



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

HANSARD

Assembly Room, Sark, Wednesday, 16th February 2022

*All published Official Reports can be found on the
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Present:

Seigneur

Maj. C M Beaumont Esq.

Speaker of Chief Pleas

Lt. Col. R J Guille, MBE Esq.

Deputy Prévôt

J Godwin

Deputy Greffier

G J Hamon

Treasurer

S Hudson

Assistant Constable

C Branson

Conseillers:

Helen Plummer
Christopher Drillot
Simon Couldridge
Nichola McHugh
Edric Baker MBE
Frank Makepeace

Paul Williams
Sandra Williams
Vaughan Bougourd
Kevin Delaney
Joseph Donovan
Pippa Donovan

Business transacted

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Extraordinary Meeting of Chief Pleas

Chief Pleas met at 5 p.m.

[THE SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

PRAYER

The Deputy Greffier

ROLL CALL

The Deputy Greffier

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

Apologies received

The Speaker: I present apologies from Conseillers Guille, Le Lievre and Turner.

STATEMENT

Pandemic Emergency Committee – Statement by Conseiller Sandra Williams

5 **The Speaker:** We have one Statement, from the Pandemic Emergency Committee.
Conseiller Sandra Williams, please.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Thank you very much.

10 With the end of Bailiwick-wide restrictions tomorrow – or midnight tonight – we would like to
confirm that the Pandemic Emergency Committee will remain in place until the World Health
Organization declares an end to the global pandemic, to allow us to react quickly if any new and
dangerous variants emerge.

15 We have had a very successful couple of years' work, working with the team at the States of
Guernsey Public Health and the CCA. The local management of the pandemic response on Island
and the tailoring of additional safety measures for Sark have kept Islanders safe, allowed them to
enjoy more freedoms, coming out of lockdowns earlier, and have been very much appreciated by
our colleagues in our sister Island.

20 The most important thing now is to stay at home when you feel unwell. 'Stay at home when
you are unwell' needs to become ingrained in the Bailiwick's culture if we are to minimise
outbreaks of COVID-19 once all legal restrictions are removed tomorrow. Business owners and
managers are being asked to support and encourage staff to continue doing the right thing by
staying at home if they are unwell or if they have tested positive for COVID-19 as we move forward
to live responsibly with the virus.

25 Further to last week's announcement from the Civil Contingencies Authority that, from
tomorrow, legally mandated self-isolation for cases and all border restrictions will end, it is
important that the whole community recognises that COVID has not gone away and the need for
vigilance has not disappeared. This is particularly the case when it comes to positive cases, who
are still expected to isolate even without the legal requirement. Strong guidance from Public
Health remains that positive cases should isolate until they receive negative lateral flow tests on
30 consecutive days following day five, or complete 10 days of isolation, whichever is sooner.
Everyone, whether it is as friends, family or colleagues, has a role to play in encouraging people
who are unwell to stay at home rather than knowingly potentially spreading illness to others.

Other community measures for COVID-19 control are also of paramount importance. These
include continuation of the COVID-19 vaccination and boosting programme; continued availability
35 of testing and encouraging people to notify their positive lateral flow results through the current
online platform or by calling the COVID helpline – confirmations of PCR tests will continue to be
available; promotion of good ventilation; respecting people's personal space; respiratory
etiquette – catch it, bin it, kill it; hand sanitise, wash your hands; and consider wearing a mask in
an enclosed indoor space where social distancing is not possible.

40 Also, we would like, on behalf of the Pandemic Emergency Committee and the residents of
Sark, to have a vote of thanks for the CCA in Guernsey prior to the one we have now, starting in
2019, for their sterling work. They have managed to keep Sark safe.

Thank you very much.

Procedural – Electronic devices

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

Business of the Day

1. Matters arising from the Extraordinary Meeting held on 21st December 2021

The Speaker: We move to Agenda Item 1, the matters arising from the Extraordinary Meeting
held on 21st December.

