



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

HANSARD

Assembly Room, Sark, Wednesday, 14th April 2021

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

Volume 7, No. 3

Present:

Seigneur

Maj. C M Beaumont Esq.

Speaker of Chief Pleas

Lt. Col. R J Guille, MBE Esq.

Deputy Prévôt

J Godwin

Greffier

T J Hamon

Treasurer

S Hudson

Constable

P Burgess

Assistant Constable

J Lewis

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor

Vice Admiral Sir Ian Corder KBE, CB

Conseillers:

Helen Plummer
John Guille
Christopher Drillot
William Raymond
Simon Couldridge
Natalie Craik
Nichola McHugh

Edric Baker MBE
Frank Makepeace
Fern Turner
Paul Williams
Sandra Williams
Vaughan Bougourd
Kevin Delaney

Business transacted

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Easter Meeting of Chief Pleas

Chief Pleas met at 5 p.m.

[THE SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

PRAYER AND ROLL CALL

The Greffier

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

5 **The Speaker:** I would like to welcome His Excellency to this, our Easter Meeting; and I present apologies from Conseiller Le Lievre.

In Memoriam – HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

The Speaker: We are now going to have a tribute and silence for His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and I would invite the Seigneur to make a tribute, please.

10 **The Seigneur:** Thank you. We are deeply saddened by the death of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. I was privileged to meet him on three of the four occasions he visited us here. Much has been said about his character by others, so I will just echo the words of the Prince of Wales by saying he was a very special person.

15 For us, the most significant visit was the first. The Duke, whilst accompanying Princess Elizabeth, officially opened the Maseline Jetty in 1949, a project of huge significance to Sark and one from which we all benefit daily. We are privileged to have this personal association. Few will remember this occasion but I know one, sitting on my left, who was there waving his flag with huge enthusiasm.

20 On the subsequent visits in 1978, 1989 and 2001, the Duke accompanied Her Majesty. We witnessed first-hand his charm, wit and humour. He was always hugely enthusiastic about Sark, genuinely interested in meeting Islanders and was expert at putting everyone at ease. It was a delight to be part of his visits here, particularly being able to welcome His Royal Highness and Her Majesty into the Seigneurie. We will always cherish these memories.

25 The Duke spent almost his whole life dedicated to Her Majesty, the country, the Commonwealth and Overseas Territories and the Crown Dependencies. Since the death of His Royal Highness, I have been reflecting on how fortunate we have been to know him and to welcome him here. Our thoughts are with the Royal Family, who have lost their cherished mainstay. In particular, we offer our sincere condolences to Her Majesty the Queen, for whom we have the deepest affection and loyalty.

30 **The Speaker:** We will stand for a silence.

Members stood in silence.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Would any other Conseiller wish to make a tribute? No. Thank you. There will be, of course, a national one minute-silence at 3 p.m. on Saturday, 17th April, and the Fire Station siren will sound prior to and after the silence, to end the silence.

**Election of Vaughan Bougourd and Kevin Delaney –
Resignations of Amanda de Carteret and Philip Long –
Statements by the Speaker**

35 **The Speaker:** I have a couple of statements to make. I would like to welcome Conseillers Vaughan Bougourd and Kevin Delaney to this their first Meeting, both of whom stood in the by-election scheduled for 3rd March. In the event, they were elected unopposed as they were the only two candidates for three seats.

40 A by-election was the first opportunity for Conseiller Bougourd to stand as he only qualified to go on the electoral roll in December. For Conseiller Delaney, this was his second attempt, having stood for election in December 2008. He failed to gain one of the 28 seats available. I welcome you both to this Assembly.

45 Next on the resignations of Conseillers Mrs Amanda de Carteret and Mr Philip Long, as Conseillers of Chief Pleas. Mrs de Carteret resigned to me by letter of 2nd March. She was elected at a General Election in December 2018, receiving 143 votes. During her time as a Conseiller, she served on the Douzaine, Medical and Emergency Services, Education and Policy & Finance Committees and the Special Safeguarding Committee. Mandy was Chair of Education, Deputy Chair of Medical and was an important member of the Pandemic Committee. She had a very busy time on each of her Committees.

50 Mr Phil Long resigned to me by letter of 9th April. He was also elected in the 2018 General Election, polling 192 votes. During his time in Government, he served on the Agriculture, Environment & Sea Fisheries Committee, the Douzaine and the Shipping and Pilotage Committee. He also served on the Special Committees of Future Energy – of which he was Deputy Chairman – and Top Level Domain.

55 Both Conseillers cited the workload and the effect this was having on their personal lives, plus the effect of constant criticism and personal attacks on them received from many residents. On your behalf I would like to thank them both for serving in this parliament and for their service to Chief Pleas and the community and I wish them well for the future.

60 As a result of these two resignations there is a requirement to hold a by-election within six months of the first vacancy. I have asked the P&F Committee to consider holding the election on 25th August. This will be to fill three vacancies, because there is still one left over from the General Election in December last year. The Election Ordinance setting out the dates, etc. will come to the Midsummer Meeting for approval.

**Retirement of the Seneschal –
Statement by the Seigneur**

The Speaker: Seigneur, you wish to make a further statement?

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The Seigneur: Yes please. You already know that Jeremy La Trobe-Bateman has indicated he will retire as Seneschal in July this year. The Seneschal holds one of the most important and prestigious positions on the Island. The position is a cornerstone of our independence. The search for his replacement starts now. An Island-wide call for applicants to be our next Seneschal will be sent to every household in the next couple of weeks, along with a description of the

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responsibilities, the personal attributes necessary to fulfil the role and the process of making an application.

75 It is my duty to create an Appointments Panel to select our new Seneschal. With this in mind, I have already confirmed with the Bailiff of Guernsey that he is willing to be part of the Panel and I will be seeking another resident to complete the Panel. The closing date for applications will be Friday, 18th June. Interviews will be held on-Island in late June or early July, depending on the candidates' and Panel members' availability. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Statement by the Chairman of the Douzaine – Update

80 **The Speaker:** We now have a statement by the Chairman of the Douzaine. Conseiller Drillot, please.

Conseiller Drillot: Thank you Speaker. This is just an update from the Douzaine. We have not had one for a while so I just thought we would catch up. I will just read a brief update. With Covid hitting us twice, the Committee has been busy keeping the rubbish and other services going over the past 18 months. Since the last update, the Committee has changed and we would like to thank Chris Nightingale for his years and experience on the Douzaine and also Alan Blythe for his time and years as Chairman. We wish them well. Recently we would like to thank Phil Long for his short but productive time on the Douzaine.

90 Following the General Election, the Douzaine had four vacancies and was glad to see Frank Makepeace and Paul Williams come back into the Committee, as well as two new faces. Tony Le Lievre has re-joined for what will be his second spell and Fern Turner for her first spell on the Committee.

95 We have been working hard getting the public toilets open and ready for the start of the season. We have also put in place a contract for road repairs, with Kevin Adams, who has been working within a budget set by the Douzaine and instructed to do as much of the repairs as time will allow.

100 The skimming of the gutters has changed from the old way to a more productive, cost-efficient way of using a digger, instead of by hand. In January 2020, we were handed from the trustees responsibility of the Island-owned properties. These buildings were not in a good state, having been poorly maintained with sufficient outstanding repairs needing to be done.

105 As much work as possible has been done with the small budget that was left to us. However, in this year's Budget, it has been intended to provide new boilers for three of the houses, new oil tanks for two of the buildings and new bathrooms in two of the buildings, which a lot of that work is being done this week.

The Douzaine is also working with the tenants to catch up with all the work that is still outstanding. We have implemented a maintenance contract, which was set up by the trustees but has now been put into place and has started with Island Builders. So, once the work has caught up they will be maintaining it on a regular basis.

110 Recycling is still a work in progress and hopefully we will have this running this year. The Douzaine will update Chief Pleas and the residents of Sark as this project progresses.

115 Tractors are always a hot topic, with residents and visitors alike. A small working group within the Committee has been assigned this task of looking at the various laws, vehicle sizes and types. It is hoped that this group will have suggestions that the Douzaine will be able to bring to Chief Pleas for a wider discussion.

120 In the last year, there has been a change within the Island workforce, with the addition of Jason Brehaut joining Richard Knight on the team. The Harbour Café has been handed back to us by Minnie and we would like to thank her for her time running the business. The café building is in a bad structural way. Work has started to get this structurally sound and then, once that is done, we will move on, looking for a new tenant, possibly this year.

Steph Guille has replaced Estelle Day as the Procureur. The Douzaine would wish to thank Estelle for all her hard work. Sam Hodge has come to join staff and they are working hard with their regular duties, along with the added tasks the Covid situation has brought. Thank you.

125 **The Speaker:** Do any Conseillers have any questions they would wish to put to Conseiller Drillot? No. Then we will move on.

Procedural – Electronic equipment

130 **The Speaker:** In accordance with 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. (*A device sounds.*) Tinkle, tinkle – that was an opportune moment!

Business of the Day

1. Matters arising from the Extraordinary (Emergency) Meeting held on 27th December 2020

The Speaker: Right we now move onto Agenda Item 1, matters arising from the Extraordinary (Emergency) Meeting, held on 27th December 2020. Are there any questions or comments from that Hansard? Yes, Conseiller McHugh.

135 **Conseiller McHugh:** I would just ask P&F, after Brexit, we had designated ports in France that we could land our fish at. Dielette would have been our preferred option. The designated ports did not include Dielette and you told us you were going to look into getting Dielette as a designated port, so I am just wondering if there is any progress been made on designating Dielette as a designated port?

140 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Guille.

145 **Conseiller Guille:** Thank you, Conseiller McHugh. Dielette being a designated port was one of the things that needed to be resolved, working together as the Bailiwick. The first hurdle was to adopt a new licensing regime with the EU, which is primarily French boats operating in our waters. The guys in Guernsey have been working very hard on this and it required our French cousins to send a list of vessels currently operating. We had hoped to get this in place before the Easter season, but the French sent the list through in the last couple of days, which did not allow enough time for the Law to be enacted.

150 So they have asked for an extension to the current period and it requires this licensing law to be sorted out first before we can move on to get Dielette adopted as a designated port of entry.

155 In the meantime, the Sark fishermen have already done their first successful landing to the Port of Carteret, which despite the immense amount of paperwork which I had to help one of them with, it went very successfully and they will be going back there again in a few weeks' time. But, yes, ultimately the plan is to save them an extra couple of hours' voyage and have Dielette designated instead.

The Speaker: Thank you. Anything else? No.

**2. Matters Arising from the Extraordinary (Special) Meeting
held on 15th January 2021 –
None**

160 **The Speaker:** Then we move to Agenda Item 2, matters arising from the Extraordinary (Special) Meeting of Chief Pleas, held on Friday, 15th January. Are there any comments or questions? No.

**3. Matters Arising from the Christmas Meeting
held on 20th January 2021**

The Speaker: We will move to Agenda Item 3, matters from the Christmas Meeting of Chief Pleas, held on Wednesday, 20th January. Any questions or comments on that? Yes, Conseiller Baker?

165 **Conseiller Baker MBE:** Thank you sir. Item 5 on the minutes, I would personally like to thank Conseiller Raymond for all his hard work on this particular subject. I know it has been a struggle and it has not been without a lot of criticism but I think he has done a wonderful job on that. Thank you.

170 **The Speaker:** That was the Real Property (Transfer) Tax Charge and Related Provisions (Sark) Law 2007 Commencement Ordinance of 2020.

Conseiller Baker MBE: That is right, sir. Thank you.

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

**4. Questions Not Related to the Business of the Day –
None**

The Speaker: We move on to Agenda Item 4, questions not related to the Business of the Day and there are none.

**5. To Elect a Deputy Chairman of the
Policy & Finance Committee –
Conseiller Craik elected**

180 **The Speaker:** Agenda Item 5 is to elect the Deputy Chairman of the Policy & Finance Committee. The election requires nominations from Conseillers, of Conseillers to stand. In the event the returning officer, the Greffier, only received one nomination and that nomination was for Conseiller Natalie Craik and therefore Conseiller Craik, as you are the only nominee for that you are duly elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Policy & Finance Committee.
Congratulations.

