements to go through now and I will make the first Statement and it is dealing with the resignation of Conseillers Mrs Ellie Lalor and Rodney Lalor.

45 Both parties made their resignation to me by email on the afternoon of 7th April, as Conseillers of Chief Pleas. Mrs Lalor was elected at the General Election in December 2018, receiving 138 votes. During her term as a Conseiller she served on the Development Control and Tourism Committees and on the Special Safeguarding Committee. Mr Lalor was also elected in December 2018, polling 123 votes. He served on the Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries Committee and the Douzaine, also being a member of the Public Works Subcommittee and served on the Future Energy Special Committee.

50 On your behalf I would thank them both for serving in this parliament and for their service to Chief Pleas and the community by their membership of their various Committees and I wish them both well for the future.

**Former Speaker, Mr Arthur Rolfe –
Statement by the Speaker**

55 **The Speaker:** I now go onto a further Statement on Mr Arthur Rolfe, the previous Speaker. I believe that this full Meeting, albeit being held remotely due to the pandemic crisis, is an appropriate time to say on behalf of Chief Pleas a thank you to the previous Speaker, Mr Arthur Rolfe.

Arthur was elected as the first Speaker of Chief Pleas on the 27th February 2017, for a three-year term of office, in an uncontested election. I retired in October 2016 from the role of President of Chief Pleas and Arthur was elected by Chief Pleas as the President, again in an uncontested election.

60 By retiring I had hoped that a much younger person would take over the role; well, Arthur
was younger by 11 months! Arthur served you as the Presiding Officer for three years and five
months and I thank him for his service in that role and for his previous service as a Conseiller
from Election in the 2014 General Election, uncontested, until he took over as President/Speaker
in 2016. As we know Arthur stood for re-election in January this year and when I also stood, this
65 became a contested election. Arthur lost the Speaker election by one vote. On your behalf I
would wish Arthur well in his future endeavours.

**Support for Isle of Sark Shipping –
Statement by Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman**

The Speaker: I would now ask for a Statement by Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman on Isle of Sark Shipping.

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Thank you, Mr Speaker.
70 At the Extraordinary Chief Pleas Meeting held on 17th February 2020, Chief Pleas agreed to
guarantee a loan in the amount of £300,000 from NatWest to the Isle of Sark Shipping Company
Limited to facilitate the purchase of the new vessel, *Corsaire des Iles*.

The purchase of this vessel was completed on 31st March 2020 by Isle of Sark Shipping using
their own funds prior to loan draw-down. The vessel remains in France and it is not currently
75 possible to take delivery of the vessel nor raise a mortgage against it.

Policy & Finance Committee signed the guarantee documents on 6th April 2020; however
due to the impact of coronavirus, NatWest subsequently requested a letter of comfort to be
signed by Policy & Finance as extra support to enable the partial release of this loan.

80 Section three of the letter of comfort states that the funds are to be used to support the Isle
of Sark Shipping Company with the day-to-day running expense of the company. Policy &
Finance Committee have taken legal advice, and at this moment are not content that this letter
of comfort should be signed, as it effectively changes the secured loan to an unsecured loan,
thereby increasing Chief Pleas exposure to risk.

85 Policy & Finance are aware that Isle of Sark Shipping, in common with many Bailiwick
businesses, are finding the current trading conditions extremely challenging and that Chief Pleas
have an obligation to support this lifeline service.

Policy & Finance and Harbours, Shipping & Pilotage Committees have held meetings with the
Isle of Sark Shipping and the current position is that they have agreed to support the company
on a request basis. All requests for funding must be evidenced and approved prior to release of
90 funds. There is no commitment to provide unconditional support to IoSS having been asked for a
revised business plan for the remainder of this year and into 2021.

IoSS is currently applying to the States of Guernsey for relief under their loan guarantee
scheme, they are already receiving payroll support through the payroll co-funding scheme. If
accepted this support will be available to them in seven to 10 days. We continue to work with
95 the Isle of Sark Shipping and will support IoSS on a request basis until a new acceptable letter of
comfort and business plan is agreed.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman.

**Thank you to pandemic workers –
Statement by the Speaker**

100 **The Speaker:** I now have a further Statement. I have been asked by a resident to give a big
vote of thanks to all those on the Island who have been working so hard behind the scenes to
keep this Island safe during this coronavirus pandemic. This has involved the making of very hard
decisions to close the Island down to all but essential workers and to put the Island into
lockdown, decisions that have not been taken lightly.

105 The amount of work undertaken by essential workers on Sark such as shops and carters,
banks, post office and all those keeping essential services running is much appreciated by
everyone, including our shipping freight service. We are all looking forward to further loosening
of the lockdown, as it is safe to do so. So, on behalf of the Island, I would thank everybody who
has been working so hard behind the scenes.

**Conseiller Code of Conduct –
Statement by the Speaker**

110 **The Speaker:** And the final Statement I shall be making, I have been asked by the Policy &
Finance Committee to speak on and support the Conseiller Code of Conduct, to make clear my
support for this mechanism of accountability.

I have no issues with the principles of the Code and would support those principles being
utilised to extend similar Codes for the Officers of Chief Pleas and eventually Government
support staff, in all areas of the Government. I look forward to seeing the proposals when they
come forward in due course.

115 That concludes the statements for this Meeting.

Business of the Day

**1. Questions not related to the Business of the Day –
None**

The Speaker: We now move to Agenda Item 1, questions not related to the business of the
day and there are no questions tabled.

**2. Future Energy Funding Request–
Future Energy Special Committee Report –
Item withdrawn**

*To consider a Report with Proposition from the Future Energy Special Committee entitled
“Future Energy Funding Request”*

Proposition:

*That Chief Pleas approve the Future Energy Committee a budget of £60,000 from unforeseen
expenditure, in order to seek expert advice regarding the generation and distribution of
energy on Sark.*

120 **The Speaker:** We move to Agenda Item 2, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Future Energy Special Committee entitled Future Energy Funding Request and I would ask Conseiller Guille to introduce the Report, please.

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir.

125 The Future Energy Committee would like to withdraw the Proposition attached to this Report. The over-arching purpose of this entire Report and Proposition was to ensure a reliable and cheaper supply of energy to the Island. The pandemic is obviously at the forefront of everyone's minds, but Chief Pleas must not lose sight of the need to plan for our future and this will become even more important with so many aspects of our daily life and the wider world
130 around us enter uncertain times.

Therefore we would like to come back to the public and Members of Chief Pleas at a later date, with more information on this crucial matter.

Thank you, sir.

135 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Guille.

I will now go through the roll call to ask if anybody wishes to speak on the Report at Item 2. Conseiller Alan Blythe?

Conseiller Blythe: Nothing to ask, sir.

140

The Speaker: Peter La Trobe-Bateman?

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: No thank you.

145 **The Speaker:** Christopher Nightingale?

Conseiller Nightingale: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Anthony Ventress?

150

Conseiller Ventress: Nothing to say, sir.

The Speaker: Paul Williams?

155 **Conseiller Paul Williams:** Nothing to say, sir.

The Speaker: Sandra Williams?

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Nothing to say.

160

The Speaker: Helen Plummer?

Conseiller Plummer: Nothing to say.

165 **The Speaker:** Philip Long?

Conseiller Long: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Christopher Drillot?

170

Conseiller Drillot: Nothing to say, thank you.

The Speaker: William Raymond?

Conseiller Raymond: No thank you, sir.

175

The Speaker: Amanda de Carteret?

Conseiller de Carteret: No thank you, sir.

180

The Speaker: Simon Couldridge?

Conseiller Couldridge: No thank you.

The Speaker: Frank Makepeace?

185

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes I would like to say something, sir.

The Speaker: Go ahead, Conseiller Makepeace.

190

Conseiller Makepeace: I would have been voting against this Proposition. Over the past five years Sark has been overwhelmed by so-called energy experts. Back in 2015 the Sustainable Electricity Policy Development Team along with energy expert Dereck Lickorish announced plans to provide electricity at a cost of 36p a unit.

195

This would have required an underwater cable to be installed at a cost of £6 million to the Sark taxpayer/consumer. When a PDT member was asked if the 36p per unit would be the cost of cable installation, he replied: 'Yes, it would.'

At the same meeting, the public were informed that this cable would be up and running by 2017. Unfortunately after the initial meeting nothing more was heard of the cable or Mr Lickorish.

200

Next came a survey by Narec Energy consultants, commissioned by Anthony White. Once again we were promised cleaner, greener, cheaper energy through an installation of solar panels and a 70-metre high wind turbine. However if installed, Sark would still need to provide 30% of all power consumed by the existing power station, due to days without sunshine or wind. This would have been at a cost of £11 million to the consumers.

205

We would have had a request for another £60,000 to fund another enquiry, by an as yet unnamed anonymous expert. Sark has a population of 390 people. This is expected to reduce even further with the impending collapse of the tourist season. Half of the population are over 60 years of age. My point is we can have as many surveys as we like and engage as many experts as we like, but it is pointless as our population is too small to pay for the cost of any such installation.

210

Thank you, sir

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace. Do you wish to come back on that Conseiller Guille?

215

Conseiller Guille: Shall we see if any other Conseillers have any comments?

The Speaker: No, there is not anybody asking for anything, so do you have a comment to sum up or do you just wish to close this Item now?

220

Conseiller Guille: We will close this Item now, sir, and we will come back to it at a later date with more information for the public and Conseillers as well.

225 **The Speaker:** Thank you. Conseiller Makepeace, would you please provide the Greffier with a copy of your Statement, so that he can ensure that he gets the names that you have mentioned correct in the *Hansard*.

Conseiller Makepeace: Shall I do that by email, sir?

230 **The Speaker:** Yes please, do it by email after the meeting.

Conseiller Makepeace: Okay, thank you, sir.

The Speaker: That concludes Item 2.

**3. The Electricity (Sark) Law, 2020 –
Policy & Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition withdrawn**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled “The Electricity (Sark) Law, 2020”.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves the Projet de Loi entitled “The Electricity (Sark) Law, 2020”.

235 **The Speaker:** We now move onto Agenda Item 3, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee, entitled ‘The Electricity (Sark) Law, 2020’, and to approve the *Projet de Loi* entitled The Electricity (Sark) Law, 2020, and I ask Conseiller Raymond to introduce the Report please.

240 **Conseiller Raymond:** Thank you, sir.

I have to tell you with regret that this will be an information only report, with the final approval of any Law being deferred until St James’ Chambers have been able to finalise their reviews of the provisions. It is unfortunate that their normal workload has been considerably disrupted by Covid-19.

245 The aims of the Law, to summarise, are to secure the stability and security of an electricity supply to all Sark residents, and I emphasise to all Sark residents. The main thrust of the provisions is, in the first instance, the overall control of generation capacity by any means on the Island, and the containment of future non-commercial generation, to that which constitutes self-supply only, and any surplus generated by an individual must then be sold to a regulated
250 distributor.

Lack of control over the ability to sell surplus supply to neighbours may allow the growth of the number of independent mini-hubs, which would damage the viability of a main grid and lead to fuel poverty for those who are less well off.

255 This is the second point, the control and monitoring of any commercial generator and distributor, to ensure financial stability and the continuity of generated supply, and with sanctions being available to Chief Pleas in the event of any supply disconnection or disruption.

Thirdly, the ability to permit an alternative distributor to lay cabling across privately owned land. This would be necessary if an alternative supply or any contingency supply had to be installed as there is very little publicly owned land in Sark.

260 That is the end of my statement, sir.

The Speaker: Thank you very much. I will now go through the list again, to ask if any Conseiller wishes to speak on Agenda Item 3. Alan Blythe?

265 **Conseiller Blythe:** Nothing to add, sir.

The Speaker: Peter La Trobe-Bateman?

270 **Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman:** Yes please, sir.

The Speaker: Christopher Nightingale?

Conseiller Nightingale: No thank you, sir.

275 **The Speaker:** Anthony Ventress?

Conseiller Ventress: Nothing to add, sir.

The Speaker: Paul Williams?

280 **Conseiller Paul Williams:** No sir.

The Speaker: Sandra Williams?

285 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** No thank you.

The Speaker: Helen Plummer?

Conseiller Plummer: Nothing to add, thank you.

290 **The Speaker:** Philip Long?

Conseiller Long: Nothing to add from me sir, thank you.

295 **The Speaker:** John Guille?

Conseiller Guille: Yes please, sir.

The Speaker: Christopher Drillot.

300 **Conseiller Drillot:** No thank you.

The Speaker: Amanda de Carteret?

305 **Conseiller de Carteret:** No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Simon Couldridge?

Conseiller Couldridge: No thank you, Mr Speaker.

310 **The Speaker:** Frank Makepeace.

Conseiller Makepeace: No thank you, sir.

315 **The Speaker:** I therefore call on Peter La Trobe-Bateman to raise your comments in debate, please.

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Thank you, sir.

320 I would just like to say how disappointed I am that we have had to withdraw this. It was picked up very late in the day from the Law Officers. Understandably they are very busy but I will urge that we will get this through as quick as we can, because of the importance and the security for both parties, either consumers or/and provider that this Law would provide. It is not going to be gone for very long.

Thank you.

325 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Guille.

330 **Conseiller Guille:** Yes, sir. I would just like to thank Conseiller Raymond for his incredibly hard work on this and it is a shame that, due to a technicality with the Law Officers, it has not been able to be brought forward today but I would just like to ask all Conseillers to pay special attention to this. It is a crucial bit of legislation to protect the supply of electricity to all of us and also to help with the cost of electricity to all of us, which the Future Energy Proposition was related to as well. We look forward to Conseiller Raymond bringing this back before Chief Pleas before too long.

335 **The Speaker:** Thank you. Conseiller Raymond, do you wish to make any final summing up comment?

340 **Conseiller Raymond:** Just to say, sir, that the Law Officers came back to me later yesterday and said that they think they will be able to get the Law in its final form back to us in very early May. So that is one piece of helpful news.

The Speaker: Thank you. As we have removed the Proposition, then the debate on Item 3 is now over.

4. The Same-Sex Marriage (Sark) Law, 2019 – Policy & Finance Committee Report considered – Propositions carried

To consider a Report with Propositions from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled “The Same-Sex Marriage (Sark) Law 2019” and to approve the Ordinances entitled “The Same-Sex Marriage (Consequential and Miscellaneous Amendments and Contrary Provisions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2020” and “The Same-Sex Marriage (Sark) Law, 2019 (Commencement) Ordinance, 2020”.

Proposition 1:

That Chief Pleas approves The Same-Sex Marriage (Consequential and Miscellaneous Amendments and Contrary Provisions) (Sark) Ordinance 2020.

Proposition 2:

That Chief Pleas approves the Same-Sex marriage (Sark) law, 2019 (Commencement) Ordinance 2020.

345 **The Speaker:** We will move to Agenda Item 4, to consider a Report with Propositions from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled The Same-Sex Marriage (Sark) Law, 2019, and to approve the Ordinances entitled the Same-Sex Marriage (Consequential and Miscellaneous Amendments and Contrary Provisions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2020, and the Same-Sex Marriage (Sark) Law, 2019 (Commencement) Ordinance, 2020. I ask Conseiller de Carteret to introduce the Report please.

350 **Conseiller de Carteret:** Thank you, sir.
I would like to inform you that the Same-Sex Marriage (Sark) Law, 2019 was registered on the records of the Island, in Court, on 9th April 2020 following approval. The Propositions before you are really just a formality to enable this Law to commence.

355 **The Speaker:** The Amendments and Provisions Ordinance is related to specific wording, which needs to be substituted throughout other matrimonial legislations in regard to same-sex couples. I hope Chief Pleas approve these Propositions and allow the Same-Sex Marriage (Sark) Law to commence, finally.

360 Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Thank you. I will now go through the list of people who wish to speak. Alan Blythe?

365 **Conseiller Blythe:** Nothing to add, sir.

The Speaker: Peter La Trobe-Bateman.

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: No thank you, sir.

370 **The Speaker:** Christopher Nightingale?

Conseiller Nightingale: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Anthony Ventress?

375 **Conseiller Ventress:** No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Paul Williams.

380 **Conseiller Paul Williams:** Nothing, sir, thank you.

The Speaker: Sandra Williams.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: No thank you.

385 **The Speaker:** Helen Plummer?

Conseiller Plummer: No thank you.

390 **The Speaker:** Philip Long?

Conseiller Long: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: John Guille?

395 **Conseiller Guille:** No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Christopher Drillot?

400 **Conseiller Drillot:** No thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: William Raymond?

Conseiller Raymond: No thank you, sir.

405 **The Speaker:** Simon Couldridge?

Conseiller Couldridge: No thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Frank Makepeace?

410

Conseiller Makepeace: No thank you, sir.

