



OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

RESUMED EXTRAORDINARY

MEETING OF CHIEF PLEAS

OF THE

ISLAND OF SARK

HANSARD

Assembly Room, Sark, Thursday, 27th August 2020

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

Volume 6, No. 10

Present:

Seigneur

Maj. C M Beaumont Esq.

Deputy Speaker of Chief Pleas

P M Armorgie Esq.

Deputy Prévôt

J Godwin

Greffier

T J Hamon

Treasurer

S Hudson

Constable

P Burgess

Vingtenier

D Gale

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

Natalie Craik

Nichola McHugh

Business transacted

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Isle of Sark Shipping Limited – Debate concluded –
Propositions 1 and 2 carried as amended; Propositions 3 to 5 withdrawn40
Chief Pleas closed at 8.01 p.m.42

Resumed Extraordinary Meeting of Chief Pleas Following on from the Extraordinary Chief Pleas held on 25th August 2020

Chief Pleas met at 7 p.m.

[THE DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

PRAYER

The Greffier

ROLL CALL

The Greffier

The Greffier: There are 16 Conseillers, the Seigneur and the Deputy Speaker present.

Procedural – Public Gallery

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Greffier.

5 Good evening, welcome to this reconvened meeting from Tuesday evening, so it is the same meeting albeit part two effectively, to deal essentially with Agenda Item 5 which was unfinished on Tuesday.

Just before we start the proceedings I would like to make an announcement, if I may. I would like to remind the members of the public in the Gallery that they are here to listen and to observe quietly and not to influence debates inside the Assembly chamber.

10 Each member of the public has had the opportunity to convey their personal views and opinions to each Conseiller prior to the meeting this evening. I will have no hesitation in asking the Constable to remove any member of the public who is being grossly disorderly i.e. disruptive, loud or intimidating, as detailed in Rule 11(5) of the Rules of Procedure.

15 Similarly, I will have no hesitation in adjourning the meeting if more than one person is creating a grave disorder, again being disruptive, loud or intimidating, as detailed in Rule 11(7) of the Rules of Procedure. I shall not be making any reference to that forthwith.

Thank you for your co-operation, it is really appreciated by ourselves and the Conseillers.

Procedural – Electronic devices

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

Business of the Day

5. Isle of Sark Shipping Limited – Policy and Finance and Shipping and Pilotage Report – Debate commenced

To consider a Report with Propositions from the Policy & Finance Shipping & Pilotage Committees entitled 'Isle of Sark Shipping Limited'.

Proposition 1 –

That Chief Pleas agree to remove such of the following directors of Isle of Sark Shipping Limited who have not already resigned from office.

Mr Mark Dunster; Mr Richard Graham; Mr Andrew Cook; Mr Peter Gill; Mr Yan Milner; and Mr Paul Burnard.

Proposition 2 –

That Chief Pleas agree to appoint of Ms Julie Mann, Conseiller John Guille and Mr Richard Wickins to the office of director (on an interim basis) to take effect immediately upon the cessation of office of the current directors in consequence of their resignation or removal from office .

Proposition 3 –

That Chief Pleas approves the Committee's proposal that the company be requested to bring forward the termination date of Mr Paul Burnard's employment as Finance Director (following his written notice) to 25 August 2020.

Proposition 4 –

That Chief Pleas approves the Committee's proposal that the company be requested to terminate the employment of Mr Yan Milner as Managing Director with effect from 25 August 2020.

Proposition 5 –

That Chief Pleas approves the Committee's proposal that the company be requested to enter into terms and conditions of employment for Ms Mann and Mr Guille as executive directors on terms to be agreed with each of them as soon as practicable.

The Deputy Speaker: So we are going to move forward to Agenda Item 5. What I would like to do is introduce an amendment to Item 5, Proposition 1, for tonight's meeting. You should have copies in front of you. This has been drawn up this afternoon and I would like to ask Conseiller Ventress to introduce the amendment.

25

Conseiller Ventress: Thank you, sir.

