



OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

CHRISTMAS MEETING

OF CHIEF PLEAS

OF THE

ISLAND OF SARK

HANSARD

Assembly Room, Sark, Wednesday, 19th January 2022

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

Volume 8, No. 1

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

Assistant Constable

C Branson

Conseillers:

Helen Plummer
John Guille
Christopher Drillot
Simon Couldridge
Nichola McHugh
Edric Baker MBE
Tony Le Lievre

Frank Makepeace
Fern Turner
Paul Williams
Sandra Williams
Vaughan Bougourd
Kevin Delaney
Pippa Donovan

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Christmas Meeting of Chief Pleas

Chief Pleas met at 5 p.m.

[THE SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

PRAYER

The Greffier

ROLL CALL

The Greffier

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

Apologies received

The Speaker: I present apologies from Conseiller Joe Donovan.

Welcome to the Acting Lieutenant-Governor, the Bailiff of Guernsey, Mr Richard McMahon QC

5 **The Speaker:** I would like to welcome the Acting Lieutenant-Governor, the Bailiff, Mr Richard McMahon QC, to this our Christmas Meeting. This may be a somewhat different experience to your States' Meeting next week, sir.

Procedural – Declarations of interest

The Speaker: I would inform all Members that all Conseillers have completed their annual declaration of interest form and I would remind you that it is a living document and should be updated if circumstances change.

STATEMENTS

Census – Statement by Conseiller Guille

10 **The Speaker:** There are a number of Statements before we get into the Business of the Day, and the first Statement is from P&F on the census. Conseiller Guille, please.

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir.

15 This is a Statement more to give residents and Members of the Assembly a bit of
forewarning. In accordance with the Census (Sark) Law, 2021, a registrar must be appointed by
Chief Pleas. We have been seeking a suitable non-Sark resident for this position for some time,
with enquiries made in both Jersey and Guernsey. As the registrar will be responsible for
recruiting and training the enumerators and also for setting up the returns system for the forms,
an appointment from either of the Bailiwicks makes a lot of sense both practically and
financially.

20 Although not in time for a Proposition to be brought to this Meeting of Chief Pleas, we have
recently received agreement from Mr Gordon Snell, who we believe to be an ideal candidate for
the role. Mr Snell recently held the position of returning officer for the first Guernsey Island-
wide general election in 2020. With the census date of 27th April this year, this appointment
needs to be made at the earliest opportunity. Therefore, Policy and Finance propose that an
25 Extraordinary Meeting be held on 16th February 2022 and we will bring a full report at that time
to approve this appointment.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much.
30 Any questions? No.

**Queen's Platinum Jubilee –
Statement by Conseiller Guille**

The Speaker: We will move on to the second Statement, also by P&F, on the Jubilee.
Conseiller Guille, please.

Conseiller Guille: Thank you.

35 In June, we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and planning is already under way.
Previously, Chief Pleas have appointed a Constable's Committee to organise specific public
events, with the Committee being approved by Chief Pleas for each separate event. Policy and
Finance will bring a report to the aforementioned Extraordinary Meeting on 16th February
proposing that a special Public Events Committee be formed. This will oversee the organisation
40 for the Jubilee celebrations and all subsequent applicable public events. This will remove the
need to return to Chief Pleas time and time again to approve the formation of this relatively
straightforward Committee.

The Speaker: Any questions? No.

**Power station lease –
Statement by Conseiller Delaney**

45 **The Speaker:** We will move on to the next Statement, and this is by Conseiller Delaney
regarding the power station lease.
Conseiller Delaney, please.

Conseiller Delaney: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

50 At the Extraordinary Meeting on 21st December, Conseiller Baker asked a question: how
many years are left on the lease of the power station? I think as the representative of the

landlord of the power station – I have been for some 15 years now, almost 15 years – quite
55 rightly perhaps people were looking at me to give an answer on that. I did not have the
information readily available. One might expect, after 15 years, that I would know every lease
inside out, but I do not, and I opted for the advice of Mark Twain, that it is better to keep your
mouth shut and appear stupid than open it and remove all doubt. But what I would like to do
this evening, and I am obliged to you for taking my request to speak at such short notice,
Mr Speaker, is just perhaps give an answer to that question, which I thought was a very
reasonable question.

60 What I can do is confirm that the lease commenced on 1st January 1971, the lease was
between, then, and I am sure the House will bear with me on this, a John Malcolm Robson and a
Timothy Patrick Gordon-Brown. A 60-year lease was granted then and in August 2002 that lease
was then assigned to Sark Electricity Company Ltd. So I will be clear on that: the lease sits with
Sark Electricity Company Ltd. Therefore the lease is coming to its conclusion on 31st December
65 2030. I guess the only thing I would add to that is that in common with virtually every lease I
have seen on the Island, there is a requirement for the land and property to be handed back to
the landlord at the expiration of the lease in as good condition as they were delivered at the
commencement of the lease.

70 The reason I bring this to perhaps the House's and the public's attention is that in the light of
the recent survey and the concerns around some of the equipment of the company around the
Island – potentially leakage/seepage into the ground – we would certainly have some concerns
as to what is in effect a brownfield site, what condition it will be in when it comes back to us. We
will be inviting the company to join us in undertaking a survey of the land so we can ascertain is
there any potential liability that should be accrued on the balance sheet in the coming years,
75 because, quite frankly, in this day and age clear-up of brownfield sites can be a very expensive
hobby.

I hope that answers Conseiller Baker's question, perhaps goes a little further. Once again,
Mr Speaker, I am obliged to you for letting me make this Statement.

Thank you.

**SEL negotiations –
Statement by Conseiller Guille**

80 **The Speaker:** A further Statement by P&F on the SEL negotiations.
Conseiller Guille, please.

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

85 The Policy and Finance Committee wish to give an update to residents and fellow Chief Pleas
Members on the purchase negotiations with SEL representatives. We are pleased to report that
negotiations are continuing in a positive manner under the mediation of Andrew Ozanne. Whilst
we are still some way from a resolution, it is fair to say that finally more progress is being made
than has been achieved in the past few years. Crucially, though, we hope that residents can
appreciate and understand that we cannot, and should not at this point in the negotiations,
90 share all of the thinking and tactics behind our current position. Indeed, to do so, as in any
business negotiations of this sort, would be to do a huge disservice to the Island in that it would
weaken our position immeasurably.

95 We would, though, like to clarify three potential areas of concern and reiterate our position
on these. Firstly, in terms of assistance and advice, we continue to be greatly assisted by a team
of advisors from the Law Officers, States of Guernsey External Affairs, States of Guernsey
Treasury and Guernsey Electricity Ltd. Their practical assistance and guidance has been, and
continues to be, invaluable.

100 Secondly, it always has been and will continue to be the overriding requirement of these negotiations and any ongoing arrangements that may follow that Sark will never again be put in the position where the continuity of our electricity supply, and with it our water supply, is threatened.

105 Lastly, should Chief Pleas acquire the Island-wide electricity supply infrastructure by negotiation or compulsory purchase, Guernsey Electricity have offered to assist in the immediate management and directing of operations in the short to medium term. They are also committed to assisting us, along with the rest of our aforementioned advisers, to reach a long-term, expert-led solution for Sark that is both affordable to the Island and Islanders, and will allow Sark, along with the rest of the modern world, to transition to a more environmentally responsible and sustainable means of power supply. This assistance in planning for the future is not being offered after the fact. Indeed, much technical and financial work has already been

110 undertaken to ensure that the proposition that Sark should purchase its own electricity supply infrastructure is one that is both practically and financially achievable. It is fair to say that we would not be continuing to receive the support that we are if this were not the case.

115 Finally, I would like to remind the public and the Assembly that although we are in a delicate state of negotiations at the moment, any decision to purchase or compulsory purchase will be returned to this Assembly for discussion and approval at the appropriate time.

The Speaker: Thank you.
Any questions?

120 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Yes, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Makepeace.

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes, sir.
125 I would just like to ask Conseiller Guille who the members of the negotiating team are, because it seems to be fairly unclear at the moment, certainly to myself.
Thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Delaney.
130

Conseiller Delaney: Thank you, Mr Speaker.
I am very grateful to the Chair of Policy and Finance for the Statement this evening. I did have some questions and I think I would like to pose them to him. What I would say at the outset is I acknowledge it is very easy to ask questions at this stage of proceedings and it must be very

135 difficult to answer them, given the need for them to enter into negotiations without in any way being compromised.

I certainly share a view that I think is common to this House that we cannot find ourselves in a position again where the power can be switched off. Back in November 2018, the Gordon-Brown family threatened to turn the power off, and I think that was regrettable. A couple of years later, we find Alan Whitney Price, the new owner, issuing a similar threat, and one might say that was careless, to allow that situation to develop. To allow a third set of threats to be issued by perhaps the next owner I think would be a dereliction of duty on the part of this House. We do have to secure what is in effect two of our key utilities, which is our electricity and our water supply. It is for this reason that I have offered my unequivocal support to Policy and

140 Finance in their efforts to gain control of the assets.

I make these early points less anything else I have to say on the subject be interpreted as anything other than my wholehearted support of the Island's determination and P&F's determination to gain control over these assets. What I would say is to date Chief Pleas has given its unanimous support to Policy and Finance in their pursuit of the above objectives, and in

150 doing so it has been necessary for not just us in the House, but also the entire public to put their faith, indeed some might say blind faith, in their actions.