**Motion under Rule 10 –
Addendum Item 20 to be taken as next business –
Motion carried**

185 **The Speaker:** In accordance with Rule 10, as I have already emailed Conseillers about, I propose that the Addendum Item of Report 20 be taken at this point. This only requires a simple majority of Conseillers to effect the change. Those in favour of taking Item 20 next; those against. **Carried.**

**20. Police Support for Sark –
The Police Force (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Law, 2021 –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled 'Police Support for Sark' and to Approve the Projet de Loi entitled 'The Police Force (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Law, 2021.'

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves the Projet de Loi for The Police Force (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Law, 2021.

190 **The Speaker:** Therefore we move to Agenda Item 20. To consider a Report from the Policy & Finance Committee, with Proposition, entitled 'Police Support for Sark' and I would ask Conseiller Guille to introduce the Report, please.

195 **Conseiller Guille:** Thank you sir. This is a very simple and straightforward Proposition. A gap has been spotted in Guernsey and therefore, subsequently in Sark and Alderney, primarily it was spotted with reference to Royal visits, but it will allow officers from other jurisdictions to be given permission to conduct their duties on Sark. I do not think anything more needs to be said about this.

The Speaker: Are there any comments and debate on this Report? Conseiller Baker.

200 **Conseiller Baker MBE:** It might be that this might have happened in my absence but I wondered why this has come to P&F, when the Constables and Police were a Douzaine matter previously?

205 **The Speaker:** I have no idea but it has come to Chief Pleas through P&F and therefore it is on the books. I think you take it up with the PDG, or with the Douzaine.

Any other comments? No, in that case we will go to the vote on the Proposition that Chief Pleas approves the *Projet de Loi* for the Police Force (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Law, 2021. Those in favour; those against? **Carried.**

**6. The Child Protection (Sark) Ordinance 2021 –
Education Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Education Committee entitled “The Child Protection (Sark) Ordinance, 2021” and to approve the Ordinance entitled “The Child Protection (Sark) Ordinance, 2021”.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves the Ordinance entitled The Child Protection (Sark) Ordinance, 2021.

210 **The Speaker:** We move to Agenda Item 6, back on the main Agenda, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Education Committee entitled ‘The Child Protection (Sark) Ordinance, 2021’ and to approve the Ordinance entitled ‘The Child Protection (Sark) Ordinance 2021’. And I would ask Conseiller Sandra Williams to introduce the Report please.

215 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** Thank you very much. I have not really got very much to add to this Law. It seems like it has been going on forever. Actually, I think we only started it in 2020/back end of 2019. We were disappointed at our last lawyer/advocate meeting that we had on Teams to find that one of the parts of this, the secure accommodation part of the Law, needed quite a lot of changing since updates had been made in Guernsey.

220 But we felt it important to bring what we have to Chief Pleas now to finalise it and get the Ordinance through and then we would hope to come back to Chief Pleas before the end of this year to enact part four of this Law, which is the Secure Accommodation part. So I would just like you all to vote on this very important piece of legislation please.

225 **The Speaker:** Any questions or debate from the floor? Conseiller McHugh.

230 **Conseiller McHugh:** Hello Conseiller Williams. My only question is, and it is really with regard to the secure accommodation, because the powers in the MASH team are quite far-reaching and the MASH stands for Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub. I am just wondering what comprises the MASH team or the MASH teams or the agencies, in Sark. Who is MASH in Sark?

The Speaker: Conseiller Williams.

235 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** There are quite a few people in Sark that are on the MASH team. We have our vicar, our school teacher, we have – help me out sir, if you feel the need – my sister, who is the safeguarding officer, the doctor, there are six or seven people depending on their role on the Island that are involved in the MASH multi ... Paul Armorgie. I think the Procureur ...

240 **The Speaker:** It was a question to which the Chairman did not have the answers at her fingertips but there are a number of important posts within the Island who are designated as part of the MASH. Is there anything on the website about it yet? That is another difficult question for you!

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Well, I know the safeguarder who is on the website as a contact, but I do not know that every MASH member is included in that.

245 **The Speaker:** Thank you. Yes, Conseiller McHugh?

Conseiller McHugh: It was not necessarily that I needed a list, a run-down of all the names. I had confusion because it is meant to be a single-point entry for a multi-agency and because we have not really got multi-agencies, we have not got lots of different agencies to spread out a significant amount of power, I was just wondering how we were countering that, how we were mirroring the MASH team in Guernsey because we have not got the same sort of structure here to allow single point access to multiple agencies. We have just got one, really, I should imagine. That was really what I was just wondering who they were. What comprised the multiple agencies? That was all. I am sorry if I caught you on the hop.

255 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Williams.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: I have not really got anything else. I know we followed very carefully with the information that we were given when we first set up the Safeguarding Agency. A lot of work was done with the Medical Committee, with Guernsey Safeguarding, and I think we have just followed their lead, really. We have got different people from different walks of life within our Committee that we have now.

The Speaker: The Ordinance is – and I can say this quite candidly – the Ordinance has been tailored very much to the Sark situation, based upon the Guernsey MASH system, but adapted for the smallness of Sark and the very few agencies that we have. So the Ordinance has been very much tailored by the Committee in conjunction with Guernsey to reflect what Sark needs, not just imposing a set of instructions and regulations and laws on us, which would be unworkable. Conseiller Williams?

270 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** If I could just come back and say that is the very point, the very reason that we realised very quickly, when we were sitting down with the drafting people in Guernsey, that part four just did not work for Sark, so we need to have it remodelled and worked into our situation.

275 **The Speaker:** Anybody else? No. In that case we will go to the Proposition in the Report that Chief Pleas approves the Ordinance entitled ‘The Child Protection (Sark) Ordinance, 2021’. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**7. Amendment to Reform (Sark) Law –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered–
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled “Amendment to Reform Law”.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas authorises the Policy & Finance Committee to instruct the Law Officers to draft legislation to enable the amendment to the Reform (Sark) Law in accordance with this report.

280 **The Speaker:** Agenda Item 7, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee, entitled 'Amendment to Reform Law'. I would ask Conseiller Guille to introduce the Report, please.

285 **Conseiller Guille:** Thank you, sir. You have all read the Report before you, to give you some background to this. This Proposition is to authorise the Policy and Finance Committee to instruct the Law Officers to draft legislation to amend the Reform Law, which will then in turn be brought back to Chief Pleas to be voted upon.

290 The need for amendments has come about through all of our recent experience of operating through the current pandemic emergency. Once we entered lockdown, it was the responsibility of the Civil Contingencies Authority to give Chief Pleas certain powers, such as meeting remotely. Experience has shown that this is a long-winded mechanism and we would save a lot of time for ourselves, the CCA and the Law Officers by bringing these simple duties in-house to Sark. There would still be the same checks on appropriateness and proportionality from HM Procureur, in the same way that the CCA are checked in those respects.

295 So, as I said, this is just about asking the Law Officers to draft legislation for us and it would be open to further debate further down the line. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you. Any comment or debate, please? Conseiller McHugh.

300 **Conseiller McHugh:** I thank Conseiller Guille. I understand that most of this Report is about powers that should be exercised or are to be exercised under an emergency situation, as directed by the CCA in Guernsey. But in this Report the second paragraph from the bottom, the new directive to allow proxy voting is an option which is detailed as being available under 'specific circumstances' as 'prescribed by the Speaker'.

305 Are these specific circumstances only to be found during times of emergency, as determined by the CCA, or is this new directive more general and therefore further reaching? Is voting by proxy to be a tool that can only be used during times of emergency or is this directive separate and more general?

310 **Conseiller Guille:** Thank you, Conseiller McHugh. It is an interesting question. Proxy voting has been due to the nature of living on an island and sometimes people getting stuck away, or not being able to attend, has long been talked about. It is the intention to make proxy voting not just available in a pandemic but obviously it is dangerous as well to make proxy voting too available to a democracy. So, it is something that is going to be looked into in the drafting and there will be plenty of opportunity for consultation through PDG and other channels for Conseillers to carefully consider the subject of proxy voting, going forward.

The Speaker: Conseiller McHugh.

320 **Conseiller McHugh:** Okay. Voting rights are fundamental to democracy and they cannot be at a whim of one man or one woman. If you are going to set in stone that people have got proxy voting rights, this should be for the House to determine, not the Speaker. Whilst the Speaker can certainly advise, there surely needs to be an objective framework. There is no need for this to be subjective. It is too important.

325 Voting rights need to be statutory and objective, otherwise what is the point of the House? I ask that this Report be amended before the proposal is passed and before any instruction is sent to Law Officers. Anything else will further undermine our democratic autonomy.

The Speaker: Conseiller Guille.

330 **Conseiller Guille:** Those are very good points raised there by Conseiller McHugh. I do not think
this Report, which is a request to begin drafting legislation, needs to be amended but certainly
those points need to be borne in mind when we have further discussions going forward and we
work through the various drafts of the legislation before it is brought back to Chief Pleas to be
voted on finally.

335 **The Speaker:** I would just comment that this is not a power grab by the Speaker of Chief Pleas.
The President of Alderney has those powers in Law already, but only in an emergency, and so does
the Presiding Officer of the States of Guernsey, the Bailiff. So the three speakers are having exactly
the same powers given to them in their legislation.

340 This is not a power grab by the Speaker and in truth I am uncomfortable with proxy voting and
the Committee knows this because I have made those views clear to them. In Sark that would be
very difficult to achieve because our Meetings are not broadcast. In Guernsey and Alderney their
Meetings are broadcast and Conseillers can be sat at home listening to the debate and therefore
making a considered judgement on proxy voting. But that is an area which needs to be explored
345 by the Committee in developing the Laws with the Law Officers and also you, the Conseillers,
when any draft Laws come back to Chief Pleas for approval.

Anybody else wish to raise anything? Conseiller McHugh.

Conseiller McHugh: With all due respect, Mr Speaker, I see no reason for the allowance or
350 disallowance of proxy voting to be under specific circumstances, as prescribed by yourself. I see
no reason why we should allow or disallow proxy voting and create a framework, which
categorically states when it is and when it is not allowed, not so that you can decide on a whim
whether or not that proxy vote will take place. That is how it will be perceived and it is just
unnecessary in my opinion.

355 **The Speaker:** Thank you. Anybody else? Yes, Conseiller Plummer.

Conseiller Plummer: I just think this is a very important piece of legislation and I think they are
exploring it, Policy & Finance are exploring it, and I think that when they come back with this some
360 of the details that Conseiller McHugh has made will be highlighted, I am sure. Thank you.

The Speaker: Nobody else? Right, then we will move to the Proposition, that Chief Pleas
authorises the Policy & Finance Committee to instruct the Law Officers to draft legislation to
enable the amendment to the Reform (Sark) Law in accordance with this Report. Those in favour;
365 those against. **Carried.**

**8. Changes to the Start Time of Chief Pleas Meetings –
Policy and 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 Extraordinary Chief Pleas meetings from 7 p.m.
to 5 p.m.*

The Speaker: We move to Agenda Item 8, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee, entitled 'Changes to the Start Times of Chief Pleas Meetings'. I would ask Conseiller Guille to introduce the Report.

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Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir. This is a very simple Proposition. Just like today's Meeting commenced at 5 p.m., we are proposing that Extraordinary Meetings should also commence at 5 p.m. I think the previous time, or the current time, of 7 p.m. was set to be more favourable to working Members of Chief Pleas. Certainly, amongst the current cohorts of Conseillers, 5 p.m. and an earlier finish at the end of an Extraordinary Meeting is the preferred option, so it is as simple as that.

375

The Speaker: Any comments or debate? No. In that case we will go to the Proposition that Chief Pleas agrees to change the times of Extraordinary Chief Pleas Meetings from 7 p.m. to 5 p.m. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

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**9. Isle of Shark Shipping Company Independent Review –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Propositions carried as amended**

To consider a Report with Propositions from the Policy & Finance Company entitled "IOSS Independent Review".

Proposition 1:

That Chief Pleas approve that Policy and Finance appoint Andrew Ozanne to act as facilitator to enable a meeting between IoSS and Policy & Finance.

Proposition 2:

That Chief Pleas approve a review of the Memorandum of Understanding and Service Level Agreement between Chief Pleas and Isle of Sark Shipping Company by the Policy & Finance Committee.