'That the Policy & Finance Committee instruct the board of directors of the Isle of Sark Shipping Company to instigate a review as described in line 5.3 in the Memorandum of Understanding that formally defines the relationship between Chief Pleas and the Isle of Sark Shipping Company. No further action to be taken until this review has been completed and accepted by Chief Pleas.'

30

It follows from after this afternoon's meeting with the board of Isle of Sark Shipping Company, I was even more convinced that I am right in opposing Proposition 1, but talking with members of the public present it was felt that whichever way the vote went it would lead to chaos and that a more neutral way should be found.

35 The Memorandum of Understanding was laid at the Michaelmas Chief Pleas in 2018, and I will quote a couple of pieces, at paragraph 3.4 the appointment of a liaison officer between the company and the Committee is mentioned:

[Finance & Resources Committee] will appoint a liaison officer who will act as the principal point of liaison between Chief Pleas, Finance & Resources Committee, Harbours & Shipping Committee and the Company on a day to day basis.

Further on one of the Conseillers said, 'I had similar points raised, I think, I am very disturbed about this liaison officer. It seems to me that it is another branch, another layer.' And 3.5
40 mentions:

...oversight responsibilities through the liaison officer...

Oversight is another step again.

Thank you, I recommend this proposal to Chief Pleas.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Ventress.

45 I am going to take any questions in order, so if we can have a show of hands from those people that would like to respond to Conseiller Ventress.

Conseiller Couldridge.

Conseiller Couldridge: Yes, thank you.

50 I was not present here the other night, as you will know, so sorry I am just picking up, this is the first time I have seen this.

I would suggest that this is a load of nonsense. I would suggest that it is not for the Policy & Finance Committee to instruct the board of directors and it would be inappropriate for the board of directors to in effect review themselves so on that point I would suggest that this does not go
55 ahead, it makes no sense to me.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

One second Conseiller Bateman, Conseiller Ventress, would you like to respond to that?

60

Conseiller Ventress: Not for the moment.

The Deputy Speaker: No, okay.

Conseiller Bateman.

65

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Thank you.

What we are proposing, Policy & Finance, might make Conseiller Ventress' proposal obsolete. After listening to the people of Sark and also listening to the board today, we would like to accept the request for an independent inquiry. So we would like to amend our Propositions and withdraw
70 Proposition 1, amend Proposition 2, withdraw Proposition 3, withdraw Proposition 4 and withdraw Proposition 5.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Very good, thank you, Conseiller Bateman.

75 Conseiller Ventress, do you have a response to that?

Conseiller Ventress: It seems to go the right way.

80 **The Deputy Speaker:** So do you want to stick with your amendment or are you happy to go with Policy & Finance?

Conseiller Ventress: I think it might be an idea to put this amendment to the meeting.

85 **The Deputy Speaker:** You would like to put this one to the meeting would you?

Conseiller Ventress: Yes, please.

The Deputy Speaker: Okay. Would anyone else like to make any comments regarding the Ventress amendment?

90 Conseiller Bateman.

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Would you like me to read out the Proposition 2 amendment to see if they want to carry on? Because if Proposition 1 carries, do all the other Propositions fall away, that is the question?

95

The Deputy Speaker: Okay, for the exercise of this let's do that. Conseiller Bateman, if you could read out the amended Proposition 2, please.

100 **Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman:** Okay. So obviously Proposition 1 is withdrawn, Proposition 2 is amended to say, 'that Chief Pleas agrees to appoint Mrs Julie Mann as office of non-executive director on an interim basis, to take immediate effect.'

Thank you.

105 **The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Bateman. Conseiller Ventress, do you want to still continue with your amendment?

Conseiller Ventress: I think so, yes.

110 **The Deputy Speaker:** You would, very good.

Conseiller McHugh: Can I just clarify because I am a bit confused about –

The Deputy Speaker: Okay, can you stand up, Conseiller McHugh, please.

115 **Conseiller McHugh:** I just want to clarify exactly what is happening because I am just getting confused about how it is all getting mixed up together. We appear to be wandering away from this one because you are going to change yours but I just want to make sure I truly understand what you are intending to do, which is –

120 **The Deputy Speaker:** Conseiller McHugh, can you remain standing and address the front please.