415 **The Speaker:** Thank you for that. As there was no debate on this, I would like to take both Propositions in one vote and Proposition 1 is that Chief Pleas approves the Same-Sex Marriage (Consequential and Miscellaneous Amendments and Contrary Provisions) Sark Ordinance, 2020; and the second Proposition that Chief Pleas approves the Same-Sex Marriage (Sark) Law 2019 (Commencement) Ordinance, 2020. So when I ask you to vote Pour, Contre or no vote, you are voting on both of the Propositions. Greffier.

Carried – Pour 14, Contre 0, No Vote 0

POUR

Conseiller Alan Blythe
Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman
Conseiller Christopher Nightingale
Conseiller Anthony Ventress
Conseiller Paul Williams
Conseiller Sandra Williams
Conseiller Helen Plummer
Conseiller Philip Long
Conseiller John Guille
Conseiller Christopher Drillot
Conseiller William Raymond
Conseiller Amanda de Carteret
Conseiller Simon Couldridge
Conseiller Frank Makepeace

CONTRE

None

NO VOTE

None

420 **The Speaker:** I declare Propositions 1 and 2 **carried**, by 14 votes Pour, no votes against. These Ordinances will be numbered II and III of 2020, respectively.

**5. Financial Statements –
Policy & Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition withdrawn**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled 2019 Financial Statements.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves the financial statements of the Island for the year ended 31st December 2019

The Speaker: We now move to Agenda Item 5, to consider a Report with Propositions from the Policy & Finance Committee, entitled 2019 Financial Statements, and I would ask Conseiller Raymond to introduce the Report please.

425

Conseiller Raymond: Thank you, sir.

Members of Chief Pleas may remember that the 2019 Financial Budget had to be reworked and produced to Chief Pleas in very short order. The financial statements for 2019, however, show a welcome surplus of income over expenditure of some £58,000. The significant variances compared to Budget are £77,000 less Impot. This is a source of concern to the Committee and the Treasurer is in discussion with the Guernsey Border Agency who collect Impot on our behalf to make sure that all our entitlement is being received.

430

As compared to 2018, the direct tax and Impot Tax both show an increase, however. There were various variances as against Budget and compared to 2018, which are listed in the Report. In the Budget, we forecast unforeseen expenditure of £25,000. In the event, this proved to be inadequate, as the total was over £74,000 and this was made up of £25,000, which was spent on legal costs, which we paid for the Electricity Price Control Commissioner; £13,000 on repairs to Ivy Cottage and £38,000 on locum and paramedic cover following the sudden and unfortunate illness of Dr John Stevenson.

435

However, we are not in a position to present Propositions today because the accountants have been unable to finalise their Report. This is because the Financial Reporting Council, which makes recommendations to all firms of practising accountants issued directives following the effect of Covid-19. This has required KPMG to review any events after the balance sheet date. So the effect on the figures that you have in front of you, which form the accounts, are not in question. What is in question is the resilience of the Sark finances after that date. KPMG had completed their review and they were entirely happy with what they had seen.

440

445

We expected the accounts to be signed on 25th March, as we had signed them on the 24th. Within the last week, we have received further questions from them, so the matter has been considerably delayed by the Financial Reporting Accounts Statement. The Treasurer has replied to those, but it has not been possible to obtain the KPMG Report prior to this Meeting and the accounts are produced by way of an information Report only, with no Proposition to adopt. As and when we have a report, we will attach it to the accounts and present the accounts for adoption.

450

I must once again emphasise that the questions that they are raising surround the events which have taken place after the balance sheet date of 31st December 2019. So this then brings us to the questions raised by Covid-19 and the financial effect of those on the finances of the Island.

455

The lockdown and the effective isolation of Sark has obvious severe effects for the visitor-based economy of the Island. Our current information is that the travel restrictions may last for the entire summer and this will obviously have severe repercussions for both businesses and individuals.

460

Businesses who face severe disruption may apply, through their banks, for a loan scheme, which is guaranteed by the States of Guernsey, up to £250,000. Individuals who find themselves in difficulty should, without any shame, approach the Procureur in the first instance.

465 The lack of visitors will also have a considerable effect on the Island revenues, most notably the Impot receipts. But the Treasury has re-cast our budgets for the year 2020, to assist in managing any likely problems. Our present indications are that the Island will survive financially and all expenditure is further being reviewed to that end.

470 We obviously cannot foretell what lies ahead in 2021 and beyond. We cannot predict how many people will want to travel and how far. Or indeed how much Government debt created by this crisis will impact on taxation and thence to disposable incomes. The Policy & Finance Committee is alive to the problems. The Committee is monitoring information and it is liaising with the team in Guernsey, who are guiding the States forward.

475 In the meantime, I ask that you accept these accounts as an information report and, as I have said before, the accountants' report will be circulated as soon as it is received and that will then complete 2019. We will then ask for adoption at a future Meeting.

Thank you, sir, that is the end of my statement.

480 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Raymond. Can I just confirm you are withdrawing the Proposition?

Conseiller Raymond: Yes sir, we are.

485 **The Speaker:** Thank you. I shall go through the roll call to see if anybody has any questions to ask or comments on the financial statements that have been presented. Alan Blythe?

Conseiller Blythe: No thank you, sir.

490 **The Speaker:** Peter La Trobe-Bateman?

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: No thank you.

The Speaker: Christopher Nightingale?

495 **Conseiller Nightingale:** No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Anthony Ventress?

500 **Conseiller Ventress:** No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Paul Williams?

Conseiller Paul Williams: No thank you, sir.

505 **The Speaker:** Sandra Williams.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: No thank you, sir.

510 **The Speaker:** Helen Plummer?

Conseiller Plummer: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Philip Long?

515 **Conseiller Long:** No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: John Guille?

Conseiller Guille: No thank you, sir.

520 **The Speaker:** Christopher Drillot?

Conseiller Drillot: No thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Amanda de Carteret?

525 **Conseiller de Carteret:** No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Simon Couldridge?

530 **Conseiller Couldridge:** Yes please.

The Speaker: Frank Makepeace.

535 **Conseiller Makepeace:** No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: I call on Conseiller Couldridge to make your comments please.

Conseiller Couldridge: Yes Mr Speaker, can you hear me okay?

540 **The Speaker:** Yes thank you.

Conseiller Couldridge: I think Conseiller Raymond summed up everything fairly well. We all pretty much know that we have got fairly severe financial difficulties facing ahead of us and perhaps there is not a lot to be said about 2019 because obviously the horse has bolted and that has gone. But I think we need to prepare very well for the coming time.

545 I have worried in the past our *modus operandi* has been reacting to expenditure demands, rather than being proactive. For example, the Impot is £77,000 down on what was budgeted and this is clearly due to a reduction of consumption, the same with the tax receipts for the Property Sales Tax. That clearly was going to be down but I suppose any deep thinker could have told you that.

550 I worry that, at the end of this situation, we have got something that we cannot just tax our way out of. We need if possible, when we do get back to running again, to hit the ground running and perhaps restore any competitive advantage over the other Islands. For example, we are told when we make increases to the Impot, particularly with the price on booze, it is only going to be net equivalent of a couple of pennies a pint, but for the last two or three years, a pint was just £2, then it went to £2.50, then it went to £3 and then to £3.50.

555 So I feel that this tax approach is operating in an ever-decreasing spiral and perhaps we need to adopt the Aldi approach and perhaps sell 100 tins of baked beans at 50p, rather than 10 at £1. So that is really just my thoughts on that, I know we are all thinking but we just need to perhaps approach it with a slightly more entrepreneurial, proactive approach. So that is my comments, thank you very much.

560 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Couldridge. Conseiller Raymond, would you like to come back at all on any points all raised by Conseiller Couldridge?

565

570 **Conseiller Raymond:** Conseiller Couldridge is a Member of the Finance Committee, sir, and therefore he will be party to our ongoing discussions. As far as that goes, we try to maintain a balance, almost an equal balance between direct and indirect taxes, and that is why the Impot has gone up. The alternative is, if we are going to attract people by cheap alcohol, then we may have to increase the direct taxes and the indications are that people are finding those difficult enough and employment is going to be scarce this summer that will be even more of a burden on people in 2021 and we are concerned about those implications.

575 It is a very difficult thing to judge, but we are reviewing it and we will have a lot of discussions about it.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Raymond. We will now move to the next Item as there is no Proposition to vote on.

**6. Appointment of Deputy Treasurer –
Policy & Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition as amended carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled 'Amendment to Terms of Appointment of Deputy Treasurer'.

Proposition (amended):

That Chief Pleas approves the amendment of terms of appointment of the Mrs Higgins as Deputy Treasurer from 10% of the salary of the Treasurer to 10 hours per week at a rate of £20 per hour.

580 **The Speaker:** We move to Agenda Item 6, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled 'Amendment to Terms of Appointment of Deputy Treasurer', and I would ask Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman to introduce the Report, please.

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Thank you, sir.

585 The Report is quite self-explanatory. It has come out of the whole Treasurer's role and job description for the main Treasurer being changed and the Deputy Treasurer should follow suit. It is the start of an establishment review, which we have been trying to do for some years now. I think this is the first stage in it and this is the first office that it is getting it. It is a move from the 10% salary of the Treasurer to an hourly paid rate. So it is from 10% to an hourly rate, which is £20 per hour.

590 Thank you.

The Speaker: I will go through the list to see if there is anybody who wishes to speak on the Report, before we go to the Proposition. Alan Blythe?

595 **Conseiller Blythe:** Nothing to add, sir.

The Speaker: Christopher Nightingale?

Conseiller Nightingale: Nothing to add, thank you.

600 **The Speaker:** Anthony Ventress?

Conseiller Ventress: Nothing to add, sir.

The Speaker: Paul Williams?

605 **Conseiller Paul Williams:** Nothing, sir.

The Speaker: Sandra Williams?

610 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** Nothing, sir.

The Speaker: Helen Plummer?

Conseiller Plummer: Nothing to add, thank you.

615 **The Speaker:** Philip Long?

Conseiller Long: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: John Guille?

620

Conseiller Guille: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Christopher Drillot?

625 **Conseiller Drillot:** Nothing to add, thank you.

The Speaker: William Raymond?

Conseiller Raymond: No thank you, sir.

630

The Speaker: Amanda De Carteret?

Conseiller de Carteret: No thank you, sir.

635 **The Speaker:** Simon Couldridge?

Conseiller Couldridge: No thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Frank Makepeace?

640

Conseiller Makepeace: Nothing to add sir.

The Speaker: Thank you all, we will go to the Proposition that Chief Pleas approves ...

645 I have just had a query from the Greffier, which I will ask Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman, is there any amendment to the ...? Oh yes, I see what it is. That Chief Pleas approves the amendment of terms of appointment of Mrs Higgins as Deputy 'Treasure', not 'Treasurer', so we need to add an 'r' to Deputy Treasurer, and the salary of the Treasurer for 10 hours per week at a rate of £20 per hour. Are you happy with those two minor changes, Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman?

650

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Yes, I just put it in there to make sure that everyone was paying attention! Well spotted.

The Speaker: I know our Treasurer is a treasure. So the Proposition reads:

That Chief Pleas approves the amendment of terms of appointment of Mrs Higgins as Deputy Treasurer from 10% of the salary of the Treasurer to 10 hours per week at a rate of £20 per hour.

655 Greffier.

Carried – Pour 14, Contre 0, No Vote 0

POUR	CONTRE	NO VOTE
Conseiller Alan Blythe	None	None
Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman		
Conseiller Christopher Nightingale		
Conseiller Anthony Ventress		
Conseiller Paul Williams		
Conseiller Sandra Williams		
Conseiller Helen Plummer		
Conseiller Philip Long		
Conseiller John Guille		
Conseiller Christopher Drillot		
Conseiller William Raymond		
Conseiller Amanda de Carteret		
Conseiller Simon Couldridge		
Conseiller Frank Makepeace		

The Speaker: Thank you, I declare the Proposition **carried** by 14 votes Pour.

**7. The Independent Policing Panel New Terms of Reference –
Douzaine Report considered –
Proposition lost**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Douzaine entitled “The Independent Policing Panel New Terms of Reference”.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves the Independent Policing Panel’s new Terms of Reference as attached to this Report.

660 **The Speaker:** We move to Agenda Item 7, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Douzaine, entitled the Independent Policing Panel New Terms of Reference, and I would ask Conseiller Blythe to introduce the Report, please.

665 **Conseiller Blythe:** Thank you, sir. Before this Item is opened up for debate I wish that Chief Pleas be made aware that the terms of reference document, as attached to this Report, was drawn up by the Independent Policing Panel. The Douzaine has had no input, nor has it been consulted during this drafting.

Chief Pleas should understand that nothing should be inferred to suggest that the Douzaine support any parts or the whole of the proposed terms of reference. The individual Members of the Douzaine are free to debate and vote on the proposal according to their own conscience. I apologise for the noise in the background, they have just decided to start weed-eating.

670 Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Right, I will ask Conseillers if they wish to speak on this item. Alan Blythe?

Conseiller Blythe: I will sum up, yes.

675 **The Speaker:** But you are not speaking in general debate?

Conseiller Blythe: Not in general debate, no.

The Speaker: Peter La Trobe-Bateman?

680

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Yes please, sir.

The Speaker: Christopher Nightingale?

685

Conseiller Nightingale: Yes please, sir.

The Speaker: Anthony Ventress?

Conseiller Ventress: No thank you, sir.

690

The Speaker: Paul Williams?

Conseiller Paul Williams: Not at the moment, sir.

695

The Speaker: Sandra Williams?

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Yes please, sir.

The Speaker: Helen Plummer?

700

Conseiller Plummer: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Philip Long?

705

Conseiller Long: Yes please, sir.

The Speaker: John Guille?

Conseiller Guille: No thank you, sir.

710

The Speaker: Christopher Drillot?

Conseiller Drillot: Yes please.

715

The Speaker: William Raymond?

Conseiller Raymond: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Amanda de Carteret?

720

Conseiller de Carteret: Yes please, sir.

The Speaker: Simon Couldridge?

725

Conseiller Couldridge: No thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Frank Makepeace?

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes please sir.

730

The Speaker: Then I call on Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman to make your remarks please.

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Thank you, sir.

735

I do not know how we can vote this through if the Douzaine have not been consulted or, by the sounds of it, not very happy. I feel this is going off track from what the IPP is set up to do, it should stay as a complaint ...

740

The introduction of the IPP was to give a means to the public to complain and have access to, should they have issues with the Sark Law Enforcement. It needs to step away from recruitment, as this jeopardises their independence. I would ask that the IPP work with the Douzaine to develop a mandate and a job and a role that is fitting for their requirements. Thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Nightingale.

745

Conseiller Nightingale: Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman has just said all I was going to say so I second that. Thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Sandra Williams?

750

Conseiller Sandra Williams: I was going to say the same, sir. It is crucial that there is more joined up thinking here because the Independent Policing Panel that I agreed in Chief Pleas back along has not ended up being anything that I expected it to be. I will be voting against it if it does go to the vote, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Long.

755

Conseiller Long: Thank you, sir.

I would just like to state everybody has pretty much covered everything I wanted to say. I just want to reiterate that at no time have the IPP consulted with any Committee I have been part of and I feel that they have gone off track of what they are meant to be.

760

Thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Drillot.

Conseiller Drillot: Thank you, sir.

765

Having dealt with quite a lot of this since I have sat on the Douzaine, I will start off with my first feeling that this whole Proposition should be thrown out. I would like to say that I feel the IPP should not be a Sark committee. I feel it should be headed, at least, by a Guernsey police committee, with maybe a representative on Sark, but not a full committee.

770

To back up what I am proposing here, I would just like to go through a few points. Mr La Trobe-Bateman did cover a couple, but I will still carry on. First of all, the IPP during all the debate we had with the finding of a new Constable, leading up to October, confused matters, if we put it at that, as they were predicting that they should be the ones searching for a Constable. I am confused and against what their role is and even under this new mandate of theirs, their role, point one, is to act as a conduit – excuse me my phone is ringing, that is good timing – for the annual appointment of the Sark Constable and Vingtenier passing the nominations to the Douzaine.

775

In our eyes, or in my eyes, if they act as a conduit and pass on the name, how can they be an independent panel when it comes to a complaint about that person that they recommended.

For starters, from point one on their terms or reference, they are contradicting themselves.
780 Point two is that they want to just be an independent policing panel, they want the Douzaine to be in charge of the Constables, well not in charge but to work with the Constables.

What we can see from work I have done with them, is that the Constables pretty much run their own office. They come to the Douzaine if they have a query or if they have a reason to come to Chief Pleas. I do not see why a panel should be monitoring everything that they do. So I
785 feel that needs changing.

Point three, the Report that you have attached, Independent Police Panel Report to the Douzaine, the first we heard of this and the first we saw of it was when these Chief Pleas papers came out. The only meetings that we have had with the IPP, where dealing with the problem we have had finding a new Vingtenier for this season.

790 When this Report came out and we read through it, we were very shocked with some of what was put in it, especially the low number of complaints, as at the Douzaine we have had a lot more and we feel that, for some reason, we do not expect the IPP to give us names, but we did expect them to at least let us know when they were looking into complaints.