50 Before we move into any matters arising, there are two small corrections to be made. If you
turn to page 3, 'Business of the Day 1', delete 'Midsummer' and insert 'Michaelmas'; and on
page 6, 'Business of the Day 1', delete 'Midsummer' and insert 'Michaelmas'. Two small
typographical errors there.

Are there any matters arising from the Extraordinary Meeting? Yes, Conseiller Baker.

55 **Conseiller Baker:** Yes, sir, lines 25 to 35. I would just like to add my thanks to William Raymond
for the sterling work that he did on the tax system. The tax we have today, capital and property
tax, is entirely due to him and his hard work, and I just thank him very much for that.

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

The Speaker: Going to Item 2, Questions not related to the Business of the Day, there are none.

**Procedural –
Business reordered**

60 **The Speaker:** Before we move to Agenda Item 3, as I notified Conseillers last week, I propose, in accordance with Rule of Procedure 10, that Item 6 on the Addendum be taken ahead of Item 3. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**6. Census (Sark) Ordinance 2022 and
Census (Sark) (Amendment) Ordinance 2022 –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition 1 lost; Proposition 2 carried**

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

Proposition 1

That Chief Pleas confirm the Census (Sark) Ordinance, 2022 as approved at the meeting of Chief Pleas on 19th January 2022.

Proposition 2

That Chief Pleas approves the Census (Sark) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022.

The Speaker: Agenda Item 6, to consider a Report from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled ‘Census (Sark) Ordinance 2022 & Census (Sark) (Amendment) Ordinance 2022’ and to confirm the Ordinance entitled ‘The Census (Sark) Ordinance, 2022’, or to approve the Ordinance
65 entitled ‘The Census (Sark) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022’. A very busy set of titles.

I would ask Conseiller Pippa Donovan to introduce the Report, please.

Conseiller Pippa Donovan: Thank you, sir.

70 The exclusion of Brecqhou was not highlighted in any of the previous reports to Chief Pleas and therefore might not have been at the forefront of Conseillers’ minds when reviewing and subsequently approving the terms of the Ordinance. With that in mind, we are bringing the matter before Chief Pleas for further consideration, so the House can decide whether the residents of Brecqhou should have an equal opportunity to be included in Sark’s 2022 census.

75 The main reason, as we saw it, for disapplying the Ordinance to Brecqhou is that no services are currently provided to Brecqhou, and therefore the justification, as set out in the Report to Chief Pleas, for gathering the information about residents in Brecqhou does not apply.

Enforceability of provisions was another consideration. An enumerator would have to be appointed to deliver the forms to the prescribed persons, whoever they might be, in Brecqhou. Any noncompliance would result in the commission of offences which, if we do not know who is

80 resident there, would be near-on impossible to prosecute in the absence of evidence, which would be extremely difficult to obtain.

Incidentally, the fact that the Law applies to the whole of Sark without excluding Brecqhou does not prevent the Ordinance excluding Brecqhou. It might be that in future the occupancy or use of Brecqhou and her residence is such that it is appropriate to carry out a census, in which
85 case an Ordinance making arrangements for a census at that time may not exclude Brecqhou. This Ordinance only deals with the census to be carried out this year.

Before opening the floor for debate, I would like to advise that since the Report was submitted we have worked with the Law Officers closely, and advisers, to ensure that whatever the decision and the outcome of Proposition 1 or Proposition 2 is this evening, the date for the Sark census of
90 27th April this year will not be affected.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Joseph Donovan.

95 **Conseiller Joseph Donovan:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I raised the issue around the exclusion of Brecqhou to the Policy and Finance Committee. As was pointed out in the Report, I was not able to attend the Chief Pleas Meeting on 19th January 2022. Reading beforehand, I missed the exclusion of Brecqhou in section 19(1). As I am sure many will agree, the census area exclusion was a very small line in a sizeable piece of legislation, so easily
100 missed. I am aware that the Committee were advised that it would have been appropriate to inform us of this exclusion, but that did not happen, for reasons I do not know.