125 **Conseiller McHugh:** So you are going to withdraw the Proposition that says you are going to have everyone resign or terminate everyone. You are going to have Proposition 2 whereby Julie Mann is going to be appointed but not John Guille and not Richard Wickins? (**A Member:** Yes.) And then Proposition 3 you are going to say you still want Paul Burnard's termination brought forward? (*Interjection*) That is withdrawn. Yan Milner is withdrawn and Proposition 5 is withdrawn too. Oh, but you will still need terms and conditions of employment for Ms Mann presumably, so she is going to become an extra non-executive (*Interjection*)

130 **The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller McHugh.

Conseiller McHugh: I have not finished!

135 The review, I think, that Tony Ventress is referencing is something that is funded by IoSS and I do not think it is an internal review it is a three-way review. We were so rushed it was difficult to read the Memorandum of Understanding, we have not had time to look at everything, but I understood this review to be in some way independent, it was a trimestral review or something like that, it was not an internal review it was more substantial than that. And it was at the cost of IoSS, which is at our cost I understand, but it was at IoSS' cost so it was not an internal review.

140 **The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller McHugh.

Before I come to Conseiller Makepeace, could I ask Conseiller Ventress just to confirm the detail on that, please?

Conseiller Ventress: Sorry, on which bit?

145

The Deputy Speaker: On your Proposition.

Conseiller Ventress: Oh yes, it is that we have a Memorandum of Understanding that formally defines the relationship and that we would need to have somebody to relate between shipping and...

150

The Deputy Speaker: Very good, thank you, Conseiller Ventress.

Conseiller Makepeace, would you like to perhaps enlarge on that, please?

155 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Well I would just like to make a comment that I do not think that we should be engaging the services of Julie Mann. I find from when I have been talking to the directors she is deeply unpopular with the board and could be seen possibly as a disruptive element, and at this time I think we should just keep the board as it is without making any changes until a later date.

160 Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Would anyone else like to enter into this debate? Conseiller Raymond.

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

First of all, I am having slight problems with the concept that we are amending a Proposition that no longer exists because it has been withdrawn. Do you have a view on that?

The Deputy Speaker: My view on that is we have an amendment before us from Conseiller Ventress.

170

Conseiller Raymond: Absolutely, but we have withdrawn the Proposition that he is seeking to amend.

175 **The Deputy Speaker:** Okay, I think based on that, and forgive me on this because I am a bit of a novice here, I think possibly, Conseiller Ventress, I would like to propose that we go straight to the amendment from P&F. Are you comfortable with that?

Conseiller Makepeace, would you like to –

180 **Conseiller Makepeace:** I will second that, yes.

Conseiller McHugh: Can I ask for a named vote?

185 **The Deputy Speaker:** Yes, absolutely, so we are having a named vote on the new Propositions from P&F.

I beg your pardon, Conseiller Raymond?

190 **Conseiller Raymond:** I would just like to say, sir, that the reason that we would like Julie Mann to be a non-executive director is that we feel a need – in order to try to get over the communication problems that we have had over the last few months – to have a representative on the Board who is there at the decision making time. We feel that a liaison officer will be reporting after the event. We would rather know sooner because one has to remember that we are guaranteeing this company to the tune of £575,000.

195 **The Deputy Speaker:** Very good, thank you, Conseiller Raymond.
Next is Conseiller Guille.

200 **Conseiller Guille:** I was unable to attend today's IoSS public meeting as I was representing Sark at an online meeting of the Bailiwick Civil Contingency Authority. I have since had some of the contents of the meeting relayed to me and I wish to clarify to everyone here what is a clear and obvious case of our Committee and Island being misled.

Firstly, the two sets of crews employed now are the same ones the Sark Treasurer was paying for during lockdown when the company had run out of money. We did not ask them to be made redundant.

205 Secondly, and most importantly, the *Venture*: countless residents have approached us since the beginning of the year asking why she is still not back in service. As a Committee we asked IoSS time and time again to make this a priority.