Just to sum up, obviously I will be voting against this because I feel that this whole thing needs a review, we are going into Item 8, which will be the new policing, which again will mean that the independent policing role will change again, so I feel this policing role needs to be really
795 looked at and brought back again under a new Projet.

Thank you.

800 **The Speaker:** Conseiller de Carteret.

Conseiller de Carteret: Thank you, sir.

I actually do not agree to the new terms of reference, either, for the IPP. The IPP should remain completely independent and only deal with the complaints. I have also great concerns
805 with the Panel at present, as we can clearly hear that, from the Douzaine's point of view, there has been a breakdown between the two parties. They have clearly not worked together with the Douzaine on these terms of reference, they have just been independent on their own.

I also earlier this year had to submit two separate complaints to the IPP and I did not feel that the Panel conducted these complaints in a very professional way. I have completely lost faith in
810 the IPP and I would actually, whether this is appropriate at this time, to put in a vote of no confidence in this Panel and that maybe the IPP should be based in Guernsey. Maybe with a new term or reference and a new Panel, then things can move forward. Thank you.

The Speaker: Before I ask Conseiller Makepeace to speak, you cannot bring a vote of no
815 confidence from the floor. That would have to be a formal proposal made in a report to Chief Pleas.

Conseiller de Carteret: Okay. Thank you.

820 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Makepeace.

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes sir. I would just like to agree with the comments of Conseiller Drillot and Conseiller de Carteret and I believe that the independent panel should only be held in
825 Guernsey, by Guernsey, or the complaints panel should be in Guernsey and held by Guernsey police. That is all. Thank you.

The Speaker: In that case, I will ask Conseiller Blythe to sum up please.

Conseiller Blythe: Thank you, sir.

830 It seems quite clear what people think of the IPP. I am not sure what the 'I' does stand for, in actual fact, it is certainly not independent. I would certainly support a vote of no confidence, if we can bring one to Chief Pleas, in the Midsummer Chief Pleas, and I will not be supporting this proposal.

Thank you, sir.

835

The Speaker: Thank you. However, are you leaving the Proposition in for us to vote upon?

Conseiller Blythe: Yes, apologies sir. Yes I am leaving the Proposition. I think it is important to have a Proposition; it seems like it is going to fail anyway.

840

The Speaker: In that case, Greffier, would you take a vote please, on the Proposition that Chief Pleas approves the Independent Policing Panel's new terms of reference as attached to this Report?

Lost – Pour 0, Contre 14, No Vote 0

845

POUR

None

CONTRE

Conseiller Alan Blythe
Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman
Conseiller Christopher Nightingale
Conseiller Anthony Ventress
Conseiller Paul Williams
Conseiller Sandra Williams
Conseiller Helen Plummer
Conseiller Philip Long
Conseiller John Guille
Conseiller Christopher Drillot
Conseiller William Raymond
Conseiller Amanda de Carteret
Conseiller Simon Couldridge
Conseiller Frank Makepeace

NO VOTE

None

The Speaker: I declare the Proposition **lost** by 14 votes Contre. There were no abstentions.

**8. Role of the Constable –
Douzaine Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a report with Proposition from the Douzaine entitled 'The Constable – A Proposal'.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves the implementation of the measures set out in the document entitled 'Proposal for the Constable Role' as attached to this Report.

850

The Speaker: We now move to Agenda Item 8, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Douzaine, entitled The Constable – A Proposal. Before I ask Conseiller Blythe to introduce the Report, I will just say that at the end of the debate on this Item, we shall take a five-minute recess to enable everybody to stretch their legs. You are not having the advantage of having to stand up to speak today.

Conseiller Blythe, please.

Conseiller Blythe: Thank you, sir.

855 I have been standing up – I will sit down now. While the original Report, which would have brought the changes in effect straight away, the Covid-19 situation has caused a slight delay to this. What you are being asked to approve in this Meeting is the principle of the proposal. More work will take place between now and Midsummer Meeting, by which time the full proposal including all the relevant supportive material will be presented for approval.

860 Now all these things need to be done in stages. If they are not then there is a lot of precious time wasted. First of all we identified that there is an obvious reason for a change to the set-up for the office of Constable. Expectations of having to be on call for 24/7 are just not acceptable any more. So the next stage is deciding on how this could be achieved, with a team of the then current Constable, a few ex-Constables and committee Members, we toiled through the possible
865 templates and presented our findings to P&F, who tweaked it, and then to the Law Officers, who tweaked it again. This is how we got to this stage.

We understand things like the job description and contracts have to be completed and we will work on these while obtaining expert advice, as soon as possible, if this proposal goes through. It will need to be tweaked here and there, as we find out how it works on the ground.
870 But I do believe it is a huge step in the right direction, without upsetting the parameters and traditional role of our Constable's office.

We realise this will cost more to implement, but in the great scheme of things is it a lot of money? In addition, the team will use this time to see if the current service-level agreement needs updating. Any changes that arise will also be brought to Midsummer Chief Pleas. I will be
875 supporting this Proposition and, if successful, will continue to work to dot the 'i's and cross the 't's in readiness for Midsummer Chief Pleas, whether it be electronic or in person.

Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: You said you wished to take an in-principle vote. How do you wish the
880 Proposition to be amended?

Conseiller Blythe: No, I think the Proposition could stay as it is, sir, implementation of the measures set out in the document.

The Speaker: You did mention in your remarks that it would be an in-principle because you
885 are not going to be able to implement it immediately.

Conseiller Blythe: Today, if it does go through, the first part of the implementation would be able to go through via the naming of the first two volunteers for this new scheme.
890

The Speaker: Fine, thank you. We will leave the Proposition as it is (**Conseiller Blythe:** Thank you.) and I will ask Conseillers if they wish to speak in debate on this. Peter La Trobe-Bateman?

Conseiller La-Trobe Bateman: Yes please sir.
895

The Speaker: Christopher Nightingale?

Conseiller Nightingale: Yes please sir.

The Speaker: Anthony Ventress?
900

Conseiller Ventress: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Paul Williams?
905

Conseiller Paul Williams: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Sandra Williams.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: No thank you, sir.

910

The Speaker: Helen Plummer.

Conseiller Plummer: Yes please, sir.

915

The Speaker: Philip Long?

Conseiller Long: Yes please, sir.

920

The Speaker: John Guille?

Conseiller Guille: Yes please, sir.

The Speaker: Christopher Drillot?

925

Conseiller Drillot: Yes please, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: William Raymond?

Conseiller Raymond: No thank you, sir.

930

The Speaker: Amanda de Carteret?

Conseiller de Carteret: No thank you, sir?

935

The Speaker: Simon Couldridge?

Conseiller Couldridge: No thank you, Mr President.

The Speaker: Speaker – going back a few years! Frank Makepeace?

940

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes please, sir.

The Speaker: In that case I would ask Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman to open the debate please.

945

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Thank you, sir.

I think this is a very good way forward to suit Sark. The role has become more challenging over the last 10 years. This proposal will give the team continuity and a better service for Sark. Just because we have a Constable and Vingtenier now, it is not time to get complacent. The system did not work last year and it had been struggling for a few years before that.

950

We very nearly ended up with no Constable or Vingtenier. This change is a start and I believe it is not the final version and it will continue to evolve when it is up and running. I do not believe that we have time to delay this change in order to work out every kink. It can be done when it is operational. This change is supported by Guernsey Law Enforcement. I fully support this Proposition with the understanding that it will continue to evolve. Thank you.

955

The Speaker: Conseiller Christopher Nightingale.

Conseiller Nightingale: Thank you, sir.

960 I am afraid I find I cannot support this and my reasoning is that while there is a lot of good ideas I think there is more work that needs to be done before we move forward and we have, I know, not got little time, but we do have a bit of time to try and get a clearer picture.

Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Helen Plummer.

965

Conseiller Plummer: Thank you.

970 Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman has already said a lot of the things I wanted to say and I think, yes, I will be supporting this Proposition. I think it is time that we helped out the Constable. Things have changed and they are being called out more and more and I think it is beginning with small steps to go into a different way of policing. I just wanted to say thank you to the Constables that have stepped forward in this way and I will be supporting it.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Philip Long.

975

Conseiller Long: Thank you, sir.

980 I would like to thank Conseillers La Trobe-Bateman and Plummer, they have pretty much made every point I wanted to already. I think we have to understand the Constable's position as we know it has changed. We need to change with it and this proposal is a building block to get us on track for this.

To reiterate what Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman said, we cannot become complacent on this. I do not believe we have much time. We have to thank the people that have stepped into the breach, if you will, but we have to move on and show that we are helping them and going to change the policing on the Island for the better.

985

Thank you.

The Speaker: John Guille.

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir.

990 I know these are unprecedented times with the current virus crisis but it has maybe brought into even starker relief the very good work and big draw on the Constable's time, which is necessary and often goes unnoticed. I would particularly like to thank Paul Burgess and Danny Gale, the current Constable and Vingtenier, for their hard efforts over the recent weeks and I would support this Proposition as a way to provide these people with more support going forwards and I would like to echo the comments that this might not be absolutely perfect in everybody's eyes, but it would be better to make two steps forward and maybe take half a step back and just iron out any kinks, going forward, but I do not think this can be delayed.

995

Thank you.

1000

The Speaker: Christopher Drillot.

Conseiller Drillot: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

1005

As a Conseiller that had a lot to do with the setting up of this through a subcommittee that was set up after the trouble we had finding a Vingtenier in October, so there was not a lot of time before this came up, a sub-tier of the Douzaine was set up to look into this to bring back to the Douzaine, which is what it did, and then obviously it went to P&F, as Alan explained, and the Law Officers.

There was a lot of work involved in this to make a change but without taking too much away from the present role of the Constable. Our biggest issue trying to find a Vingtenier, a lot of it

1010 was time. That is what people have said in the comments up to this. There is a lot of time involved, because you are 24 hours on call, you are relying on your Vingtenier, who is learning in the job for that one year, so you cannot lean on him too long.

With this Proposition that we are putting to you, the consistency, the continuity will all be there because we are not actually asking them to just do a year as Vingtenier and a year as a Constable. They will go out and do a year as a Constable and apply again. Obviously, it will all go to Chief Pleas in October, for the nominations for them to stand again, the same as it does now. We just, instead of changing the Constable every year, we will hopefully have a consistent Constable. We have an option as Chief Pleas, not accepting them or them pulling out.

1020 This has been very well accepted by Guernsey police as they have found in the past that certain Constables have started projects and when their term has finished the Vingtenier has not carried it on or has not agreed with it, so at least this way, if a project is started, the Constable can carry it on through their connection with the Guernsey police.

1025 I feel that, we have all seen the email, possibly all seen the email from the public, reference the ironing out issues that Alan spoke about. If this Proposition goes through we have already discussed with two people to start this off, which Alan will explain, after that, which will involve them sitting down with the Committee, with previous Constables if need be, or with Guernsey Law Officers, Guernsey police, to set up a job description for the Constable, because I think Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman was the last one to write one, which was a very basic one.

1030 We would like to make that a bit more professional. Also to set up contracts for the Constable and the Vingtenier to sign. We are going to look into the oath, because they feel that some changes need to be done to the oath. We will work with Mr La Trobe-Batman for that one. There are issues, we know that. We cannot get this proposal completely right from the beginning There will be things that we have missed and things that will come up but I feel, under this proposal, there is good support from the public already and I feel that we will be able to fill the places and bring the whole lot back, possibly at the Easter, with complete contracts and new people in place. So I will be supporting this.

Thank you.

1040 **The Speaker:** Can I just ask Conseillers, when they talk about each other, to refer to Conseiller Blythe or Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman, rather than using first names on their own please. We have one more speaker and that is Conseiller Makepeace.

1045 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Yes sir, I would just like to say that I will be supporting this Proposition as well. I think it is a tremendous opportunity for us to move forward and make some progress.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Frank Makepeace. Thank you for that.

1050 Before we go to the vote on the Proposition, I would like to ask, or before you do a summing up Conseiller Blythe, I believe this may well need to amend the Reform Law if you go forward with this proposal. So if this Proposition is carried, have you looked at the Reform Law, with view to amendment, with the Law Officers, and I would ask Conseiller Blythe to sum up, please.

Conseiller Blythe: Thank you, sir.

1055 In answer to your question straight away, sir, yes we have considered the Reform Law. The reason why it has been set up the way it is being set up is that minimal disruption to the current Reform Law. It is going to be a matter of changing a few words to be quite honest, in their layman terms, anyway.

1060 In summing up, I think this is the time to actually do this. This is an absolutely perfect time. We have a lot of enthusiastic people willing to help a hand. The contracts have already started

being worked on. We have been working on those for some time and also the terms of reference and, what else was there? Sorry my mind has gone somewhere else all of a sudden.

1065 The continuity, which Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman commented on, I think is the most important thing in this, with having four people in office at one time and not having the pressure of having to do 24/7, 365 days of the year, I think, would make the job a lot more attractive for possible candidates in the future. I think that just about sums up what I mean. Thank you very much.

1070 **The Speaker:** In that case, we will go to the vote on the Proposition in the Report, that Chief Pleas approves the implementation of the measures set out in the document entitled Proposal for the Constable Role, as attached to this Report. Greffier.

Carried – Pour 13, Contre 1, No Vote 0

POUR	CONTRE	NO VOTE
Conseiller Alan Blythe	Conseiller Christopher Nightingale	None
Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman		
Conseiller Anthony Ventress		
Conseiller Paul Williams		
Conseiller Sandra Williams		
Conseiller Helen Plummer		
Conseiller Philip Long		
Conseiller John Guille		
Conseiller Christopher Drillot		
Conseiller William Raymond		
Conseiller Amanda de Carteret		
Conseiller Simon Couldridge		
Conseiller Frank Makepeace		

1075 **The Speaker:** I declare the Proposition **carried**, by 13 votes Pour to one vote Contre. It is now 11.21 a.m. We will come back at 11.26 a.m. to continue the debate and I am turning my microphone off now.

*Chief Pleas adjourned at 11.21 a.m.
and resumed at 11.26 a.m.*

1080 **The Speaker:** Welcome back everybody. Before we move to the next item, which is Item 9, Conseiller Blythe just wishes to make a further announcement on Agenda Item 8. Conseiller Blythe.

Conseiller Blythe: Thank you, sir.

1085 Yes, it is just to say that the current Constable Paul Burgess and the Vingtenier Daniel Gale are going to be the first two names for this new scheme and they will be assisting in populating this new scheme and obviously working out rotas *etc.* They will not actually be part of this new scheme until the whole thing is in place, which we hope will be after the Midsummer Chief Pleas.

Thank you very much sir.

1090 **The Speaker:** Thank you Conseiller Blythe.

**9. Development Control Law Special Committee –
Policy & Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition as amended carried**

To consider a report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled 'Development Control Law Special Committee.

Proposition (as amended):

That Chief Pleas approves the formation of a special committee to be given the task of producing a new Development Control Law, said committee to be named the Development Control Law Special Committee and to be populated as described in the Report. Upon approval of this Proposition, the Committee will be populated at the Midsummer 2020 Chief Pleas Meeting.

The Speaker: We will now move onto Agenda Item 9, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee, entitled Development Control Law Special Committee and I would ask Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman to introduce the report, please.

1095 **Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman:** Thank you, sir.

I am glad we had a pee break, because I missed this Report, so I did a quick study – I had forgotten about it. This was brought up in PDG a while ago when it started, which was before my time. It was before my time in the Chief Pleas, so I do not quite know where it is, but from that forum, the discussion we have had, the Law is very close to being complete and it just needs a little push to get it through so, by setting up this Committee, hopefully we can drive it forward and get it complete and brought back to Chief Pleas.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.

1105 I will go through the roll to see if anybody wishes to speak on this item. Conseiller Blythe?

Conseiller Blythe: Nothing to say sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Nightingale?

1110 **Conseiller Nightingale:** Nothing thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Ventress?

1115 **Conseiller Ventress:** Yes, please sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Paul Williams?

Conseiller Paul Williams: No sir.

1120 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Sandra Williams?

Conseiller Sandra Williams: No thank you.

1125 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Helen Plummer?

Conseiller Plummer: No thank you.

1130 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Philip Long?

Conseiller Long: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller John Guille?

1135 **Conseiller Guille:** No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Christopher Drillot?

1140 **Conseiller Drillot:** Nothing to add Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Conseiller William Raymond?

Conseiller Raymond: No thank you, sir.

1145 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Amanda de Carteret?

Conseiller de Carteret: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Simon Couldridge?

1150 **Conseiller Couldridge:** No thank you, Mr Speaker. Sorry I got your name wrong last time!

The Speaker: Conseiller Frank Makepeace?

1155 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Yes sir. I would like to say something please.

The Speaker: Okay, I would ask Conseiller Ventress to open the debate please.

1160 **Conseiller Ventress:** Basically I agree with this Proposition, but we have to remember that, since the original Law was developed and the Control Law was introduced, there have been great changes in material requirements and also conditions required for safety and so on.
Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Ventress. Conseiller Makepeace, please.