The Speaker: Agenda Item 9. To consider a Report with Propositions from the Policy & Finance Committee, entitled 'IoSS Independent Review'. I would ask Conseiller Guille to introduce the Report please.

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Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir. You have all seen the Report laid before you and I think most of the Conseillers attended the briefing by Andrew Ozanne and the public briefing, as well, when he came here a few months ago. We are very grateful to Andrew Ozanne for his thorough reports and we are very grateful as well for his offer to act as a facilitator to some proposed meetings in Proposition 1, between Isle of Sark Shipping and Policy & Finance so we can work to further strengthen the relationship and the terms between Sark as shareholders and the board who run the company.

390

In Proposition 2, I would just like to confirm that a review of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Service-Level Agreement, which should probably come naturally with Proposition 1, those reviews will be conducted through working with the Law Officers, so again that will be at no cost to the Island. Well, above our normal service fee with the Law Officers. That is it basically.

395

The Speaker: Thank you. Any comments or debate? Conseiller Delaney. *(Technical difficulty)*
A technical hitch!

400

And while we are waiting, this of course is Conseiller Delaney's maiden speech.

Conseiller Delaney: It certainly is, although Mr Speaker I should perhaps correct you on that and I do not wish to split hairs –

405

The Speaker: As a Conseiller.

Conseiller Delaney: As a Conseiller, you are quite right. Because as you will be only too aware this is my return to Chief Pleas. I did serve in Chief Pleas between, I believe, July/August 2007 and December 2008 when, of course, we moved from the old system to the system we have today. As I can say, just to observe, there is a lot of talk comes in about the resilience of Chief Pleas, how far are we from having credible presence as a democracy on the world stage?

Mr Speaker, I want to point out to you, if I may, back in prior to December 2008, there were 52 Members of Chief Pleas and I am obliged to Conseiller Baker earlier, because I could not remember how many Deputies of the People there were at the time. But of those 52 Members of this House, Mr Speaker, 40 of them could buy their seat in this House. They could write a cheque, buy a tenement and have a place in this House. They could make Laws, they could shape and control the lives of the people in this Island.

Today we have, I believe, 15 of us in here today. We are far from perfect. Many of us do not actually hold a mandate from the people to govern, but govern we do. What I will say to you, Mr Speaker, nobody can buy a seat in this House today and I think that is a huge movement and a result of the Reform Law of 2008.

And I would say to the Ministry of Justice and other people who look into us and say what are we doing right and what are we doing wrong, there were only 12 elected Members prior to December 2008, today there are 15 of us. We have potential to have 18 of us. Importantly, any one of us today, whether we have been voted for at the ballot box or whether we are here because we put our names forward and insufficient candidates came forward for an election, we are not here because we are rich enough to be here.

The richest man or woman on this Island, the poorest man or woman on this Island can stand for Chief Pleas and find themselves in this House and I think that is a remarkable achievement and I think it is something we should be very proud of.

It also spans, of course, the most qualified, academic Islander, and people like myself, who left school at a young age without so much as an O-level. This House is ready and willing to accept people on the basis of nothing more than their desire to come to this House and I wish it to be on record that that is where we find ourselves today when I return to this House. I think it is a far better place than the House I joined in August of 2007. I am obliged to you Mr Speaker for letting me go off with such explaining – considerably!

Mr Speaker, I was at the public meeting, as Conseiller Guille rightly acknowledges. An awful lot of us were there. It was not the nicest afternoon out I have had on Sark, I have to say. I think Mr Ozanne made a great job of presenting his Report. But I think it was clear to most people in the room that a lot tension still remained between the Policy & Finance Committee and the Isle of Sark's board or directors.

It was uncomfortable and it was on the verge of overspinning, quite frankly, to a previous Conseiller and I hope she does not mind me mentioning, but Janet Guy, did intervene and say, 'Gentlemen, this is not the place. We are moving away from what everybody has turned out to discover today and we are moving into personalities.'

I am not so sure that the position has moved on much further since then, which brings me to my point. Within Mr Ozanne's recommendations, I see that a facilitator should be appointed, a round-table open meeting, with three from Chief Pleas and three from IoSS, a structured agenda, application of principles and critical analysis and decision-making and communications. These are his recommendations.

When we come to Proposition 1, we find that it reads:

That Chief Pleas approve that Policy and Finance appoint Andrew Ozanne to act as facilitator to enable a meeting between IoSS and Policy & Finance.

455 Now that strikes me as slightly different from what we read in the paragraph above, where Andrew Ozanne calls for three Members of Chief Pleas to be join in these negotiations. The reason I bring this to the attention of Conseiller Guille, I believe we are a team. We are together, here, I believe this House is far more pluralistic than it has ever been since my time on the Island and what at team does, it plays to its strengths and its weaknesses and I believe that Mr Ozanne's actual recommendations gives facility or gives the breadth to Policy & Finance to look within this team within this House and choose three people they feel would best go in and represent this
460 House and the people of Sark when this review and these negotiations, etc. are taking place.

So I ask whether he would consider or his Committee would consider changing Proposition 1 to read Andrew Ozanne to act as a facilitator to enable a Meeting between 'IoSS ... and three Members of Chief Pleas'. The reason I ask for that, Mr Speaker is that I come to this House to try to be as constructive as I possibly can and I think that the Isle of Sark Shipping Company that we are dealing with has a very strong board, has a very strong, very talented and experienced board
465 and we, within the House, as I say, we have people who strengths and weaknesses.

The Company is a customer-facing, visible economy business and I would suggest that I perhaps as much experience as anybody in this House – I stand to be corrected – as a director of public-facing, visible economy businesses and I believe should the situation arise and that Proposition be
470 changed, then I would like it to be on record that I would be very happy to go and represent this House in those negotiations. Thank you Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Delaney. I think that is a point well made in that it says Policy & Finance in the Proposition, Conseiller Guille. Of course the Shipping Committee also has
475 involvement, both in the Memorandum of Understanding and in the Service Level Agreement and therefore it may well not have been your intention just to have Policy & Finance but a wider one.

If you were to take up the suggestion of Conseiller Delaney that it should be from Chief Pleas, you would have to think, as Policy & Finance, how would they be chosen because Chief Pleas is not going to sit here tonight voting on who is going to represent us in that meeting. So would you
480 like to respond to the amendment of Proposition 1 put forward by Conseiller Delaney, please?

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, Mr Speaker and thank you, Conseiller Delaney. Very interesting point. I think the statement of Policy & Finance meeting IoSS is because Policy & Finance are the
485 principal representatives of the shareholders. As the Speaker mentions, Harbours and Shipping are also involved. That is more on a service-level standpoint, day-to-day running and practical considerations. But I see no reason not to accommodate Mr Delaney's request and I think we can work out at a later date how we can decide on constituting those persons to attend this meeting. I am quite happy to amend Proposition 1, just simply to enable a meeting between IoSS and Chief Pleas.

490

The Speaker: Do you want a couple of minutes' recess to discuss it with your Committee?

Conseiller Guille: Unless any of my Committee objects?

495 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Raymond, do you wish to say something?

Conseiller Raymond: Yes sir. Is this working? It is, thank you. It is just if you specifically mention Members of Chief Pleas then you would exclude the Chief Secretary, who has done an enormous amount of work, processing this review and everything that goes along with it and I would think
500 she would be an enormous help to the process and to the people who are actually chosen to represent Chief Pleas.

The Speaker: Conseiller Guille.

505 **Conseiller Guille:** I concur with Conseiller Raymond's point there and I would absolutely wish for continuity and completeness that the Chief Secretary is at such a meeting.

The Speaker: Do you wish to have a short recess with your Committee?

510 **Conseiller Guille:** Unless some of the Committee request, I think it is quite a simple change to the Proposition and, as spoken, I would like to change Policy & Finance to Chief Pleas.

515 **The Speaker:** The Proposition would now read: '... as facilitator to enable a meeting between IoSS and three from Chief Pleas.' Do you still wish to retain three? A private conversation going on. Looking at the amendment, are you leaving it with three from Chief Pleas?

Conseiller Guille: It has been indicated from my Committee Members that they would like a short recess.

520 **The Speaker:** We will take an elastic five-minute recess for the P&F Committee to meet and come back with an amendment to the Proposition.

*Chief Pleas adjourned at 5.53 p.m.
and resumed at 5.58 p.m.*

Amendment

To amend Proposition 1 to say:

That Chief Pleas approve that Policy and Finance appoint Andrew Ozanne to act as facilitator to enable a meeting between IoSS and Chief Pleas and the Chief Secretary.

The Speaker: Conseiller Guille.

525 **Conseiller Guille:** Sir, we would like Proposition 1 to be amended so the latter half of it reads ... 'a meeting between IoSS and Chief Pleas and the Chief Secretary.'

The Speaker: Are you specifying the numbers of Chief Pleas?

530 **Conseiller Guille:** No, we are not specifying the numbers at this point, sir.

535 **The Speaker:** '... and Chief Pleas and the Chief Secretary'? Okay. Anybody else on any other issues with the Report? No. In that case, we will go to Proposition 1, as amended, that Chief Pleas approve that Policy & Finance appoint Andrew Ozanne to act as facilitator to enable a meeting between IoSS and Chief Pleas and the Chief Secretary. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

Proposition 2, that Chief Pleas approve a review of the Memorandum of Understanding and Service-Level Agreement between Chief Pleas and Isle of Sark Shipping Company by the Policy & Finance Committee. Those in favour ... sorry, do you want to say something Conseiller Williams?

540 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** Yes, I do.

The Speaker: Conseiller Williams.

545 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** Sorry, I have just realised that the wording on Proposition 2 is open-ended, 'That Chief Pleas approve a review of the Memorandum of Understanding and Service Level Agreement between Chief Pleas and the Isle of Sark Shipping Company by the Policy

& Finance Committee.’ But the Harbours & Shipping Committee are responsible for the Service Level Agreement and Finance and Resources are responsible for the Memorandum of Understanding.

550 **The Speaker:** Are you requesting a change to include the Harbours and Shipping?

Conseiller Sandra Williams: I am.

The Speaker: Conseiller Guille?

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Conseiller Guille: I would certainly be happy with that.

The Speaker: By ‘... the Policy & Finance Committee and Harbours, Shipping & Pilotage Committee.’

560

Amendment

To amend Proposition 2 to say:

That Chief Pleas approve a review of the Memorandum of Understanding and Service Level Agreement between Chief Pleas and Isle of Sark Shipping Company by the Policy & Finance Committee and Harbours, Shipping and Pilotage Committee.

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The Speaker: So the amended Proposition would read: ‘That Chief Pleas approve a review of the Memorandum of Understanding and Service Level Agreement between Chief Pleas and Isle of Sark Shipping Company by the Policy & Finance Committee and Harbours, Shipping and Pilotage Committee.’ Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**10. 2020 Financial Statements –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled “2020 Financial Statements”.

Proposition:

That the Financial Statements of the Island for the year ended 31 December 2020 be adopted.

The Speaker: Agenda Item 10. To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled ‘2020 Financial Statements’. I would ask Conseiller Guille to introduce the Report, please.

570

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir. The Policy & Finance Committee presents the Financial Statements for the Island of Sark for the year ended 31st December 2020. The Financial Statements have been reviewed and signed by an independent accountant, Brehon Limited, as required by the Reform Law of Sark, 2008; 2020 was a very challenging year, financially, for the Island of Sark. Initial forecasts immediately following lockdown in March showed that all income streams would be seriously affected.

575

Every effort was made to reduce expenditure and regular meetings and dialogue with Committees took place throughout the year. Whilst the result for 2020 shows a deficit of £224,000 and cash balances of £870,000, this is a far better position that we could ever have hoped for a year ago.

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Cash flows have been drawn up for 2021 and will be monitored monthly. The forecast for 2021 currently shows a small increase in the level of cash reserves by the end of the year. Attached to this Report are schedules comparing the 2020 revenue accounts, the 2020 budgets with the previous year. These schedules give detailed explanations of any variances. The headline variances are also noted below this Report.

I would like to thank the Treasurer, Sarah Hudson, and the Treasury team for compiling this very thorough breakdown of last year's statements and I would revert to the House with any questions.

The Speaker: Are there any questions and debate from the floor? Raise your hands, please. Conseiller Makepeace, followed by Conseiller Baker.