210 During a stormy week like this one it surely does not have to be explained to anyone why she is so important. Sark's businesses have been very lucky to enjoy our Bailiwick bubble but it is clear from business owners, such as Chris Rang and Sally Hutchins, that there could have been more visitors as many have found our one passenger boat fully booked. On top of that, relying on the *Belle* is financially dangerous for the Island's businesses and indeed IoSS itself, should she break down.

215 We were repeatedly told that the reason for the *Venture* not being completed was that the MCA would not visit and would not accept the vessel to the UK. I refuse to have my name and professional reputation questioned by the IoSS board as I did not suggest the vessel be steamed to the UK without a stability book, that was the idea already being pursued by IoSS themselves. My preferred option was to have critical workers, MCA surveyors, come from the UK. We repeatedly asked how this blanket MCA ban could apply to Guernsey when it is COVID free and why a critical worker exemption could not be used. We repeatedly asked that the MCA were made completely aware of the importance of the *Venture* and the situation in Guernsey. We were shown the letter confirming the MCA's blanket ban on travel or accepting boats and Captain Gill told us in our meeting of 10th August that the MCA were being very difficult.

225 We could not really believe this, but did not want to interfere. However, on Tuesday lunchtime I telephoned the MCA myself to get some clarity before Chief Pleas. I spoke to senior manager Chris D'Alcorn, who has been dealing with Yan Milner, and explained the situation and Guernsey's COVID free status. Within a five-minute phone call he agreed that they could either accept the vessel to the UK or attend to Guernsey as critical workers. All they were waiting for was an email from IoSS confirming Guernsey's low COVID risk status. The MCA, he stated, were there to help with exactly these situations at this difficult time as instructed by the Government.

230 We as a community and economy reliant on our transport and freight link have been misled. If you cannot see this you are wilfully blind to what is happening. Yan Milner does not have the best

interests of Sark in mind and has done our residents, businesses and visitors a disservice by not getting the *Venture* back into service.

235

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille.
Conseiller Makepeace, and I will come to Conseiller McHugh and Conseiller Craik in a second.
Conseiller Makepeace.

240

Conseiller Makepeace: What I would like to suggest to Conseiller Guille is maybe ... because we are hearing two different sides of an argument today. Would Conseiller Guille and the Policy & Finance Committee be prepared to take part in a public meeting with the Isle of Sark Shipping directors? And let them air their differences and opinions in public so we can all get to the bottom ... because at the moment we are getting confusing messages from both sides.

245

Would you be prepared to meet the Isle of Sark Shipping directors in public or before the public?

250

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.
Conseiller Bateman, would you like to reply?

250

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: I will answer that.

We have met with the board of directors a lot. The problem with something like that is it is going to be tit for tat. (*Interjection by Conseiller Makepeace*) And that is the whole point of an independent inquiry. That would do that for us without arguing so it solves the problem, doesn't it?

255

Conseiller Makepeace: No, I do not think it does solve the problem actually because if you are face to face in front of the public we can actually listen to and see what you are actually saying without it going into a report. You have got conflicting opinions. Let's get you all together and we can see who is telling the truth easier.

260

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.
Conseiller McHugh, do you want to make a point?

265

Conseiller McHugh: Yes, just a quick point.

I appreciate what you are saying, I am not being wilfully blind to the potential problems with IoSS. When I listened to you the other night on Monday you convinced me. When I listened to Yan Milner today he convinced me.

270

It is the indecent haste with which you have tabled this that I find impossible to support. I was not able to read any of the information that I needed to read in order to understand things properly in the two day deferral, because of that I am going to support Tony Ventress' amendment, which is going to come first before yours and not support your Proposition. But that is the only reason why, because of the pressure that I feel that you have put me under to vote it through, without having been addressed to the facts.

275

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller McHugh.
Conseiller Bateman, would you like to come back on that?

280

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Yes, just a bit of clarity as well. If Conseiller Ventress is amending Proposition 1 then our Proposition 2 still stands, does it not? So we can vote on Conseiller Ventress' Proposition, fine, but we still vote on Proposition 2, which is ours, and then we have still withdrawn 3 and 4 and we support an independent inquiry, so I think we are all singing off the same page to be honest.

285 **The Deputy Speaker:** No, I am not sure of the clarity on that.
Conseiller Raymond, would you like to put some clarity on that?

