



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

HANSARD

Assembly Room, Sark, Wednesday, 22nd January 2020

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

Volume 6, No. 2

Present:

Seigneur

Maj. C M Beaumont Esq.

Speaker of Chief Pleas

A J Rolfe Esq.

Deputy Prévôt

Mrs J Godwin

Greffier

Mr T J Hamon

Constable

Miss A Diaper

Conseillers:

Alan Blythe
Peter La Trobe-Bateman
Christopher Nightingale
Anthony Ventress
Paul Williams
Sandra Williams
Helen Plummer

John Guille
William Raymond
Ellen Lalor
Rodney Lalor
Simon Couldridge
Frank Makepeace

Business transacted

Declarations of interest	5
Welcome to Major Marco Ciotti, Chief of Staff and ADC to the Lieutenant Governor.....	5
Apologies received	5
Statements	6
Sark Electricity Ltd – Statement by Conseiller Raymond	6
Isle of Sark Shipping Ltd – Statement by Conseiller Sandra Williams.....	6
Doctor in Sark – Statement by Conseiller Plummer.....	7
Procedural – Electronic devices.....	8
Procedural – Items 13 and 14 to be taken after Item 3	8
Business of the Day.....	8
1. Questions not related to the Business of the Day – None.....	8
2. Updates of Committee Workstreams	8
Policy and Finance Committee workstream – Verbal update by Conseiller La-Trobe Bateman.....	8
Douzaine Committee workstream – Verbal update by Conseiller Blythe.....	9
Future Energy Special Committee workstream – Verbal update by Conseiller Guille	10
3. The Child Protection (Sark) Law, 2020 – Safeguarding Special Committee Report considered – Proposition carried	11
13. The Reform (Election of Conseillers) (By-Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2020 – Policy and Finance Committee Report considered – Proposition carried	12
14. Treasurer to the Island of Sark and Deputy Tax Assessor – Policy and Finance Committee Report considered – Propositions carried	13
4. Renewal of the Service Level Agreement – St James’ Chambers – Policy and Finance Committee Report considered – Proposition carried	14
5. Re-Appointment of Non-Executive Directors for Isle of Sark Shipping Company Ltd – Policy and Finance Committee Report considered – Propositions carried.....	15
6. Committee Elections – Top Level Domain Special Committee: no nominations; Special Safeguarding Committee: disbanded	16
7. Committee and Panel Elections – No nominations.....	16
8. Asian Hornet Nest – Found, Destroyed and Removed – Information Report from Agriculture, Environmental & Sea Fisheries Committee considered – Report noted	17
9. Annual Sea Fisheries Report – Information Report from Agriculture, Environmental & Sea Fisheries Committee considered – Report noted.....	17
10. Sark Tourism Report 2019 – November 2019 – Information Report from Tourism (Includes Public Health) Committee considered – Report noted	18

CHRISTMAS MEETING OF CHIEF PLEAS, WEDNESDAY, 22nd JANUARY 2020

11. Seasonal Regulation No. 2 – Information Report from the Douzaine considered – Report noted.....	20
12. Seasonal Regulation No. 4 – 2020 – Information Report from the Douzaine considered – Report noted.....	20
Regulation laid before Chief Pleas – The European Communities (Food and Feed Controls) (Guernsey, Alderney and Sark) Regulations, 2019	21
<i>Chief Pleas closed at 10.55 a.m.</i>	21

Christmas Meeting of Chief Pleas

Chief Pleas met at 10.05 a.m.

[THE SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

PRAYER

The Greffier

ROLL CALL

The Greffier

The Greffier: There are 13 Conseillers, the Seigneur and the Speaker of Chief Pleas present.

Declarations of interest

The Speaker: Okay, I am going to start by saying that under the Rules of Chief Pleas Procedure, Rule 14.(1) states:

Conseillers failing to submit a form, or provide updated information when requested, shall be named at each meeting and shall not speak or vote until a written declaration, or any updated information, is submitted.

- 5 All declarations are in, except one from Conseiller Mandy de Carteret, who has been away for a while and has assured the Greffier that she will complete the declaration immediately on return to Sark.