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes, I would like to ask the Policy & Finance Committee two questions. The first is, as the IoSS Review and related legal costs were not considered in the 2020 Budget, why do these costs appear in ordinary expenditure and not unforeseen expenditure? My second question relates to legal and professional fees. As the two are not related in any way, could P&F state the separate costs of the commissioner's legal fees and the IoSS review, including the cost of employing a lawyer? Thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Baker.

Conseiller Baker MBE: I have been concerned for many years about RPI increases and I would just like to say on this occasion, this concerns the Seigneur and the stipend. When it was first brought into Law, the stipend was £27,000. It is now closer to £40,000 and I do not think the economy of the Island can sustain that sort of increase. I would like P&F to have a look at that seriously.

The Speaker: Conseiller Guille.

Conseiller Guille: Can I refer to the Treasurer for Conseiller Makepeace's questions, please?

The Treasurer: The first question was Isle of Sark Shipping legal costs? I do not have a reason. It was legal fees and professional fees and that is why I put it there because there was already a budget there. There is a budget line there for.

Conseiller Makepeace: Would you be able to look into that, maybe? Expand on it next time for me?

Conseiller Guille: I think it is quite straight forward.

The Treasurer: I do not what else I could say.

Conseiller Guille: We have a budget for legal fees and professional advice and that came under it. We cannot say at the beginning of the year, for this budget for legal fees, exactly what we are going to spend it on. It depends what happens during the course of the year.

The Treasurer: There are other professional fees.

Conseiller Makepeace: You could answer question two, though, could you not?

The Treasurer: Could you repeat it?

635 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Question two: as the two are not related in any way, please could P&F state the separate costs of the commissioner's legal fees and the IoSS review, including the cost of employing a lawyer?

The Treasurer: I will have to get back to you on the detail of each one but I know that the IoSS review was £8,300.

640 **Conseiller Makepeace:** That was the legal cost?

The Treasurer: That was the cost for Andrew Ozanne.

645 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Were there any costs involved for any lawyer?

The Speaker: Please stand when you are speaking, Conseiller Makepeace.

Conseiller Makepeace: Apologies, sir.

650 **The Treasurer:** There were some legal advice fees but I would have to look into that for the exact cost ...

The Speaker: Thank you. Conseiller Raymond.

655 **Conseiller Raymond:** Thank you, sir. Quite by chance, the commissioner sent me an email today which clarifies his legal fees and he has asked me to say that the non-budgeted costs attributed to the commissioner's work and the need to support the 19 properties, following the disconnection of La Tour, involved higher professional fees: £25,429 arose on account of the need to prepare for an appeal that Sark Electricity subsequently withdrew and, in addition to that, there was a further £8,519, which was incurred preparing the variation. The commissioner has also asked me to clarify that he is paid £10,000 a year, not £15,000, which is often quoted. Thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Guille.

665 **Conseiller Guille:** Thank you, sir. Yes, I thank Conseiller Makepeace for the questions but I would just like to remind him that neither the Members of the Committee nor the Treasurer, as far as I know, possess photographic memory and the papers have been out for quite some time. Detailed questions about budget points like this would be gratefully received in advance of the Meeting and then we may be able to furnish you with a more thorough explanation.

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The Speaker: Conseiller Makepeace, if you do not feel you have had the answer you were seeking, would you like to put in a written question to the Policy & Finance Committee to get a written answer to your queries?

675 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Yes, I would sir. Thank you.

The Speaker: Okay. Conseiller Delaney.

680 **Conseiller Delaney:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mine are not really questions as such but observations and things that I would like Policy & Finance to perhaps take on board and consider. My gravest concern being the value that we purport the Island Reserves to be at, £2,913,785. I fully accept the accounts are absolutely accurate under the accounting system that is chosen to present these accounts, but I must say right now I am certainly not an accountant. I have a lot of

685 dealings with accounts but I do not profess to be an accountant. So I am very happy to be corrected if I am wrong on any of the points I wish to make.

I note that one of our Committees, Top Level Domain, I believe we now have a CQ code, I think I am right in saying that. I would suggest that must have a value and it strikes me as a great thing. It strikes me as a good achievement. It certainly helps in our autonomy and I wonder whether, within the statement balances, we should be showing intangible assets and I would suggest a figure should be in there for that as an intangible asset.

690 But I think my biggest concern comes with the valuation of Island properties and I hope you can all bear with me when I go to the correct pages on this. It looks to me like it has been an awful long time since there has been a revaluation of the properties that the Island owns and it looks to me that we claim to have £657,723 worth of land and property.

695 Now, I state again, nothing is wrong with this set of accounts. I am aware that there are different methods that can be used for presenting accounts, etc. But I wonder if, one of two things, perhaps the Island could, with an eye to the future and it must be a good thing if we strengthen our balance sheet, particularly with some of the challenges that we may well have ahead of us, I wonder if those with far more experience than me in accountancy could look at this so there could be a revaluation of Island properties.

700 I am about to give you some examples. Ivy Cottage, where the head master lives, I believe, is valued at £118,731, which strikes me as an incredibly low value, probably 25% of its true value. I worked my way round, the teachers' houses, in the plural, are valued at £98,295. The Visitor Centre, £34,217. I think you would be lucky to buy the granite for that. I know we do not talk about replacement costs, it should be market value, but I think there is an opportunity, at very little cost, to strengthen our balance sheet and give a far more accurate representation of what the Island's assets are worth.

705 Again, just making my way down, we have Creux Harbour shelter, we have the Greffe and Committee Offices, £10,350. I would like to shake the hand of the builder who could produce that for £10,350. I hope I am making my point. I think, as we move forward, and become more and more a fit-for-purpose, 21st-century democracy, I think we do need to do everything we can to give as accurate a representation of what we are worth as an Island because there may be some time in the future when we are going to depend on that valuation of assets to get us out of trouble.

710 I also note as well, if I may, which will tie in with my earlier point, that when we look at investments of £740,054 on the balance sheet, much of that is in the Isle of Sark Shipping Company. I think virtually all of it is. So we certainly have a vested interest in getting that company working well, working with it and perhaps one day really realising the value of that investment in the company.

715 Finally, I know that we do not have audited accounts. There is a bit of an irony there in that the shipping company that we appear to be having trouble with do have audited accounts every year. I think Grant Thornton audits their accounts. I wonder again, when you look out to the world and we are trying to build our credentials, whether it be appropriate that our accounts are audited at the end of every financial year.

720 So these are things that I ask Policy. I do not need answers, unless I am wrong on any particular point, I am very happy to concede that. But this is something that I ask Policy & Finance to perhaps take on board. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you. Conseiller Raymond.

730 **Conseiller Raymond:** Yes, sir. If it helps, previous auditors KPMG actually drew our attention to the fact that it is not possible to audit the Island Accounts as such, according to the normal present day auditing standards and therefore they made the request that we change to a system of reporting accountants. There is nothing shady in that. It is a set code to which they operate. If that is not clear from the accounts, then it should be. But it is a perfectly reasonable way to proceed.

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On the question of valuation, it is very important that we actually bear in mind that what we are looking at here is the historic cost that was incurred on various assets that appear and also we need to bear in mind that some of the properties, which are listed here, are on alienated land, and are probably therefore unsale-able.

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The Speaker: Conseiller Delaney.

Conseiller Delaney: Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I am grateful for Conseiller Williams ... Conseiller Raymond, I do beg your pardon, for clarifying that. A couple of things if I may. Certainly for not one minute am I suggesting – and in fact I would stand shoulder to shoulder with the Treasurer and Conseiller Raymond on these accounts – there is no question at all of any suggestion of shadiness. I am merely saying the accounting policies that we adopt, and I note that Guernsey Accounts are audited. Now I know they are a far greater scale, the economy of scale kicks in as well, and I merely again ask that Policy & Finance look at this for us.

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The concept that some of the assets being unsaleable. I accept that but they are not unsaleable so until such a point as we get a revaluation of those that are saleable, or – and dare I say it and God forbid we ever find a situation where the Island was in a situation where it would have to sell an asset outright to raise capital and lease it back, which has happened in jurisdictions, but let us hope we never get to that point – the values in there at this moment in time, as I say, they are correct for the current system under which we produce our accounts, but I do not think they give a fair and reasonable representation of what we are worth as an Island. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

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The Speaker: Conseiller Guille, do you wish to sum up?

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Conseiller Guille: I would like to thank Conseiller Delaney for his acute observations and I think we can go to the vote now.

The Speaker: Before we go to the vote are there any last-minute questions? No. In that case we will go to the Proposition that the Financial Statements of the Island for the year ended 31st December 2020 be adopted. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

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**11. Definition of a Resident (Special) Committee –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Conseillers McHugh, Makepeace, Delaney and Couldridge elected**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled “Definition of a Resident (Special) Committee” and to elect Conseillers to the Committee.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas constitutes a Special Committee, to be called the Definition of a Resident (Special) Committee, and to give it the task of investigating a definition of a resident, and to return to one or more future Chief Pleas with reports.

The Speaker: Agenda Item 11. To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled ‘Definition of a Resident (Special) Committee’, and to elect Conseillers to the Committee. I would ask Conseiller Couldridge to introduce the Report please.

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Conseiller Couldridge: Right. Thank you, Mr Speaker. The topic of a definition of resident has been going around and around for many years, I gather, way before my time in Chief Pleas and is

constantly on the backburner. It has been discussed numerous times in Policy & Finance and other Committees and also at the PDG.

775 I think the Report you have before you, assuming you have all read it, is reasonably straight forward and says that. I have been tasked to kick this thing into action by forming a Special Committee, which is what we are here today to hopefully agree on. I do have names proposed of people that have volunteered to join this Committee. Do you want me to mention those now or after we do this?

780

The Speaker: We will do it after the Proposition. Because if the Proposition is not carried then we do not need to elect anybody to the Committee.

785 **Conseiller Couldridge:** So that is probably all I can say. I suppose the only point is that we do not see this as being hugely complicated but it is something that keeps coming around all the time that we have to technically define a resident. That is what we hope to correct. So if everybody is in agreement we will get this Committee established, populated and start working on it and that is it. Thank you.

790 **The Speaker:** Any questions? Conseiller Sandra Williams.

795 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** Thank you. I am surprised to see this back at our door. I was under the impression at one of our last meetings we had here that we had already decided that we were going to have a Special Committee of people to go ahead and look into a definition of an ordinary resident and I was surprised that four months later it has come back to be said that it is okay to have one. I really thought that the work was being done on this already and that they were going to come back today with a definition of an ordinary resident. So I was a bit surprised to see this Report here. Was there not?

800 **Conseiller Couldridge:** Well, I originally thought the same thing but on taking advice it was felt that we need to formally constitute this Committee by bringing to Chief Pleas, which is what we are doing. So other than general conversations nothing has happened because the Special Committee has not been constituted yet. So that is all I can say.

805 **The Speaker:** I think it covers it in the paragraph in the centre, where it says unlike other PDTs when they were disbanded ...

... 'active and close to the conclusion of their work' the Definition of a Resident PDT was disbanded, its work handed back to the host committee, to what became the Policy & Finance Committee.

810 And the Policy & Finance Committee have not progressed it. So, as I understand, the PDG decided that it should be brought back in as a priority and a new Committee be formed to specifically work on that subject. Would you agree with that?

Conseiller Couldridge: I would, yes.

815 **The Speaker:** Right. So we are going back around the loop again. Any other questions? Conseiller Delaney.

820 **Conseiller Delaney:** Thank you again, Mr Speaker. Of course it is absolutely correct. It should come back and be properly formed. I have actually contacted Conseiller Couldridge and made it clear that this is a Special Committee I would very much be interested in serving on. I am interested serving, really, only on Committees that I think maybe I would bring a little value to.

825 I think this evening, I think it is quite a remarkable evening for Sark because I think we have three Propositions we are looking at this evening. We are looking at the Definition of a Resident, Taxation Review and a Census. I think that those three Items that we are looking at now they have come many years later than when they were first floated as good ideas and I think it really is a landmark occasion that these are coming in one hit. I think after these is going to come lots of facts, data upon which we can plan for the short, medium and long-term and build a good foundation for the Island going forward.