Conseiller Raymond: I wish I could, sir! *(Laughter)*

290 If we are withdrawing Proposition 1 then what is there to amend? I cannot see that we have
anything left to amend so I think the concept of the independent inquiry or investigation,
whatever you like to call it, is willingly agreed to. We are not proposing Proposition 1, it is
withdrawn. Therefore surely there is nothing now to vote on apart from Proposition 2, we will go
around in circles if we go on.

295 **The Deputy Speaker:** I hear what you are saying, Conseiller Raymond.
Conseiller Ventress, would you like to come back on that?

Conseiller Ventress: I agree with the fact that they are withdrawing Proposition 1 but we still
need to instigate a review, as described in line 5.3 of the Memorandum of Understanding, and I
300 think that is the crucial bit, that we have the review.

The Deputy Speaker: Okay, thank you, Conseiller Ventress.
Conseiller Bateman.

305 **Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman:** And Policy & Finance have said in this Chamber in front of
everybody that we will do this review.

The Deputy Speaker: Okay. Anybody else?
Conseiller Craik, you had your hand up earlier. Thank you, your turn.

310 **Conseiller Craik:** Thank you, I have been patient.
Just a couple of things I would like clarity from P&F on, please. You have said that you are happy
for an independent review to take place, could you please substantiate how you would go about
doing this independent review and who you would think would go ahead and do it and how the
315 process would work?

And secondly I am a bit – confused would be the wrong word – I am not seeing the need for
Julie Mann if we have a full board of directors, and her role within the current board of directors.
If Julie Mann was to go in, would she then be reporting to P&F on the day to day running of IoSS?
What do you see her role being as part of the board of directors? Because I am a bit confused as
320 to, if we have a full board, why we need Julie Mann.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Craik.
Conseiller Bateman and Conseiller Raymond, would you like to come back on that?

325 **Conseiller Raymond:** Sir, the question of the type of review and everything like that will have
to be agreed with the directors, I have no preconceived ideas because it has only just really been
floated.

I did try to answer the question of why we want Julie Mann there in the first instance, because
we need somebody there at the decision-making time so that we know if there are decisions that
330 might affect our financial exposure we are told what they are and there has been a record of that
perhaps not happening. So it is a very soft, light touch but it does give us that feeling of comfort,
but as to the review it will have to be sorted out later.

The Deputy Speaker: Right, and just for clarity, the Proposition from P&F, Proposition 2, is that
335 Mrs Judy Baker should be a non-executive director – *(Interjections)*

Conseiller Raymond: No, you have got the wrong person.

The Deputy Speaker: Pardon?

340

Several Members: Julie Mann.

The Deputy Speaker: Sorry, Julie Mann be a non-executive director okay, thank you. Conseiller Sandra Williams, you had your hand up at one point.

345

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Yes, I just wanted to say really that P&F have withdrawn all of their Propositions and we can sit here for the next hour deciding on which Proposition should have which words in it and whether it is right or whether it is wrong. Basically P&F have withdrawn their Propositions. They are putting two Propositions to the table or one Proposition to the table. They have already offered to do exactly what it is that Conseiller Ventress and Makepeace are asking for so it would be interesting if we could just go to the vote please, sir.

350

The Deputy Speaker: I tend to agree in this situation.

Conseiller Ventress, in view of what P&F have now come back with since you submitted your amendment namely, just for clarity, to withdraw Proposition 1 completely, Proposition 2 is reworded, is amended to say, 'That Chief Pleas agree to appoint Mrs Julie Mann to the office of non-executive director on an interim basis to take effect immediately.' Proposition 3 is withdrawn, Proposition 4 is withdrawn and Proposition 5 is withdrawn.

355

Do you still wish to pursue your amendment?

360

Conseiller Ventress: The one sticking point here is the fact that their amendment does not instigate a review and I think a review is what we really need. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Okay. Conseiller Williams.

365

Conseiller Sandra Williams: In the opening statement we were all told by the Chairman of Finance & Resources that he was going to instigate a review. I do not understand what part of that you do not understand, sorry.