Welcome to Major Marco Ciotti, Chief of Staff and ADC to the Lieutenant Governor

- 10 **The Speaker:** The Lieutenant Governor is unable to attend our Meeting due to other commitments, but Major Marco Ciotti, Chief of Staff and ADC to the Lieutenant Governor is in the Public Gallery and as always, he is most welcome.

Apologies received

The Speaker: Apologies have been received from Conseillers Mandy de Carteret, Chris Drillot and Phil Long.

STATEMENTS

**Sark Electricity Ltd –
Statement by Conseiller Raymond**

The Speaker: We start with three Statements. A Statement by Conseiller William Raymond regarding Sark Electricity.

15

Conseiller Raymond: Thank you, sir.

On 20th December, the Electricity Price Control Commissioner published a Price Control Order setting the maximum price for electricity at 54 pence per unit, effective from 1st January this year. On Christmas Eve, the director of Sark Electricity Ltd emailed asking that Chief Pleas request the Commissioner to postpone the application of the Price Control Order for two months to enable Guernsey Electricity to value the company. In the alternative, he inquired if Chief Pleas might consider an annulment of the Order.

20

Following a meeting in January, a response was sent to Sark Electricity Ltd, confirming an earlier undertaking that Chief Pleas would not interfere with the Guernsey Electricity process and that Chief Pleas would be entirely content to see another owner of Sark Electricity Ltd supplying power to the Island. We further stated that there could be no interference with the actions of the Commissioner, who is a holder of an independent office.

25

As to annulment, we specifically drew attention to the statement in the Price Control Order in paragraph 14, where the Commissioner is of the opinion that the level of directors' remuneration and the lease payments from the generating company to the holding company cause more distress to the generating company than the level of the Price Control Order. Until this aspect is addressed to the satisfaction of Chief Pleas, no annulment, we said, could be contemplated.

30

As of today, this email remains unanswered. We wait to see the results of the Guernsey Electricity valuation. In the meantime, the controlled price of 54 pence remains in place.

35

The company has applied for extra time to file an appeal against the Price Control Order. This time extension has been granted to expire on 31st January.

40

We as a Committee are in an advanced stage in the compilation of licensing legislation which will be available for public consultation very soon. This legislation will be needed, as many property owners since the advertised price increase to 85 pence per unit are now applying for permission to install self-generation equipment. This has to be regulated and controlled.

45

The whole matter of electricity has escalated well beyond the original concept of price control and now involves the future of power generation on the Island and how to control this so that security of supply at a reasonable price is available to all.

45

Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Thank you.

**Isle of Sark Shipping Ltd –
Statement by Conseiller Sandra Williams**

The Speaker: A Statement by Conseiller Sandra Williams regarding the Isle of Sark Shipping schedules and the new vessel.

50

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Thank you.

The Isle of Sark Shipping is aware that there are some questions and concerns relating to our schedule and services for the coming season and would like to reassure residents that the company will be offering sailing times and frequencies comparable to previous years.

55 The company is making progress towards the purchase of a replacement vessel for the *Bon
Marin de Serk* and are targeting early to mid-April to put the vessel into operation. The
replacement vessel is a modern aluminium-constructed monohull built in 2007 and currently
operating out of St Malo. The vessel has an operating speed that would enable the company to
offer 30-to-35-minute crossing times from Guernsey to Sark and *vice versa*. The reduction in
60 crossing times will enable the company to adjust the past schedule, with the aim of offering
more attractive departure and arrival times, while maintaining the frequency of sailings.

The schedule will be supported by using the *Sark Venture* to provide cruise ship excursions
and additional capacity when and if required. The company is working with the relevant
Committees of Chief Pleas to finalise the vessel purchase, with a target date of mid-to-late
February. Due diligence checks have been carried out in relation to the value and condition of
65 the vessel and the results thus far have been very positive.

There is a considerable amount of technical and administrative detail required to register the
vessel in the UK/Guernsey and obtain a passenger operating certificate. These steps are ongoing
and may take some time.

70 In the interim and as a contingency against late delivery or, in the worst case, the purchase
falling through, Isle of Sark Shipping have loaded a reduced schedule onto the reservation
system that will fit with the current fleet operating times of the new vessel. This will allow for
advanced bookings to be made now, with little or no disruption when sailings are added to make
up the full timetable. The company acknowledges that the changes to the schedule and the fleet
will have challenges and are working with the Harbours and Shipping Committee, stakeholders
75 in Sark and the Guernsey authorities to address any unforeseen issues.