1165 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Yes sir. I would just like to say that I did volunteer for a place on this committee last year and I just hope that my offer has been considered.
Thank you, sir.

1170 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

Therefore I will ask Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman to sum-up, although there is not a large amount of debate there for you to sum up on. Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman.

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Thank you, sir.

1175 With regard to Conseiller Ventress' comments, obviously it has been a long time since this has been looked at, so it would be the job of the committee, once set up, to go through it all to make sure that it is still relevant and fit for purpose and make adjustments as necessary. With regards to Mr Makepeace's comment, we have not looked at committee structure, what sectors of committees would be best, but your name is at the top still so once it is all set up and running,
1180 once it is figured out, we will approach. Alright? Thank you.

The Speaker: Do I understand from that Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman that you are not putting forward Members to populate this committee today because your Proposition sort of implies 'and to be populated as described in the report. Upon approval of this Proposition ...' Are you going to be populating the committee today?

1185

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: No. Unless you think I should. If there are Members of this that we can be populate and take it to a vote ...

The Speaker: I think if you have a new committee being formed then it is normal that when it is formed it is populated. If you do not do that then you have a delay, because nobody can go on the committee and, if we do not have a Meeting till Midsummer, you would have to wait until Midsummer to start work on it. So it is normal that if a committee is formed that it is populated that same day.

1190

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Right, okay.

1195

The Speaker: Once we have done the Proposition, I can go through the committee list and ask for those people who wish to be nominated to the committee and then we could conduct a vote on populating it, if we have a larger number of Conseillers standing than are required.

1200

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Yes please, I would ask, that there are Members –
(Interjections)

The Speaker: Can you just wait a second until Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman has finished?

1205

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: I would just say that the population of this committee should have one Member from Policy & Finance and one Member from the Development Control Committee to populate, because it is Law and Policy and Development Control are the one that will be administering this, so just bear that in mind please everyone.

1210

The Speaker: Who wanted to speak, then?

Conseiller Sandra Williams: I would like to please – Conseiller Williams.

1215

The Speaker: Yes, Conseiller Sandra Williams?

Conseiller Sandra Williams: I have been looking through the committee vacancies and there are a few coming up later and I had not considered putting myself forward for this committee because I was not aware that we were filling it today. Really, until we have got to the end of the committee filling up seats later, I am not sure if I am going to be available to go on this committee or not. So I personally would like it to be pulled until the next Meeting of Chief Pleas. We have waited five years for this committee, I do not think another three months would make a lot of difference.

1220

Thank you.

1225

Conseiller Blythe: I would like to say something as well, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Blythe.

1230

Conseiller Blythe: Some time ago, as part of the DCC and I do believe in a PDG, it was decided that there were four members put forward, two of which are non-Chief Pleas members but very experienced in this. Like Conseiller Williams rightfully says, to put this off until Midsummer,

1235 obviously the four people are not as relevant to the situation as they were when they were asked to join this team, although some of them still are. So I think if it was deferred until a summer Chief Pleas it would a lot more sense.

Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman.

1240 **Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman:** Yes, thank you.

I apologise for this bit of a mess up, it is entirely my fault. It was stuck behind a page and I missed it so it is my fault but, given that we are in the middle of a pandemic and the committee will not be able to meet properly, I am quite happy to pull it and bring it back at the next Chief Pleas, when we can bring names as well, that everybody can populate.

1245 **The Speaker:** Can we leave the Proposition as it is, but add to it that the committee will be populated at the Midsummer Meeting? Would you be happy with that?

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Yes, very happy with that.

1250 **The Speaker:** So at the end of this, where it says, 'upon approval', 'the committee will be populated at the Midsummer 2020 Chief Pleas Meeting'. So a new sentence at the end, so the Proposition will read:

That Chief Pleas approves the formation of a special committee to be given the task of producing a new Development Control Law, said committee to be named the Development Control Law Special Committee and to be populated as described in the Report, upon approval of this Proposition. The committee will be populated at the Midsummer 2020 Chief Pleas Meeting.

1255 **Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman:** Yes I am happy with that.

The Speaker: Okay, so that is the Proposition. Greffier.

Carried – Pour 13, Contre 1, No Vote 0

1260

POUR	CONTRE	NO VOTE
Conseiller Alan Blythe	Conseiller Frank Makepeace	None
Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman		
Conseiller Christopher Nightingale		
Conseiller Anthony Ventress		
Conseiller Paul Williams		
Conseiller Sandra Williams		
Conseiller Helen Plummer		
Conseiller Philip Long		
Conseiller John Guille		
Conseiller Christopher Drillot		
Conseiller William Raymond		
Conseiller Amanda de Carteret		
Conseiller Simon Couldridge		

The Speaker: I declare the Proposition **carried** by 13 votes Pour and 1 Contre.

**10. Country Code Application –
Top Level Domain Special Committee Report considered –
Proposition 1 carried; Propositions 2 and 3 lost**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Top Level Domain Special Committee entitled ‘Progress Report on Country Code Application’.

Proposition 1:

That Chief Pleas continues to support the work of the SarkID group and the Special Committee in their work as an important economic driver for Sark in the application to IANA/ICANN for the assignment of a ccTLD as set out in the HoA Easter Chief Pleas 2016.

Proposition 2:

That Chief Pleas approves the addition of Mike Locke as a non-Chief Pleas member of the Special Committee to provide technical assistance and expertise.

Proposition 3

That Chief Pleas approves a three-year period of exclusivity with Mike Locke and CentralNic (see Appendix) with quarterly reporting to Chief Pleas.

The Speaker: We now move to Agenda Item 10, to consider a Report with Propositions from the Top Level Domain Special Committee, entitled Progress Report on Country Code Application and I would ask Conseiller Blythe to introduce the Report please.
1265

Conseiller Blythe: Thank you, sir. This Report will be delivered by Conseiller Makepeace. Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Thank you. Conseiller Makepeace, would you introduce the Report please?
1270

Conseiller Makepeace: Thank you, sir.

I would like to submit a proposal on behalf of the Top Level Domain Committee. The application process to the ISO for the Country Code has been a lengthy and arduous task. It started back in 1999 and was supported at the time by Mike Locke and the late Seigneur Mr Michael Beaumont.
1275

The ISO is responsible for publishing and maintain the global standard which lists countries and codes. These codes are rarely issued by the ISO and selection criteria are vigorous. The letters after the full stop on an internet address indicate the country. Finally, on 26th February this year, Sark’s application was approved and a country code will at the later date be allocated to Sark.
1280

The next stage is to acquire the actual Country Code top level domain, or our own internet address. This will require a great amount of technical and specialist input and will also involve consultation with Sark’s general public, businesses, education, tourism and all other aspects of the Island that stand to benefit from this.
1285

Mike Locke and his team at CentralNic are prepared to continue in this necessary work on behalf of the Island. It is normal for a period of exclusivity to be agreed to protect both sides. A three-year period of exclusivity is sought to allow the Country Code Project to be completed without public funding. It is recommended to include Mike Locke as a non-Chief Pleas member to increase its technical competence.
1290

At all stages Sark will remain in control of the application process and of the operation of the Country Code Top Level Domain. As I understand, there will eventually be an income to Sark and the possibility, amongst others, of our own stamp. Thank you.

1295 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.
I now ask for Conseillers to indicate whether they wish to speak in debate. Conseiller Blythe?

Conseiller Blythe: Yes please, sir.

1300 **The Speaker:** Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman?

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Yes please, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Nightingale?

1305 **Conseiller Nightingale:** No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Ventress?

1310 **Conseiller Ventress:** Yes please, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Paul Williams?

Conseiller Paul Williams: No, sir.

1315 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Sandra Williams?

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Yes please, sir.

1320 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Helen Plummer?

Conseiller Plummer: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Long?

1325 **Conseiller Long:** Yes please, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Guille?

1330 **Conseiller Guille:** Yes please, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Drillot?

Conseiller Drillot: No thank you, Mr Speaker.

1335 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Raymond?

Conseiller Raymond: Yes please, sir.

1340 **The Speaker:** Conseiller de Carteret?

Conseiller de Carteret: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Couldridge?

1345 **Conseiller Couldridge:** No thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: In that case I would ask Conseiller Blythe to open the debate.

1350 **Conseiller Blythe:** Thank you, sir. Just quickly, obviously this has been going on for some 21 years, since it was first brought to Chief Pleas, and my involvement, which has not been a great deal I must admit, which is why I handed the reins over to the very competent Conseiller Makepeace, all of a sudden, after all this time of silence in the middle of February, towards the end of February, massive panic because we have all of a sudden granted what we have been after for 21 years.

1355 The questions we are going to be asked are what is in it for Michael Locke? Now financially I cannot answer that, from figures. But what I would like to say is that Mike Locke has a long time affiliation with this Island, with his father living here for so long and coming here on holiday as a child and he is still a fairly regular visitor here as well, I really think his heart is in the right place on this. I know it does not back everything up but I trust him and Frank, sorry, Conseiller Makepeace is working hard on this and I know he has grasped it and he has had several meetings by Skype with Mr Locke, so I will be voting in favour of these Propositions.

1360 Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman.

1365 **Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman:** Thank you, sir.

I do not think there is any doubt from this that Mike Locke has good intentions for Sark and that he is a key to the success of this. I have something I have prepared that I just want to read out.

1370 I have some concerns about this. My main one is that everyone I have spoken to, including the majority Members on the Top Level Domain, is that they cannot explain to me exactly how this works. We do not believe we have been briefed properly on this; how it works, who controls it and how it is administered and how does it generate money for the Island?

1375 Proposition 1, I am very happy with. We need to continue with this and have the Committee provide more information, preferably in very simple terms. Proposition 2, I am worried that if Mike Locke is a non-Chief Pleas member on a Committee and is the driving and steering force for them, I am worried that there is a conflict of interest if Mike is part of the CentralNic company and potentially is going to profit from this.

1380 Proposition 3 is talking about an exclusivity period. I have concerns about granting a three-year exclusivity period to a company, without understanding exactly what this exclusivity looks like. From the small amount I understand, it is Sark that is granted the Domain Country Code. It is a contract. If a contract is to be issued for a company who administer this on our behalf, it should be our contract with our terms. Any contract or exclusivity document, I would like to be run past the Law Officers before I would agree to anything, so I would not be voting for Propositions 2 and 3, but I would be for 1.

1385 Thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Anthony Ventress.

Conseiller Ventress: Thank you, sir.

1390 This has been going on for a very long time and I agree with a lot of what previous Conseillers have said but I will just add four more words. It is very necessary and long overdue.

Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Sandra Williams.

1395

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Thank you, sir.

1400 My view is the same as Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman. I must confess that I do not understand enough about this, so I will be voting against Proposition 2 and Proposition 3 for that very reason. We have not had enough public consultation in recent months. This has all just come from nowhere all of a sudden, when I thought it had been forgotten about.

As much as I appreciate how important it is, and it is very important, I just think today I will not be voting in favour of it because I feel that I do not have the information I need at hand.

1405 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Philip Long. Conseiller Long? We will move on and come back to Conseiller Long. He may have dropped out for a minute.
Conseiller Guille.

Conseiller Guille: Perhaps Conseiller Long's microphone is not turned on?

1410 **The Speaker:** He has definitely not turned his microphone on.

Conseiller Long: I apologise, ladies and gentlemen, my internet dropped out for that second. And no Conseiller Guille, I know how to work my microphone! Sorry, I am a little bit flustered now.

1415 I just wanted to say that, as I am sure you are aware, I sit on this Committee and I appreciate all your concerns. I have struggled to follow everything that we are doing, which is why I do believe that Proposition 1 needs to be voted on and I do believe Proposition 2, but also I struggle with Proposition 3. I am not quite sure about the whole three years of exclusivity.

That was it. Sorry about dropping out. Thank you.

1420 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Guille.

1425 **Conseiller Guille:** Can I get a representative of the Committee to make it clear to the rest of the Conseillers here that the Country Code is now secured for Sark, so whatever we do today we are not jeopardising that, we are not going to lose what has obviously been many years of hard work to get to this point? If that could be confirmed first of all.

1430 Obviously, I see no problem in Proposition 1 and Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman and others raise an interesting point about Proposition 2. I think probably the most crucial point is Proposition 3, where as I understand it, people wishing to utilise the Country Code, which hopefully will be confirmed that we have secured, for private businesses or for whatever reason, to have a web address ending with Sark's Country Code, which the Island owns presumably, surely there will be some sort of fee required to issue them this permission?

1435 I cannot see any evidence of how that fee will be split or distributed between Sark and this private company which is being established. So I would request please some clarification from the Committee on those points.

The Speaker: Conseiller Makepeace, you have got your microphone on, I think.

1440 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Sorry sir. I would just like to say –

The Speaker: Conseiller Makepeace, I will go through the list first but I think you have got your microphone on. Conseiller Raymond.

1445 **Conseiller Raymond:** Thank you, sir.

When this came before Chief Pleas first time around, I can remember feeling concerned that there were certain reputational issues if Sark did not have a reasonably amount of control and I find myself repeating that again today, that there is no evidence, so far as I can see, of the

control that Sark will have over this process and I would be very concerned that the Island reputation might suffer if this proposal results in a domain name, which is inadequately policed.

1450 Also, this has been a long time coming. There were reservations the first time it came along, but we were probably too late for the party and now we are sort of 13, 14 years down the line. Is it still the great money spinner that it is proposed to be and, if you looked at the rewards against the risks, is it still justified for Sark? I would like somebody to research that for us please.

1455 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Raymond.

You were the last speaker, therefore I will ask Conseiller Makepeace to sum up and answer some of the concerns that have been raised from the floor. Conseiller Makepeace.

1460 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Yes sir. First I would like to say Conseiller Bateman that I do not recall him approaching me at any time regarding this matter. He did mention Members of the Top Level Domain but I cannot remember him approaching me or any conversations or correspondence between us. Secondly, I would just like to say that whatever the outcome today, we will not lose the Country Code, which has been granted but, as I see at the moment, has not been allocated.

1465 Regarding the reputational issues, I think that the internet has approved so much over the last 20 years or so that the internet has become more or less self-policing when we deal with these things. So I do not think in this day and age there would be too many reputational issues.

1470 Regarding matter number three, I must say that although I am presenting this Report, in the interests of the Island, I would question the three-year period of exclusivity. I am just of the opinion that within one year, if the internet domain is approved, that there would be two years of – what can I say? – exclusivity and I am not clear what would happen in that period. I would just like to say that I would share people’s concerns with that.

That is it. Thank you, sir.

1475 **The Speaker:** Okay. Anybody else before we move to the vote? No. Therefore we will move to the vote on Proposition 1 and I will take each Proposition separately. So Proposition 1 is that Chief Pleas continues to support the work of the SarkID group and the Special Committee in their work as an important economic driver for Sark and the application to IANA/ICANN and for the assignment of a ccTLD as set out in the Heads of Agreement – HOA – Easter Chief Pleas 2016.
1480 Greffier.

Carried – Pour 13, Contre 1, No Vote 0

POUR

Conseiller Alan Blythe
Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman
Conseiller Christopher Nightingale
Conseiller Anthony Ventress
Conseiller Paul Williams
Conseiller Sandra Williams
Conseiller Helen Plummer
Conseiller Philip Long
Conseiller John Guille
Conseiller Christopher Drillot
Conseiller Amanda de Carteret
Conseiller Simon Couldridge
Conseiller Frank Makepeace

CONTRE

Conseiller William Raymond

NO VOTE

None

The Speaker: I declare the Proposition **carried** by 13 votes Pour and 1 vote Contre.

We now move to Proposition 2, that Chief Pleas approves the addition of Mike Locke as a non-Chief Pleas member of the Special Committee, to provide technical assistance and expertise.

Lost – Pour 5, Contre 9, No Vote 0

POUR	CONTRE	NO VOTE
Conseiller Alan Blythe	Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman	None
Conseiller Anthony Ventress	Conseiller Christopher Nightingale	
Conseiller Paul Williams	Conseiller Sandra Williams	
Conseiller Philip Long	Conseiller Helen Plummer	
Conseiller Frank Makepeace	Conseiller John Guille	
	Conseiller Christopher Drillot	
	Conseiller William Raymond	
	Conseiller Amanda de Carteret	
	Conseiller Simon Couldridge	

1485

The Speaker: I declare that Proposition **lost** by 5 votes Pour, 9 votes Contre.

We now go to the vote on Proposition 3, that Chief Pleas approves a three-year period of exclusivity with Mike Locke and CentralNic (see appendix) with quarterly reporting to Chief Pleas. Greffier.

1490

Lost – Pour 0, Contre 14, No Vote 0

POUR	CONTRE	NO VOTE
None	Conseiller Alan Blythe	None
	Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman	
	Conseiller Christopher Nightingale	
	Conseiller Anthony Ventress	
	Conseiller Paul Williams	
	Conseiller Sandra Williams	
	Conseiller Helen Plummer	
	Conseiller Philip Long	
	Conseiller John Guille	
	Conseiller Christopher Drillot	
	Conseiller William Raymond	
	Conseiller Amanda de Carteret	
	Conseiller Simon Couldridge	
	Conseiller Frank Makepeace	

The Speaker: I declare Proposition 3 **lost** with 14 votes Contre and none Pour.