370

Conseiller Ventress: Is that actually in their –

The Deputy Speaker: I have to say, it is not actually in the Proposition –

375

Conseiller Ventress: No, well we need it in the Proposition. If it is in the Proposition then I would be happy to withdraw mine.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Ventress.

Right, I think this is probably where the confusion is coming. Could I perhaps suggest that we call a recess for 10 minutes, ask P&F to go away to look at their Proposition, give it some more clarity in order to cover the points that Conseiller Ventress has made, and clearly other people are supporting, and we will then move forwards based on that, can I suggest that?

380

So it is now twenty-eight minutes past seven, so if we can reconvene at say twenty to eight and that will give P&F a chance to go away and just consider precisely the wording on their Propositions. Thank you, so we will reconvene at twenty to eight.

*Chief Pleas adjourned at 7.28 p.m.
and resumed its sitting at 7.41 p.m.*

**Isle of Sark Shipping Limited –
Debate continued**

385 **The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you for your patience, one and all.

I have a revised Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee, and before I come to
Conseiller Ventress, I will just read this out for the purposes of the meeting, therefore this is
Agenda Item 5, withdrawing Proposition 1, Proposition 2 is reworded to read, is amended to say,
390 'That Chief Pleas agree to appoint Mrs Julie Mann as non-executive director of the Isle of Sark
Shipping Company Limited with immediate effect and instigate an independent review as soon as
possible and report back to Chief Pleas immediately upon receipt of the report.'

And then we go on to withdraw Proposition 3, to withdraw Proposition 4 and to withdraw
Proposition 5. So that is the amendment.

395 Could I come therefore to Conseiller Ventress and say on the basis of this Proposition how do
you want to proceed with your own amendment?

Conseiller Ventress: I think for the moment we can leave it. If the other Proposition goes
through then I will withdraw mine but should that fail then mine will come before Chief Pleas.

400 **The Deputy Speaker:** Okay. I mean, to use a Sark analogy, that is slightly putting the cart before
the horse so I think what we will do is we will suspend the Ventress amendment, for want of a
better description, we will vote on the new Proposition from Policy & Finance and see where that
takes us. I for one would like to call for a named vote, would anyone else therefore like to question
P&F with regard to this Proposition?

405 Conseiller Makepeace.

Conseiller Makepeace: I would just like to make a statement.

I believe the Policy & Finance Committee has brought this House into disrepute and with it the
entire Island, and this is at a time when we have enough problems to deal with. The arrogance
410 shown by some of its Members is quite astonishing. It is clear to everyone that the majority of the
P&F Committee are severely lacking the skill sets needed to operate at this level. They should
seriously consider resigning before they further damage the reputation of Sark, and indeed the
whole Bailiwick.

Thank you, sir.

415

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace, could you turn your microphone off
please, Conseiller Makepeace.

Conseiller Bateman, and then I will come to Conseiller Williams and then Conseiller Craik.

Conseiller Bateman.

420

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: If there is a vote of no confidence from this Chamber then of
course Policy and Finance will resign, I do believe you need seven Conseillers for that.

The Deputy Speaker: Conseiller Makepeace.

425

Conseiller Makepeace: If there is a vote of no confidence, correct me, would the Policy &
Finance Committee be voting on that as well or not? I am not sure how it works.

The Deputy Speaker: You and me both, Conseiller Makepeace. *(Laughter)*

430

Conseiller Makepeace: It would be a conflict of interest if they were allowed to vote,
wouldn't it?

435 **The Deputy Speaker:** And also it cannot be brought to this meeting, it would have to be brought at a future meeting, but the point has been well made.
Conseiller Sandra Williams.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: That was exactly the point I wanted to make, sir.
440 Whatever people's personal opinions are of the Finance & Resources Committee I think tonight is the wrong time to even debate whether we want to remove them or we do not want to remove them. People are entitled to their opinion, obviously some hold them stronger than others. But in order to keep some semblance of normality to the House, we do not find ourselves here very often, Finance & Resources have bought the Proposition to the table tonight and I think we should just vote on that.

445 Thank you very much.

A Member: Hear, hear.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Williams.
450 Conseiller Craik.