830 As I say, I have been in touch with Conseiller Couldridge. I hope I am successful in getting on the Committee and for those who follow me in the newspaper and in this instance, Barkis is most definitely willing. Thank you.

The Speaker: Anybody else before I ask Conseiller Couldridge to sum up? No. Anything you want to say, Conseiller Couldridge?

835 **Conseiller Couldridge:** Nothing further to say, I do not think. No. Thank you.

The Speaker: Okay. Let us go to the vote then. That Chief Pleas constitutes a Special Committee to be called the Definition of a Resident (Special) Committee and to give it the task of investigating a definition of a resident and to return to one or more future Chief Pleas with reports. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

840 Now Conseiller Couldridge, the names you have are?

845 **Conseiller Couldridge:** Yes, Mr Speaker. The names of the Members that have volunteered themselves to join this Committee are Conseiller McHugh, Conseiller Makepeace and, as you realise, Conseiller Delaney. Thank you.

The Speaker: And yourself?

850 **Conseiller Couldridge:** And myself, obviously.

The Speaker: So, there are four Members who have put themselves forward already. Conseillers McHugh, Makepeace, Delaney and Couldridge. Is there anybody else wishing to stand for this Committee? Any other Conseiller wishing to stand? No. In that case I declare that Conseillers McHugh, Makepeace, Delaney and Couldridge are elected to the Special Committee.

**12. Fifth Committee Member –
Development Control Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried –
Deputy Turner elected**

855 *To consider a Report with Proposition from the Development Control Committee “5th Committee Member” and to elect a Conseiller to the Committee.*

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas resolve to set the membership of the Development Control Committee as 5 (five) Conseillers.

The Speaker: We move to Agenda Item 12. To consider a Report from the Development Control Committee entitled ‘Fifth Committee Member’ and, once again, I would ask Conseiller Couldridge to introduce the Report, please.

860 **Conseiller Couldridge:** Right, thank you, Mr Speaker. This is a relatively simple situation. We have had times in the Development Control Committee, having only a strength of four Members, where if a Member is not present, it causes challenges with making votes and we discussed and decided that if we introduced a fifth Member to the Committee that would give us a better strength and help smooth out the curves where there were illnesses or people could not attend.

865 There was also the suggestion as well to have a female Member, because all the Members at the moment are male. It would not be a bad idea already. We do have one name forward. Do you want me to put that name forward now?

The Speaker: Yes you can because we are only introducing a fifth Committee Member.

870 **Conseiller Couldridge:** Well, the person that was asked and volunteered and accepted was Conseiller Turner.

The Speaker: Thank you.

875 **Conseiller Couldridge:** Thank you.

The Speaker: But before we go to the vote on Conseiller Turner, we have the Proposition. Does somebody want to speak, Conseiller Makepeace?

880 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Yes Mr Speaker. I would like to propose myself as well, to be the fifth Member.

885 **The Speaker:** I was coming to that in a moment. We will go to the Proposition first because Chief Pleas has to agree to the fifth Member; according to the constitution and operation of Chief Pleas Committees, Committees are four unless Chief Pleas decides otherwise. So the Proposition is that Chief Pleas resolve to set the membership of the Development Control Committee as five Conseillers. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

890 So the Committee have put forward Conseiller Turner to be a Member. Anybody else on the floor? Conseiller Makepeace?

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes.

The Speaker: Conseiller Makepeace has put himself forward from the floor. Anybody else? No. Then we will go to the vote. I will ask you to vote for Conseiller Turner and then I will ask you to vote for Conseiller Makepeace and the one with the most votes will be elected to the Committee. Those in favour of Conseiller Turner? Thank you. Conseiller Makepeace? Thank you.

There were 10 votes for Conseiller Turner, two for Conseiller Makepeace. Therefore I declare that Conseiller Turner be elected as the fifth Member of the Development Control Committee.

**13. Taxation Review (Special) Committee –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried –
Conseillers Turner, Delaney, Bougourd and Guille elected as members;
A. Lewis and J. Donovan elected as non-Chief Pleas members;
Treasurer elected *ex-officio* member**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled "Taxation Review (Special) Committee" and to elect Conseillers to the Committee.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas constitutes a Special Committee, to be called the Taxation Review (Special) Committee, and to task it to review all aspects and categories of the taxation system on Sark.

The Speaker: Agenda Item 13. To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee, entitled 'Taxation Review (Special) Committee' and I would ask Conseiller Guille to introduce the Report please.

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir. Since the last major tax review in the early 2000s, taxation in Sark has changed very little, with annual budgetary reviews determining the rates of tax paid in different categories. Over recent years, global impacts have been felt in Sark and with the welcome influx of new residents, the infrastructure needs to evolve to enable Sark to accommodate this growth.

Raising tax is never a popular subject but it is necessary if Sark wishes to keep its autonomy and degree of independence. It is intended that a review be carried out into all aspects of tax in Sark and to this end it is proposed that a Special Committee be established. If the Proposition is approved, the Committee would wish to populate the new Special Committee immediately. We have a list of suggested names of people –

The Speaker: Which I will take afterwards.

915

Conseiller Guille: – which we will take afterwards. Yes, thank you sir.

The Speaker: Any comments on this Report? Debate? Conseiller Delaney.

Conseiller Delaney: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Unless you think 'now he has found his voice he is never going to shut up', and I acknowledge I have a reputation that once I get talking I could give an aspirin a headache, but I firmly believe that if people wish to go on a Committee it would be a good thing that they let people know, let their fellow Conseillers know and of course let the public know and perhaps even to give some reasoning to why they would want to go on that Committee.

I possibly find myself in a minority with that view at the moment but I would hope that view might grow in time so that when we populate Committees, people are giving their reasons why they want to be there and what they think they bring to the table. So clearly the reason I stand to talk on this Proposition is that this is a Committee that, once again, I would be willing to stand on.

I think it has potential to be a poisoned chalice. The old adage that if you rob Peter to pay Paul you can rely on Paul's vote comes to mind. But I think it is long overdue and I think it is going to need a lot of independence of character to deal with the taxation because I suspect it is certainly going to be impossible to appease everybody and it may be, ultimately, we appease nobody. But I hope that the Committee will tackle its work purely on the basis of what is right for the current, medium and future needs of the Island. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

935

The Speaker: Any other comments? No. We will go to the vote on the Proposition, that Chief Pleas constitutes a Special Committee to be called a Taxation Review (Special) Committee and to task it to review all aspects and categories of the taxation system on Sark. I would ask P&F to put forward the names they have and then I will ask for candidates from the floor. Conseiller Guille.

940

Conseiller Guille: Shall we vote on the Committee?

The Speaker: Did we not vote on it? Okay, those in favour of the Proposition; those against. I am taking your agreement as granted, obviously. Right, we are **carried** on that.

945

Therefore, may we have the names please?

Conseiller Guille: Yes, sir, those Conseillers and co-opted Members who have expressed an interest and wish to join the Committee, we have Conseiller Turner, Conseiller Delaney, Conseiller Bougourd, myself and co-opted members Angela Lewis and Joseph Donovan.

950 **The Speaker:** Can we just deal with Conseillers first, please? So that is Turner, Delaney, Bougourd and yourself?

Conseiller Guille: Yes.

955 **The Speaker:** Are there any other candidates wishing to stand from the floor? No. Therefore four Members are required for the Committee and I therefore declare that Conseillers Turner, Delaney, Bougourd and Guille are elected to the Taxation Committee.

Now moving onto the co-opted, I forgot those! Thank you Greffier. Sorry, non-Chief Pleas members that you wish to have elected are?

960

Conseiller Guille: Angela Lewis and Joseph Donovan.

The Speaker: Jason or Joseph? Joseph Donovan, not Jason? The Committee wish to have elected onto ... are you making the Treasurer an *ex-officio* member?

965

Conseiller Guille: I am, indeed, sir. Sorry. The Treasurer has been such a help in this it almost went without thinking, but yes.

970 **The Speaker:** So, Treasury is *ex-officio*? The two names put forward for non-Chief Pleas membership of the Taxation (Special) Committee are Angela Lewis and Joseph Donovan and the Treasurer as *ex-officio*. Those in favour of Angela Lewis and Joseph Donovan becoming non-Chief Pleas members of that Committee; those against. **Carried.**

I will just ask the question, I assume you have asked them?

975

Conseiller Guille: Yes.

The Speaker: Good.

**14. Toplis Paintings – Replacement Loan Agreement –
Douzaine Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Douzaine entitled “Toplis Paintings – Replacement Loan Agreement”.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves the replacement loan agreement and directs the Chairman of the Douzaine to sign the replacement loan agreement on behalf of Chief Pleas.

980 **The Speaker:** Agenda Item 14, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Douzaine, entitled ‘Toplis Paintings – Replacement Loan Agreement’. I would ask Conseiller Drillot to introduce the Report please.

Conseiller Drillot: Thank you, Mr Speaker. This Report, the Proposition was brought to July to ask us to look into a further loan agreement with the Guernsey Museums and Galleries. As

985 Conseiller, I only brought up before assets for the Island are of benefit to the Island and we feel
as a Douzaine that these paintings in better proper conditions in the museum, being looked after,
displayed properly and will become an asset that the Island can fall back on, maybe, if it really
needs to at a later date.

990 We have agreed, you have all got the copy of the agreement that has gone back. They are being
revalued on their conditions, if they are kept in those conditions, that will be the values of them.
I have just been pointed out one slight error in the Guernsey Museum page that comes with the
Proposition. The first line reads:

The lender declares that they are the absolute legal owner of the loan.

That should be 'of the items'. We will go back to Guernsey Museum and get that amended but
that is the only amendment I would like to put to this Proposition. Thank you.

995

The Speaker: And of course we have got very good facsimiles of those in the Toplis Room in
the Island Hall. Any questions or debate? Conseiller Plummer.

1000 **Conseiller Plummer:** I know in the past some residents have said that those paintings, the
originals, ought to be brought back to Sark but I totally disagree. We have been very lucky that
the museum in Guernsey has housed these paintings. They are beautiful and I would recommend
that we vote on this to continue. You can hardly tell the difference between the two. Thank you.

1005 **The Speaker:** Nobody else? No, okay. Then we will go to the Proposition that Chief Pleas
approves the Replacement Loan Agreement and directs the Chairman of the Douzaine to sign the
Replacement Loan Agreement on behalf of Chief Pleas. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**15. Electricity Law Survey –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

*To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled "Electricity
Law Survey".*

Proposition:

*That Chief Pleas authorise the Policy & Finance Committee to commission a survey of the
existing cabling and ancillary equipment, with the exception of the Power Station equipment,
currently providing electricity to households.*

1010 **The Speaker:** Agenda Item 15. To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance
Committee entitled 'Electricity Law Survey'. Conseiller Guille, please introduce the Report.

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir. You have all read the Report so I will not read through it in its
entirety, save for this paragraph:

Any Government considering introducing legislation which is wide reaching and unqualified must consider future
planning, public safety and their liability should there be defects within the current system. For the above reasons,
the Committee are of the opinion that a survey of the existing system, including ancillary distribution equipment
should be commissioned to satisfy landowners and Islanders generally of the overall safety of the system, and to
identify the precise routing of all cabling which might pose a future danger.

Additionally to this, we have repeatedly asked Sark Electricity, on behalf of landowners, for
detailed maps of the cable routing and other equipment on private land and satisfactory maps

1015 have not been forthcoming and we feel that Chief Pleas would be acting in the public interest,
both for landowners and the general public, by commissioning a survey so, once and for all, we
can know what equipment and to what standard is there.

To give an idea of the costings, we have received one complete quote for £5,935 and we have
received two other quotes, to date, which quote day rates of £560 and £800, respectively. But
1020 there were unable, until coming over for a visit, to ascertain how many days that would take. I
think the £5,935 can be given as a ballpark and we may go out for further quotes. For reference,
those three quotes are from UK companies, because we have been unable to find the expertise
within the Channel Islands. So we may go out for further quotes but that is an idea to give you a
ballpark of what we are talking about.

1025 **The Speaker:** Thank you. Any questions or debate please? Conseiller McHugh, followed by
Conseiller Delaney.