1495

I would just point out to the Special Committee that whilst Mr Mike Locke has not been made a non-Chief Pleas member, you are of course at liberty to invite anyone to attend your meetings for their expertise, so although he is not a non-Chief Pleas member, if you do have meetings and wish to have him there, then of course you are entitled to ask expert assistance to come in and advise you.

**11. The Protection of Vulnerable Adults Special Committee –
Policy & Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition approved –
Conseillers de Carteret, Plummer, Paul Williams and Sandra Williams
elected to Special Committee**

To consider a Report with Propositions from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled ‘The Protection of Vulnerable Adults Special Committee’.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves the formation of a Special Committee to be given the task of producing a Vulnerable Adults Protection Law, said committee to be named the Protection of

Vulnerable Adults Special Committee and to be populated as described in the report, upon approval of this Proposition.

1500 **The Speaker:** We now move to Agenda Item 11, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee, entitled the Protection of Vulnerable Adults Special Committee and I would ask Conseiller de Carteret to introduce the Report please.

Conseiller de Carteret: Thank you, sir.

1505 As you are aware, Chief Pleas approved the Child Protection (Sark) Law in 2020. This Law is still awaiting Royal Assent and we hope that this will be approved very soon. If you recall, the Safeguarding Committee in 2019 wanted to combine vulnerable adults and vulnerable children into the same Law. However it was advised by the Law Officers that this could not be achieved and we would need to produce a separate protection law for vulnerable adults. This work now needs to begin.

1510 The Special Safeguarding Committee was disbanded in January, so a new committee is required in this new legislation, so please accept Proposition 1.

Thank you.

1515 **The Speaker:** I will ask if people wish to speak on this. Conseiller Blythe?

Conseiller Blythe: Nothing from me sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Makepeace, you have got your microphone on still.

1520 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Sorry.

The Speaker: Start again. Conseiller Blythe?

1525 **Conseiller Blythe:** Nothing to add sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman?

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: No thank you, sir.

1530 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Nightingale?

Conseiller Nightingale: Nothing to add sir, thank you.

1535 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Ventress?

Conseiller Ventress: Nothing to add, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Paul Williams?

1540 **Conseiller Paul Williams:** No, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Sandra Williams?

1545 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** Yes please.

The Speaker: Conseiller Helen Plummer?

Conseiller Plummer: Yes please.

1550 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Long?

Conseiller Long: No thank you, sir.

1555 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Guille?

Conseiller Guille: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Drillot?

1560 **Conseiller Drillot:** Nothing to add, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Conseiller Raymond?

1565 **Conseiller Raymond:** No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Couldridge?

Conseiller Couldridge: No thank you, Mr Speaker.

1570 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Makepeace? (*No reply.*) Conseiller Makepeace?

Conseiller Makepeace: No thank you, sir. Sorry!

1575 **The Speaker:** Thank you.

Conseiller Makepeace: My microphone was off!

The Speaker: You can switch it off again now. Yes, that is it! Right Conseiller Sandra Williams to open the debate please.

1580 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** Sir I would just like to endorse what Conseiller de Carteret said. This is a very important piece of work that needs to be done and it was a shame that we could not deal with in the same way as the Children's Law, but we are quite happy to be re-selected and take this forward sir, thank you very much.

1585 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Plummer.

Conseiller Plummer: Actually Conseiller Williams has just said what I was going to say and I think, yes, it is a very important piece of work and needs to go forward.
1590 Thank you.

The Speaker: We will go to the vote on the Proposition ... No, there is only support there, so I do not need to ask Conseiller de Carteret to sum up unless you wish to add anything?

1595 **Conseiller de Carteret:** No I am alright, thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Thank you. In that case we will go to the Proposition, that Chief Pleas approves the formation of a Special Committee to be given the task of producing a Vulnerable Adult Protection Law, said committee to be named the Protection of Vulnerable Adults Special

1600 Committee and to be populated as described in the Report, upon approval of this Proposition.
Greffier.

Carried – Pour 14, Contre 0, No Vote 0

POUR	CONTRE	NO VOTE
Conseiller Alan Blythe	None	None
Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman		
Conseiller Christopher Nightingale		
Conseiller Anthony Ventress		
Conseiller Paul Williams		
Conseiller Sandra Williams		
Conseiller Helen Plummer		
Conseiller Philip Long		
Conseiller John Guille		
Conseiller Christopher Drillot		
Conseiller William Raymond		
Conseiller Amanda de Carteret		
Conseiller Simon Couldridge		
Conseiller Frank Makepeace		

The Speaker: I declare the Proposition **carried** by 14 votes Pour, no votes against.
Conseiller de Carteret, do you now wish to put forward names to populate this Committee?

1605

Conseiller de Carteret: Yes I can do that, sir. I have Conseiller Amanda de Carteret, Conseiller Sandra Williams, Conseiller Helen Plummer –

The Speaker: Excuse me, can you go a little bit slower? We have got to write this down.

1610

Conseiller de Carteret: Okay, where did you get to?

The Speaker: Start from the beginning please.

1615

Conseiller de Carteret: Okay I have got Conseiller Amanda de Carteret, Conseiller Sandra Williams, Conseiller Helen Plummer and Conseiller Paul Williams.

The Speaker: So you are nominating four people for the Committee, from the Conseiller cohort?

1620

Conseiller de Carteret: Yes.

The Speaker: Are there any other nominations from the floor?

1625

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes sir, I would like to be nominated. May I give a reason why?

The Speaker: Can I just take your name first? Conseiller Makepeace.

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes.

1630

The Speaker: Yes, you can say why you wish to be put forward.

Conseiller Makepeace: Well sir, as a recovering alcoholic, coming up to 16 years tomorrow, and someone that has been through various clinics over the past and therapy, and with the problem in Sark, I think I would be able to add significant help to this Committee. Through practical experience, I would be of use.

1635

Thank you, sir.

1640 **The Speaker:** Thank you. Right, that means that there has to be a vote for the Committee membership because the Committee is of four Conseillers and we have five nominations. Can I confirm that all the nominations still wish to remain in the contest? Conseiller Makepeace, turn your microphone off again please.

1645 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** Yes sir, I am happy to be carried on. Sandra Williams.

The Speaker: Yes. Amanda de Carteret?

Conseiller de Carteret: Yes and myself sir, Conseiller de Carteret.

1650 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Plummer?

Conseiller Plummer: Yes, I am happy to go on this thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Paul Williams?

1655 **Conseiller Paul Williams:** I wish to continue sir.

1660 **The Speaker:** Fine, thank you. So there is a vote to be conducted and the Greffier will call the roll call and each Conseiller is to nominate their four selections to us. At the end of that, we will total up the number cast for each person and declare those to be elected to the Committee. Greffier.

The Greffier: Alan Blythe.

1665 **Conseiller Blythe:** Sorry, could you just say the four names again. I have only got three written down for some reason.

1670 **The Speaker:** There is a choice of Conseillers de Carteret, Sandra Williams, Plummer, Paul Williams and Conseiller Makepeace. (**Conseiller Blythe:** Thank you.) Five nominations for four vacancies.

Conseiller Blythe: Okay sir, thank you very much. My nominations are Plummer, Paul Williams, Sandra Williams and Mandy de Carteret.

1675 **The Greffier:** Peter La Trobe-Bateman.

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Thank you, my nominations are Amanda de Carteret, Sandra Williams, Helen Plummer and Paul Williams.

1680 **The Greffier:** Christopher Nightingale.

Conseiller Nightingale: My nominations are Mandy de Carteret, Sandra Williams, Helen Plummer and Paul Williams. Thank you.

1685 **The Greffier:** Conseiller Anthony Ventress.

Conseiller Ventress: My nominations are Amanda de Carteret, Sandra Williams, Helen Plummer and Paul Williams.

The Greffier: Paul Williams.

1690

Conseiller Paul Williams: Mine are Amanda de Carteret, Sandra Williams, Helen Plummer and myself, Paul Williams.

The Greffier: Sandra Williams.

1695

Conseiller Sandra Williams: My nominations are Amanda de Carteret, Conseiller Helen Plummer, Conseiller Paul Williams and Conseiller Sandra Williams.

The Greffier: Helen Plummer.

1700

Conseiller Plummer: My nominations are Conseiller Amanda de Carteret, Conseiller Sandra Williams, Conseiller Paul Williams, Conseiller Helen Plummer.

The Greffier: Philip Long.

1705

Conseiller Long: My vote is for Conseillers Paul Williams, Mandy de Carteret, Helen Plummer and Sandra Williams. Thank you.

The Greffier: John Guille.

1710

Conseiller Guille: My votes are for Conseillers de Carteret, S. Williams, Plummer, P. Williams.

The Greffier: Christopher Drillot.

1715

Conseiller Drillot: My vote is for Conseiller de Carteret, Conseiller Plummer, Conseiller Paul Williams and Conseiller Sandra Williams.

The Greffier: Conseiller William Raymond.

1720

Conseiller Raymond: Conseillers de Carteret, Williams and Williams, and Plummer.

The Greffier: Conseiller Amanda de Carteret.

1725

Conseiller de Carteret: My vote is for Conseiller Amanda de Carteret, Conseiller Sandra Williams, Conseiller Helen Plummer and Conseiller Paul Williams.

The Greffier: Conseiller Simon Couldridge.

1730

Conseiller Couldridge: Yes my vote is for Conseillers Williams, Sandra and Paul, Conseiller Plummer and Conseiller de Carteret. Thank you.

The Greffier: Conseiller Makepeace.

1735

Conseiller Makepeace: No surprises so far. My votes are for myself, for Conseiller Plummer, Conseiller Paul Williams and Conseiller Sandra Williams.

1740

The Speaker: That is very clearly a vote for Conseillers Amanda de Carteret, Sandra Williams, Helen Plummer and Paul Williams and I declare those four Conseillers elected to the Protection of Vulnerable Adults Special Committee and I thank Conseiller Makepeace for trying to get on it and causing an election. Thank you for that.

Conseiller Makepeace: thank you, sir.

**12. Sark Pandemic Emergency Committee –
Policy & Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled ‘Sark Pandemic Emergency Committee’.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves the formation of a Committee to prepare and co-ordinate any and all measures necessary to deal with a possible pandemic outbreak. Said committee to be named the Sark Pandemic Emergency Committee and to be populated as described in the mandate attached to this Report, upon approval of this Proposition.

The Speaker: We now move to Agenda Item 12, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled Sark Pandemic Emergency Committee and I would ask Conseiller La Trobe Bateman to introduce the Report.

1745 But before I do, I would just like to say that, due to an administrative oversight, the old Avian Flu Human Influenza Committee had been missed off the Committee List and this did cause a little bit of confusion at the start of the pandemic because that Committee has, for years, been planning for a pandemic, but because it was not on the Committee List it did not immediately form and get to work. It was last voted upon on 2016 and its mandate approved but at some time in the reorganisation of committees it got inadvertently left off.

1750 Therefore, as soon as that became apparent, the old Committee was formed, in accordance with the mandate, and the co-ordination on Sark immediately improved by 99%. So, although a lot of work had been going on before that Committee took its central role, that work was not wasted, but the co-ordination was not good. As soon as the Committee formed, the co-ordination became extremely good indeed.

1755 So I would like to handover to Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman to introduce the Report please.

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: I will just take this opportunity with this Report just to update on the PEC, the Pandemic Emergency Committee and where we are. The Pandemic and Emergency Committee have been working flat out since the start of this pandemic. I would like to thank the Members for their dedicated work to ensure the protection of our community.

1760 It has been an extremely difficult time for residents, as some of their civil liberties have been taken away. I would like to thank everyone in the community for how well everyone has adapted and supported each other. We are not out of the woods yet and we cannot become complacent.

1765 Covid-19, if allowed to spread through Sark, would have devastating effects. We have managed to keep it at bay so far, but we are a long way from safety. As the lift in restrictions has started, those fortunate enough to be able to return to work can and today, it is an additional 120 people on top of the essential work list have started to earn again. This is key for our fragile economic future.

1770 There is a new term being thrown out called the ‘new norm’. Until a vaccine has been developed, this virus will continue to pester the world and restrictions will continue to be lifted and put back on as the threat level changes. With the economic downfall worldwide, it will have a huge impact on our tourism industry, that we rely so much on. Not just this year but possibly into the next year also.

1775

The PEC understands that in the coming months many who rely on this industry will be needing support. PEC have created a working group to create a census of the Island and what industry sectors residents fit into. This piece of work has now been finished and it will be used to aid financial planning from mid to long-term.

1780 The PEC have worked hard to ensure all residents are informed as swiftly as possible. The new website and the creation of an official Facebook page have helped in this process. I would like to thank those who administer those sites and have been doing it without charge. The PEC has been operating under the Avian Flu Committee mandate and this Report will make it more of a generic mandate that we can operate efficiently.

1785 Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman. I now ask for anybody now wishing to speak in debate on this. Conseiller Blythe?

1790 **Conseiller Blythe:** Nothing from me, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Nightingale?

Conseiller Nightingale: Nothing to add sir, thank you.

1795

The Speaker: Conseiller Ventress?

Conseiller Ventress: Nothing to add, sir.

1800

The Speaker: Conseiller Paul Williams?

Conseiller Paul Williams: Nothing, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Sandra Williams?

1805

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Yes please, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Helen Plummer?

1810

Conseiller Plummer: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Philip Long?

Conseiller Long: Yes please sir.

1815

The Speaker: Conseiller Guille?

Conseiller Guille: Yes please sir.

1820

The Speaker: Conseiller Drillot?

Conseiller Drillot: Yes please sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Raymond?

1825

Conseiller Raymond: Yes please sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller de Carteret?

1830 **Conseiller de Carteret:** No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Couldridge?

1835 **Conseiller Couldridge:** Nothing to add other than thank you to the Committee.

The Speaker: Conseiller Makepeace?

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes sir, I would like to speak.

1840 **The Speaker:** Therefore I would call on Conseiller Sandra Williams to open the debate please.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Thank you, sir.

1845 I would just like to come back on something that Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman said about thanking the Committee. I would like to ask for a vote of thanks to be recorded for Conseiller John Guille and for Conseiller Sam La Trobe-Bateman, who I believe has done a sterling job of keeping us all on the right road and particularly to John Guille for sitting through hours and hours of debate with the CCA and they have done a very good job, thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you. Conseiller Long.

1850

Conseiller Long: Thank you, sir.

1855 I just want to follow after Conseiller Williams in thanking the Committee as they stand at the moment for all the sterling work they have done. It has been outstanding. They have had to make very difficult decisions in very difficult times and I think they have done fantastic work and just to thank all of the Conseillers that are part of the group and all the people who donate time and effort into helping this Island survive this pandemic.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Guille.

1860

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir.

1865 I would like also to thank all of the Committee. Everybody deserves extra thanks for this. Conseiller de Carteret with her work with the medical side of it, spending hours and hours of extra work into this, as have done the Constables and the safeguarding teams and the co-opted members of the Committee as well and I think everybody deserves a massive thanks and certainly this has been forthcoming from members of the public.

1870 Additionally to that, I think the worldwide Covid-19 crisis has shown the need for governments to respond quickly to such grave threats to public health and wellbeing. This has shown various levels of success in the responses of governments around the world. In the Bailiwick, we are fortunate to have the mechanism of the Civil Contingencies Authority in place, to deal swiftly and decisively with such emergencies. The Civil Contingencies Authority has six voting Members, four from Guernsey, one from Alderney and currently myself from Sark.

1875 It must be noted that our neighbours in Jersey do not have such an effective mechanism in place. We are grateful for the swift action of the CCA and working with them, Dr Nicola Brink and her team at Public Health.

The CCA and Public Health, in turn, are extremely grateful for the swift action of the Pandemic Emergency Committee of Chief Pleas and the residents of Sark in putting in place extra measures to protect our especially vulnerable population. The CCA sets the regulations and the Laws for the Bailiwick and we have to appreciate the Bailiwick shares the main medical

1880 resource of the Princess Elizabeth Hospital in the south there, who whilst the severe impact of
the pandemic might have been averted for now, that we have seen in other countries, it is with
these swift and decisive decisions that that has happened. Being a Bailiwick resource, this is why
we all must work together to ensure these resources are protected.

In turn, the Committee for Health & Social Care, with advice from Public Health, set the
1885 guidance, which details exactly how the regulations are applied and how they affect people's
day-to-day lives. We are extremely thankful to their engagements with the Pandemic Emergency
Committee to specifically adjust the guidance for Sark and enabling over 120 workers to return
to work well over a week before the rest of the Bailiwick.