Conseiller Craik: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.
455 Could I just ask, because I am in favour of one half but not the other, are we able to split the Propositions to make it Proposition 1 and Proposition 2? Because I am in favour of one aspect of it but not on the other.
Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Okay, do you have a copy of the Proposition, Conseiller Craik? A hard
460 copy?

Conseiller Craik: Just the new one that you have read out.

The Deputy Speaker: The new one, yes.

465 **Conseiller Craik:** Just that they are proposing Julie Mann as a non-executive director to start with immediate effect and an independent review. Obviously I am in favour in one half but not on the other so if I say no then I am obviously saying no to the independent review, but I want that to happen. So I want to ask whether they can split to make in two halves instead of one Proposition.
470

The Deputy Speaker: Okay, I understand your question, thank you very much. Can I come to P&F to ask whether that is something that you would like to support?

475 **Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman:** I think it is just drawn as one Proposition and we will keep it as one Proposition please.

The Deputy Speaker: Has anyone else got anything to add to that?
Conseiller McHugh?

480 **Conseiller McHugh:** If Tony's amendment runs then we have no need to split and I see no reason why Tony's amendment should not be brought before the Chamber. His actually was out first in the running order so for them to suggest that they change theirs and therefore he cannot do his when his was supposed to be first ... Tony should just run his amendment and then we have got two.
485

The Deputy Speaker: Conseiller Ventress, please.

Conseiller McHugh: Conseiller Ventress, sorry, I was getting a bit excited!

490 Thank you very much, I think Conseiller Ventress should run his amendment and then we have got a split.

The Deputy Speaker: Okay, Conseiller Ventress, the ball is back in your court.

495 **Conseiller Ventress:** Time is getting on. Shall we put mine first and then go on with theirs? I think we have had enough.

The Deputy Speaker: Okay, thank you, Conseiller Ventress.
Conseiller Sandra Williams.

500 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** Sorry, I just want to ask Finance & Resources to reconsider and to split theirs into two Propositions because I believe that this amendment needs to come from the Finance & Resources Committee, not from the floor. And if it means that people do not want to vote for Mrs Julie Mann to be put in as a non-executive director they should be able to have that choice and it is very easy to amend. In my opinion, it would look better.

505 Those that want to vote for Julie Mann to be a non-executive director can and those that do not ... it is a named vote anyway so they can or they can't, it makes no difference, personally, on whether it is one Proposition or two.

510 **The Deputy Speaker:** Okay, thank you, Conseiller Williams.
Conseiller Raymond and Conseiller Bateman, do you want to come back on that?

Conseiller Raymond: We would have to redraft.

515 **The Deputy Speaker:** Okay, well I think we have got to get this right. It is very important that we get this right, clearly, for the sake of moving forwards and therefore – and it is going to prolong the agony – but I am going to call for another recess. Can we ask for another 10-minute recess?

Two Members: Five minutes.

520 **The Deputy Speaker:** Sorry, five minutes, and we will come back at five to eight.
Thank you very much indeed.

*Chief Pleas adjourned at 7.48 p.m.
and resumed its sitting at 7.54 p.m.*

**Isle of Sark Shipping Limited –
Debate concluded –
Propositions 1 and 2 carried as amended; Propositions 3 to 5 withdrawn**

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much indeed once again for your patience.

525 I would like to read out the amended Proposition that Policy & Finance have come back with before I give Conseiller Ventress the option to decide as to how you would like to proceed. So therefore from Policy & Finance I would like to propose the following amendments to Agenda Item 5.

Proposition 1 is amended to say:

That Policy & Finance Committee will instigate an independent review into Isle of Sark Shipping Company Limited as soon as possible and report back to Chief Pleas immediately upon receipt of the report.

Proposition 2 is amended to say:

That Chief Pleas agree to appoint Mrs Julie Mann as non-executive director of Isle of Sark Shipping Company Limited with immediate effect.

530 Proposition 3 is withdrawn, Proposition 4 is withdrawn and Proposition 5 is withdrawn.

So they are the amendments from the Policy & Finance Committee. Conseiller Ventress, could you give an indication of how you would like to proceed with your amendment?