1030 **Conseiller McHugh:** This is not really a question because I do not suppose you can answer it
properly and this is not to suggest that you should not do the survey, but I am just wondering, if
we find that there is a lot of preparatory work that needs doing and it is going to be very expensive,
who is going to foot the bill for it? It will be the SEL, I suppose, will it not? What if they cannot
afford it?

1035 **The Speaker:** Conseiller McHugh?

Conseiller McHugh: Anyway, sorry. There is not really an answer to what I am saying.

1040 **The Speaker:** Thank you. Conseiller Delaney.

1045 **Conseiller Delaney:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am obliged to Conseiller Guille for giving us the
general costing. It is only a budget costing, I fully accept that. But at least we know it is not going
to be a pound, it is not going to £1 million. It is going to be there or thereabouts. My concern with
this is really more general and my concern is, are we seeing another situation where there seems
to be a breakdown between a lead Committee and, in this instance, we have had it with IoSS, and
we appear to be having it with Sark Electricity.

I am sure everybody in the House remembers the traumas of the last days of the Gordon Brown
family and the appearance of a new promised land of Mr Jackson taking over the company. I guess
I go back to just basics. When did Policy & Finance last sit down with the company itself? Is that
1050 something they plan to do?

This strikes me as something that, unless the company is saying this is a good idea and we are
going forward in this hand in hand, which would be preferable, I just wonder if we are now going
down a road that we do not seem to be able to stop, take a deep breath, and say what is our
desired outcome.

1055 So, I ask Policy & Finance to give some thought to that, because once again we seem to be
going down a road of not negotiating, not getting around the table, not nipping these things in
the bud, not understanding one another's issues and perhaps going off on what to me appears to
be a slight abstract. As much an observation and perhaps a plea to Policy & Finance to try and get
around the table with Sark Electricity. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

1060 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Guille.

1065 **Conseiller Guille:** Thank you, Conseiller Delaney. Very sensible input. I would like to give you
some background perhaps that you may or may not be aware of. Policy & Finance arranged, on
requests from Sark Electricity, at the end of November I believe – I have not exactly got the dates,

a meeting between Policy & Finance, Sark Electricity and the landowners of Sark, primarily to discuss wayleaves.

1070 At this meeting, quite rightly, the landowners said, 'Not all of us know exactly what cabling is and is not on our land.' Mr Jackson from Sark Electricity took this on board and volunteered that within a couple of weeks he could provide landowners maps of the cables and equipment on his land.

1075 We have been chasing him ever since and we have not received a satisfactory response so far. We have had some very limited maps come in, cables that appear to start somewhere, end somewhere else and not connect to anything else, on the Island. We are in constant contact with Mr Jackson but it is felt that if Chief Pleas are wishing to bring an electricity legislation law, which may infer the right of wayleaves for suppliers who already have equipment in the ground, then an independent review of what equipment is out there is probably a good thing for us to do on behalf of the general public and landowners included.

1080 So I totally accept the points about good engagement with the company and we are trying to do so. I think this can be held as a separate matter in relation to the legislation in the electricity law, which will be proposed in the future.

The Speaker: Conseiller Raymond.

1085 **Conseiller Raymond:** Thank you, sir. There has been a certain amount of difference in the approach that Sark Electricity's lawyers have adopted. It started with demands for wayleaves and then moved to a requirement that we legislate. The proposed legislation takes the form of transitional provisions, which relate to existing cabling, which is in the ground at the commencement of the grant of a licence.

1090 Now that is sensible, the Law Officers have taken some care in drafting it. But we have to face the fact that some of this high voltage cabling is potentially a killer and we do not know where it goes and we do not know whether it is actually buried deeply enough. If you have any thoughts about the safety of the equipment, as you leave the Gallery Stores, look ahead of you and you will see an unguarded transformer.

1095 I speak as a landowner, because I do not know where the cabling goes on our land. It is definitely there but we do not know what path it follows. We require to know that and it has not been supplied to us. If there is high tension, high voltage cabling, which is not safely laid, on other people's property, we owe it to the community here to make sure that the shortcomings are highlighted before we legislate. That is the point of this proposal.

1100 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Drillot.

1105 **Conseiller Drillot:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I just want to add a bit more to Conseiller Raymond's point, being a construction worker on the Island, doing gardening, we were recently involved in a job where we had to find out whether there was cabling. We were told no. The first thing the digger did, went straight through a cable. At the moment, the only people that know pretty much where the cabling on this Island is, is two members of the Electricity staff, both of them in their retirement years coming up shortly. Hopefully not, but if they go all the records go.

1110 This way, this survey, these records are held by Chief Pleas, so we will know where all the cabling is and they can be possibly, and this is only my thinking, they can be upgraded as work is done on the Island, either through the DCC or whatever. So I severely back this policy. Thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Delaney.

1115 **Conseiller Delaney:** Thank you, Mr Speaker and I am obliged to all the Conseillers who have spoken in support of this Proposition and perhaps I might put to you the power of debate. I was

determined to vote against this, this evening. But they make a good case and as a result of that they have changed my mind and I will be voting for this Proposition. Thank you.

1120 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Guille, any final summing up please?

Conseiller Guille: No, sir. Happy to go to the vote, please.

1125 **The Speaker:** The Proposition is that Chief Pleas authorise the Policy & Finance Committee to commission a survey of the existing cabling and ancillary equipment, with the exception of the power station equipment, currently providing electricity to households. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**16. Census and Register of Residents –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried as amended**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee entitled “Census and Register of Residents”.

Proposition (as amended):

That Chief Pleas authorises the Policy & Finance Committee to instruct the Law Officers to draft legislation to enable a Sark Census.

1130 **The Speaker:** Agenda Item 16. To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy & Finance Committee, entitled ‘Census and Register of Residents’. Conseiller Guille to introduce the Report, please.

1135 **Conseiller Guille:** Thank you, sir. Once again I do not need to read this report out in the whole and this is a Proposition that we instruct the Law Officers to draft legislation so that the fine details of such a census can be thought over in the coming months. I would just like to say, certainly, there are a myriad of reasons why a census is a good idea on Sark. One of them, the recent pandemic emergency, through my work on the Civil Contingencies Authority, we put together a very unofficial census but it helped us no end in the emergency planning that has taken place over the last year so I would recommend Conseillers to support this Proposition wholeheartedly. It can only be a good thing.

1140 **The Speaker:** Any comments or debate please? Conseiller Sandra Williams, Conseiller McHugh, Conseiller Delaney. Conseiller Williams.

1145 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** Thank you, sir. I want to support this 100% because just the second or third paragraph, education is a big issue to me, which you will hear about shortly. The only thing I am concerned about is that we will not have the definition of an ordinary resident when we take this and draft it so is there any chance that we could try and get them both to work together? Because until we have the definition of an ordinary resident we cannot do a Census and Register of Residents.

1150 **Conseiller Couldridge:** If we get our meeting together quickly for the definition of a resident, then yes definitely. We are hoping to do it fairly, sort of, quickly and efficiently.

1155 **The Speaker:** May I just remind Conseillers, you speak through the Chair, not across the room to each other? Okay, thank you. Conseiller McHugh.

1160 **Conseiller McHugh:** I thoroughly support the census. I think it is a brilliant idea for a myriad of reasons. I am looking for assurance that Chief Pleas as a whole, it will be inclusive when we come to determine what the questions are, and also looking for assurance that the census, once it has been established, will be published and available to everyone to see. I am also ... well it is not going to be outsourced is it? So forget that one. So that it is inclusive with the questions and that it is published.

1165 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Delaney.

1170 **Conseiller Delaney:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will certainly be supporting this Proposition. I think Conseiller Williams makes a very valid point and perhaps that does give some urgency to the tasks, those of us tasked with coming back with what we should, as an Island, consider should define a resident. On a broader point, I would ask that Policy & Finance gives some thought to rather than just taking a single snapshot in time, we adopt a similar monitor which Guernsey has, which is a rolling census.

1175 Because we do have the reverse economies of scale on our side. We have a relatively small population. We can always try and disagree but let us call it around 500 people. That would not be 20% of the passengers on a cruise liner and you would expect the captain to know who was boarding the liner, who was leaving, who had a ticket to board the liner. I think it is a great opportunity here, with just a little extra, to get our census done but make it a living census so that it is updated, as I say, in what is generally known as a rolling census. Thank you.

1180 **The Speaker:** Can I just add something in here for clarification. The definition of a resident will have to be drafted into Law and we all know that a Law cannot be made very quickly because it has to leave us and go for Royal Assent. Therefore, whilst the Census can be done quite quickly, it may be that the definition of a resident, because of the legality of changing the Reform Law, will take longer than we have. Conseiller Guille.

1185 **Conseiller Guille:** Thank you sir. I would like to thank Conseillers Williams, McHugh and Delaney for their useful contributions and I can assure you that the details of the Census will be discussed at PDG level with all of the Conseillers. This is such an important subject.

1190 Just with reference to the definition of a resident, it strikes me that obviously we probably will not have that in Law at that point but it strikes me that perhaps the Census may in fact give the Definition of Resident Committee some useful information when they are working on such a definition. I think we should not delay and conduct this Census as soon as we can.

1195 **The Speaker:** Any final comments? No. In that case we will go to the Proposition that Chief Pleas authorises the Policy & Finance Committee to instruct the Law Officers to draft legislation to enable a Sark Census. As you read the Proposition, there are two 'to draft legislation' so, I am going to remove the second 'to draft legislation'. Okay the Proposition reads as amended, that Chief Pleas authorises the Policy & Finance Committee to instruct the Law Officers to draft legislation to enable a Sark Census. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**17. Briefing Paper – Sark House –
Education Committee Report considered**

To consider an Information Report from the Education Committee entitled “Briefing Paper – Sark House”.

1200 **The Speaker:** We now move to Agenda Item 17, to consider an Information Report from the Education Committee entitled ‘Briefing Paper – Sark House’. I would ask Conseiller Sandra Williams to introduce the Report please.

1205 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** Another hot potato here. I seem to get them all at the moment. I think first of all I should apologise for the briefing paper, which does not actually tell us anything. But it was done for me, at short notice, because I lost my Chairman of that Committee that week. It reverts back to what was and what was not discussed about all the different points and scoring this and getting that and, really, I would like to say that it is in the papers but it is irrelevant to where we are going and what we are doing at this time, after I had a meeting with the parents, or the Education Committee had a meeting with the parents two weeks ago.

1210 The majority of the stuff that is in that Report was an old paper that was done back in 2017 and it was just to remind people of what was discussed in the meeting as opposed to me saying or us saying that is what we were going to reinvent now. The provision of the Sark House was one of many recommendations suggested by the Education Review that took place in 2017. To date, some of the recommendations have been put into practice and others have not.

1215 I think you have seen the briefing paper that has been sent at the request of Chief Pleas and includes an extract from the original review. In reality the education landscape has changed since the review. There are a large number of new families who have joined the Island, some are in Sark School and some are not.

1220 We have already considered the additional financial impact of educating more children in Guernsey and estimate this to be costing as much as an additional £120,000 over the next five years. As we do not charge for education we would have to subsidise and we would also be subsidising accommodation.

1225 I think I should also say that, as a Committee, we are entirely open-minded about how our children are accommodated in Guernsey. We have had very good reports about the improved host family system and currently have two families using this service very effectively. But as I said, we have remained open-minded and more open-minded I think since the meeting with the parents that we had two weeks ago, where it was very clear to me that they believed that they were substituting an education on Sark for a secondary education and they were being offered a house in Guernsey where their children could be living as a Sark family and having their education paid for.

1230 I am afraid that at the moment the situation we find ourselves in we cannot carry through any of those ideas that were put to these parents back along in 2017. We have however looked at prices of properties in Guernsey. One year we need three bedrooms and the following year we need four and then the year after that we could need up to seven bedrooms.

1235 So, it is a very difficult task to juggle. We are not only looking at having a house ... I think the basis is that we will need at one stage in the next five years a house that will sleep up to 10 children, be it boys and girls. We will need to have two monitors in charge of the girls’ section and the boys’ section and we, at the moment, do not know where we are going to find this money from.

1240 It has been suggested, and I have looked through the budget and it has been brought to my attention this evening that the Ville Roussel Fund has money in their account. It was put aside for young people to start a home, help towards them building their first house. But as we all know you cannot do that on Sark with £100,000. So I would like to suggest that the Education Committee

1245 after this meeting, have a meeting where we get together and write some letters to some of the trust places because I do feel that this is a Sark problem.