I accept that of course they cannot be expected to reveal every move, every nuance in the negotiations between the Committee and the owners of Sark Electricity. How could they be? Were they required to report publicly on their thinking, their strategy at every stage in negotiations, they would be at an enormous disadvantage when trying to strike the right deal for the Island. However, I would ask the Chair of P&F – and he has gone some way to do doing that this evening, and I very much, and I am sure many in this House will appreciate it – to give assurances to the public at large that the Committee has developed a strategy that is far and beyond that of simply acquiring the assets.

160 If they are considering bringing the company into public ownership, are they satisfied they have adequate lines of credit in place, not only to purchase the business but to allow the investment into plant machinery and the grid that is so obviously needed? Is the Committee content that they have readily available access to the management skills and expertise that will be required to run the company? I accept Conseiller Guille has gone some way to answering these questions already. If they are instead considering placing the company in the private sector, or ultimately in the private sector, will they have a tender process in place that ensures that the successful bidder is bound by law to guarantee security of supply so we never have to live under the threat of the switch being thrown again?

170 These are only a few of the numerous questions that could, and should, be addressed by P&F and once again I acknowledge that these are easy questions to pose and difficult questions to answer. But nevertheless, we are a democracy and it is incumbent on the Committee to strike a fine balance between the need to negotiate effectively with SEL and being as open, transparent and accountable to the public as is practical.

Thank you.

175

The Speaker: Conseiller Guille, do you wish to reply to the questions posed by Conseillers Makepeace and Delaney, please?

Conseiller Guille: Yes. Thank you, sir.

180 In reply to Conseiller Makepeace's question, the negotiation team will be obviously made up as directed by the House and members of P&F, and I can say, up to this point, under the mediation of Mr Ozanne, the process so far has been more agreeing a framework and an information-gathering exercise. So no face-to-face negotiations or round-the-table negotiations have actually taken place yet, but as I said, as directed by the House, the negotiation team will be formed by members of P&F and any of the aforementioned advisers that it may be pertinent to bring in to assist us.

185 In answer to Conseiller Delaney's questions, I appreciate that he did not have any prior sight of my Statement and he has just heard it verbally tonight, but I think every question that he posed at the end of his speech there is answered to the fullest that we would like to at the moment in the final few paragraphs of my Statement, especially in terms of has this been thought through prior to purchase. I think we very much think along the same lines, but it is very useful to have this debate in public anyway.

190 I would like to remind him and the rest of the House that should Chief Pleas be successful in purchasing the electricity supply infrastructure, any decision then on what may happen to it in the future will – I think I am stating the obvious here – clearly have to come back before the House with a proper report and suitable discussion before any decisions are made.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.

200

No, that is enough, thank you, Conseiller Makepeace. I am not taking any more on that on.

Conseiller Makepeace: Well, I do not feel my question has been answered directly, sir. Thank you, anyway.

205 **The Speaker:** If you do not feel it has been correctly answered, will you put it in writing to the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee and you will get a written reply?
Thank you.

**Isle of Sark Shipping –
Statement by Conseiller Guille**

The Speaker: A further Statement by P&F on Isle of Sark Shipping.
Conseiller Guille.

210

Conseiller Guille: At the November Extraordinary Meeting of Chief Pleas, the Assembly approved a Proposition for Chief Pleas to continue to work with the board of Isle of Sark Shipping and the Law Officers to implement the new corporate governance structure within Isle of Sark Shipping. Several Meetings have been held with Andrew Ozanne, and the Isle of Sark Shipping board and staff, with positive progress made towards the new structure. It is anticipated that advertisements to recruit new non-executive directors to fill the vacancies which will arise in April of this year will be released shortly. One of these appointments will be for a Sark-based non-executive chairman of the board to enable greater engagement between Isle of Sark Shipping, Sark residents, businesses and Chief Pleas. These advertisements will be shared with Sark residents via a mail drop in the very near future.

215
220

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.
Any questions? No.

**Ambulance services –
Statement by Conseiller Plummer**

225 **The Speaker:** Then we will move to the final Statement, a Statement from the Medical Committee, Conseiller Plummer.

Conseiller Plummer: Thank you, sir.

It has come to the attention of the Medical and Emergency Services Committee some concern has been expressed on social media with regard to potential new ambulances for Sark. The Committee would like to reassure all residents that the Committee continue to work closely with St John Ambulance in Guernsey and the medical team in Sark to implement a long-term plan for the Sark emergency response team, which will include upgrading equipment. On this occasion, following inspection and detailed discussion, it was found that the ambulances that were offered were not suitable for Sark. The Committee are continuing to explore options for the development of the ambulance fleet and would like to thank St John Ambulance for their ongoing support to Sark's medical team.

230
235

Thank you.

240 **The Speaker:** Thank you.

Conseiller Makepeace: I have got a point.

The Speaker: Any questions? Conseiller Makepeace.

245

Conseiller Makepeace: I would just like to say that I think that we should make it a priority to get a decent ambulance as soon as we can, because it concerns a lot of people who may need to use the ambulance.

250

The Speaker: Thank you.

Conseiller Makepeace: Thank you, sir.

255

The Speaker: But that was not a question, that was a statement, and I asked for questions, so we will move on.

**Procedural –
Electronic devices**

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

Business of the Day

1. Matters arising from the Extraordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 17th November 2021

260

The Speaker: Agenda Item 1, Matters Arising from the Extraordinary Meeting held on 17th November 2021. Are there any matters arising? Put your hands up, please. No.

2. Questions not related to the Business of the Day – None

The Speaker: We will move to Agenda Item 2, Questions not related to the Business of the Day. There have been none tabled.

**Procedural –
Agenda reordered**

265

The Speaker: Before we move to Agenda Item 3, I propose, in accordance with Rule of Procedure 10, that Item 15 from the Addendum be taken immediately after Item 9. I gave notice of this to Conseillers last week. Those in favour, that Item 15 from the Addendum be taken immediately after Item 9; those against? **Carried.** The Agenda will be so reordered.

**Procedural –
Agenda correction**

The Speaker: Before we move into Agenda Item 3, I would like to make a correction to the Agenda. The Report is brought by the Medical and Emergency Services Committee and not P&F as it says on the Agenda.

**3. The Capacity (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2020 (Commencement) (Sark) Ordinance, 2022 –
Medical and Emergency Services Committee Report considered –
Propositions carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from Medical and Emergency Services Committee entitled ‘The Capacity (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2020 Commencement Ordinance, 2022’ and to approve the Ordinance entitled ‘The Capacity (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2020 (Commencement) (Sark) Ordinance, 2022’.

Proposition 1:

That Chief Pleas approves the amendments tabled.

Proposition 2:

That Chief Pleas approves the amended Ordinance entitled, ‘The Capacity (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2020 (Commencement) (Sark) Ordinance, 2022’.

270 **The Speaker:** Agenda Item 3 is to consider a Report with Proposition from the Medical and
Emergency Services Committee entitled the Capacity (Bailiwick of Guernsey) 2020
Commencement Ordinance, 2022, and to approve the Ordinance entitled the Capacity (Bailiwick
of Guernsey) Law, 2020 (Commencement) (Sark) Ordinance, 2022.

275 I would ask the Chairman of the Medical Committee, Conseiller Plummer, to introduce the
Report, please.

Conseiller Plummer: Thank you.

280 At the Midsummer Meeting held on 8th July 2020, Chief Pleas approved the Projet de Loi
entitled the Capacity (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2020. The Committee have been notified by
the Law Officers that two amendments are required to the Ordinance in this section. Section 1A
states ‘to the extent necessary for’, but this has been amended to read, ‘to the extent relevant
for’.

285 The second amendment is to section 1, where the commencement date will now be
1st April 2020.

The Speaker: Twenty-two.

Conseiller Plummer: Twenty-two, thank you. And the Proposition: that the Chief Pleas
approves the amendments as tabled, that is Proposition 1.

290 Proposition 2: that Chief Pleas approves the amended Ordinance entitled, ‘The Capacity
Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2020 (Commencement) (Sark) Ordinance, 2022’.

Thank you.

295 **The Speaker:** There is a change to the Ordinance which you are being asked to approve, and
we will take that Proposition in a few moments. Are there any questions of the Medical
Committee? Raise your hands, please. No.

Then we will go to Proposition 1: that Chief Pleas approves the amendments as tabled. Those in favour; those against? **Carried.**

300 Proposition 2: that Chief Pleas approves the amended Ordinance entitled the Capacity (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2020 (Commencement) (Sark) Ordinance, 2022'. Those in favour; those against? **Carried.**

**4. The Reform (Election of Conseillers) (By-Election) (Sark) Ordinance 2022 –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'By-Election' and to approve the Ordinance entitled 'The Reform (Election of Conseillers) (By-Election) (Sark) Ordinance 2022'.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves 'The Reform (Election of Conseillers) (By-Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2022'.

