

Summary of the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 5th August 2025 at 5pm in the Assembly Room

Present:

John Guille (JG) – Chairman
Natalie Tighe (NT) – Deputy Chair
Edric Baker (EB)
Carol Cragoe (CC)
Andrew Miller (AM)
Sarah Hudson (SH) – Treasurer
Lynda Higgins (LH) – Deputy Treasurer
William Spooner (WS) – SOO
Ali Bateson (AB) – CSO

By invitation:

Kevin Adams (KA), Prevôt

PF105.25 Apologies:

Jolie Rose (JR)

PF106.25 Prevôt

KA explained the difficulty in collecting money owed by people in the other islands of the Bailiwick as there was no reciprocal arrangement for the recognition of judgements. The Committee and KA would look at approaching Guernsey's Policy & Resources Committee about progressing this.

The Committee agreed to discuss any finance related items next so that SH and LH could leave the meeting early.

PF110.25 Other (finance related)

a) Response to HE's Letter

SH, WS and the Speaker would work on a letter in response to HE's February letter approving the 2025 Budget but asking for an update by 1st September on Sark's plans for new income streams, introducing a Capital Reserves Fund and developing a new Island Reserves Policy.

b) Insurance for Island Charities

The Committee agreed that it was happy to support island charities by including them in the island's insurance. These contributions could be included as line items in the budget for transparency.

c) Expenses Policy

The Committee agreed that it would be difficult to set a budget limit for 'hospitality' in the Expenses Policy and suggested it should be pre-agreed by the Committee. SH would redraft this part of the Expenses Policy and bring to the next meeting.

d) Proposal for a vape duty

Guernsey had agreed to ban disposable vapes from 31st January 2026 and were now considering whether to follow Jersey and the UK and introduce a duty on vape liquid. Sark now had to decide if it wanted to introduce a similar duty, which would be collected in a similar manner to Impôt. The Committee agreed in principle to introducing a duty on vape liquid.

PF111.25 AOB (finance-related)

a) Ray Lowe Charter

The Committee agreed that P&F would pay for Ray Lowe's charter to Alderney even though members of various other Committees also went for meetings with relevant parties.

b) Re-decoration of the Assembly Room

The Committee felt that the Assembly Room badly needed re-decorating. It was noted that there had been money in the Douzaine's budget to do this work but the person who had been going to do it had suddenly left the island. CC and SH would bring this up at the next Douzaine meeting.

SH and LH left the meeting at 5.30pm.

PF107.25 Island Plan

The Committee had been in touch with contacts from the Isle of Man and Jersey about the Island Plan. It was discussed that, rather than starting from scratch, it might be better to use Colin Kniveton's 2013 Vision for Sark document as a starting point as a lot of the points raised in it were still valid, although the issue of housing had not been mentioned in it.

PF097.25 Minutes and matters arising from meeting 8th July 2025

Matters ongoing:

- I. Reserves Policy**
- II. Tech Start-up Proposal**
- III. Coins and stamps**
- IV. IT/Telecoms**
- V. New Tax Models**
- VI. Drone Legislation**
- VII. Revenue generation**
- VIII. Approved Ports**
- x) Shipping Registry**
- xi) Scrutiny/Tribunal panel amalgamation**

- xii) Policies
- xiii) CPA branch creation

All other actions were done.

JG signed off the minutes as correct. The summary of the minutes for the website was approved.

PF108.25 Office matters

a) 2nd SOO recruitment

There had been a good number of applicants. The recruitment panel would conduct initial online interviews for the shortlisted candidates. The top 1 or 2 would be invited to come to Sark for a few days for on-island interviews.

b) SOO housing

AM would be happy to offer accommodation to candidates when they came for on-island interviews.

PF109.25 Other (non-finance related)

e) Extension of French ID scheme

The scheme to allow French passengers to travel to the Channel Islands for a day trip just with an identity card instead of a passport had been extended until December. Jersey and Guernsey were asking the UK if it could be extended for 2026 and Jersey were asking if it could also be extended to allow the French to stay for up to 72 hours. It was noted that non-one had failed to return to France from the islands since Brexit.

f) Extraordinary Chief Pleas meeting 20th August 2025

There would be a drop-in surgery on Saturday 16th August and another at the beginning of September for potential candidates for the By-Election to meet with Conseillers and ask any questions.

g) Annual summit with Brittany and Ille et Vilaine – 14th October 2025

Sark had been asked if it was going to send a representative to the annual summit in Dinard on 14th October to sign the renewed MOU with Brittany and Ille et Vilaine. It was agreed that the Office could look into the costs before the Committee made a final decision.

h) Letter from Guernsey's Committee for Economic Development

Deputy Sasha Kazantseva-Miller, the newly elected President of Guernsey's Committee for Economic Development, had written to JG to say that the CfED would very much welcome opening a dialogue with P&F to discuss their respective strategic approaches, potential opportunities for joint working and other matters of common interest. The Committee agreed that it would like to invite the Committee to visit Sark at some point in the near future.

It was noted that Steve Falla, the Lead of Guernsey's External Relations, and Lindsay de Sausmarez, the new President of Guernsey's Policy & Resources Committee, were both keen to visit Sark too.

i) Sark stamps launch event

The proposed date of the launch was 27th August. Guernsey Post had sent through a suggested itinerary for the Committee to review.

PF111.25 AOB

a) Guidance note for the Code of Conduct

Dr McCullough had drafted a guidance note for the new Code of Conduct but it needed some amendments to clarify the process. It was hoped to bring the amended guidance note to Michaelmas Chief Pleas for approval.

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