With this in mind, I think it is appropriate and necessary to wind back a little and cover some of the key points, so that tonight's decision is an informed one. The dictionary definition of a census is described as follows:

A census is the procedure of systematically calculating, acquiring and recording information about the members of a given population. A census is often construed as the opposite of a sample, as its intent is to count everyone in a population rather than a fraction.

105 I think the key point here obviously being that a census, by design, should capture the information of every man, woman and child living within that population at a given time and date. Brecqhou is part of Sark. Residents pay property tax and dwellings are recording on the Cadastre.

Having spoken to the Policy and Finance Committee, it appears, as was just pointed out recently, that the main reasons to exclude Brecqhou are based on anticipated logistical and
110 potential enforcement issues. Neither of these issues, in my mind, is valid enough to exclude Brecqhou. Of course there may be some minor issues to work out, but I am sure that the residents in Brecqhou would be more than willing to work with our officials to provide the required data in a mutually convenient and appropriate way.

The points on the Report tonight mention that human rights considerations appear to be based
115 on some assumptions rather than legal fact. Brecqhou has access to Sark's court and if a crime was committed they would call the Sark Constable. To say they do not enjoy the benefit of services provided by the Island appears to be not true. The Report says:

It was the Committee's view that such justification might not exist if services were not supplied.

It goes on to say:

There are therefore potential human rights considerations.

I would be keen to know what those human rights considerations are. To me, this suggests in
120 some way that Brecqhou residents are being excluded because they might use fewer services and that their human right to privacy is in front of the residents of Sark, who do have to fill in the census, with failing to do so resulting in prosecution.

125 It is also my understanding that every Sark census to date has included Brecqhou. The Census Law includes Brecqhou, and for it to be excluded on purpose for the reasons above is a little concerning. I am not aware of any constitutional changes that would support Brecqhou being excluded.

I can see no downside to keeping Brecqhou as part of the census. Let's not forget that the information recorded in the census may provide valuable historical information long after we have gone, and we must do all we can to ensure it is accurate and as fair as possible.

130 It is with these points, Mr Speaker, that I urge my fellow Conseillers to vote against Proposition 1 and vote in favour of Proposition 2, which amends the legislation to include Brecqhou.

Thank you.

135 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Delaney.

Conseiller Delaney: Yes, I would ask whether Policy and Finance could give us some indication of how the timeline would be affected. What would be the outcome if Brecqhou were to take the view that they did not want to be part of the census, or they felt that they should be excluded from the census? Are we heading down a rabbit hole here? Potentially for, I am guessing, a handful of people on Brecqhou, are we putting the overall benefit of the census we all know we need, and we need it to happen soon ...? Is there potential for a delay of the census if Brecqhou takes a contrary view to the views that have been expressed in the House this evening?

140 Thank you.

145 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Pippa Donovan.

Conseiller Pippa Donovan: Thank you.

150 As I see it, there would be no opportunity for delay should Brecqhou and the residents of Brecqhou decide to challenge any involvement in the census. As the Law states, it covers the Island of Sark, of which Brecqhou would, therefore, in this amended Ordinance, be part.

I would give an example, potentially, in that if residents in the north end of Sark decided that they would not like to be involved in the census, I would feel that they could not equally put their hands up and say, 'We wish to delay it for reasons X, Y and Z.' I think this is very much should Brecqhou be included and given the opportunity to take part, or should Brecqhou not be included – and either way, the timeline will continue and be on 27th April.

I hope that answers your question.

160 **The Speaker:** Anybody else? Conseiller McHugh.

Conseiller McHugh: I, personally, can see no benefit in including Brecqhou in the census. The limited number of people who are on Brecqhou do not use the services that the census is there to try and ... The census is there to try and work out the population of Sark and to work out what services, for the School and health and such and so forth, we will need in the future.