305 **The Speaker:** Agenda Item 4, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'By-Election', and to approve the Ordinance entitled, 'The Reform (Election of Conseillers) (By-Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2022'. I would ask Conseiller Guille to introduce the Report, please.

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir.

This Report covers the requirement for a by-election to replace Conseillers who have resigned from Chief Pleas. Section 23A(1) of the Reform Law provides:

upon the occurrence of a casual vacancy amongst the Conseillers, a by-election shall be held on such date, not later than six months after the occurrence of the vacancy, as the Chief Pleas shall by Ordinance appoint.

310 The vacancies created by the resignation of former Conseiller Ms Natalie Craik and former Conseiller Mr William Raymond triggers the mechanism required for a by-election to take place. There is also a vacancy outstanding which was not filled at the by-election in August 2021. Following discussions with the Returning Officer as to a suitable date, the Committee comes to this Meeting with an Ordinance already prepared and which is attached to this Report. Twenty-third of March 2022 has been selected as the date of the by-election and the Returning Officer's timetable is attached to this Report.

Thank you.

320 **The Speaker:** Are there any questions? Raise your hands, please.
Conseiller Sandra Williams.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: It is actually more of a statement than a question, sir, can I ...?

325 **The Speaker:** Yes.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: As we all know, filling seats in general elections is bad enough, and I am even more strongly concerned that we are not going to fill these seats at a by-election. I just wondered whether, collectively, it would be worth setting up a small group of people, who, like I did three years ago, had a little meeting and tried to encourage people through lying

330 through our teeth and saying, 'It really isn't hard work, and we only meet four times a year.'
(Laughter)

It does concern me and it is something that I think we as Conseillers, as much as we all whinge and moan about how much work we have got to do, I am not saying be a bit economical with the truth, but I do think that there were things we discussed prior to the last by-election
335 about maybe paying the Conseillers £1,000 a year for out-of-pocket expenses and the odd day off work if you have to lose a day to go to Guernsey and do business things. Because the majority of us here, we are not retired, but it is not quite a strain because all of us do not have small children relying on us bringing in our wages every week. I wondered whether it was time, maybe, if we could bring something into the 16th February, maybe with some recommendations
340 to try and encourage people, offer people the use of having to be able to ... I know the Budget is done for this year and not everyone will want it and not everyone will use it, but I just think it would encourage a few more people that I have spoken to who said they just cannot afford it, to offer them the possibility that maybe they could cover a day of being off work or something. I am happy to work with anybody who is interested in looking at this and moving forward.

345 Thank you.

The Speaker: Can I suggest that as you have to have a PDG meeting fairly shortly, the first one of the year to set your priorities, that that would be a good subject for that PDG meeting, but you are going to have to move very quickly if you are going to get anything in for the
350 Extraordinary Meeting, the date of which I have forgotten, but I think it is 16th (**Two Members:** Yes.) February. You have to move very quickly to get a considered report into Chief Pleas in that time.

Conseiller Guille, before I go back to Conseiller Sandra Williams.

355 **Conseiller Guille:** Thank you, sir.

Conseiller Sandra Williams, I wholeheartedly agree with everything you have said there, and speaking on behalf of P&F, I think we would very much like to join you in establishing a group like you suggest, and I agree with your comments on the remuneration. With another hat on, as a member of the Special Taxation Committee, personally speaking that has always been one of
360 my visions: that if the Special Taxation Committee can manage to generate some more income for the Island, I think the House seriously needs to consider some form of remuneration for Conseillers, because we certainly do put a lot of time in, regardless of the out-of-hours stuff. Just simply the days off work going to meetings in Guernsey or more recently just simply meetings online, the hours wrack up every week.

365 So to conclude, please speak to us about setting up a group to encourage more people to stand in this by-election. Like Mr Speaker says, we can discuss this at PDG and if we do want to bring any Propositions, maybe we will not make the Extraordinary Meeting in February, but the Easter Meeting is not too far away.

370 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Sandra Williams, do you want to come back on that, please?

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Yes, I would just like to say that I believe that since the last by-election or since the last General Election I have been quite vocal about the fact that we need to do something to change the way in which they, not are conducted, but the way in which people
375 are very lethargic about coming forward. We have raised it twice, to my knowledge, at our PDG meetings, but it does not ever seem to move any further than there, because everything else supersedes it. Every time we get it near the top of the agenda, something more important comes along.

I know that is politics for you, so that is why I would like to, not take it out of PDG's
380 responsibility, but I think working with Members that are Chairmen of Policy and Finance and other Committees, that it could maybe, without too much work, get on to an Agenda very soon,

rather than, again, having another PDG meeting, finding out that it comes about seventh or eighth in the priority list. I believe that a contested election at the moment is one of the most important things that Sark needs to have.

385 Thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Delaney.

Conseiller Delaney: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

390 I certainly find myself agreeing with the concept that nobody should be out of pocket in representing the Island in Chief Pleas. If they have to have a day off to go to Guernsey – we always use that as an example – why should they be out of pocket? It does not strike me as very democratic because we end up in a situation where those who are dependent on a weekly wage cannot even think about coming into Chief Pleas. And general expenses – boat fares etc. I do not
395 think any reasonable man or woman could argue with that.

You make a very valid point, Mr Speaker, that we would do very well to get something through PDG and a statement out ahead of the election. But, Mr Speaker, here we are this evening, and here is an opportunity to send a message out to would-be politicians. We have an awful lot of people here this evening who may not speak at all across the entire evening, but on
400 this one subject, perhaps people could get up and voice their own opinion on it and send a message out, because I believe that the opinion will concur with Conseiller Sandra Williams, Conseiller Guille and my own position: that we really need to make this change.

So I say again: an opportunity exists at this moment in time for this House to send a very strong message out to would-be candidates for the upcoming by-election.

405 Thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Makepeace.

Conseiller Makepeace: I would just like to say, sir, that I obviously realise it would be better if
410 we were to have a contested election, but I do not think it is always about the quantity of Conseillers we have, rather than the quality, and just going out and recruiting anyone and offering them £1,000 may lead to people just jumping on board for the money and the expenses. So I am totally against any fees or payment for anything we do.

Thank you, sir.

415

The Speaker: Okay. Anybody else?
Conseiller Drillot.

Conseiller Drillot: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

420 Seeing as I am on two and a half of the biggest Committees, I would say, I agree with Conseiller Guille that time off is very difficult. Obviously in the last two weeks I have had three days off to deal with Douzaine matters. It is not every week, it is not constant, but it does occur. I am not saying that I agree with paying the Conseillers, I am not saying I do not. What I am saying is that since day one ... Well, actually, I think we have had one meeting since the nine of
425 us were elected. We had one Chief Pleas Meeting where we were a full house. Since that day, the week after someone resigned, we have not been a full house since.

The reason that a lot of us on the big Committees are doing a lot of work is because we are short of numbers. Conseiller Makepeace's point that it does not matter about the quantity, it is quality, the quantity really does matter. If we have got a full House, we can fulfil all the positions
430 on the Committees, which will reduce the workload for each Committee. The Douzaine, for instance, should be a Committee of seven, we are one down – it makes a difference, it really does, because you cannot palm something on to someone else so you end up having to palm it

on to someone who has already got a high workload. If we had a full House, we could then fulfil all the Committees and spread the load.

435 I really hope that we get the three positions that we need for this by-election, which would set a good state then for the next election the following December and we can then continue to have a full House. I really feel that is vitally important, and as Chairman of the Douzaine I will definitely be happy to sit with Conseiller Sandra Williams and Conseiller Guille and set up something to try and encourage people and give my experience of how much time Chief Pleas really does take.

440 Thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Sandra Williams.

445 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** I am sorry, sir, I was not going to come back but I just feel the need to say, with respect, Conseiller Makepeace, it is *exactly* comments that you have just made, at this very Assembly where I am discussing it, that is stopping people from putting their names forward and being called stupid.

450 **Conseiller Makepeace:** I would like to reply to that –

The Speaker: No, I am not going to have a punch-up in here. You made some comments, there has been a reply back, we will close that down now.

455 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Well, I think it is unfair that you do not give me a chance to reply against certain allegations from a fellow Conseiller, sir.

The Speaker: I am not going to allow any (**Conseiller Makepeace:** Thank you.) argument between the two of you. You can do it outside, we want constructive discussion in here. Are there any constructive comments that anybody would like to raise?

460 Yes, Conseiller Plummer.

Conseiller Plummer: Thank you.

I would just like to support Conseiller Sandra Williams in her efforts. Some time ago I think it was Deputy Diane Baker and I, we did it at the beginning and it worked.

465 People are nervous about coming forward, and there would be a lot of us in here – or quite a few of us in here I think – who would not take the money, but it would encourage other people and I know very well that when you go on Committees you work. Then it gets almost like a bug: you have got to keep going and you learn. I have never read so much since I joined this Assembly than I had done before. I do feel that this is the way forward and I would encourage anybody to stand for this House.