535 **Conseiller Ventress:** I think that their amendment at Proposition 1 just about satisfies my position.

The Deputy Speaker: Okay, so can I ask therefore do you wish to withdraw your amendment?

540 **Conseiller Ventress:** Yes.

The Deputy Speaker: Okay, so just for clarity, the Ventress, Makepeace amendment is withdrawn.

545 Therefore we come back to the amended Propositions from the Policy & Finance Committee. I will read them one more time and ask if there is any debate on these amendments. So once again they wish to propose the following amendment to Agenda Item 5, Proposition 1 is amended to say:

That Policy & Finance Committee will instigate an independent review into Isle of Sark Shipping Company Limited as soon as possible and report back to Chief Pleas immediately upon receipt of the report.

Proposition 2 is amended to say:

That Chief Pleas agree to appoint Mrs Julie Mann as non-executive Director of Isle of Sark Shipping Company Limited with immediate effect.

Proposition 3 is withdrawn. Proposition 4 is withdrawn and Proposition 5 is withdrawn.

550 Does anyone have any comments they would like to make about those Propositions? Okay, one at a time, Conseiller Makepeace first, thank you.

555 **Conseiller Makepeace:** I would just like to question the ‘soon as possible’. Surely we should put some sort of physical date limit in there because ‘soon as possible’ could cover the next six months or so. I would just like to ask for a definite period.

The Deputy Speaker: That is a question for P&F. *(Interjection by Conseiller McHugh)*
Just one second, Conseiller McHugh.

560 **Conseiller McHugh:** It is the same question, it is the same thing, and an end date. I am asking whether it is necessary to put an end date on for the review so that it does not last 10 years. Should that need boxing off or not?

565 **The Deputy Speaker:** Okay so we have two questions there, Conseiller Makepeace and Conseiller McHugh. Just one second, Conseiller Williams.
Conseiller Bateman.

570 **Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman:** As I have never instructed anybody independently to do a review like this I have no idea how long it takes. So I do not know how long it will take. We can start tomorrow; we will start speaking with the board of directors and we will talk to them and come up with a proposed person, body or whoever to do this independent report agreed with the board and then start from there, but I do not know how long it takes.

The Deputy Speaker: Conseiller Sandra Williams.

575 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** I just wanted to say, sir, at the end of the day I am sure that the non-executive and executive directors of the company would like this done as soon as possible as well and I am sure they will not drag their heels, even if we are being accused of dragging ours.

580 **The Deputy Speaker:** Very good.
Has anyone else got any other questions for Policy & Finance or anything else to add to this debate? In which case we will go to a named vote on Proposition 1 and Proposition 2.
Just to repeat, if I may, Proposition 1 is amended to say:

That Policy & Finance Committee will instigate an independent review into Isle of Sark Shipping Company Limited as soon as possible and report back to Chief Pleas immediately upon receipt of the report.

There was a named vote.

Carried – Pour 16, 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 | | |
| Conseiller Natalie Craik | | |
| Conseiller Nichola McHugh | | |

585 **The Speaker:** Proposition 1 is **carried**: 16 votes Pour, and no Contre.
So we will come to Proposition 2, if we may. Proposition 2 reads as follows, it is amended to say:

That Chief Pleas agree to appoint Mrs Julie Mann as non-executive director of Isle of Sark Shipping Company Limited with immediate effect.

There was a named vote.

Carried – Pour 11, Contre 5, No Vote 0

POUR

Conseiller Alan Blythe
Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman
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

CONTRE

Conseiller Christopher Nightingale
Conseiller Anthony Ventress
Conseiller Frank Makepeace
Conseiller Natalie Craik
Conseiller Nichola McHugh

NO VOTE

None

The Speaker: So therefore Proposition 2 is **carried:** 11 Pour, and 5 Contre.

So both Propositions have been carried. Proposition 3 is withdraw. Proposition 4 is withdrawn and Proposition 5 is withdrawn.

590 That completes the business of the evening, thank you very much indeed. It now being exactly one minute past eight I will bring the meeting to a close.

Thank you, Greffier.

PRAYER

The Greffier

Chief Pleas closed at 8.01 p.m.