As much as people have said that we should ask trusts around the Bailiwick to help us out and to fund us a home for these children to go to. All we can say is that £7,400 education fees that Sark is paying, and at the moment we are paying £3,000 per child for the two families, for the two children to be away in their host families and the budget is going to be stretched over the next
1250 five years.

While I am also on my feet I would like to make people aware that probably are not aware or do not know, that we had an influx of children into our school earlier on this year of up to nine children. We had to buy equipment for these children. We had to buy lockers. We had to buy more tables and chairs and those nine children, by the end of next month, will all have left the
1255 Island again and gone away for the winter and they will be expecting to come back in the summer back in, once all the self-catering places that they have been staying in, are available for them to move back into in September and October.

Their intention is to come back in September and I think that Sark and Chief Pleas as a whole needs to take a serious look at our Law concerning children being educated on Sark and being
1260 ordinarily resident or not ordinarily resident and the damage it does – damage is probably a strong word. It unsettles our local children in their school.

They have got mixed people coming in. They have got people speaking French, and I have no problem with that, but what I am saying is that they either need to be in it for the long-haul or be asked to contribute towards their education on a short-term basis. Or Chief Pleas simply needs to
1265 make the decision that unless you are moving here and you have a *bona fide* address here and you are paying tax here and you are living as part of our community that your children cannot just drop in and drop out of school.

While I am still standing up I just want to say that it is with mixed emotions that we can confirm that Nicholas and Kathy Roberts will be leaving us at the end of this academic year. As I am sure
1270 you are aware, Kathy has now left school to begin her leave to be a mum. We all wish her and Nicholas the very best as they become parents in the coming months.

We would also like to congratulate Dr Roberts on his promotion, as he becomes director of studies at his former school. Our loss is their gain and they will be very lucky to have him back. We would like to thank Nicholas for all his work so far and the work he will undertake over the summer
1275 term. The school is definitely something to be proud of and we will always be grateful for the changes Nicholas and the team have made and the culture you all have developed.

Going forward I am pleased to announce that we have appointed Miss Emily Starkey, the teacher who came as a very close second to Jo Branson last year. Emily will join us over the summer and begin teaching with us in September. We have also appointed Mrs Emma Galley, an
1280 experienced teacher, who is a forest school practitioner, and someone who is experienced working with all age groups and abilities, including children with special educational needs to take over from Kathy Roberts next term and add capacity for the future.

With regard to the head of school role, we will be completing an internal interview process next term to appoint an acting head of school to begin in September. Decisions about the
1285 substantive head of Sark School will then be made during the spring term 2022. We have confidence in our existing staff and believe the team going forward will continue to take the school from strength to strength. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you. There are no Propositions in this Report but are there any questions
1290 or comments from the floor for Conseiller Williams? Conseiller Craik. Anybody else? No. Conseiller Craik, start us off.

Conseiller Craik: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Thank you to Conseiller Williams for this briefing paper on Sark House. I also want to thank the Education Committee, who met with parents on

1295 1st April, to talk through this briefing paper and to explain their position as to where they thought things were with the Sark House at this time.

The meeting did have quite, I would say, strong views from various people and one of the suggested things from that meeting was that a subcommittee or a small committee on the side of the Education Committee was formed, primarily to focus just on Sark House, because it was identified that the Education Committee perhaps needed a little bit of help to look at wider scope ideas on how we can progress this for parents and for the Sark children.

1300 Parents were very eager for this to be something that was looked into and I would just like to ask the Chairman of Education if this is something that will be progressed and formulised, so that parents can start actively contributing to helping the Education Committee put the Sark House into something that happens.

1305 I also want to just mention that, whilst parents believed there was a Sark House, it was I think due to the misunderstanding as to how the Sark House would be brought together. They did not quite understand that they needed one aspect of the Education Review to be brought forward, which was education credits, for money to be raised for Sark House to actually become a reality.

1310 If this was explained at the time, I think parents would have had a better idea of where they were standing in terms of the Sark House. But that is where we were then. This is where we are now and we need to move forward and hopefully make this into something that can happen and something positive for the Island and for Sark's children.

1315 Whilst I am on my feet, just to take a few words from the Chairman, as a Conseiller and as a parent I would like to express my thanks to Dr Roberts and to Kathy Roberts. I think Dr Roberts is here. And just thank him for all the work that he has done at the school, as head of school. Kathy Roberts I worked very closely with on the Board of Education in terms of enrichment and we could not have done a lot of it without her assistance. I just want to wish them both all the best in their future endeavours. I know that Sark children will miss them and I look forward to meeting their new bundle of joy in the coming months. Thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Delaney.

1325 **Conseiller Delaney:** Again, thank you, Mr Speaker. Funnily enough this was the one Report I had gravest concerns about this evening. I know how high emotions are running around the concept of a Sark House because I do believe a lot of parents thought this was part of the deal. Rightly or wrongly they believed it to be part of the deal when the changes to the education system were introduced some years ago.

1330 My concern with the Report is the value that is put on the property in Guernsey because what I am concerned with that we are giving false hope to parents on this Island. I really thought in this instance, this particular part of this Report could have perhaps begun with 'once upon a time ...' because the concept that a four-bedroom house in Guernsey could be found for £525,000 is out of the question. It is my concern that this has been sent into the public arena without any questions being raised against this, so that is why I choose to bring up the point.

1335 Conseiller Williams made some very good points in the broad-ranging speech that she has just given and I hope she brings a lot of that to Policy & Development and we can look at some of the issues outside of Sark House, in particular, that she brings up. But I respectfully suggest you would be very fortunate to find a house to fit the bill for £1 million in Guernsey, perhaps even as much as £1.25 million.

1340 Also the running costs, unless I am mistaken, appear to have been presented as £32,964. Again, I find that very difficult to believe we could run the house for that kind of money. We certainly could not have single point of failure or the potential for single point of failure in the staff employed in that house if we are entrusting them with our children. So we would have to have, presumably, many levels of cover there for us.

1345 I must say that Conseillers Williams, McHugh and Makepeace, I ventured earlier in reviewing tax as a poisoned chalice, I commend these three Conseillers in taking this Committee on because

it strikes me that up to a few weeks ago, they did not have or were not assuming responsibilities in respect of education that they are now.

1350 I just want to make one other point, if I may, and that is the two aspects of Sark House. One being the purchase of it and, of course, if we are in a far greater, financially sound position, as an Island, economically, there could be nothing wrong with purchasing a Sark House in Guernsey. It should be an asset that increases in value, it would go on the balance sheet and nothing would be lost, so to speak.

1355 I suspect, even with servicing the loan, I think, given the way that property prices tend to rise in Guernsey we would do quite well on that. But the revenue expenditure every year in servicing the house is something that would alarm me because I would question whether we could afford it.

1360 So what I do ask the Committee is just be a little cautious around that, about raising false expectations around this, and I perhaps ask that they might come back at a later date with a far better and far more realistic costing of the concept of us having our own house in Guernsey. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Conseiller Couldridge.

1365 **Conseiller Couldridge:** Yes, just to follow on from Conseiller Delaney, I was going to say roughly the same thing. The concept of a Sark House in Guernsey is a great aspiration but I feel, for the same reasons that Conseiller Delaney said, it is a slightly delusional aspiration. You cannot even get a three-bedroom bungalow that needs renovating for £800,000 in the current market. We are not talking £1 million, we are talking £3 million or £4 million to find a house that would be
1370 adequate, and you would probably have to be looking at the open market and the operating costs of £32,000 a year, well you would have to pay that just for a cleaner, let alone qualified educators or suitable people to look after children.

1375 We have to recognise the fact we are on a tiddly Island with a population of, give or take, 500 people. The vast majority of people very minimal taxes, which are probably less than £10 a week. So, unless we make the beer £50 a pint, where will we get the money to pay for this? Great idea but I think, given the size of our population and the size of the school population, it is probably delusional to give the parents false hope because I do not think this would ever happen unless everyone starts paying £100,000 a year in tax, which is not going to happen. That is my point. Thank you.

1380

The Speaker: Conseiller Drillot.

1385 **Conseiller Drillot:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would just like to carry on from Mr Delaney. I think he is very correct that 2019, it was brought forward that – and I have got no gripes with the new Education Committee, you have taken this on completely, this was all previous – yes I understand you are a new Committee and have not had time to look into lots of what I am about to say but I am hoping that you can give me some clarity that this will be looked into.

1390 In 2019, the parents and this House, rightly or wrongly, falsely or wool pulled over their eyes, were told, or were proposed in the proposal, that within three years, a house would be found. Now, I brought it up in 2020, Michaelmas, and was told that it was still being looked into, it had not been shelved but they were looking into different alternatives.

1395 We are now in 2021, we are now getting very close to needing these different alternatives, so I would just like to hope that the new Education Committee will be looking into the possibilities of sharing a house with Alderney and Herm, sharing a boarding house. I have been told that there are potential boarding houses in Guernsey that are empty or have very little students in them. So maybe there is an opportunity there where we do not have to buy it but we can contribute. Or even looking into a review of the school structure as it is.

1400 If I remember right, in 2019, we talked about the new people coming in and the structure of how much money the Island would give if you were born here, if you were here at year one, year two, or if you just came in. To me, I just do not understand where these new people have just come in and expected the Government to pay for their education. I just do not know where that is not being brought into the legislation. Maybe that can be looked into.

1405 My final point on it is I spoke to a few of the parents after your meeting and there were things that came out of that meeting but a lot of the parents did say that if it had not been for their kids being able to go, somewhere that all the kids could go to rather than host families – which is an issue in Guernsey of finding host families for that quantity of kids – and the splitting up of siblings would be an issue, they would not have backed this policy and I do not think this House would have.

1410 So I think there is a lot of things that need to be looked into here and I hope that the new Committee can look into it as soon as possible because I know there are kids in September that are relying on this. Thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Williams, do you want to give a summing-up, please?

1415 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** Yes, I just would like to come back on Conseiller Drillot's questions because actually they are very pertinent and I do not want people to think we have been sitting around doing nothing over the last six, three months. First of all, I would like to say that we are very aware of the parents' views towards this. I was more amazed that we got out of there in one piece than anything else.

1420 I think they were falsely – not intentionally – but I do think they bought into it with the pretext of them having this Sark House. But 2022 is when we have more children going away to school. There will be another, I cannot remember off the top of my head because I did not bring my details with me, but we have got two going away at the moment, one of them finishes at the end of this school year. We have another one who is away that has a year and a half and, in 2022, we will have up to six children away. Two of those will already be in host family care.

1425 We have checked. Alderney was looked into and actually their children now live in host families in Guernsey. There is nothing to share with them. The boarding house that was talked about at the school where the children are supposed to be going in Guernsey is now no longer a possibility and was looked into, I believe, over 18 months ago. The review of how it is, is something that I have been asking for, for a very long time about children about how children, as I said in my speech earlier, can slip in and slip out of an education but unfortunately in our law, it clearly states that any child living on Sark is entitled to a free education.

1430 The fact that we have taken away that education over the age of 13 and put something else in place, unfortunately, unless that Law changes again, means that that is what it is and it is going to cost Sark a lot of money. I do want people to have faith. We are working on it and every day another little machine ticks off in our brains and we have another little think about it but, at the end of the day, it is like everything else, it is all going to come down to money, I am afraid.

1435 **The Speaker:** Thank you. That was an Information Report. Therefore there will be further information coming from the Committee in due course.

18. Committee Elections –

Policy and Finance Committee: Conseillers Turner and Bougourd elected;

Agriculture Committee: Conseiller Makepeace elected;

Harbours Committee: Conseiller Baker elected;

Medical Committee: Conseillers Bougourd and Craik elected;

Vulnerable Adult (Special) Committee: Conseiller Makepeace elected

Policy and Finance Committee: Conseillers Turner and Bougourd elected to the Committee.

Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries Committee: Conseiller Makepeace elected to the Committee.

Douzaine: Conseiller Bougourd was elected to the Committee.

Education Committee: No nominations.

Harbours, Shipping and Pilotage Committee: Conseiller Baker elected to the Committee.