Moving forward we are working hard at the CCA, HSC, Public Health and other departments
1890 in Guernsey, to take the guidelines for Sark to both ease restrictions but also to ensure other
unique measures are implemented to protect Sark's unique population. We are also working
closely with Guernsey and others on financial measures that will be needed to help Sark through
this difficult time, including strengthening Sark's financial reserves and generating employment
for Sark's population in a crisis that is not just going to be the summer, it is going to be ongoing,
1895 well into next year, I am sure.

We thank those across the Bailiwick for their help and especially residents of Sark in all they
have done to keep our Island safe so far.

Thank you.

1900 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Drillot.

Conseiller Drillot: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I do not think I can follow on from what Conseiller Guille has just put up. I was just going to
say a big thank you to him and his Committee and all his supporting people in these very difficult
1905 times. I agree with everything that Conseiller Guille has just said.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Raymond.

1910 **Conseiller Raymond:** Thank you, sir.

Just a huge thanks to the Pandemic Committee and everybody who has worked tirelessly on
that to keep us protected and now to actually be able to get people back to work. It would be
wrong in this if I think we did not also, as an Island, and as Chief Pleas, thank the States of
Guernsey for including our businesses who may find themselves in financial difficulty in the
1915 Guernsey Business Disruption Scheme, which could be hugely valuable and will relieve the Sark
Exchequer of at least one burden.

Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Finally, Conseiller Makepeace.

1920 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Thank you, sir.

I would just like to ask whether the Pandemic Emergency Committee will be following its own
advice in future and be holding future meetings online, remotely, or will they continue to use
the hall or Assembly Rooms, with actual physical meeting, which I think is a contradiction to
1925 what they are trying to achieve?

Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Thank you. You can turn your microphone off now. Conseiller La Trobe-
Bateman to sum up.

1930

1935 **Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman:** Thank you. Thanks for everyone's comments. It is definitely a team effort from everybody and I would like to thank everyone as well. With regards to Conseiller Makepeace's comments it was decided very early on that the level of information and discussion that the PEC has to deal with that a virtual meeting was just too cumbersome and too difficult. So we do it in the main hall, practising social distancing. We sterilise, we hand sanitise coming in, we take extra measures. We feel that is a necessity in order to get through this.
Thank you.

1940 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Can I just reply?

The Speaker: Yes, Conseiller Makepeace.

1945 **Conseiller Makepeace:** I would just like to say that Conseiller Bateman considers that the matters to be dealt with by the Pandemic Emergency Committee are too complex to be held online, but he does not agree to the same for the Chief Pleas today, which is probably more complex and deals with a lot more. I still find that contradictory.

The Speaker: Thank you Conseiller Makepeace. I would –

1950 **Conseiller Guille:** Can I comment please, Mr Speaker? Conseiller Guille.

The Speaker: Yes Conseiller Guille.

1955 **Conseiller Guille:** I would like to remind Conseiller Makepeace how long it has taken to establish what is so far a very successful Meeting of Chief Pleas remotely, although we still do have two Conseillers and several officials in the Assembly Room, attending this, despite having hours of practice last week and several weeks to set this virtual Meeting up. There are considerably less members on the Pandemic Emergency Committee. Not all of them are members of Chief Pleas with access to the Teams meeting software and, just like the key workers in our shops who have to be indoors to carry out a key service to the Island, it has been necessary so far for the Pandemic Emergency Committee to meet in the hall and I do not think now is the time for petty point scoring on that front.

1965 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Conseiller Guille, may I reply? It is not petty point scoring. *[Inaudible]* However you are not following the same advice yourselves. Has any attempt been made to hold meetings virtually by the Pandemic Emergency Committee, because I notice today that we have outsiders as such, that are invited through Teams, so it is not beyond the realm of our imagination to believe that we could do the same with the other meetings, the pandemic meetings. Has an attempt been made to hold these remotely?

1970 Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: I think you have made your point, Conseiller Makepeace.

1975 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Okay sir.

1980 **The Speaker:** We have heard what you said. The Committee will take that into account in their future deliberations. It is worth noting that the Houses of Parliament will be going back to work fairly shortly and they will be having 50 people, plus all the staff, in the chamber and only 170 calling in remotely out of their 630 members, so we are actually here achieving a much better democratic position than the UK Government is going to be able to do under their lockdown system.

We will now go to the vote on the Proposition. Are there any changes you wish to make to it, Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman?

1985 **Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman:** No. I am happy with the way it is, thank you.

1990 **The Speaker:** In that case the Proposition is that Chief Pleas approves the formation of a committee to prepare and co-ordinate any and all measures necessary to deal with a possible pandemic outbreak. Said committee to be named the Sark Pandemic Emergency Committee and to be populated as described in the mandate attached to this Report, upon approval of this Proposition. I will now go to the vote on that Proposition. Greffier.

Carried – Pour 14, Contre 0, No Vote 0

POUR	CONTRE	NO VOTE
Conseiller Alan Blythe	None	None
Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman		
Conseiller Christopher Nightingale		
Conseiller Anthony Ventress		
Conseiller Paul Williams		
Conseiller Sandra Williams		
Conseiller Helen Plummer		
Conseiller Philip Long		
Conseiller John Guille		
Conseiller Christopher Drillot		
Conseiller William Raymond		
Conseiller Amanda de Carteret		
Conseiller Simon Couldridge		
Conseiller Frank Makepeace		

The Speaker: I declare the Proposition **carried** with 14 votes Pour and no votes against.

1995 I will just end by saying that the formation of this Committee is just a technical exercise to tidy up the mandate and rename it to make it more reflective of the pandemic we are in now. But the committee has been working on the mandate of the previous Pandemic Avian Flu Committee that was set up many years ago.

Conseiller Guille: Mr Speaker, I think you have the vote count wrong there.

2000 **The Speaker:** I declared it, it is too late.

Conseiller Guille: Well, it was 13 for and 1 against, for the record.

The Speaker: Did one vote against?

2005

Conseiller Guille: Correct.

The Speaker: Who voted against?

2010 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** I am sure that Conseiller Frank Makepeace said Pour, but I think it has been recorded as Contre.

Conseiller Makepeace: I did not say –

2015 **The Speaker:** We recorded it as Pour. Conseiller Makepeace, you did say Pour, did you not?

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes sir, yes I did.

2020 **The Speaker:** So it was carried 14 votes Pour. As a point of procedure, once I have declared the Proposition carried or lost, there is no going back, so if somebody had their vote recorded incorrectly by the top table, I am afraid that stands. Once it has been declared, it has to stand.

**13. Medical & Emergency Services Mandate –
Medical & Emergency Services Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Medical & Emergency Services Committee entitled 'Addition to Medical & Emergency Services Mandate'.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves the addition of Sark Ambulance Service to the Medical & Emergency Services mandate.

2025 **The Speaker:** Right we now move onto Agenda Item 13, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Medical & Emergency Services Committee, entitled Addition to Medical & Emergency Services Mandate and I would ask Conseiller Plummer to introduce the Report please.

Conseiller de Carteret: Sorry Mr Speaker, I think it is me doing that Report, Conseiller de Carteret.

2030 **Conseiller Plummer:** I would like to hand over to Conseiller de Carteret, please.

The Speaker: Conseiller de Carteret, please.

Conseiller de Carteret: Thank you.

2035 I am not going to add much more to this statement as the Report explains enough. The Committee strongly agree that the Sark Ambulance Service needs governance and guidance and with the full support of St John in Guernsey this will be achieved and it will provide a more comprehensive and safer service for all our residents and visitors. The Sark Ambulance Service therefore needs to be added to the Medical & Emergency Services mandate.

Thank you.

2040 **The Speaker:** I shall now ask for any debate on this. Conseiller Blythe?

Conseiller Blythe: Yes please, sir.

2045 **The Speaker:** Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman?

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: No thank you.

2050 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Nightingale?

Conseiller Nightingale: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Ventress?

2055 **Conseiller Ventress:** No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Paul Williams?

Conseiller Paul Williams: Very sensible move. Nothing to add sir.

2060 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Sandra Williams?

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Nothing, thank you.

2065 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Plummer?

Conseiller Plummer: Nothing to add, thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Long?

2070 **Conseiller Long:** No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Guille?

2075 **Conseiller Guille:** No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Drillot?

Conseiller Drillot: Nothing to add, thank you.

2080 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Raymond?

Conseiller Raymond: No thank you, sir.

2085 **The Speaker:** Conseiller de Carteret? You are summing up, aren't you? Conseiller Couldridge?

Conseiller Couldridge: No thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Conseiller Makepeace?

2090 **Conseiller Makepeace:** No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: In that case, there is only one speaker, Conseiller Blythe.

2095 **Conseiller Blythe:** Thank you, sir. I just want to support this Proposition. I have noticed a big change in recent times in the Ambulance Service and it is definitely going in the right direction. Thank you very much sir.

The Speaker: I do not think there is anything for you to sum up there, Conseiller de Carteret. Do you wish to say anything else?

2100

Conseiller de Carteret: No, thank you.

The Speaker: Then we will go to the Proposition that Chief Pleas approves the addition of the Sark Ambulance Service to the Medical & Emergency Services mandate. Greffier.

Carried – Pour 14, Contre 0, No Vote 0

POUR	CONTRE	NO VOTE
Conseiller Alan Blythe	None	None
Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman		
Conseiller Christopher Nightingale		
Conseiller Anthony Ventress		
Conseiller Paul Williams		
Conseiller Sandra Williams		
Conseiller Helen Plummer		
Conseiller Philip Long		
Conseiller John Guille		
Conseiller Christopher Drillot		
Conseiller William Raymond		
Conseiller Amanda de Carteret		
Conseiller Simon Couldridge		
Conseiller Frank Makepeace		

2105 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Makepeace, your mic is constantly on. Could you turn it off again please? I declare the Proposition **carried** by 14 votes for and no Contre.

**14. Term of office for the Speaker of Chief Pleas –
Policy & Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled ‘Term of Office for the Speaker of Chief Pleas’.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas agrees that the term of office for the Speaker of Chief Pleas is three years from his election on 27th February 2020 until 26th February 2023.

The Speaker: Agenda Item 14, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee, entitled Term of Office for the Speaker of Chief Pleas and I would ask Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman to introduce the Report, please.

2110

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Thank you, sir.

This Report is really self-explanatory. It is to give your length of office, I have been trying to think of a delicate way of putting it due to your age, we decided on a three-year term! So that is where we have come to. It has been highlighted that your term of office does end on the same year as a general election, if that is correct. Whether that is a concern for everybody, just for continuity, I would welcome people’s thoughts on that and maybe the Speaker can highlight that a little bit more and address it, but yes we have gone for three years.

2115

The Speaker: Thank you. I think whoever is in the current parliament when the term of office is due for renewal felt that it was inappropriate then, by negotiation with the Speaker, the term could either be extended or reduced, as you say, depending on age. But I think three years is a satisfactory time for the moment and it may well work in very nicely with the Deputy Speaker’s retirement time, or election time. Okay, does anybody else want to speak? I will not go through the list. Is anybody wanting to speak on this? No. In that case we will go to the vote on the Proposition that Chief Pleas agrees that the term of office for the Speaker of Chief Pleas is three years, from his election on 27th February 2020 until 26th February 2023.

2120

2125

Greffier.

Carried – Pour 14, Contre 0, No Vote 0

POUR	CONTRE	NO VOTE
Conseiller Alan Blythe	None	None
Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman		
Conseiller Christopher Nightingale		
Conseiller Anthony Ventress		
Conseiller Paul Williams		
Conseiller Sandra Williams		
Conseiller Helen Plummer		
Conseiller Philip Long		
Conseiller John Guille		
Conseiller Christopher Drillot		
Conseiller William Raymond		
Conseiller Amanda de Carteret		
Conseiller Simon Couldridge		
Conseiller Frank Makepeace		

The Speaker: I declare the Proposition **carried**, 14 votes Pour and no Contre.

**15. Start Times of Chief Pleas Meeting –
Policy & Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled ‘Changes to the Start Times of Chief Pleas Meetings’.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas agrees to change the times of Chief Pleas Meetings from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

2130 **The Speaker:** We move to Agenda Item 15, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee, entitled Changes to the Start Times of Chief Pleas Meetings and I would ask Conseiller La Trobe Bateman to introduce the Report, please.

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Thank you, sir.

2135 This Report essentially says exactly what it means. After consultation with the Conseillers, it was a unanimous decision that a 5 p.m. Chief Pleas would be easier for everybody. The majority of Conseillers are working people so they would not have to take a whole day off. Also, in doing this, hopefully makes it accessible for people when they are thinking about standing for election.

2140 The other plus side to this is that members of the public, hopefully, will be able to come more. In my kind of eyes, and ours, I think there is no downside to this and, historically, Chief Pleas has not lasted longer than three hours and if it does extend longer than that, we can always come back the following night.

Thank you.

2145 **The Speaker:** Once again, I will just ask if there is anybody who has got anything that they wish to debate on this or do we go straight to the Proposition?

Conseiller Couldridge: I have one quick point please.

2150 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Couldridge.

2155 **Conseiller Couldridge:** My little point is we did all agree, myself, agreed to these start times change to five o'clock. I have just had a little thought that would shift emphasis. In winter time the 5 p.m. is perfectly fine; in summer time a lot of people are working to 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. and beyond. Is there any merit to consider pushing it back an hour, if not more, the start time? Just an idea if anybody has any thoughts. Thank you.

Conseiller Ventress: I would also like to –

2160 **The Speaker:** In that case, I will go through the roll call and ask people to come back on that. So Conseiller Blythe?

Conseiller Blythe: Nothing to say, sir.

2165 **The Speaker:** Conseiller La-Trobe Bateman? Oh, you have said it, so we will move on. Conseiller Nightingale?

Conseiller Nightingale: No thoughts, thank you, sir.

2170 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Ventress?

Conseiller Ventress: Yes please, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Paul Williams?

2175 **Conseiller Paul Williams:** No, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Sandra Williams?

2180 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** Yes please.

The Speaker: Conseiller Helen Plummer?

Conseiller Plummer: Nothing more to add, thank you.

2185 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Long?

Conseiller Long: No thank you.

2190 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Guille?

Conseiller Guille: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Drillot?

2195 **Conseiller Drillot:** Yes please sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Raymond?

2200 **Conseiller Raymond:** No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller de Carteret?

Conseiller de Carteret: No thank you, sir.

2205 **The Speaker;** Conseiller Couldridge, do you want to speak again?

Conseiller Couldridge: No thank you. I have already said my little piece. Thank you very much.

2210 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Makepeace?

Conseiller Makepeace: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: In that case, I will ask Conseiller Ventress to speak.

2215

Conseiller Ventress: Thank you, sir.

I am going to vote against this because I feel that we should leave this until the new Chief Pleas, which comes in after the election in this coming December; if we are not closed down. I feel that the new Chief Pleas need to not only look at the start time which I feel will probably need to remain at 10 a.m. because of the amount of speeches that go on.

2220

If we started at 5 p.m. this Meeting would in fact have gone on until after 8 p.m. and that is without at least two of the items having been put to a further Chief Pleas Meeting. Also, a thing that keeps on cropping up and which I believe in and that is there should be some form of recompense for lost wages for those people who do not have –

2225

The Speaker: That is going off the subject, so just keep to the time, please.

Conseiller Ventress: I feel it needs to be decided by the next elected Chief Pleas.

2230 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Sandra Williams.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Thank you very much.

Coming back on Conseiller Couldridge, I agree but I have to disagree also in the fact that we only have two Meetings when the clocks have changed so it is lighter evenings. I think if you push the Meeting back to 6 p.m. or even 6.30 p.m. we will be travelling in to about nine o'clock in the evening, bearing in mind that the majority of Conseillers will have already done a day's work. I am 100% supportive of this and I have been asking for a change to the start time of Chief Pleas' Meetings for a very long time now and the whole idea of doing it now was to try and encourage more of the working class people to join Chief Pleas without having to lose their wages for the day and I do not believe now the tie to be introducing any form of recompense when it can be easily solved by moving the time of the Meeting.

2235

2240

That is all I have got to say, thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Drillot.

2245

Conseiller Drillot: Thank you, sir.

Yes I would like to back Conseiller Williams on this one, as a working Member of Chief Pleas, taking obviously into account, which hopefully will not happen too often, today's is a bit of a special Meeting at four hours or whatever, we have got a bit more to do, or three hours of it These normally do not run on that long.

2250

As to Conseiller Couldridge's point of bringing it forward to 6 p.m., I do not see where the difference of losing an hour instead of losing from 10 a.m. is going to help. I think this proposal was put forward to encourage at the next election more people to stand and the idea for more people to stand, as we all know we are all under a lot of work, and we do lose a lot of time off

2255 work on Committee meetings, so to be able to move Chief Pleas so you do not lose most of your day, I am wholly in favour of, and I would like this to go through today if possible.
Thank you.

The Speaker: Right, if I could ask Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman to sum up, please.

2260 **Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman:** Thank you, sir.
I think most people summed up quite nicely. Nothing really more to add. I would just say that I would rather come back two evenings, if necessary, than have a long full day with no work. That is all I have got to say.