470 Thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Guille, would you like to sum up, please?

475 **Conseiller Guille:** Thank you, I do indeed.

We have been talking about some of the difficulties in Chief Pleas at present, but I would like to draw the House's and the public's attention to ... Despite the troubles or the difficulties we face, it is an incredibly rewarding position to undertake, to do our bit for the Island. Just looking at recent Agendas, what we have achieved in the last few years, the Douzaine, imminently ... Sark's first ever Island-wide recycling scheme is about to take effect. We are about to do the first census that the Island has seen in decades. We are restructuring the Sark Shipping Company to better engage with the Island for the benefit of residents and businesses. We are firmly on the path to securing once and for all our Island's electricity supply and hopefully transitioning to a

485 greener future. This is a very exciting time to join Chief Pleas and to do you bits to benefit the Island.

I think, on the whole here, I am very grateful to Conseiller Sandra Williams for raising the subject of some sort of remuneration, whether it be expenses or whatever it may be. I think that is something else that we can assure anybody thinking of standing and wanting to do their bit for
490 the Island: that is something that is going to be looked at and taken forwards with haste.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.

We will go to the Proposition in the Report: that Chief Pleas approves the Reform (Election of
495 Conseillers) (By-Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2022. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

I would ask the public to note that the electoral register, which is currently open, will close on 18th February ahead of nominations, which open on 22nd February.

Just to save you time, if those Conseillers who were in the Assembly at the time ... About three years ago now there was a Proposition fully fleshed out with regard to expenses and remuneration. It came to Chief Pleas and it lost on a vote of 10 to 10, so it was not carried. So to
500 save you an awful lot of work, I would recommend that you look at that Report which came in and maybe adapt it to what you want to do currently.

**5. The Census (Sark) Ordinance, 2022 –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled ‘Census Ordinance’ and to approve the Ordinance entitled ‘The Census (Sark) Ordinance, 2022’.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves the Ordinance entitled ‘The Census (Sark) Ordinance, 2022’.

The Speaker: We move to Agenda Item 5, to consider a Report with Proposition of the Policy and Finance Committee entitled ‘Census Ordinance’ and to approve the Ordinance entitled ‘The
505 Census (Sark) Ordinance, 2022’. I would ask Conseiller Guille to introduce the Report, please.

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir.

Following the approval of the Projet de Loi at the Midsummer Chief Pleas Meeting held on 7th July 2021, the Law has received Royal Sanction and was registered at the Royal Court in
510 Guernsey on 18th October 2021. The Law requires an Ordinance to be enacted setting out the details of a forthcoming census, including the date when the census will be held and the procedural arrangements necessary for the carrying out of the census.

At the Extraordinary Meeting of Chief Pleas held on 17th November 2021, Chief Pleas authorised the Policy and Finance Committee to instruct the Law Officers of the Crown to
515 prepare the aforementioned Ordinance. Today, the Committee append to this Report a draft of this Ordinance for Chief Pleas’ approval.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Is there any debate; would you raise your hands, please? Conseiller Delaney.
520 Anybody else? Conseiller Makepeace.

Conseiller Delaney, followed by Conseiller Makepeace.

Conseiller Delaney: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

CHRISTMAS MEETING OF CHIEF PLEAS, WEDNESDAY, 19th JANUARY 2022

At the Midsummer Chief Pleas, I did raise concerns about the administration of the census. I
525 am fully supportive of the census. I think it is absolutely critically and very much is intertwined
with the work of the tax review Special Committee of which I am Chair, and the Definition of a
Resident Committee, of which I am a member. I see all of these, the census and the work of
those Committees, as I say, being intertwined. But I am concerned that the issues that I raised at
530 the Midsummer Meeting in respect of the trust that the public will be able to put that, when
they fill in their forms, nobody on this Island has access to the data on those forms, I am not
convinced, and I do not have comfort that that has fully been addressed.

I understand there will be an off-Island appointment for the adjudicator, I think is the term
that is being used –

535 **The Speaker:** No, the registrar.

Conseiller Delaney: I do beg your pardon. Thank you, Mr Speaker. Registrar, yes. But I had
rather hoped myself that the entire exercise would have been off Island. I had envisaged
540 something along the lines where we would all be issued a form, we could fill it in with
confidence, knowing it goes off of the Island and goes to an accredited institution in the UK,
perhaps, that reads the forms, processes the information and that information then comes back
to Chief Pleas and gives us the data that we are seeking from it.

My concerns lie, firstly, from a personal perspective. I have looked at the form. Quite a lot of
545 the questions are quite intrusive, and perhaps they have to be to have a census worthwhile
holding, but I am not comfortable at all with the fact that the answers I give could be shared by
any of my neighbours. We are very small community here on Sark, and there are times when we
have to say we are not like anywhere else, and the proportionality around an exercise such as
this is everything.

Mr Speaker, as far as the questions are concerned, I have nothing to hide. When I first joined
550 Chief Pleas I stood here and openly praised the Chamber because it was open to everyone and I
identified as a chap who left school without so much as an O-Level. I have got nothing to hide on
that side of things; the directorships that I submit to the Greffier, I think that is a public
document that can be viewed. So I feel it is not that I personally have anything to hide, but I am
concerned that as we start this process, it is almost dead in the water before we get going,
555 because if we do not have the confidence of the public that the information, the answers they
are going to give, are not going to be viewed by people here on Island, people who I will remind
you of my point back at the Midsummer Chief Pleas, that today could be in the Civil Service or
could be any of the people appointed to deal with this and the next day mowing the lawn or
serving us in the shop. That is the way we work on Sark.

560 I genuinely have concerns that if there is not confidence from the public that this data is
going to go off Island and be seen only by an accredited institution off of the Island that most
forms may as well begin, or most forms that are returned, with the term 'Once upon a time'.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

565 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Makepeace.

Conseiller Makepeace: Thank you, sir.

At a previous Meeting in November, I sought reassurance from Conseiller Guille that the
570 information and the data collected for the census report will be handled by an accredited UK
company who have experience in this kind of work, and at no stage should any Conseiller, civil
servant, court official or other in Sark have access or sight of this information, which Mr Guille
reassured me. But what I am confused about is the role of the enumerator, because it clearly
says that we should deliver, or the enumerator will collect this information. How is that going to
happen?

575 I know we have got an off-Island registrar, will we also have off-Island enumerators or will they actually be chosen here on Sark from residents or whatever?
Thank you.

The Speaker: Anybody else have any comment before I go back to Conseiller Guille? No.
580 In that case, if you would like to sum up, Conseiller Guille.

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir.

I think I am going to forgive Conseiller Delaney and Conseiller Makepeace for maybe forgetting the assurances that we have repeatedly given since the Midsummer Chief Pleas. I am
585 a bit disheartened that they have chosen to propose this different reality that people on the Island are going to be looking at the data in this census. I have already stated that it will be the option, with the census, to complete it and send it in an envelope back to the data collection point, which will be off Island. All data will be processed off Island, so there never has been any suggestion that the data is going to be processed on the Island. The person processing the data
590 has not been selected but we have just received a proposition from ... it was only told to me this afternoon, so the name escapes me, but a lady who has done a lot of the data processing surrounding the COVID pandemic in Guernsey. So data processing is off Island, you can post your form back without handing it to anybody on Sark. The enumerators, which is absolutely standard in any census around the world, will be local people, because you need, practically wise, for the
595 job they do ... the local knowledge is useful. As mentioned in my Statement earlier about the registrar, that will be the person responsible for training the enumerators, but as I have said, you can hand your census to the enumerator in a sealed envelope or you can post it, so there is no question that they even have to see it.

Conseiller Delaney, I would perhaps submit that he makes a rather dangerous suggestion, that with these imagined worries about the census people will fill it in incorrectly. I would like to remind him that this is a census which people are bound by law to complete accurately and I find it disappointing that a Conseiller and a Member of this House would start making suggestions that people could or should be filling out their census incorrectly.

So I apologise if he has merely forgotten the assurances that have previously been given, but
605 I would just like to make them again. To be honest, I think we all believe the census is a good idea, it has been voted through, and it is going to be done in a proper way. I do not think this level of suspicion, despite repeated reassurances, is very helpful to this worthwhile project.

Thank you.

610 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Makepeace.

Conseiller Makepeace: I would just like to say, sir, that I would not exactly call it a level of suspicion, but if this was made clear to us in the Proposition, that the enumerators will not view any of this, then we would not have needed to ask these questions. We would have been
615 convinced or we would have looked through this and thought, 'Well, there's no need to answer that because our concern has already been answered in the proposal.' So I think it is a lack of clarification in the proposal that has led to our questions.

Thank you, sir.

620 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Delaney, follow-up question, please.

Conseiller Guille: May I reply to Conseiller Makepeace, please?

The Speaker: Yes.

625

Conseiller Guille: Thank you.

CHRISTMAS MEETING OF CHIEF PLEAS, WEDNESDAY, 19th JANUARY 2022

630 With this Proposition and the accompanying Ordinance, I would just like to refer
Conseiller Makepeace to section 6, which explains about how persons can make a confidential
return so the enumerator does not see it. So it is not our fault that Conseiller Makepeace has not
noticed this in the Ordinance.

Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Conseiller Delaney.

635 **Conseiller Delaney:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I am obliged to the Chair of P&F for his explanation. I am not quite sure that it was that clear
within the report that what many of us have been seeking is what happens: that we can get a
form, fill it in, put it in an envelope and off it goes. So I cannot believe I would be the only person
who did not quite grasp that, if that is the case. I could not find it in the report where it actually
640 stated that but I am extremely grateful to him for confirming, because I am sure it will be
reported widely, that people can fill in their form with confidence and it can be put in the post,
go off Island in the way that I asked for.

I must stress I was not suggesting, and I certainly was not encouraging people to break the
law, and I hope it did not come over as such. I was merely perhaps reflecting on human nature: if
645 we do go out with something that people do not have 100% trust in, then I do suspect again that
people will find a way of not giving full disclosures on the form. In respect of suspicion, it is not
about suspicion, Mr Speaker, and yes it may well be the law that people have to fill it in, but we
are here to make good laws and we are here to make laws that people are comfortable with,
that they have trust in and deliver the desired outcome.

650 So once again, I am immensely grateful to the Chair of P&F, because I think we are all clear
on that now. Fill your form in, put it in your envelope, get it off, and then all the Island will know
of it is the outcome of the collective data.

Thank you very much.

655 **The Speaker:** Could I just ask Conseiller Sandra Williams to speak? You put your hand up?
(**Conseiller Sandra Williams:** No.) You didn't? Sorry. (*Interjection by Conseiller McHugh*) One
behind.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Just behind me.

660

The Speaker: Conseiller McHugh, please.

Conseiller McHugh: I would just like to say to Conseiller Guille that I have read the legislation,
I have read it end to end, but we are not lawyers here. I read the bit about confidential return, I
665 actually thought that meant that a person within the ... I was not clear – I thought it was very
clumsy legislation the way it read, but again I am not a lawyer – whether it was the owner of the
household who was filling in on behalf of everybody else or everybody within the household
filled it in, because it refers to who does it and when and where. And then a confidential return,
I actually believed that was when someone within the household was opting not to allow the
670 person who was signing the forms on behalf of everybody else to know what they were doing. I
read that legislation and did not conclude that a confidential ... and I thought a confidential
return was something that you opted for, not necessarily ... The legislation did not clearly say to
me that it would be completely off Island and be confidential.

675 So I am sorry if I misunderstood it, but I am not a lawyer and we are just asking the question.
It was completely reasonable to ask you the question and not be expected to interpret the Law,
surely?

The Speaker: Conseiller Guille.

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, Conseiller McHugh.

680 I think the way the comments were framed from Conseiller Delaney at the start was as if
there was no option for confidential returns. Section 6 is entitled 'Confidential returns'. Whether
it is an option or whether it is across the board, the whole point of enumerators, as has
previously been explained, is that some residents, maybe older residents, maybe residents not
685 familiar with a census, might need some assistance in filling out the forms and that is where the
important job of enumerator comes in. But there is an option here for confidential returns and
whether it is an option or it is across the board is neither here nor there. It is an option, so it is
available to people. So I think surely that satisfies her concerns.

The Speaker: Conseiller McHugh.

690

Conseiller McHugh: Thank you for letting me speak again, Mr Speaker, because it is just that I
actually am still a little bit confused about this option for a confidential return. Is it that, then,
the person within a household? Is that a confidential aspect from the householder? Is that a
695 member of the household who is making a confidential return so that the householder is not
aware of that member's form? That is how I read confidential return. Or is that that the people
who are enumerating, adjudicating and registering our data ... that is not going to be on Island?
Is that what that means, then, section 6?

The Speaker: Conseiller Guille.

700

Conseiller Guille: Section 6 is about both confidentiality from other people within your
household and the ability to make a confidential return so the enumerator does not see it. Then,
absolutely separately, is the subject of data processing, which has always, from the outset, been
stated will happen off Island; from the outset from when the census was first proposed and
705 discussed, which began before last summer. So it is just repeatedly throwing shade on this
subject.

Conseiller Delaney talks about public trust in this and I think despite repeated assurances
about the data being processed off Island, I am just ... It takes a long time to organise such a big
undertaking, especially when it is the first time that it has happened in decades, and we have
710 sought assistance from the people doing the most recent Guernsey census, and also the census
in Jersey, but, like the Statement about the registrar, we are still putting individuals and
organisations in place. But it does not change the assurances that have been given all along
when discussing the census: off-Island registrar, off-Island data processing, the ability to return
your forms confidentially, and I am just surprised that we are still discussing this now.

715

The Speaker: I will give you one more go, Conseiller McHugh, but that is it, because you are
repeating the same –

Conseiller McHugh: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

720

The Speaker: Conseiller McHugh.

Conseiller McHugh: I would like to beg to differ with Conseiller Guille, because he has *never*
given an assurance it will be done off Island. I can cite him from the last Meeting when
725 Conseiller Delaney brought it up he simply said it would be looked at. He appreciated
Conseiller Delaney's position and it would be looked at. You have *never* categorically stated that
the data would be processed off Island and it was completely reasonable that the House ask you
that question. And if you want to level accusations of suspicion at us then I think it is *you* that is
being over the top and paranoid, really. We have got a right to explain it to the House and we

730 have got a right to ask questions on behalf of the people of this community who would be very upset if their data was processed on Island.

Thank you very much.

The Speaker: I think we have heard quite clearly that the data is being processed *off* the Island. It is very clear that it is processed off the Island.

735 Final word from Conseiller Guille on this, and then we are going to the vote.

Conseiller Guille: I have always given assurances that it is illogical that you could ever get a census on Sark off the ground, it would be a non-starter, if the data was going to be processed on the Island. We have always given assurances that it is not going to be processed on the Island, so I beg to differ with Conseiller McHugh's recollection of events, sir.

The Speaker: Right, we will now go to the vote on the Proposition that Chief Pleas approves the Ordinance entitled the Census (Sark) Ordinance, 2022. Those in favour; those against?
745 **Carried.**

**6. The Child Protection (Transfer of Functions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2022 –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'Transfer of Functions Ordinance' and to approve the Ordinance entitled 'The Child Protection (Transfer of Functions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2022'.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves the Ordinance entitled 'The Child Protection (Transfer of Functions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2022'.

The Speaker: We move to Agenda Item 6, a less controversial topic, I believe, to consider a Report with Propositions from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled, 'Transfer of Functions Ordinance', and to approve the Ordinance entitled, 'The Child Protection (Transfer of Functions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2022'. I would ask Conseiller Guille to introduce the Report, please.

750

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir – yes, hopefully a much more straightforward Item.

The Transfer of Functions Ordinance: at the Michaelmas Meeting of Chief Pleas held on 6th October 2021, Chief Pleas agreed to the transfer of the Safeguarding function from the Education Committee to the Medical and Emergency Services Committee. Obviously it transpires, in order for this transfer to occur, an Ordinance is necessary. Therefore today the Policy and Finance Committee append to this Report the draft Ordinance entitled, 'The Child Protection (Transfer of Functions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2022' for approval.

755

The Speaker: Any comment or debate, please? No.

760 Then we will go straight to the Proposition that Chief Pleas approves the Ordinance entitled the Child Protection (Transfer of Functions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2022. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**7. Changes to the Education Mandate –
Report from the Education Committee considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Education Committee entitled ‘Changes to the Education Mandate’.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves the change of Mandate as detailed in this Report.

The Speaker: Agenda Item 7, to consider a Report from the Education Committee entitled ‘Changes to the Education Mandate’, and I would ask Conseiller McHugh to introduce the Report, please.

Conseiller McHugh: Oh, I did not realise I was doing this! Sorry, everybody.

These are the changes to the Education mandate. We agreed this already. This is Safeguarding moving to Medical and Emergency.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Change to your Education Mandate.

Conseiller McHugh: This is the change to the Education Mandate. This is the Safeguarding moving to you – (**Conseiller Sandra Williams:** No.) Is it not? (**Conseiller Sandra Williams:** No.) Is it two parents on the thing?

Conseiller Sandra Williams: It is about changing your Mandate.

The Speaker: No private conversations, please. (**Conseiller Sandra Williams:** Sorry.) The Proposition is that Chief Pleas approve the change of Mandate detailed in the Report.

Conseiller McHugh: It is – it is Safeguarding! (*Interjections*)

The Speaker: Conseiller McHugh –

Conseiller McHugh: Yes, but that is what the Mandate is being changed from. We are moving Safeguarding to Medical and Emergency and we are allowing two parents on the Committee.

The Speaker: That is correct. (**Conseiller McHugh:** Thank you.) You have carried out the changes required of you by Chief Pleas. Thank you.

Any questions? Conseiller Sandra Williams.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Sorry, sir, I will direct it this way and then I can speak to Conseiller McHugh.