The company is aware that one such issue relates to the carriage of luggage and that rumours
are circulating that passenger luggage will be restricted from certain sailings. Following further
discussions between the company, stakeholders and the Committee, it can be confirmed that
there will be no changes to the luggage arrangements for the coming season. We can also
80 confirm there will be no reduction in the number of scheduled services or their frequency.

Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Doctor in Sark – Statement by Conseiller Plummer

85 **The Speaker:** A Statement by Conseiller Helen Plummer regarding the Doctor in Sark.

Conseiller Plummer: Thank you.

As you are aware, Dr McKelvie has withdrawn his acceptance for the position of Sark GP.

90 Dr Victoria Gray continues to provide cover on a temporary basis. The Medical Committee
are actively seeking a full time GP for Sark, and have contacted two other doctors who
expressed interest and fit the criteria, following the last round of applications. A copy of the
contract has been sent to these doctors. Dr Gray has also been invited to apply for the position.
Interviews will be held as soon as all applicants are available.

As well as working to find a permanent doctor, the Medical Committee is also pressing ahead
95 with plans to train Island-based first responders and engaging a practice nurse to work alongside
the practice manager and the doctor. I would like to assure Conseillers that we are doing all we
can to resolve this situation as soon as possible.

Thank you.

100 **The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Procedural –
Electronic devices**

The Speaker: Now, 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.

**Procedural –
Items 13 and 14 to be taken after Item 3**

105 **The Speaker:** Items 13 and 14 have been circulated in an Addendum to the Agenda. As both contain Propositions and one with an Ordinance, I propose that we take Items 13 and 14 immediately after Item 3.

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, I put this change in the Agenda to a vote. Those in favour; any against? Okay, that is **carried**.

Business of the Day

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

110 **The Speaker:** Agenda Item 1, Questions not related to the Business of the Day. There are none.

2. Updates of Committee Workstreams

The Speaker: Agenda Item 2, verbal updates of Committee Workstreams.

I have had notice that the Policy and Finance Committee and Douzaine and also the Future Energy Special Committee wish to give verbal reports. Are there any others who wish to do so?

**Policy and Finance Committee workstream –
Verbal update by Conseiller La-Trobe Bateman**

115 **The Speaker:** In which case, I will call Conseiller Sam La-Trobe Bateman on behalf of the Policy and Finance Committee.

Conseiller La-Trobe Bateman: Thank you, sir.

120 Policy and Finance have been working on many areas, one of which is Brexit. As Brexit is now definitely happening, Policy and Finance have been working very closely with Guernsey to ensure that come the leave date, there is no or little disruption to us.

Guernsey have created a dedicated Brexit team, which we are a part of, to ensure a smooth transition into the new arrangements with Europe. A lot of necessary legislation accompanying

our exit is Bailiwick-wide legislation, and I can see that there will be quite a few Extraordinary Chief Pleas coming to bring them into effect.

125 Electricity is also one of our main focuses. You have heard from William Raymond and you will hear from Future Energy in a little bit.

The issue of probate has risen to our workstream recently. Guernsey are currently in the process of taking the function of probate off the Ecclesiastical Court. At present, revenues received by the Church exceed the cost of collection, so it effectively makes it a tax. Should 130 Guernsey administer this service for the Bailiwick, Policy and Finance believe that it should only charge Sark the cost of collection. It would be then up to us as an independent jurisdiction to set the rate. We feel that it would be inappropriate for Guernsey to impose a tax on Sark. The Sark Government should be able to set its own tax rates on probate as we see fit. This is an ongoing debate with Guernsey and will be coming before this Chamber in the future.

135 We have started talks with the Law Officers in relation to sorting out the tribunal panel. This panel will hopefully amalgamate all the different tribunal panels into one. This has two main benefits. The new tribunal panel will undergo proper training and it will also free up many individuals to do as they please – hopefully stand for elections or other necessary services for Sark.

140 We have been told this week that Sark Shipping are almost in the position of purchasing a new vessel to replace the *Bon*. It is likely that they are going to need a guarantee from us for this vessel. We have been and continue to be working with Sark Shipping to see the purchase into fruition and this guarantee request will be coming before the House very soon.