165 There is a downside to trying to get Brecqhou involved in it, because I believe that it harks back to a time of warmongering and petty acrimony that we have got past. I do not understand why we are even here talking about this. We do not need to know what the housekeeper's qualifications on Brecqhou are. Why are we doing this? It is pointless to me. I would urge everybody to vote for Proposition 1 and let it carry on as it was.

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

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Could I just ask people who are saying that there are very minimal people on Brecqhou, would this not clear up exactly how many people are on Brecqhou, maybe?

175 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Delaney.

Conseiller Delaney: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I do not quite buy the argument that if people on the north of the Island – or, for that matter, Little Sark – wanted to be excluded from the census they could be, the same as Brecqhou.

180 I cannot remember when last any official from Sark has gone to Brecqhou. I simply cannot. I think it must be a decade-plus, maybe 15 years. Forgive me, the Seigneur and I visited Brecqhou some years ago to have lunch with the late Sir David Barclay and the then Lieutenant Governor.

I do not know, because I certainly do not speak for Brecqhou but I do speak for the people of Sark and my concern is that we may end up with a situation where we get caught on constitutional arguments again, for little or no benefit to the whole purpose of this census.

185 I have to say I was minded to congratulate the Policy and Finance Committee – commend them, if you will – on the common sense that comes through in the Report. It really does spell out – I believe, anyway – why we are going down this road.

I would urge my fellow Conseillers this evening to stick with what we already have, which I believe is Proposition 1, that Chief Pleas confirms the Census Ordinance and we get on with the job.

Thank you.

Conseiller Paul Williams: Could I ask for a named vote, please, sir?

195

The Speaker: Yes, certainly.

Conseiller Drillot, followed by Conseiller Donovan.

Conseiller Drillot: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

200 I was confused on this matter as much as anyone else. I seem to agree with Conseiller McHugh and Conseiller Delaney that Brecqhou ... The main idea of the census was to try to figure out how we were moving on with education, how we were moving on with public works, how we were moving on with the status of the finances of the Island. Brecqhou do not use those services. I know they have the right to. If anything changes, we can do another census in four years' time and include Brecqhou. I just feel that, at the moment, we need to get this census under way as it is, and worry about if we need to change it for Brecqhou in four or five years' time if we do another one. So I will go for Proposition 1.

205

Thank you.

210 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Joe Donovan.

Conseiller Joseph Donovan: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

215 With the greatest respect to all my Conseillers, I think the point around what a census is designed to do seems to be clouded somewhat. And actually, Conseiller Williams made a very good point: we do not know what we do not know, and the census is designed to teach us what we do not know and give us an informed view, an objective view, of the current population.

I have some real concerns that by, right from the outset, not including a part of Sark – which Brecqhou is – it sends a very obscure message to the electorate that we are doing the right thing by putting the census in place and we are doing it in a fair manner. But are we doing it in a fair manner when right from the start we are essentially saying that because of some logistical challenges ...?

220

I may have misunderstood, but I have not actually heard a valid reason tonight as to why we would not include Brecqhou, other than logistical, legislative or fear of upsetting Brecqhou. And now, with the greatest of respect to the residents of Brecqhou, we are, by the nature of what we are going to do ... Some people in Sark may not wish to be part of the census, but we are legally

225

obliging them to do so, and I think it would only be fair and right to pass that obligation on to the residents of Brecqhou, as they are part of Sark.

The Speaker: Conseiller Makepeace.

230

Conseiller Makepeace: Sir, just referring to some of the comments that we do not know who is there occupying the place, surely if the census is conducted as we are led to believe, no one is going to know, anyway, the findings as to who lives there or who does what, and no one should have access to that information, as far as I know.

235

Thank you.

The Speaker: Anybody else? Conseiller Donovan, would you like to sum up, please?

Conseiller Pippa Donovan: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

240

Just to assure Conseiller Makepeace on that point, there will be no personal details of any resident given in the results when they are analysed, so I can assure you that no details of anyone claiming to be resident in Brecqhou would actually be included in any of the results.