I was rather hoping that you might take us through the changes to the Education Mandate. It is titled, ‘Education Committee: Changes to the Education Mandate’. There are changes to the Mandate, as well as taking away from the Mandate the Safeguarding role and putting it on to Medical. That is what I was hoping that you were going to discuss with us. I have got it here in front of me, but I just wanted to know ... The constitution on the Education Committee Mandate still says:

The Director of Education and the Chair of the Board of Education shall be members ex-officio.

I would like to ask if we have a Director of Education.

Conseiller McHugh: Oh right, okay.

805 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** I would also like to ask that you are to present to Chief Pleas the name of the person nominated as the Director of Education and we are supposed to:

Receive information from the Director of Education and the Board of Education in sufficient depth and with regularity so as to enable the Committee to fulfil their role.

So my question to you is do we have a Director of Education? It is on the constitution of the Education Committee and you are supposed:

To present to Chief Pleas the name of the person nominated as the Director of Education (in accordance with the recommendations of the Education Review 2017).

That is basically –

810 **Conseiller McHugh:** That is okay, that is all right, Conseiller Sandra Williams. Yes, I am sorry. I mean this –

815 **The Speaker:** Conseiller McHugh, sit down a moment, please. (**Conseiller McHugh:** Sorry!) I would just say that I am not sure that this Meeting is the appropriate Meeting for voting on a Director of Education. This is purely to do with changes to the Education Mandate –

820 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** But, sir, we are being asked to approve a Mandate which clearly states on line 3, 'The Director of Education and the Chair of the Board of Education shall be members ex-officio.'

Conseiller McHugh: I can answer this –

825 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** To my knowledge, we do not have a Director of Education, so how can we approve to a change of Mandate –

Conseiller McHugh: We are not.

830 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** You have added to the Mandate and you are asking us to approve the changes to the Education Mandate.

Conseiller McHugh: Well, can I answer you now? Okay, this –

835 **The Speaker:** Not just yet. (**Conseiller McHugh:** Sorry.) Right, are there any other questions; any other debate on this? No.

Conseiller McHugh, you may come back to what Conseiller Sandra Williams has said.

840 **Conseiller McHugh:** I am sorry I was remiss, when I did not realise I was doing this. But this is a housekeeping issue, really, Conseiller Sandra Williams, in the sense that this was debated at Michaelmas, in October, and this is really just then ... We all agreed to the Mandate changes and then this is just them written up. It is already done. These are the changes to the Education Mandate, so it is to do with parents on the Committee and how many there can be, and the extension of the Education Committee to make it a little bit bigger, and it is about the Safeguarding function moving to Medical.

845 You mention that we have not got a Director of Education, but are not talking about that. We are talking about changes to the Education Mandate. But if you would like me to give you an update on the Director of Education, Conseiller Joseph Donovan has been brilliant, and he has

850 been in talks with Nick Hynes, who is the Director of Education in Guernsey and we are getting very close to getting an SLA which will allow us a point of contact in Guernsey, plus a whole plethora of other stuff that we did not have before for ... I am not going to go any further than that in case I fall on my bottom and I get it wrong, but seemingly it is going to be a really good deal, so it is brilliant.

Thank you.

855 **The Speaker:** Before I ask you to come back, Conseiller Sandra Williams, the Committee, when Chief Pleas debated this, was asked to work with the Board of Education to make sure that their two Mandates were aligned. One assumes that that has happened, because the Mandate has come back, and it was to change the number of Conseillers on it and Chief Pleas debated whether parents would be able to be on the Committee as Conseillers, and that was agreed. So those changes that were asked of the Committee have been put in. I can only assume that the
860 Committee have discussed their Mandate with the Board of Education so that the two Mandates are aligned so that there are no overlaps and empty spaces which things can fall through.

Conseiller Guille.

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir.

865 I think the other crucial thing is this was all borne out of our meetings last year. I just want to draw the House's attention to the other crucial change in the Mandate, which spurred this whole investigation into the Mandate and the need to change it, or the desire to change it, is that the Education Committee shall – well, it already is – from this point forward be five members; no more than two members shall be parents of school-age children currently being
870 educated in the Sark system. That really was the driver for looking into this Mandate change. I thank the Education Committee for bringing that forward and I think so far it has been a positive change and –

Conseiller McHugh: Absolutely. Definitely. It worked.

875

Conseiller Guille: Okay. I am speaking about Education, but I know that Conseiller Joseph Donovan, who is not here today, has been working very hard on the job to replace the Director of Education, which is obviously lacking at the moment and I believe the Education Committee ... As Conseiller McHugh said, there will be an uptake forthcoming with that.

880

Thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Sandra Williams, and then I will ask Conseiller McHugh to sum up, please.

885 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** I just want to be clear, sir, I am in no way belittling the role of the Education Committee, because I have been there and it is not an easy job. I am also very aware, because I have spoken my personal views about issues that have been raised to me as a Conseiller, not as an Education Committee member, by parents who feel that they have no recourse or anywhere to go. They often get told that the Director of Education is the person that
890 oversees the schooling and oversees things that are happening within the School and oversees the teachers and things that are going on within the teachers. I was rather hoping, I did not want anything detailed or massive, or even a verbal update, it would have just been nice to have found out whether we actually are moving in the right direction and we are looking very seriously at having our Director of Education, since we do not have one.

895

Basically, I think the parents are feeling a bit like they have not been informed about anything. I had four parents speak to me yesterday – all right, collectively, they were all in the same place, but I felt like I was being picked on – to say, 'What's happening? We understand that they're looking for a new parent rep for the Board of Education, but can anyone tell me

900 what's happening within the school with having no ...?' We have got a teacher who doing his
year of trying out the role as an acting head, but the parents have not been informed whether
that acting head role is being advertised or whether it is –

The Speaker: I think, Conseiller Sandra Williams, you are going off the subject –
(**Conseiller Sandra Williams:** It's all –!) I know it is, but this is about the changes to the Mandate.
905 (**A Conseiller:** Yes.) What you are looking for is a more comprehensive report from the Education
Committee into how they are taking Education forward. But that is not the subject of this
particular Report. It may be what you want to discuss, but here we are just talking with the bare
bones of the Mandate. It says there is a Director of Education, therefore one must assume that
910 the Education Committee are looking to have a Director of Education in some shape or form,
which they should be coming back to Chief Pleas with in the not too distant future. So whilst I
can understand your frustration, here we are just discussing the Mandate.

Conseiller McHugh, sum up, please.

Conseiller McHugh: Yes, this the Mandate change that we all agreed on and voted on at
915 Michaelmas. So yes, we are going to have five members and only two can be parents, and
Safeguarding – which I vehemently opposed – has now moved to Medical. (**The Speaker:** Right.)
This is the Mandate change.

The Speaker: As a result of the discussion tonight, are you planning to bring a report in the
920 near future as to your progress on finding a replacement Director of Education?

Conseiller McHugh: Well, yes, I suppose so. It would be nice to, certainly when we find –
(*Interjection by Conseiller Sandra Williams*) When we find a Director of Education, we would
certainly announce that to the House, and I am sure we would have one by Easter. I do not want
925 to make promises that I cannot keep but I should imagine yes, definitely, absolutely we will tell
the House. We will tell everybody; of course.

The Speaker: Thank you.

930 Right, let us go to the Proposition in the Report, that Chief Pleas approves the change of
Mandate as detailed in this Report. Those in favour; those against? **Carried.**

**8. Change of Mandate –
Medical and Emergency Services Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

*To consider a Report with Proposition from the Medical and Emergency Services Committee
entitled 'Change of Mandate'.*

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves the change of Mandate as detailed in this Report.

The Speaker: We move to Agenda Item 8, to consider a Report from the Medical and
Emergency Services Committee entitled, 'Change of Mandate', and I would ask
Conseiller Plummer to introduce the Report, please.

935 **Conseiller Plummer:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

At the Michaelmas Meeting held on 6th October 2021, Chief Pleas agreed to transfer the
function of Safeguarding from the Education Committee to the Medical and Emergency Services

Committee. A necessity is an amendment to the Medical and Emergency Services Committee Mandate. The following additions are proposed:

2. Present to Chief Pleas the name(s) of person(s) nominated to be appointed by resolution of Chief Pleas as the Island Safeguarding Officer, when an appointment is needed, and those appointed or approved by the relevant bodies as the Safeguarding Leads for the Sark Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub.

3. Work with the Island Safeguarding Officer, Sark Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and other agencies to ensure the protection and safeguarding of all children and vulnerable adults in the community and to liaise with the Policy & Finance Committee over funding for any work undertaken by Health & Social Care in Guernsey.

940 The Mandate with these amendments is appended to this Report and the Proposition is that Chief Pleas approves the change of Mandate as detailed in this Report.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Any questions or debate? No.

945 Then we will go to the Proposition, that Chief Pleas approves the change of Mandate as detailed in this Report. Those in favour; those against? **Carried.**

**15. Code of Conduct Report –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'Code of Conduct Report'.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas accepts the Report received from the Code of Conduct Panel.

The Speaker: We now move to Agenda Item 15, which is the one from the Addendum, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled, 'Code of Conduct Report'.