2265 Thank you.

The Speaker: Right, therefore we go to the Proposition that Chief Plea agrees to change the times of Chief Pleas Meetings from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. But before we take a vote on that, could I just ask a question? If this vote goes through today, that will mean that the Midsummer Meeting will be at 5 p.m. in July, Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman?

2270

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: I would hope so yes.

The Speaker: So we are planning that the timings will change immediately. As you say in the Report, there is no Law to stop us changing the timing and therefore it will come into effect immediately and the Midsummer Meeting will revert to a 5 p.m. start.
Thank you. Greffier.

2275

Carried – Pour 13, Contre 1, No Vote 0

POUR

Conseiller Alan Blythe
Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman
Conseiller Christopher Nightingale
Conseiller Paul Williams
Conseiller Sandra Williams
Conseiller Helen Plummer
Conseiller Philip Long
Conseiller John Guille
Conseiller Christopher Drillot
Conseiller William Raymond
Conseiller Amanda de Carteret
Conseiller Simon Couldridge
Conseiller Frank Makepeace

CONTRE

Conseiller Anthony Ventress

NO VOTE

None

The Speaker: I declare the Proposition **carried** by 13 votes Pour to 1 Contre.

2280 I would just add, of course, that Chief Pleas has just made a Resolution to change the Meeting times. Any future Chief Pleas can of course come back and decide to move it elsewhere. So nothing is set in stone when Chief Pleas resolves that Proposition.

2285 Right, we are coming up to 1 p.m., ladies and gentlemen. We have got an information report, followed by another information report, followed by another information report, and then Committee elections. Do you wish to stop now for a break, an extended lunch break and come back at 2 p.m., or do you just want a short break now and come back and finish off the Meeting in one hit?

Let me put it to you now: do you wish to continue? And if you just answer in the roll call order, if you wish to continue, yes; if you want to break for an hour say no. Conseiller Blythe?

2290 **Conseiller Blythe:** Yes.

The Speaker: La Trobe-Bateman?

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Yes.

2295

The Speaker: I cannot remember what I said. If you say yes, you want to continue now? Did I say that?

Several Conseillers: Yes you did.

2300

The Speaker: If you reply yes we are continuing. Good. Conseiller Nightingale?

Conseiller Nightingale: Yes.

2305

The Speaker: Conseiller Ventress?

Conseiller Ventress: Yes.

The Speaker: Conseiller Paul Williams.

2310

Conseiller Paul Williams: Yes.

The Speaker: Conseiller Sandra Williams?

2315

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Yes.

The Speaker: Conseiller Helen Plummer?

Conseiller Plummer: Yes please.

2320

The Speaker: Conseiller Philip Long.

Conseiller Long: Yes, somebody has got a microphone on.

2325

The Speaker: Conseiller Frank Makepeace, you have got your microphone on again. Conseiller Guille?

Conseiller Guille: Yes.

2330

The Speaker: Thank you for that. We have a quorum, so we will continue. However, I am going to take a five-minute comfort break and we will restart at 1.05 p.m. Thank you all.

*Chief Pleas adjourned at 1 p.m.
and resumed at 1.08 p.m.*

16. The New Slaughterhouse Project – Agriculture, Environment & Sea Fisheries Committee Report considered

To consider an Information Report from the Agriculture, Environment & Sea Fisheries Committee entitled 'The New Slaughterhouse Project'.

2335 **The Speaker:** Right, we are now back in session and recording, so we will now move on to the next Agenda Item, Agenda Item 16, to consider an Information Report, from the Agriculture, Environment & Sea Fisheries Committee entitled The New Slaughterhouse Project and I would ask Conseiller Plummer to introduce the Report please.

Conseiller Plummer: Thank you, sir.

2340 The Report is very self-explanatory but it is to keep you all informed that the new building is still going on with progress, laid down foundations etc. But of course with the new restrictions it has delayed things slightly. But the building is going to be going forward and we hope that it will create work.

2345 We have had to improve on the old slaughterhouse because, when the environmental health officer came over, she asked us to improve where it was, which we have done. By doing that, they have put in new doors and painted, there is some equipment coming that John Robinson has sourced from England, that will be used in the old slaughterhouse but will be removed and placed in the new slaughterhouse, so there has been no waste of money in that.

2350 It is on a bill that has been in and they have put seals which should have been there and bits and pieces have been removed and we are just waiting for them to come over and inspect. Slaughtering is still going on, may I add, but I am pretty confident. We have had a work list to work to and we have nearly completed that. It is just the tiny bits left, which I am sure they will be quite happy with.

2355 I would like at this opportunity to thank Mr John Robinson for all his help with this project. He has travelled quite extensively in the UK to get as much things and equipment at a very good price for us and he is doing this as a service to Sark. We do give him a little towards his travel expenses, but not a great deal. And I would like to thank everybody for supporting us in this project. Thank you.

2360 **The Speaker:** I will go through the list, asking if anybody wants to ask questions of Conseiller Plummer. Conseiller Blythe?

Conseiller Blythe: Nothing to ask sir, thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman?

2365 **Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman:** Yes please, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Nightingale?

2370 **Conseiller Nightingale:** Nothing to ask, thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Ventress?

Conseiller Ventress: Nothing sir, thank you.

2375 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Paul Williams?

Conseiller Paul Williams: No thank you, sir.

2380 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Sandra Williams?

Conseiller Sandra Williams: No thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Long?

2385 **Conseiller Long:** Yes please, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Guille?

Conseiller Guille: No thank you, sir.

2390 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Drillot?

Conseiller Drillot: Nothing to add, thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Raymond?

2395

Conseiller Raymond: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller de Carteret?

2400

Conseiller de Carteret: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Couldridge?

Conseiller Couldridge: No thank you, Mr Speaker.

2405

The Speaker: Conseiller Makepeace?

Conseiller Makepeace: No thank you, sir.

2410

The Speaker: In that case, I would ask Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman to open debate please.

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Thank you, sir.

2415 Just to say that obviously with all the ongoing worldwide pandemic and our limited resources that Policy & Finance did look into the slaughterhouse project and its funding and we did decide that actually the importance of the slaughterhouse, especially with this worldwide pandemic, it is important that it goes ahead and continues going ahead, so we have the ability to slaughter our own meat on-Island, which would help support the community.

Thank you.

2420

The Speaker: Conseiller Long.

Conseiller Long: Thank you, sir.

2425 I have just got a couple of questions. Does the Committee feel, with the current situation, that the build will remain on time and on cost? My second question is also, have the original projections of the animals to be slaughtered had to be amended in any way, due to the current Covid-19 situation? By which I mean do you still believe that, due to what is going on and projections of where we may well be next year, that you still will be slaughtering the amount of animals that we agreed to at the beginning, or that was projected, if you will? Thank you.

2430

The Speaker: Conseiller Plummer.

Conseiller Plummer: Hello? Yes, thank you.

2435 We are confident that, as the restrictions have been lifted slightly now, we are confident that we will be able to start on it very soon. We are hoping that it is still keeping very well within budget. So the animals for next year – we are hoping it will because we are going to have to feed

ourselves, maybe. Up to now, it is still going on and we are still slaughtering, but I feel it is very important that this project does go through, because we cannot look into the future.

2440 Nobody knows really. This is so serious, what the world is in at the moment, that I do not think any of us can really estimate what is going to be happening to us a year's time. Go back six months and we would never have envisaged what we are going through now. But I would like to say thank you to everybody for your support. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Plummer.

2445 **Conseiller Nightingale:** Can I say something sir?

The Speaker: Conseiller Nightingale, yes.

2450 **Conseiller Nightingale:** Recently we have done the count of animals or cloven-hoofed animals on the Island, for the compulsory slaughter insurance, and I can report that we are actually 90 animals up on last year. There are 90 more cloven-hoofed animals on the Island than there were last year.

Thank you.

2455 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Nightingale.

17. Grants of Probate for Personal Property – Policy & Finance Committee Report considered

To consider an Information Report from the Policy & Finance Committee, entitled 'Transfer of the Jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Court to the Royal Court in Relation to the Grants of Probate for Personal Property in the Bailiwick of Guernsey'.

2460 **The Speaker:** As that is an information report we will now move onto Agenda Item 17, to consider an Information Report from the Policy & Finance Committee, entitled Transfer of the Jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Court to the Royal Court in relation to the Grants of Probate for Personal Property in the Bailiwick of Guernsey. I would ask Conseiller Raymond to introduce the Report please.

Conseiller Raymond: Thank you, sir.

2465 This Report is unfortunate in a way, and I am sad that I am bringing it, but it is so that Chief Pleas is aware of the position that we have reached. For generations, the Ecclesiastical Court has administered Probate for the Bailiwick and the charge has always gone to the Ecclesiastical Court coffers and has then been disbursed around various charities. The cost of administration by the Ecclesiastical Court is something like 50% of the revenue that is raised. The amounts raised are actually, in percentage terms, fairly trivial, because at the moment it is only 0.35%.

2470 But the fact that the costs of administration are only 50% of what is raised make it in effect a tax. So when the States of Guernsey decide that they are going to transfer the jurisdiction to the Royal Court and that the surplus revenues will go into General Revenue in Guernsey, we have raised objections because that has the effect of Guernsey raising a tax on Sark residents.

2475 We believe, as an autonomous jurisdiction, that Sark should have the right to tax its own residents. So what we have done, because Guernsey have not yielded to any of our representations on this and they have published a policy letter to go to the States of Guernsey, we decided that we must put Chief Pleas in the picture and that the areas of disagreement are set out in the paper.

2480 They require all jurisdictions, including Sark, to be subject to appeals to the Royal Court. We believe that Sark estates should in the first instance have a right of appeal to the Seneschal's Court, which in any event has concurrent jurisdiction with the Royal Court.

2485 We do not believe that the Rate of Levy should be set for Sark estates by Policy & Resources in Guernsey. We believe that Chief Pleas should reserve the right to tax its own deceased residents. In the event that an agreement is reached on those two other points, the rate of collection fee, which is levied by Guernsey, we think should be capped at an agreed rate. That is what we have in the case of Impot, so that we would receive the balance of the levy, less the charge being paid.

2490 The further point is that freeholds and most Guernsey properties are freeholds, are not taxed. They are exempt from the Probate. But, of course in Sark, we have a huge number of leaseholds which are personal property, therefore could be subject to the Probate charge. Therefore that needs to be accommodated in any regulations.

This is just a matter to alert Chief Pleas to the fact that there is this ongoing debate with Guernsey and that we have not been successful in getting them to listen to our representations. Thank you, sir.

2495 **The Speaker:** May I ask a question before I open it up to the floor? The policy letter, when it comes to the States, will that have attached to it a *Projet de Loi*, asking the States to approve it?

2500 **Conseiller Raymond:** As I understand it, the policy letter that I have seen is a statement of intent. It does not have a *Projet* at that stage.

2505 **The Speaker:** Thank you very much. That is an important issue, because if they came to the States with a policy letter attached with a Law, then of course that Law has to come to Sark for approval if it is a Bailiwick Law and Chief Pleas would have the opportunity to say no. Then Guernsey would have to make it a Guernsey Law and we would have to think about Ecclesiastical Court issues being done in the Seneschal's Court.

2510 **Conseiller Raymond:** Absolutely right, but it would be hugely inefficient for us to step outside the Bailiwick process. I am trying to keep us within it, on the basis that what is done is entirely fair to Sark and that we retain some control over the rates that are levied from Sark estate and, with the pandemic problems, one can envisage that Guernsey may actually want to increase the rates quite substantially to cover the deficits that are being incurred at the moment.

2515 **The Speaker:** Thank you. I was not trying to get involved in the debate but I just wanted to clarify the issue about what was happening when it went to the States. Right, I shall go down the list and ask if there are any comments. Conseiller Blythe?

Conseiller Blythe: No thank you, sir.

2520 **The Speaker:** La Trobe-Bateman?

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: No thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Nightingale?

2525 **Conseiller Nightingale:** No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Ventress?

Conseiller Ventress: No thank you, sir.

2530 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Paul Williams?

Conseiller Paul Williams: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Sandra Williams?

2535

Conseiller Sandra Williams: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Helen Plummer?

2540

Conseiller Plummer: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Philip Long?

Conseiller Long: No thank you, sir.

2545

The Speaker: Conseiller Guille?

Conseiller Guille: No thank you, sir.

2550

The Speaker: Conseiller Drillot?

Conseiller Drillot: Nothing to add, thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller de Carteret?

2555

Conseiller de Carteret: No thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Couldridge?

2560

Conseiller Couldridge: Yes please.

The Speaker: Conseiller Makepeace?

Conseiller Makepeace: No thank you, sir.

2565

The Speaker: Conseiller Couldridge.

Conseiller Couldridge: Yes, can you hear me?

2570

The Speaker: Yes.

Conseiller Couldridge: I just really want to follow on from Conseiller Raymond's comments. I had had quite a few discussions with Conseiller Raymond on this. Initially I have to say that I did not fully understand the topic, but I think I understand it more now. I would wonder if the topic is fully understood by all Conseillers, in which case, could it be spelt out in more layman's terms.

2575

I think we understand that the position could change from the Ecclesiastical Court to the Royal Court and I know Conseiller Raymond has been in, I do not whether to call it discussions with our Guernsey counterpart, but perhaps that can be construed as negotiations.

For one, if it were possible, I would like to tell them that we do not need it, thank you very much. Is it something that we could consider enacting in Guernsey, so that we would be totally

2580

in control of our own destiny? Also any fees for processing for Grants of Probate could be for the benefit of the Sark coffers.

2585 As a general thing, I think we all worry a little bit that Guernsey quite often says 'jump' and we find ourselves, sir, reluctantly having to say, 'how high?' That is my point. I know that Conseiller Raymond is well on the case but it would be great if, for once, we could say, 'Thanks but no thanks.' Perhaps top trump them by coming up with our own thing for our own people. That is all. Thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Raymond.

2590

Conseiller Raymond: Thank you, sir.

2595 I have taken all of the points on board. Fees for Sark – yes, there may be a benefit, but we have to work out what it is going to cost to actually administer this scheme. In Guernsey it is administered by qualified lawyers. So those who want the Probate, and it seems to be asset-holder driven, as opposed to ownership, it is not a total claim over all the assets of the estate. It is not the sort of scheme that most of us are used to if we come from the UK.

2600 It would have to be administered by lawyers for us. Therefore we would have to look at the cost of it. There is an existing system, which operates on a pretty low-cost basis and therefore there are advantages in belonging to that and I actually think that we should continue our discussions. The problem is finding somebody who actually wants to listen to what we are saying, because they are behaving like, what people used to call where I come from, a straight-necked hare. They have a goal and they are going for it and they are not going to look either side.

2605 Hopefully when this has come before the States, as and when it does, we can look at it again. The Law Officer is not the person who is driving this, it is the civil servant and I think she has just been moved. I hope for better things. I am not going to give in.

The Speaker: Thank you.

18. Draft Projet for Consideration – Changes to the Organ Donation Scheme – Policy & Finance Committee Report considered

To consider an Information Report from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled 'Draft Projet for Consideration – Changes to the Organ Donation Scheme'.

2610 **The Speaker:** In that case we will move onto the next Item, Agenda Item 18, to consider an Information Report from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled Draft Projet for Consideration – Changes to the Organ Donation Scheme and I would ask Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman to introduce the Report please.

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Thank you, sir.

2615 This has been floating around for a while. This went in a maildrop for everybody on Sark to give their feedback to, to recognise obviously it affects everybody. I think the Report is quite self-explanatory that this is now an opt-out scheme and I think it has got to be beneficial if more organ donations are given to the people that need it.

2620 I think it needs to be made clear that obviously there are set limitations on how an organ donation can be done. If somebody dies on Sark then it is not viable for them to have their organs donated due to the length of time for a hospital, so it will not affect many but it will just give us that option and so, if you do not want to donate organs, it is an opt-out instead of an opt-in, which is very sensible.

Thank you.

2625

The Speaker: Anybody wish to make comment on this Item? I will take that as a no, therefore I will not go through the Conseiller list.

**19. Committee Elections –
Agriculture, Environment & Sea Committee – Conseiller Long elected;
Development Control Committee – Conseiller Drillot elected;
Douzaine – Conseiller Sandra Williams elected;
Tourism – Conseiller Plummer elected;
Future Energy Special Committee – Conseiller Couldridge elected**

To elect Conseillers to Committees as required.

2630

The Speaker: We will move on to Agenda Item 19, Committee Elections, to elect Conseillers to Committees as required. On the Agenda, there are a number of Committees listed: Agriculture, Environment & Sea Fisheries, Development Control, Douzaine, Tourism and Future Energy. There may be more. I do not know. So I will ask Agriculture, Environment & Sea Fisheries if they have any nominations to make.

2635

Conseiller Plummer: Yes sir, I have two nominations to make: Conseiller Philip Long and Conseiller Simon Couldridge. This is to replace Mr Rodney Lalor.