245

Before we go to the vote, I think it has been a good debate with arguments on both sides and I would just urge Conseillers to think about the wider picture, rather than potentially what is going on currently in the services being used. We have heard it from a number of sides of the argument that the services are available should Brecqhou and the residents wish to use them, although they are not being used currently.

250

It is really down to whether we believe that Brecqhou should be given the opportunity to take part in the census; and then, should they choose not to, or the forms that were delivered to Brecqhou are not returned or completed satisfactorily, it is for Sark and the law to decide how to proceed with that.

On that, we go to the vote, please. Thank you.

The Speaker: A named vote has been called for.

255

Proposition 1 is that Chief Pleas confirm the Census (Sark) Ordinance, 2022 as approved at the meeting of Chief Pleas on 19th January 2022.

Greffier.

There was a named vote.

Carried – Pour 5, Contre 7, No Vote 0

POUR

Conseiller Christopher Drillot
Conseiller Nichola McHugh
Conseiller Frank Makepeace
Conseiller Vaughan Bougourd
Conseiller Kevin Delaney

CONTRE

Conseiller Helen Plummer
Conseiller Simon Couldridge
Conseiller Edric Baker MBE
Conseiller Paul Williams
Conseiller Sandra Williams
Conseiller Joseph Donovan
Conseiller Pippa Donovan

NO VOTE

None

The Speaker: The vote was Pour 5, Contre 7. I declare Proposition 1 **lost**.

260

We move to Proposition 2. Proposition 2 is that Chief Pleas approves the Census (Sark) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022.

Greffier.

There was a named vote.

Carried – Pour 9, Contre 3, No Vote 0

POUR

Conseiller Helen Plummer
Conseiller Christopher Drillot
Conseiller Simon Couldridge
Conseiller Edric Baker MBE
Conseiller Paul Williams
Conseiller Sandra Williams
Conseiller Vaughan Bougourd
Conseiller Joseph Donovan
Conseiller Pippa Donovan

CONTRE

Conseiller Nichola McHugh
Conseiller Frank Makepeace
Conseiller Kevin Delaney

NO VOTE

None

The Speaker: There were 9 votes Pour and 3 votes Contre. I therefore declare that Proposition 2 is **carried**.

**3. Sark Census – Appointment of Registrar –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Mr Gordon Snell appointed**

Proposition

That Chief Pleas approves the appointment of Mr Gordon Snell to the role of Registrar for the Sark Census.

265 **The Speaker:** We move back to the Agenda and Agenda Item 3: to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled ‘Sark Census – Appointment of Registrar’. I will ask Conseiller Pippa Donovan to give the Report, please.

Conseiller Pippa Donovan: Thank you, sir.

270 Since this was discussed briefly at the Christmas Chief Pleas we have been making good progress with arrangements for the Sark census with invaluable support from Guernsey and Jersey. As this Report outlines, the next step is for a Registrar to be appointed with the primary role to co-ordinate the process and manage the practicalities. We believe Gordon Snell’s position and experience in insurance and compliance, as well as most recently being the Returning Officer for Guernsey’s general election, make him the ideal Registrar. As well as many other quality
275 attributes, his local knowledge means that he appreciates and understands the unique situations that may be specific to Sark and will therefore be able to consider the situation in a local context. This approach means that he absolutely understands the heightened need for ensuring confidentiality.

280 Although we are here to approve Gordon Snell to be Sark’s Census Registrar, I want to share a couple more aspects of the census to give a greater depth of understanding of how the census will work.

We are hoping to recruit at least six enumerators, with a split of four on the ground and two home based, with these home-based people being the reserve for the ones on the ground should there be illness or unforeseen circumstances that mean they cannot continue to do their role.