145 Regrettably, we have made little progress on the definition of resident as we are a little bit snowed under from other things, but we do see its importance and will continue.

Land reform: we have answered a letter we received before Christmas from the Ministry of Justice. Most of you have probably seen this letter as it was leaked into a paper. Our response answered all the questions and hopefully they will overturn the appeal and let Sark move forward. As we are not part of this process, we are unsure of how long this will take but will 150 update you when we see it, when it arrives.

I think that is it. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Sam La-Trobe Bateman.
Does anybody wish to question or say anything to that?

**Douzaine Committee workstream –
Verbal update by Conseiller Blythe**

155 **The Speaker:** In that case we will move on to the Douzaine, Conseiller Alan Blythe.

Conseiller Blythe: Thank you, sir.

160 The Douzaine has undergone many changes in recent years, reducing its members to seven from the traditional 12. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all previous members for their time and effort, through their time on the Douzaine; in particular Edric Baker. His many years of service to the Island did not go unnoticed, as a recent visit to Buckingham Palace did prove.

165 So the work continues. The new Douzaine, meaning that it is now made up of four new members, which is more than half of its membership, have embraced the tasks that are required to maintain the infrastructure of Sark. To outline what we have been up to, here is a summary of our tasks and achievements.

Safety first: all employees of public works have been issued with up-to-date safety equipment. Contracts have been written, agreed and signed by all workmen, including a newly

170 appointed working foreman. We have employed one cleaner to clean all Island-maintained properties, as it makes more sense just to have one to manage.

New works include a new door on this Assembly Room and exterior works and maintenance to the Fire Station. The railings on La Coupée have been replaced with virtually maintenance-free galvanized tubing. All the public toilets have had a spruce up and repairs made when necessary.

175 A new tractor for the Doctor has been bought, the existing one being moved on to Public Works and will become part of an ongoing programme of replacing vehicles to ensure maintaining of old vehicles is kept to a minimum cost. Also a new road roller was purchased as the existing ones were becoming unreliable and interfered with the road maintenance programme.

180 That leads us on to the roads – traditionally the biggest thorn in our side. We have a programme which is prioritising the repairs. We are obtaining quotes from contractors, so as to extend the amounts of repairs that will be done this year and in the future. The new methods used for the traditional skimming have been a good platform to work from and we are expecting good results this year, although this is just the beginning. For example, the Le Manoir corner is
185 to be extensively resurfaced and have the addition of a traffic mirror and better signage.

A new graveyard plan has been drawn up to meet the unfortunate demand, bringing in better management and making it more cost effective. We continue to work with the Procureurs. This is part of our confidential work – not secretive, as some members of this community seem to think. It is difficult, but a necessary part of the Douzaine's remit and the two
190 ladies, Estelle and Stephanie, work tirelessly at this task.

The role of Constable and the structure of the Constable's Office are under review and will hopefully have a report with propositions to bring to the next meeting of Chief Pleas.

195 Recycling is a big project for us. Recycling on Sark is like nowhere else. We have a meeting at last with the Guernsey Recycling Group next Wednesday and things hopefully will move swiftly on from there.

We have also welcomed the Road Traffic Committee under our umbrella. As you know, the deregulation of electric bicycles was the first major task and now we are moving on to part 2 with a public consultation on electric vehicles in general.

200 There is and always will be a lot of work to be done and overseen and I think with a relatively young and very enthusiastic Committee, we can look forward to a bright future.

Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Alan Blythe.

Is there anybody who wishes to question or comment on that?

Future Energy Special Committee workstream – Verbal update by Conseiller Guille

205 **The Speaker:** In that case, we move on to the Future Energy Special Committee, Conseiller John Guille.

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir.

210 The Future Energy Special Committee was originally established to investigate options for the long-term supply of energy on Sark and has also taken on responsibility for contingency planning in the event of a power cut-off.

Firstly, to update on our contingency planning: given the unprecedented threats by SEL to terminate electricity supply at short notice, a large amount of the Committee's time has gone into drawing up contingency plans. This has included several site visits to Sark from expert

215 emergency power supply companies and meetings in Guernsey with the Bailiwick Civil
Contingency Authority (CCA). We are now on our third major iteration of a contingency plan,
which involves diesel generators and more modern battery packs. In the immediate aftermath of
any shut-off, we will be looking to the CCA for assistance whilst our own contingency plan is
implemented.