950 Conseiller Guille.

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir.

Due to the subject of this Report, Conseiller Pippa Donovan will be presenting it and I would like to temporarily excuse myself from the Assembly.

955

The Speaker: Thank you.

Conseiller John Guille left the Meeting.

The Speaker: So Conseiller Guille has declared an interest and left the room. I would ask Conseiller Pippa Donovan to introduce the Report, please.

960 **Conseiller Pippa Donovan:** Thank you, sir.

In November 2021, several Code of Conduct complaints were made by a resident against a Conseiller. As we have just heard, we know that is Conseiller Guille. In accordance with the Code of Conduct, a Panel was set up by the Seigneur to investigate these complaints. Copies of the Panel's findings have been attached to this Report, and now, as part of the procedure, Chief Pleas are asked to accept this Report from the Code of Conduct Panel.

965

Thank you.

The Speaker: Any questions or comments?

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes, sir.

970

The Speaker: Conseiller Makepeace.

Conseiller Makepeace: I am a little bit confused. It said on 30th December the Panel Chairman received documentation and at the bottom it says the Chairman forwarded the complaints to Mr Cole and a discussion took place on 2nd December.

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The Speaker: Thank you, you have just spotted that. The introduction says on 30th December. I have discussed it with the Report writer, Mr La Trobe-Bateman, and it should read 30th November. Thank you for that, pointing that out.

980

Conseiller Makepeace: If I just may comment, my first –

The Speaker: Could you put your microphone on, please?

Conseiller Makepeace: I personally think that a complaint of this nature, bearing in mind there is a lot of bad blood that there has been between Chief Pleas and Mr Whitney-Price and the electricity company, should have been dealt with by a Panel appointed off Island. I do not feel comfortable with us appointing a Panel on the Island to discuss such a matter and I think the whole complaints system in general is not fit for purpose, because at the moment we were promised a one-size-fits-all panel, and we have got something here that has just been thrown together apparently at the last minute. I do not think that the people who complain and the people who are complained about receive a fair hearing, or that their wishes are respected and their views are taken into account, because there does not seem to be any right of appeal or discussion. It is just we make the decision and that is it, you have to abide by it, but it does not seem to be a very democratic process to me.

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990

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Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: I would remark, before I ask if there is any come back, that the Panel is set up in accordance with the Reform Law, there is a Code of Conduct procedure which does need some serious attention to it which it has not received in the past two years, but the Code of Conduct complaint has been carried out in accordance with the Law and procedures, and if the complainant was not happy with the interim report, he was given time in which to appeal that decision. The complainant did not appeal the decision of the interim report, therefore it now comes to Chief Pleas in accordance with the Law for it to be accepted by Chief Pleas.

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Conseiller Pippa Donovan.

Conseiller Pippa Donovan: Thank you.

I do not have too much more to add other than that, so thank you very much. But I would just like to say that the Code of Conduct that we do have in place was followed, as you have said, and clearly in the Report I think the opportunity was taken, as permitted by the Code, for the Chairman to seek assistance of another Panel member. As it states, extensive discussion about the complaints was had and this Report shares the extent of that and the details with a summary there as well. And, as you have just said, the complainant did not come back or challenge the decision.

1010

1015

I have nothing further to add. Thank you.

The Speaker: We will go to the vote on the Proposition that Chief Pleas accepts the Report received from the Code of Conduct Panel. Those in favour; those against? **Carried.**

Conseiller John Guille re-entered the Meeting.

A Conseiller: Is it cold out there, Conseiller Guille?

1020

A Conseiller: It might be colder in here! *(Laughter)*

A Conseiller: Yes!

**9. Annual Information Report –
Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries Committee Report considered**

To consider an Information Report from the Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries Committee entitled ‘Annual Information Report’.

The Speaker: Okay. Let’s move on to the next Agenda Item, which is Agenda Item 9, to consider an Information Report from the Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries Committee entitled, ‘Annual Information Report’. I would ask Conseiller Plummer to introduce the Report, please.

Conseiller Plummer: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

1030 It has been a very busy year. It has had its problems, with Brexit and COVID and everything, but it has been busy. We are now looking forward to going along with Guernsey for this year’s go ahead with the fishing industry. I would like to say thank you to Elizabeth Dewe for providing angling records over the past. Unfortunately, the anglers have disbanded their group as there were not really many people there. I would also like to give thanks to our Sea Fisheries officers,
1035 to Ben Perrée and Sam La Trobe-Bateman for their work. Thank you. And to, of course, David Cocksedge, who attends all meetings. I rely very heavily on his information and it is there.

I hope that people will have a look at this and I would like to thank Jo Birch for her Asian hornets. We are very lucky on this Island, you know, because everybody looks after themselves and everybody else, too. Whether it is fishing or farming, we do our very best to help and we are
1040 always very pleased when people come. We have got another meeting coming up very soon and there are quite a lot of things on the agenda to discuss.

So I hope that you all agree with this Report. Thank you.

The Speaker: Okay, anybody want to ask any questions on the Report? No.

**10. Informational Report –
Top Level Domain (Special) Committee Report considered**

To consider an Information Report from the Top Level Domain (Special) Committee entitled ‘Informational Report’.

1045 **The Speaker:** Then we will move to Agenda Item 10, to consider an Information Report from the Top Level Domain (Special) Committee entitled, ‘Information Report’.

Conseiller Le Lievre, please.

Conseiller Le Lievre: Thank you, sir.

1050 The introduction of this is that the concept of a Sark country code came from Mike Locke, a one-time resident, in 1999. This was discussed with both industry and, more importantly, with the then Seigneur, who gave approval as Chairman of the General Purposes and Advisory Committee for this to be done. Once achieved, a financial proposal was to be brought back to Chief Pleas for approval.

1055 The process of getting Sark recognised as an independent jurisdiction which qualified for inclusion in the ISO list, and hence being able to apply for a Country Code TLD has taken over 20 years – quite a long time. It has now been achieved and we can start to use this to bolster the reputation of Sark and build an online identity worldwide. There are now many types of top level domain but a Country Code TLD is one of the most authoritative and only ever delegated to
1060 organisations operating for countries or self-governing dependent areas or areas of geopolitical interest.

The ISO is the International Standards Organisation which maintains the list of country codes recognised internationally. The BSI, which is the British Standards Institute, is one of the first national standards bodies, a founder member of the ISO and the national standards body for
1065 Sark. The BSI has been extremely supportive over the years, culminating with the appeal prepared by them and Mike Locke. The longwinded and bureaucratically convoluted navigation of international standards has been reported on to Chief Pleas over the years with the most recent detailed report by the TLD Committee ... was Agenda Item 10 for Easter Chief Pleas on 22nd April 2020.

1070 The ISO has now assigned a code to Sark on the ISO-3166 List formally titled, 'Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions'. The ISO has exceptionally reserved the alpha codes of CQ and CRQ along with the numeric code of 680.

The Speaker: Conseiller Le Lievre?

1075 **Conseiller Le Lievre:** Yes.

The Speaker: Could I just say, we have all read the Report, hopefully everybody has read the Report –

1080 **Conseiller Le Lievre:** Okay, I beg your pardon, I will ...

The Speaker: Yes, I think what we would be looking for is anything you would like to highlight from the Report as being of particular importance, rather than reading through the whole Report?
1085

Conseiller Le Lievre: I can give you the summary of the Report, which I think is fairly relevant.

The Speaker: I think so, because you have got a lot of statistics in there, (**Conseiller Le Lievre:** I do.) which people will have read, even members of the public I am sure would have read it as well.

Conseiller Le Lievre: Okay.

1095 **The Speaker:** So if you could just give us a summary, please, that –

Conseiller Le Lievre: Thank you for pulling me up short!

Okay. Well, in summary, effectively the work so far has confirmed that there is a real opportunity for Sark to promote its identity globally, to protect and enhance its reputation at no risk and to gain some revenue, also with no risk.
1100

1105 For the purposes of anyone else who is interested in accessing further information, there was a series of articles that was done by Mike Locke that was published in the *Newspaper* over a series of weeks and those articles are available if anybody is interested. If they wanted to go to the Sark ID group, which is SarkID.org, and click on the *Sark Newspaper* link, all of those explanatory articles are there for them to gain more information.

1110 I am happy to field questions on the subject, but if they are in the least bit technical or geeky, I am going to have to refer back to the man who knows the answers to these questions. But I think that we need to appreciate that we are getting closer and closer to actually getting this job done and that it is an important badge for Sark to be able to wear to have its own international identity as far as the .cq accolade is concerned. And it will make a difference, I think, and has already made a difference inasmuch as we are now internationally recognised as an independent jurisdiction.

Thank you, sir.

1115 **The Speaker:** Thank you.
Any comment, please, or debate?
Conseiller Guille.

1120 **Conseiller Guille:** Thank you, sir.
Excuse me if it has been explained, Conseiller Le Lievre, but could you just explain in layman's terms who can apply to use this ... (**A Conseiller:** .cq.) .cq, or the other one? Who can apply to use it, what fees are involved and who sees the benefits of those fees, please?