285 The data collected will be analysed off Island by Michaela Byron, an independent consultant who has worked on COVID stats for the States of Guernsey, and the results will be shared back at Chief Pleas. We will have the data analysis held in the office and it will be on the website once complete, so available to anyone and everyone. Once the analysis is complete, the records are

290 sealed. All forms will be stored securely in the Royal Court in Guernsey for a period of 100 years,
after which they will be available as a historical record.

I will end there for now, but I am happy to field any questions Conseillers may have. I would bring your attention back to the Proposition, which is to approve Gordon Snell as Registrar for Sark's 2022 census, and I ask that you all support this appointment.

Thank you.

295

The Speaker: We come on to the debate. Conseiller Makepeace.

Conseiller Makepeace: Thank you, sir.

300 I would like to urge caution here because I notice that Mr Snell has been recommended by
Liz Dene. In what capacity is she suggesting that we take on this person? I am a little bit confused
by it, actually. Is it her sole decision to take on this person we know very little about?

Thank you.

The Speaker: Anybody else? Conseiller Delaney.

305

Conseiller Delaney: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I would like to commend unreservedly Policy and Finance for listening to concerns from the floor of this House at the last Meeting, acknowledging in this Report the Proposition and getting down in black and white many of the fears that were being expressed from the floor of the House.
310 I hope the House will agree that it shows the power of a good, constructive debate.

There have been some suggestions that the debate that we did have over this was negative. I have listened back to the audio recording, which of course we all can do now less than a day after Meetings. I thought the debate was constructive. I thought it was conducted in a very polite, respectful manner. I regret that this evening from the floor of the House I have not been able to convince my fellow Conseillers on the earlier motion, but that is democracy and that is what we are here for.

315

Again, I wish to record the fact that I commend Policy and Finance on this Report and Proposition, and I will certainly be voting for it this evening.

Thank you.

320

The Speaker: Anybody else? Conseiller Donovan.

Conseiller Pippa Donovan: Thank you, sir.

325 To Conseiller Makepeace's comments about it being solely Liz Dene's decision to suggest the
appointment of Mr Gordon Snell, *no* is the quick answer. Liz Dene has been absolutely
instrumental and has been liaising with the Policy and Finance Committee on this matter. She has
experience of dealing with these sorts of things in Guernsey and has been involved with the
Guernsey general election, alongside Gordon as the Returning Officer there, so that experience
and her knowledge of him and his experience is invaluable to us.

330

We did go out to other jurisdictions and other places – Jersey, for instance – and they were not able to offer anyone, so this has very much been an exploratory exercise. We have arrived at the conclusion that Gordon is the best and ideal candidate for our Sark census, and the Policy and Finance Committee are very confident in the process we went through to get to this Proposition.

335 I would just like to agree with Conseiller Delaney's points and thank everyone for their support
with the census. There has been a lot to deal with, particularly for the office, but we are making
positive progress and it will be a good milestone for everyone to be very proud of being a part of.

Thank you.

340

The Speaker: I will allow you to make one more comment, Conseiller Makepeace, because that was the summing up, so do you wish to say something again?

Conseiller Delaney: I would just like to ask a question of Conseiller Pippa Donovan. Was Mr Snell the best applicant or the only applicant?

Thank you.

345 **Conseiller Pippa Delaney:** There was not an advert, an application process. As it stands, I believe there are not many out-of-work registrars looking for work. He was chosen by us, with the support of Guernsey and those we have been working with on the census, from a pool of potential people who were also very strong and able to do this. But we feel, as I said initially, that Gordon's involvement with Guernsey and local knowledge is particularly something that Sark can benefit from in order to ensure the confidentiality that everyone knows is paramount, and hopefully we will be able to allay any fears on that front as well. I hope that answers your question.

The Speaker: Thank you.

355 We will now go to the vote on the Proposition that Chief Pleas approves the appointment of Mr Gordon Snell to the role of Registrar for the Sark census. Those in favour; those against.
Carried.

**4. Special Public Events Constables' Committee –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

Proposition

That Chief Pleas approves the formation of a Special Public Events Constables' Committee to oversee public events.