220 Contingency planning has been challenging, both from the financial and logistical aspects,
and is being refined on a weekly basis. Islanders must be aware, the contingency supply will not
be a mirror of the normal connection, but every effort is being made to avoid this situation.

As we are all aware, Guernsey Electricity have very kindly offered to help with the valuation
of Sark Electricity and I received an update from Alan Bates yesterday. Guernsey Electricity have
225 been in talks with SEL continuously about the process evaluation and will be sending through a
draft of a memorandum of understanding this week that will set out the process of valuation.

Future supply: in all of the debate that has been generated by the current electricity
situation, it has become very clear that there is a healthy appetite in Sark to transition to a more
renewable means of electricity generation. Whether this is achieved with Sark Electricity Ltd or
230 another future provider, it is important that Chief Pleas plays a key part in this process, to
protect the best interests of Islanders.

Concerns have been raised about the increase in applications for self-generation. Whilst it is
very understandable that persons may wish to make their own provisions for a generation, it is
not currently in the best interests of the community as a whole. Self-generation may form a part
235 of a future Island generation system, but it is to be determined by the business case of SEL or
any future Island provider.

First and foremost, the Committee will be keeping the best interests of the majority of Sark
residents as our number one priority. As you can imagine, we have been inundated with
proposals from companies around the world for future solutions to Sark's electricity generation,
240 and we are receiving expert help from Guernsey Electricity and others in assessing these. We
look forward to sharing these with you in the very near future.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller John Guille.

245 Does anybody wish to query or comment on that?

3. The Child Protection (Sark) Law, 2020 – Safeguarding Special Committee Report considered – Proposition carried

*To consider a Report with Proposition from the Safeguarding Special Committee entitled 'The
Child Protection (Sark) Law, 2020' and approve a Projet de Loi entitled 'The Child Protection
(Sark) Law, 2020'.*

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves the Projet de Loi entitled 'The Child Protection (Sark) Law, 2020'.

The Speaker: In that case, we will move on to Agenda Item 3, to consider a Report with
Proposition from the Safeguarding Special Committee entitled 'The Child Protection (Sark) Law,
2020' and approve a Projet de Loi entitled 'The Child Protection (Sark) Law, 2020'.

Conseiller Sandra Williams to introduce the report.

250

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Thank you, sir.

I have not really got very much more to add to this, as it seems to be in the Chief Pleas papers for about the last 18 to 24 months, but I do believe that with the consideration taken and all the meetings that have taken place – we have had meetings in Guernsey with our Law Officer and Vicky Ogier; we have had the Seneschal present two of our meetings; we have consulted with the Medical Committee, the Education Committee, the Doctor, the Island Safeguarder – I really would just like to ask you all to approve this very important piece of legislation, please.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Are there any questions from the floor, or any debate? Conseiller William Raymond.

Conseiller William Raymond: Just a comment in passing, sir, that the legislation provides that Chief Pleas must allocate sufficient funds from the General Revenue account. I discussed this with the Treasurer and she is perfectly well aware of that and provision will be made in the 2021 Budget.

I must just make the point that there is no provision at present in the 2020 Budget because the legislation was not enforced when we prepared the Budget.

The Speaker: Okay, do you wish to respond to that, Conseiller Sandra Williams?

Conseiller Sandra Williams: No, I have discussed this already and that is perfectly fine, thank you.

The Speaker: Is there anybody else?

In that case, we will move to the Proposition that Chief Pleas approves the Projet de Loi entitled, 'The Child Protection (Sark) Law, 2020'. Those in favour; are there any against? That is **carried unanimously**.

I can tell you that the humble petition is already prepared in my office. I have written that and it will be signed immediately after this meeting and it will go straight off. Okay?

Conseiller Sandra Williams: May I just say that we are now aware that the Safeguarding Special Committee has finished their job. So can we free up that ... ?

The Speaker: Well, perhaps you can do that under the Item which populates those Committees, actually – that would be easier, certainly for my simple soul to comprehend.