The Speaker: And you are filling another vacancy?

2640

Conseiller Plummer: We are filling that vacancy. I have asked two Conseillers, is that not right? Have I just got to give one?

The Speaker: No, we need a contested election.

2645

Conseiller Makepeace: May I say, sir, I would like to nominate myself as well please.

The Speaker: Certainly.

Conseiller Makepeace: Thank you.

2650

The Speaker: For the Agriculture, Environment & Sea Fisheries Committee there are nominations of Conseillers Long, Couldridge and Makepeace

2655

Conseiller Plummer: Excuse me sir, may I just ask Conseiller Long if he is still willing to put his name forward? He was going to decide this morning.

The Speaker: Conseiller Long?

2660

Conseiller Long: Yes, I am willing to put my name forward. I am sorry I did not contact Conseiller Plummer before this.

Conseiller Plummer: That is quite alright.

Conseiller Long: Thank you.

2665 **The Speaker:** We have three nominations for the Agriculture Committee. Conseiller Long, Conseiller Couldridge and Conseiller Makepeace. Now when you vote this time, would you do it in that order of Long, Couldridge, Makepeace. It is much easier for us here to keep a record if you all give the names in the same order. So we will go –

2670 **Conseiller Guille:** Mr Speaker, are we only voting for one Conseiller?

The Speaker: You are voting for one Conseiller from the three.

Conseiller Guille: So we only say one name?

2675

The Speaker: You only say one, yes. That is true. Good, well spotted! The Greffier will now take the vote, we are looking for one person from Long, Couldridge or Makepeace. Greffier.

The Greffier: Alan Blythe?

2680

Conseiller Blythe: Conseiller Long for me, please.

The Greffier: Peter La Trobe-Bateman?

2685

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Conseiller Long, please.

The Greffier: Christopher Nightingale?

Conseiller Nightingale: Conseiller Long for me, please.

2690

The Greffier: Anthony Ventress?

Conseiller Ventress: Conseiller Long.

2695

The Greffier: Conseiller Paul Williams?

Conseiller Paul Williams: Conseiller Long.

The Greffier: Sandra Williams?

2700

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Conseiller Long.

The Greffier: Helen Plummer?

2705

Conseiller Plummer: Conseiller Long.

The Greffier: Philip Long?

Conseiller Long: Conseiller Long, please.

2710

The Greffier: John Guille?

Conseiller Guille: Conseiller Long.

2715

The Greffier: Christopher Drillot?

Conseiller Drillot: Conseiller Long.

The Greffier: William Raymond?

2720 **Conseiller Raymond:** Long.

The Greffier: Amanda de Carteret?

2725 **Conseiller de Carteret:** Conseiller Long.

The Greffier: Simon Couldridge?

Conseiller Couldridge: Conseiller Long.

2730 **The Greffier:** Frank Makepeace?

Conseiller Makepeace: Conseiller Makepeace.

2735 **The Speaker:** I therefore declare that Conseiller Long is elected to the Agriculture, Environment & Sea Fisheries Committee.

The next one I had on the list was Development Control. Development Control do you have any nominations?

Conseiller Blythe: Thank you, sir.

2740 Surprisingly enough we have three nominations for one vacancy. Those nominations I have just put down somewhere and lost them. Those nominations are Conseiller Couldridge ... sorry, beg your pardon. Can you come back to me on this one? Sorry, I have put a piece of paper down somewhere. Can you come back to me for that one?

2745 **The Speaker:** Do you want me to go onto the next Committee and then come back to you?

Conseiller Blythe: Yes please, sir.

The Speaker: Okay. The next is the Douzaine. Are there any nominations for the Douzaine?

2750

Conseiller Blythe: I have found my piece of paper now, sir. Would you like to go back to the DCC? Sorry to mess you around.

The Speaker: We will go back to the DCC.

2755

Conseiller Blythe: Thank you, sir. It was on the other side of the piece of paper I was writing on! For the nominations for the DCC we have three. Conseiller Makepeace, Conseiller Ventress and Conseiller Drillot.

2760 **The Speaker:** Thank you.

Conseiller Nightingale: Can I put myself forward, sir, as well please? Conseiller Nightingale.

The Speaker: Yes, taking a nomination from the floor. Now this is just for one vacancy?

2765

Conseiller Blythe: This is just for one vacancy sir, yes.

2770 **The Speaker:** We have four nominations for one vacancy and the nominations are Conseiller Makepeace, Conseiller Ventress, Conseiller Drillot and Conseiller Nightingale. Greffier. You just name one of the four.

The Greffier: Alan Blythe?

2775 **Conseiller Blythe:** Conseiller Drillot.

The Greffier: Peter La Trobe-Bateman?

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Conseiller Makepeace.

2780 **The Greffier:** Christopher Nightingale?

Conseiller Nightingale: Conseiller Nightingale.

2785 **The Greffier:** Anthony Ventress?

Conseiller Ventress: Ventress.

The Greffier: Paul Williams?

2790 **Conseiller Paul Williams:** Drillot.

The Greffier: Sandra Williams?

2795 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** Conseiller Drillot.

The Greffier: Helen Plummer?

Conseiller Plummer: Conseiller Drillot.

2800 **The Greffier:** Philip Long?

Conseiller Long: Conseiller Makepeace.

2805 **The Greffier:** John Guille?

Conseiller Guille: Conseiller Nightingale.

The Greffier: Christopher Drillot?

2810 **Conseiller Drillot:** Conseiller Drillot.

The Greffier: William Raymond?

2815 **Conseiller Raymond:** Drillot.

The Greffier: Amanda de Carteret?

Conseiller de Carteret: Conseiller Drillot.

2820 **The Greffier:** Simon Couldridge?

Conseiller Couldridge: Conseiller Ventress.

The Greffier: Frank Makepeace?

2825

Conseiller Makepeace: Conseiller Makepeace.

The Speaker: I declare that Conseiller Drillot is elected to the Development Control Committee and thank the others for standing. The next one on the list is the Douzaine. Douzaine, do you have any nominations?

2830

Conseiller Blythe: Yes sir, I do have one nomination and that nomination is Conseiller Sandra Williams.

2835

The Speaker: Are there any nominations from the floor? No. Is there anybody who was not going to vote for Conseiller Sandra Williams to go onto the Douzaine? In that case I declare that, as the only nomination for the Douzaine, Conseiller Sandra Williams is elected to the Douzaine. Thank you. The next Committee I have is Tourism and could I have nominations for tourism please?

2840

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Thank you, sir.

The Committee would like to nominate Conseiller Helen Plummer who served on the Committee for three years prior to us scaling down on the Committee and moving from five Members to four. So our nomination would be for Conseiller Helen Plummer, please.

2845

The Speaker: Thank you. Do I have any nominations from the floor?

Conseiller Makepeace: I would like to stand as well please sir.

2850

The Speaker: Who is that?

Conseiller Makepeace: Conseiller Makepeace and could I just say why, sir?

The Speaker: Yes certainly, you are coming from the floor.

2855

Conseiller Makepeace: Well at the moment I am dealing with the links or the port of entry status with the Guernsey Actuary Martin Dorey, and we are making quite good progress on that. Secondly, I think that I would be able to add quite a lot to tourism in that I maybe would be in a position to attract investors to the Island, which it so badly needs.

2860

Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Thank you. So, for tourism, we have two nominations: Conseiller Plummer and Conseiller Makepeace. The Greffier will call the voting and we will elect whoever is successful. Greffier.

2865

The Greffier: Alan Blythe?

Conseiller Blythe: Conseiller Plummer.

2870

The Greffier: Peter La Trobe-Bateman?

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Conseiller Plummer.

The Greffier: Christopher Nightingale?

2875

Conseiller Nightingale: Conseiller Plummer.

The Greffier: Anthony Ventress?

2880

Conseiller Ventress: Conseiller Plummer.

The Greffier: Paul Williams?

Conseiller Paul Williams: Conseiller Plummer.

2885

The Greffier: Sandra Williams?

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Conseiller Plummer.

2890

The Greffier: Helen Plummer?

Conseiller Plummer: Conseiller Plummer.

The Greffier: Philip Long?

2895

Conseiller Long: Conseiller Makepeace

The Greffier: John Guille?

2900

Conseiller Guille: Conseiller Plummer.

The Greffier: Christopher Drillot?

Conseiller Drillot: Conseiller Makepeace.

2905

The Greffier: William Raymond?

Conseiller Raymond: Plummer.

2910

The Greffier: Amanda de Carteret?

Conseiller de Carteret: Conseiller Plummer.

The Greffier: Simon Couldridge?

2915

Conseiller Couldridge: Conseiller Plummer.

The Greffier: Frank Makepeace?

2920

Conseiller Makepeace: Conseiller Makepeace.

The Speaker: That vote was 11 for Conseiller Plummer, three for Conseiller Makepeace. Therefore I declare that Conseiller Plummer is elected to the Tourism Committee.

Future Energy.

2925

Conseiller Guille: Yes sir, the Future Energy Committee would like to nominate Conseiller Couldridge please sir.

The Speaker: Do I have any other nominations from the floor?

2930

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes sir, I would like to stand. Conseiller Makepeace.

The Speaker: Thank you.

2935

Conseiller Makepeace: Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: We have got one vacancy?

Conseiller Guille: That is correct sir.

2940

The Speaker: So we have two nominations for one vacancy. Greffier.

The Greffier: Alan Blythe?

2945

Conseiller Blythe: Conseiller Couldridge.

The Greffier: Peter La Trobe-Bateman?

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Conseiller Couldridge.

2950

The Greffier: Christopher Nightingale?

Conseiller Nightingale: Conseiller Makepeace.

2955

The Greffier: Anthony Ventress?

Conseiller Ventress: Conseiller Makepeace.

The Greffier: Paul Williams?

2960

Conseiller Paul Williams: Conseiller Makepeace.

The Greffier: Sandra Williams?

2965

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Conseiller Couldridge.

The Greffier: Helen Plummer?

Conseiller Plummer: Conseiller Makepeace.

2970

The Greffier: Philip Long?

Conseiller Long: Conseiller Couldridge.

2975

The Greffier: John Guille?

Conseiller Guille: Conseiller Couldridge.

The Greffier: Christopher Drillot?

2980 **Conseiller Drillot:** Conseiller Makepeace.

The Greffier: William Raymond?

2985 **Conseiller Raymond:** Couldridge.

The Greffier: Amanda de Carteret?

Conseiller de Carteret: Conseiller Couldridge.

2990 **The Greffier:** Simon Couldridge?

Conseiller Couldridge: I had better vote for myself, Conseiller Couldridge.

The Greffier: Frank Makepeace.

2995

Conseiller Makepeace: Conseiller Makepeace.

3000 **The Speaker:** There were eight votes for Conseiller Couldridge and six for Conseiller Makepeace. Therefore I declare that Conseiller Couldridge is elected to the Future Energy Committee. Are there any other Committees with vacancies that need to be filled? We have done the Vulnerable Adult have we not, Conseiller de Carteret?

Conseiller de Carteret: Yes we have sir.

3005 **The Speaker:** We have done them; that is fine. If there are no more Committee elections, I thank all of you for standing. The workload does need to be shared around.

**20. Committee and Panel Elections –
Mrs S Boerenbeker and Rev. D Stolton elected non-Chief Pleas members of the
Protection of Vulnerable Adults Special Committee**

To elect non-Chief Pleas members to committees and panels as required.

3010 **The Speaker:** I now move onto Agenda Item 20, Committee and Panel Elections to elect non-Chief Pleas members to committees and panels, as necessary. The only indication I have had is from the Vulnerable Adults Special Committee, where they wish to elect two non-Chief Pleas members. Do you wish to proceed on that?

Conseiller de Carteret: Yes please.

3015 **The Speaker:** So would you like to make your nominations please?

Conseiller de Carteret: Okay, the nominations for the Vulnerable Adults Special Committee is Mrs Sharon Boerenbeker, the Island's safeguarding officer, and the Reverend David Stolton, as the Church representative.

Thank you.

3020

The Speaker: Okay, so we have two nominations. We have to elect the non-Chief Pleas members. They must be elected. So when the Greffier calls for the vote, if you wish to vote for one or two, then you call out one name or two names. Is that okay? You have got to declare that you are voting for both or one, or none, as the case may be. Greffier.

3025

The Greffier: Alan Blythe?

Conseiller Blythe: I am voting for both.

3030

The Greffier: Peter La Trobe-Bateman?

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: For both please.

3035

The Greffier: Christopher Nightingale?

Conseiller Nightingale: Both please.

The Greffier: Anthony Ventress?

3040

Conseiller Ventress: Both please.

The Greffier: Paul Williams?

3045

Conseiller Paul Williams: Ditto.

The Greffier: Sorry, can you say that?

Conseiller Paul Williams: Both please.

3050

The Greffier: Thank you. Sandra Williams?

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Both please.

3055

The Greffier: Helen Plummer?

Conseiller Plummer: Both please.

The Greffier: Philip Long?

3060

Conseiller Long: For both as well, please.

The Greffier: John Guille?

Conseiller Guille: Both.

3065

The Greffier: Christopher Drillot?

Conseiller Drillot: Both please.

3070

The Greffier: William Raymond?

Conseiller Raymond: Both please.

The Greffier: Amanda de Carteret?

3075 **Conseiller de Carteret:** Both please.

The Greffier: Simon Couldridge?

3080 **Conseiller Couldridge:** Both please.

The Greffier: Frank Makepeace?

Conseiller Makepeace: Sharon Boerenbeker only, please.

3085 **The Speaker:** Thank you. I declare that both non-Chief Pleas members, Mrs Sharon Boerenbeker and the Reverend David Stolton, are elected as non-Chief Pleas members to the Vulnerable Adult Special Committee.

Procedural

3090 That concludes the Business of the Day. I would just like to add one thing before I ask the Seigneur to make a closing address to this Meeting and that is to say that the voting system we have used today is a little bit cumbersome. There is a system on Teams called 'Chatbox', which Guernsey are using successfully to vote, so that they push a button and it either comes up as Pour or Contre and it takes about 30 seconds. We were unable to get it up and running for this Meeting, but if we have to hold another remote Meeting then we will do our very best endeavours to be able to speed up the voting system by the use of 'Chatbox'. Thank you for that.

Closing Address by the Seigneur

3095 **The Speaker:** I ask the Seigneur to make the closing address to this Meeting, please.

3100 **The Seigneur:** Before I make my statement, I would like to join His Excellency in thanking you all for an excellent Meeting, which seemed somehow more dynamic despite the technical limitations. By the end of the Meeting your voice procedure and use of the pressel had become quite slick. Well done to you all, not forgetting those working out of sight to make the meeting work so well.

3105 I would like to thank a number of people for their efforts in these challenging times. Firstly, to those that are taking part in the Pandemic Committee. It is important for those in positions of authority to do their duty and rise to the task. They have done so admirably, and I thank them on the Island's behalf for doing so. The special committee co-opted others have been of great value too. Together they have co-ordinated the island response with measure and fortitude. Well done to you all.

3110 Secondly, as the Speaker said at the opening of Chief Pleas, there are many who have been working behind the scenes to keep essential services going and to provide self-isolation accommodation. We are all impressed by the way normal business has been adjusted in such a short period of time and we are grateful for your efforts. Sark Shipping is a key player in keeping

the Island's logistics working and they continue to operate in challenging circumstances we are indebted for their service.

3115 Thirdly, I thank the whole population of Sark on Chief Pleas' behalf. It is all very well to have restrictions placed upon you, but they would count for nothing without your co-operation. It is greatly to your credit that you have agreed to do so, when for some this represents real hardship. Your willingness to abide by the emergency rules has made a real difference. Indeed, this has been a factor in the decision to allow some workers to return to their jobs. Your continued consent to abide by the rules for the greater good is vital to further relaxation of those measures.

3120 Fourthly, I thank those who have consistently donated to the food box scheme and the hardship fund. I would like to be able to say that it's enough, but Sark will need to prevail upon the generosity of those who can afford it, for some time to come. If you are in a position where you can help those less fortunate than yourself now is the time to be thinking what form that help should take.

3125 There is a risk of a second phase of the infection coming after the current restrictions have been lifted. We should therefore be prepared to see restrictions relaxed followed by a return to the position of some weeks ago. I think it is unlikely we will see a tourist season this year. As a community we should prepare for this and the consequences of sustaining ourselves until next Easter without the income tourists would have brought to our economy.

3130 Finally, borrowing Her Majesty's words:

We will succeed, and that success will belong to every one of us. We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return.

This is the essence of Sark, our forebears did it and we can do it now. Thank you.

3135 **The Speaker:** Thank you very much indeed Seigneur and thank you all for your perseverance. It has been quite a long Meeting, but I think it would have been a long Meeting were we meeting in person. I think it may even have been slightly longer.

I will now ask the Greffier to say the Grace.

PRAYER
The Greffier

Chief Pleas closed at 1.55 p.m.