1125 **Conseiller Le Lievre:** Can I answer that, sir?

The Speaker: Yes, certainly.

1130 **Conseiller Le Lievre:** At the moment, no one can apply for it because we have not completed the process, but as and when we get to the stage where it can be applied for, any business can apply for it. I think the days of selling vast numbers of these allocations are gone. I think we would need to be very selective about the way that we sell the right for the use of this .cq, but we have got a long way to go as far as what it is going to cost and how it is going to be administered. We have taken the first stage of being allocated the actual letters, but there is more to go as far as the procedure is concerned and then we have proposals that we have to properly iron out with those people who are making those proposals as to how the whole thing will be administered and charged for. So we are in very early stages as far as that is concerned.

The Speaker: Conseiller Guille again.

1140 **Conseiller Guille:** Thank you.

1145 Yes, I totally understand, Conseiller Le Lievre, thank you, we are still in early stages. When you say we will need to be very careful, do you envisage 'we' as this is something that will be under the control of the Sark Government and will they be seeing the benefits? Or is it something that will be run on our behalf by a private company? Or am I asking questions that have yet to be decided? And I guess my trump question to that is obviously there are processes under way, but will these important decisions about who decides who is allocated these names, where the money goes, is there still an opportunity, which I would hope there is, for all these important decisions to come back to Chief Pleas to make the decision on what is potential for people to profit from Sark's identity?

1150 Thank you.

1155 **Conseiller Le Lievre:** Yes, in answer to that, very much so it will come back before the House. It will be stress tested in every possible way that we can think of. The idea is that we will have consultations with the public, we will have consultations with Conseillers, the Law Officers will look over any proposals that are put together to make sure that they stand up legally. There are many more than two options, but at the moment we are looking at the possibility of two options, where we could have private enterprise running it on our behalf, we could possibly put something together where we could administer it or we could have a shared situation where that might be a bit of both. It is all very much in the negotiating situation at the moment, but yes
1160 it will come back to this House for approval, most definitely.

The Speaker: Conseiller Couldridge.

1165 **Conseiller Couldridge:** Yes, thanks very much.
Just following on very quickly, I do not really understand this at all, but is it like at the moment I have a .co.uk? Is it then that I would have a .cq, and why would I want to have a .cq and pay for it when I have got .co.uk or .com or cwgsy.net or whatever?
Thanks.

1170 **Conseiller Le Lievre:** Yes, Conseiller Couldridge, that is exactly what it is. It will be similar to .com or any of the other dots, but it will give you a Sark identity, if you wish to take that Sark identity. That is the purpose of it as far as commerce is concerned. So you would be more instantly recognised by the community that use these accolades, because instead of being ... I do not know the name of your business, but for instance simoncouldridge.com would become
1175 simoncouldridge.cq and people would know where you came from as far as the business world was concerned, so the choice would be yours. But yes, that is the opportunity and that is how it would work.

1180 **Conseiller Couldridge:** Okay, thank you. *(Interjection by Conseiller Makepeace)*

The Speaker: And they would also know that Sark did not have VAT.

Conseiller Le Lievre: I am sure that will be all part of the sales pitch! *(Laughter)*

1185 **The Speaker:** Yes.
Conseiller Makepeace.

1190 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Yes, sir. As a member of the TLD Committee, I would just like to say that I think that the control of the application and the funding and the distribution of revenue should be strictly controlled by Chief Pleas. There have been instances in the past whereby, for example, the country of Laos in South-East Asia was approached by a consortium who were given the code 'la', and the actually country of Laos did not make any money out of it because it was marketed in Los Angeles. So all the money went through the domain host. A similar thing happened with Slovakia as well. I would just ask that we strictly control this. There is money to
1195 be made, but at all stages Chief Pleas should be in control of this, rather than private enterprise.
Thank you.

The Speaker: Any final comment?

1200 **Conseiller Le Lievre:** I do not think I have any more to say.

The Speaker: No. Okay, thank you very much.

1205 I will say that Mr Mike Locke is on Island at the moment, he is in the public gallery, and if any member of the public or Conseillers wish to discuss with him any further on the technicalities of this, I am sure he would be very pleased to talk to you.

**11. Seasonal Regulation No. 2 –
Douzaine Report considered**

To consider an Information Report from the Douzaine entitled ‘Seasonal Regulation No. 2’.

The Speaker: We will now move to Agenda Item 11, from the Douzaine, Seasonal Regulation No.2. Douzaine, please.

Conseiller Drillot: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

1210 This Seasonal Regulation is one that goes through yearly, does not normally need to come to Chief Pleas, but it is a reminder, and we would just like to emphasise a bit more of a reminder this year that we put these regulations into place, not for fun. These regulations are put into place for safety primarily, but also one of our biggest, or one of our complaints on the road
1215 in the restaurants in the Avenue are constantly seeing tractors, the same tractor passing time and time again.

So we would just like to remind the tractor drivers, because this Seasonal Regulation only goes to tractor *owners*. So if the tractor *owners* could then emphasise with their *drivers* that the reason these are in is that you use the Avenue between these times of 11 and five between
1220 these dates to keep the tractor movements in the Avenue down. So if you could just do those journeys if it is vitally necessary. It is not done for fun, it is done for two very good reasons.

Other than that, the Regulation has not changed so it is just as it is from 1st April.

Thank you.

1225 **The Speaker:** Any questions? No. It is there for your information.

**12. Seasonal Regulation No. 4 - 2022 –
Douzaine Report considered**

To consider an Information Report from the Douzaine entitled ‘Seasonal Regulation No. 4 - 2022’.

The Speaker: We move to Agenda Item 12, to consider an Information Report from the Douzaine entitled ‘Seasonal Regulation No. 4 – 2021’.

Conseiller Drillot, please.

1230 **A Conseiller:** Twenty-twenty-two.

The Speaker: Twenty twenty-two!

Conseiller Drillot: Twenty-twenty-two, yes.

1235

The Speaker: Yes, 2022!

Conseiller Drillot: Thank you.

1240 Again, this one is just the information; it is on the carriage side of it. It is just a reminder to the carriage owners to make sure that their carriage drivers understand the regulations of the Avenue and then the one-way system on the Avenue, because that is vital with the carriages. The safety system: again, it is a safety system for them as well as the public. So it is just to remind people, because every year drivers change, to show their drivers.

1245 Thank you.

The Speaker: Any questions? No.

**13. Committee Elections –
Douzaine Sub-Committee of Public Works, Conseillers Bougourd and Le Lievre elected**

To elect Conseillers to Committees, as required.

The Speaker: Then we move to Agenda Item 13, Committee Elections, to elect Conseillers to Committees as required. I think, Douzaine, you have one, please.

1250 **Conseiller Drillot:** That is news to me, so if there is someone who is willing I would be quite happy!

The Speaker: You are proposing that the Public Works Sub-Committee –

1255 **Conseiller Drillot:** Oh, the Public Works Committee, yes. That is not to come on to the Douzaine. That is just to fulfil the Public Works spaces.

1260 **The Speaker:** The members have to be elected by Chief Pleas. (**Conseiller Drillot:** Okay.) So you have to propose the two names, (**Conseiller Drillot:** Sorry.) which are Conseillers Bougourd and Le Lievre.

Conseiller Drillot: Yes. Okay, I did not realise that. I thought you were talking about someone coming on to the Committee, that is where the confusion was.

1265 **The Speaker:** No. The following Conseillers have been proposed by the Douzaine to go on to the Douzaine Sub-Committee of Public Works, and it is Conseillers Bougourd and Le Lievre. They have to be approved by Chief Pleas. Those in favour; those against? **Carried.**

**14. Committee and Panel Elections –
None**

To elect non-Chief Pleas members and Panel members to Committees and Panels, as required.

1270 **The Speaker:** We move to Agenda Item 14, Committee and Panel Elections, to elect non-Chief Pleas members and Panel members to Committees and Panels as required. I have had no advanced requests, are there any nominations from the floor by Committees? No.

**Item laid before Chief Pleas –
The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision)
(Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No. 14) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021**

1275 **The Speaker:** In that case, we will move to the Addendum, and that is the Item laid before Chief Pleas: the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (No. 14) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021. That came into operation on 22nd December 2021. I can say they have just expired, and a new Regulation called the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2022 has come into force. It was issued too late to come before this Meeting. It came into operation at midnight last night and will be laid at the Meeting in February. But that is an important regulation and I recommend everybody to go on the website and have a look at it.

Procedural

1280 **The Speaker:** This Meeting is closed, but after the prayer we will have a 10-minute break and then we will reassemble at seven o'clock for the election of a Deputy Speaker.
Conseiller Guille.

1285 **Conseiller Guille:** May I gracefully request, sir, that we have a one-minute break and just get on with the ...? (*Interjections*)

The Speaker: I will recommence when I think everybody is settled, okay? But somebody may need a comfort break. We have been here for a little while now. (*Interjection by Conseiller Makepeace*)
Greffier.

PRAYER
The Greffier

Chief Pleas closed at 6.49 p.m.