Medical and Emergency Services Committee: Conseillers Bougourd and Craik elected to the Committee.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

Protection of Vulnerable Adults: Conseiller Makepeace elected to the Committee.

Top Level Domain: No nominations.

1445 **The Speaker:** We now move to Agenda Item 18 and this is to elect Conseillers to Committees as required and there are a number of vacancies on Committees, caused by resignations of Conseillers as Conseillers and also resignations from Committees. The Standing Committees have a requirement. P&F requires two new Conseillers; Agriculture, two; Douzaine, one; Education, one; Harbours, one; and Medical, two. Then the Special Committees: Vulnerable Adults has one vacancy and the Top Level Domain Committee has two vacancies.

1450 So this Item is to accept nominations from the floor to fill those Committees and vote and elect Conseillers onto the Committees. I will do it in the order that I have just gone through. Policy & Finance, Agriculture, Douzaine, Education, Harbours and Medical. So, do I have any nominations for the two vacancies on the Policy & Finance Committee please? Conseiller Turner. A second nomination. Conseiller Bougourd. Anybody else?

Conseiller Makepeace: I would like to nominate Conseiller McHugh.

1455 **Conseiller McHugh:** You cannot nominate me!

The Speaker: You can only nominate somebody with their approval.

1460 **Conseiller Makepeace:** I am sorry. I thought you may be interested in this one.

The Speaker: This is asking Conseillers to ... Committees can nominate. Other Conseillers cannot nominate somebody. So we have two nominations –

1465 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Okay sir, sorry, can I nominate myself then?

The Speaker: You may.

Conseiller Makepeace: Thank you.

1470 **The Speaker:** Right, we have three nominations for the two vacancies on P&F, Conseillers Turner, Bougourd and Makepeace. I will take them in that order. Only vote for two of the three names please. Those in favour of Conseiller Turner? I make that 10. Conseiller Bougourd? Thank you. Conseiller Makepeace?

1475 The voting was Conseiller Turner, 10; Conseiller Bougourd, nine; Conseiller Makepeace, four. Therefore I declare that Conseillers Turner and Bougourd be elected to the Policy & Finance Committee.

Conseillers Turner and Bougourd elected.

1480 **The Speaker:** Agriculture, we have two vacancies. Can I have any nominations please? It is an important Committee and the Committee cannot function with two people. We must have more.

Conseiller Makepeace: I nominate myself sir.

1485 **The Speaker:** Yes, Conseiller Makepeace. I need another one to make the Committee up to its four. You are quorate with three, but you will struggle with three because, if anybody is missing, you cannot make decisions. No? Okay. So we have one nomination for Agriculture, that is Conseiller Makepeace. Therefore I declare Conseiller Makepeace elected to the Agriculture Committee.

Conseiller Makepeace elected.

1490 **The Speaker:** Douzaine. One vacancy. Do I have any volunteers to go on the Douzaine? Conseiller Drillot, are you not on it already?

1495 **Conseiller Drillot:** Yes I am on it already, I am Chairman of it! As Chairman of it I have looked into who we would suggest and I would like to – and I have asked him – nominate Conseiller Bougourd to be put forward to this one. Thank you.

The Speaker: And you have agreed to that, Conseiller Bougourd.

Conseiller Bougourd: I am afraid so!

1500

The Speaker: Yes, okay. Jolly good. Anybody else? No? In that case, I declare that Conseiller Bougourd is elected to the Douzaine.

Conseiller Bougourd elected.

1505 **The Speaker:** The next Committee is Education, which has one vacancy. A nomination to go on Education please. Obviously extremely important. We do need somebody. It is an important Committee. It is quorate with three but, once again, with only three, you will struggle.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: We are already.

The Speaker: So there are no nominations to go on Education.

No nominations.

1510 **The Speaker:** Harbours has one vacancy. Conseiller Sandra Williams, you can nominate somebody.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: I would like to nominate Conseiller Edric Baker please.

1515 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Makepeace?

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

1520 **The Speaker:** Yes, okay. Is there anybody else? No. Then we have got one vacancy, two nominations. I will take them in the order of Baker, Makepeace. Those in favour of Conseiller Baker? You voted for yourself, good! Those in favour of Conseiller Makepeace? Conseiller Baker received 9 votes, Conseiller Makepeace, 4 votes. I therefore declare that Conseiller Baker is elected to the Harbours Committee.

Conseiller Baker elected.

1525 **The Speaker:** Medical. We have two vacancies on Medical. Conseiller Sandra Williams?

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Could I propose Conseiller Vaughan Bougourd and Conseiller Turner please?

1530 **The Speaker:** Do not forget we have a Conseiller in the wings, Conseiller Le Lievre, but unfortunately you have not already asked him.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: I cannot propose him, he is not here!

1535 **The Speaker:** You would have had to have asked him first. He may well come in on some of the other ones. Anybody from the floor?

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

1540 **The Speaker:** And Conseiller Craik, you want to go for that one as well? Right, we have got four nominations for two vacancies. Conseillers Bougourd, Turner, Makepeace and Craik. I will take them in that order. Only vote for two. Conseiller Bougourd? Keep the hands up. Conseiller Turner? Conseiller Makepeace? Thank you. Conseiller Craik?

1545 Right, voting was Conseiller Bougourd, 8; Conseiller Turner, 7; Conseiller Makepeace, 2, Conseiller Craik, 10. Therefore I declare that Conseillers Bougourd and Craik are elected to the Medical Committee.

Conseillers Bougourd and Craik elected.

The Speaker: We now have the Special Committees. The Vulnerable Adults has one vacancy. A nomination please, or nominations?

1550 **Conseiller Makepeace:** I would like to nominate myself, sir.

The Speaker: Thank you. Anybody else? You want to go?

Conseiller Sandra Williams: I would like to come off that Committee, sir, if possible because –

1555 **The Speaker:** You cannot do that tonight. You have to put in a resignation.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: On a Special Committee?

1560 **The Speaker:** Yes. That is the Rules. You have to write to me to resign. Right, we have vulnerable adults, one vacancy, one nomination, Conseiller Makepeace. Therefore I declare that Conseiller Makepeace is elected to the Vulnerable Adult (Special) Committee.

Conseiller Makepeace elected.

1565 **The Speaker:** Top Level Domain. We have two vacancies. Nominations please. This is an important Committee. We have just received, as we heard, that we have our Top Level Domain two-letter code, which could be a money spinner for Sark. Anybody wanting to put themselves forward? The Committee is not quorate. I do need one person to make the Committee quorate. Come on. We need one to make it quorate. Search your consciences! New Members? Conseiller Le Lievre is already on it. Conseiller Drillot?

1570 **Conseiller Drillot:** Can I just make a point, Mr Speaker. I am not putting my name forward by any means. I have got enough on my plate. But I just want the House to think, yes we need it to make it quorate, but we keep producing all these Special Committees, we keep producing Committees. As we heard at the very beginning, two of our Conseillers have resigned. One of the reasons that projected was they were on too many Committees. You are looking at us to go onto so many Committees and the workload on a lot of the Committees, especially the big ones, is just time-consuming. It is just a thing for the future, could we try and reduce the amount of Committees because we have not got the numbers?

1580 **The Speaker:** If this Committee is not effective then it will be disbanded and the subject will go back to the Policy & Finance Committee, from whence it came. So it will go back to Policy & Finance if it is not kept as a Special Committee. So, no volunteers? Okay.

No nominations.

1585 **The Speaker:** I think we have a by-election coming up, as we know, hopefully at the end of August. If we can get some new blood into Chief Pleas at that time then some of those new blood may fill these Committee vacancies that we still have. If not then, as a body, the PDG, you need to think seriously where some of these Committees, when they are disbanded, are going to go home to roost. Because they are all subjects that require attention. But that is a decision for you, the elected Conseillers. Conseiller Sandra Williams?

1590 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** I know you said earlier at the opening about the by-elections in being 28th August, is there no chance of us having the by-elections earlier than August?

1595 **The Speaker:** No, because we have got to come with an Ordinance, which will not be before July, and by delaying it to the end of the six months, hopefully it gives more people to get onto the Electoral Roll and therefore stand. I know there are at least two members of the community who have indicated their wish to stand, once they can get on the roll and they will be going on the roll in June.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Okay, so the July Meeting of Chief Pleas will just still be the 14 of us?

1600 **The Speaker:** It will still be 15 of you.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Fifteen? Oh, sorry, there are 14 here because one is missing. Yes.

1605 **The Speaker:** We cannot hold it later than 2nd September because the Reform Law says it must be within six months of the first vacancy and the first vacancy was Conseiller de Carteret. So we have to have it by 2nd September. Right, that deals with the Committee elections.

**19. Committee and Panel Elections –
No nominations**

The Speaker: We now move to Agenda Item 19, Committee and Panel Elections, to elect non-Chief Pleas members to Committees and Panels. Are there any Committees or Panels putting forward nominations for non-Chief Pleas Members or Panel Members? Conseiller Plummer?

1610

Conseiller Plummer: I have mentioned this to Mr Philip Long in the past, like the other day, would it be possible to have him as a non-Chief Pleas –

The Speaker: Who?

1615

Conseiller Plummer: Philip Long.

The Speaker: Have you asked him?

1620

Conseiller Plummer: I have.

The Speaker: Has he agreed?

1625

Conseiller Plummer: He was going to think about it and he has not come back to me but then –

The Speaker: Then we cannot do it today.

Conseiller Plummer: I am a bit disappointed, may I add, about nobody wants to come. I have to say thank you to Conseiller Makepeace. The Agriculture, Sea, Fisheries is not a boring Committee. We do quite a lot of work and it is not a boring Committee and we would welcome anybody to come and join us. But I will get back to Mr Long. Thank you.

1630

The Speaker: So you will fill that position at the next Chief Pleas Meeting, hopefully. Okay, thank you. Conseiller Sandra Williams?

1635

Conseiller Sandra Williams: I just wanted to follow on, actually, just very briefly on where Conseiller Plummer has expressed her disappointment, I sent out an email yesterday, actually, about my concerns over putting people onto Committees this evening and my concern over the fact that the last two people have left due to their high volume of work they had taken on themselves. It is disappointing but I really think that we all need to learn a lesson here and, rather than just go on a Committee to make up the numbers, you realise how many hours a week it takes out of your time.

1640

We say we only meet once a month but it is all the work prior to the meeting, it is all the work on the telephones, meeting with other people. I am sure your Committee is wonderful to be on Helen, with all your home-made scones and cakes, but I think people are just stretched to the limits at the moment.

1645

Regulations laid before Chief Pleas –

- The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021;**
The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 2021;
The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations, 2021;
The Land Reform (Fees) (Sark) Regulations, 2021;
The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No. 2) Regulations, 2021;
The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (Vaccine) (Limitation of Liability) (No. 2) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2021;
The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No. 3) Regulations, 2021;
The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (Vaccine) (Limitation of Liability) (No. 3) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2021;
The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No. 3) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021;
The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No. 3) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 2021;
Direction of the Civil Contingencies Authority under the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No. 2) Regulations, 2021;
The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No. 2) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021;
Direction of the Civil Contingencies Authority under the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No. 2) Regulations, 2021;
Direction of the Civil Contingencies Authority under the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No. 2) Regulations, 2021;
Direction of the Civil Contingencies Authority under the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No. 2) Regulations, 2021;
Direction of the Civil Contingencies Authority under the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (No. 2) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2021

The Speaker: Right. That concludes the formal Business of the Day. However, there are Regulations laid before Chief Pleas. Most of them were pandemic Emergency Regulations, which are either time-expired or have been annulled. The extant ones can be seen on the Guernsey Legal Resources website. The only one that really concerns the House now was the Land Reform (Fees) (Sark) Regulation, 2021, that came into force on 1st February, remains in force. Nobody has asked for it to be annulled. Therefore that Regulation is extant.

Thank you all very much for your patience. That concludes the business of Chief Pleas. I would ask that the members of the public leave fairly swiftly because I have a briefing to give to the Conseillers at the conclusion of this Meeting. So, Conseillers you may stretch your legs for five minutes while the public depart and then we will come back.

The Meeting is closed. Greffier, the Grace please.

PRAYER

The Greffier

Chief Pleas closed at 7.40 p.m.