The Speaker: We move to Agenda Item 4: to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'Special Public Events Constables' Committee'.

Once again, I would ask Conseiller Pippa Donovan to introduce the Report.

360

Conseiller Pippa Donovan: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

We briefly touched on this matter at the Christmas Chief Pleas, and to me – and, I hope, all other Conseillers, too – this is a straightforward, simple and sensible approach to take. Yes, from our perspective, removing the need to return to Chief Pleas each time a committee of this nature is needed would make life simpler and be less time consuming; but, most importantly, I think it means that this Committee can react more quickly to planning special public events, rather than needing to wait for Chief Pleas to approve the committee for them to then begin preparations.

365

I would like to go straight to any debate on the Proposition. Thank you.

370 **The Speaker:** I would just make the comment that, of course, Chief Pleas still has to have a big involvement in it because they fund it. Therefore, although there will be a Committee permanently set up, it will still require a lot of Chief Pleas involvement in the funding and what is actually going to happen when we do it.

Are there any comments or debate? Conseiller Plummer.

375

Conseiller Plummer: Just to say that on these big events it is important ... I urge the public and Conseillers, if they have any ideas, to put them through to the Special Public Events Constables' Committee, because all ideas are good.

Thank you.

380

The Speaker: The Proposition is that Chief Pleas approves the formation of a Special Public Events Constables' Committee to oversee public events. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**5. Deputy Speaker of Chief pleas – Term of office –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

Proposition

That Chief Pleas approves that the term of office for the Deputy Speaker of Chief Pleas will be for four years, ending on the 26th February 2026.

The Speaker: Agenda Item 5, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'Deputy Speaker of Chief Pleas – Term of Office'.

385 Conseiller Pippa Donovan.

Conseiller Pippa Donovan: Thank you.

I am hoping that everyone has read this in their preparations for this evening. I think the main point to make is this is potentially just a bit of housekeeping, that Mr Armorgie, as we can see, has agreed to this term and is supportive of this.

390

I do not have anything further to add, and hopefully we can just move to the Proposition and debate.

Thank you.

395 **The Speaker:** Any questions or debate? No.

We will move to the Proposition, that Chief Pleas approves that the term of office for the Deputy Speaker of Chief Pleas will be four years, ending on 26th February 2026. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**Regulations laid before Chief Pleas –
The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision)
(Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2022;
The Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision)
(Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Regulations, 2022;
The European Union (Sea Fisheries, etc.) (Brexit) (Bailiwick of Guernsey)
(Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations, 2021**

The Speaker: We now move to the Addendum. Regulations laid before Chief Pleas: the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Regulations, 2022 – this came into operation on 19th January 2022; and the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (General Provision) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Regulations, 2022 – this came into operation on 25th January 2022.

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The Addendum to the Agenda placed another set of Regulations: the European Union (Sea Fisheries, etc.) (Brexit) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations, 2021. These Regulations came into operation in two parts. The first was that the Regulations, with the exception of Regulations 3(b)(iii), 4, 5, 8 and 11(a)(iii), came into force on 23rd November 2021. And secondly, Regulations 3(b)(iii), 4, 5, 8 and 11(a)(iii) came into force on 1st February 2022.

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There are no motions to annul. Therefore, the Regulations remain extant and the two COVID Regulations expire at midnight tonight.

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**Vin d'honneur for the Lieutenant Governor
and Easter Chief Pleas Meeting**

The Speaker: One small statement to give you. I would inform you that there is to be a *vin d'honneur* for the new Lieutenant Governor, Lt. Gen. Richard Cripwell, and Mrs Cripwell at 12 noon on Wednesday, 27th April at the Island Hall. The Easter Chief Pleas Meeting will be at 5 p.m. on the same day. There will be notices going up in due course to let the public know about the *vin d'honneur*.

The Meeting is closed. Deputy Greffier.

PRAYER

The Deputy Greffier

Chief Pleas closed at 5.41 p.m.