**13. The Reform (Election of Conseillers) (By-Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2020 –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'The Election of Conseillers 4th March 2020' and to approve the Ordinance entitled 'The Reform (Election of Conseillers) (By-Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2020'.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves 'The Reform (Election of Conseillers) (By-Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2020'.

The Speaker: We move to Agenda Item 13 from the Addendum, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'The Election of Conseillers 4th

March 2020' and to approve the Ordinance entitled 'The Reform (Election of Conseillers) (By-Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2020'. Conseiller Sam La-Trobe Bateman to introduce the Report.

290

Conseiller La-Trobe Bateman: Thank you.

This Ordinance sets out the dates for the by election. This is an interesting election, as the term of office of the successful candidates is only for one year – till December this year. It is therefore an ideal prospect for prospective candidates to test the water before getting stuck into this for four years.

295

We have asked the Seigneur to assist us with drumming up candidates so we can fill all the seats. I would also like to ask everyone present here to head out into the community and rally suitable people to stand for this Government so that it can run on all cylinders.

Nominations open on 31st January and close on 14th February. The election itself will happen on 4th March.

300

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you. Any questions or comments?

In that case we will move to the Proposition, that Chief Pleas approves 'The Reform (Election of Conseillers) (By-Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2020'. Those in favour; are there any against? That is **carried unanimously**.

305

This Ordinance will be numbered Roman I of 2020.

**14. Treasurer to the Island of Sark and Deputy Tax Assessor –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Propositions carried**

To consider a Report with two Propositions from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'Treasurer to the Island of Sark and Deputy Tax Assessor'.

Proposition 1:

That Chief Pleas approves the appointment of Miss Sarah Hudson to the position of Treasurer to the Island of Sark.

Proposition 2:

That Chief Pleas approves the appointment of Mrs Angela Lewis to the position of Deputy Tax Assessor to the Island of Sark.

The Speaker: We go to Agenda Item 14 from the Addendum to consider a Report with two Propositions from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'Treasurer to the Island of Sark and Deputy Tax Assessor'. Conseiller Sam La-Trobe Bateman to introduce the Report.

310

Conseiller La-Trobe Bateman: Thank you.

This Item has two parts. The first is to appoint the Treasurer.

315

In December, interviews were held for this position. The interview panel consisted of our Chief Secretary, the Seneschal and the ex-Treasurer of the States of Guernsey. Following the unanimous decision from the panel, Policy and Finance would like to propose Miss Sarah Hudson for the position of Treasurer of Sark.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Linda Higgins who for the last two years has temporarily been filling this absent position and allowing the Treasury of Sark to function. Ms Higgins will assume her previous role as Deputy Treasurer.

320

The second part of this Proposition is to appoint Mrs Angela Lewis to become the new Deputy Tax Assessor. The position of Deputy Tax Assessor has been created to assist the current Tax Assessor in all areas of Sark tax and also to tick a good governance box.

325 Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you. Does anybody wish to comment or question or anything?

330 In that case we will move to the two Propositions. Proposition 1: that Chief Pleas approves the appointment of Miss Sarah Hudson to the position of Treasurer to the Island of Sark. Those in favour; are there any against? That this **carried unanimously**.

Proposition 2: that Chief Pleas approves the appointment of Mrs Angela Lewis to the position of Deputy Tax Assessor to the Island of Sark. Those in favour; are there any against? That this **carried unanimously**.

335 On behalf of Chief Pleas, may I congratulate both Miss Sarah Hudson and Mrs Angela Lewis on their new positions serving the Sark community.

The Seneschal's Court will sit a quarter of an hour after the conclusion of this meeting to swear into office the new Treasurer and Deputy Tax Assessor.

340 May I also thank Linda Higgins for her service over the past two years. I am happy that she is continuing to assist in the Treasurer's Office. Linda Higgins did tell me that she would be unable to attend this meeting, which explains the vacant chair.

**4. Renewal of the Service Level Agreement – St James' Chambers –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'Renewal of the Service Level Agreement – St James' Chambers'.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves the proposed Service Level Agreement with St James' Chambers for 2020 and the associated cost and that Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman be authorised to sign it on behalf of Chief Pleas.

The Speaker: Agenda Item 4, to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'Renewal of the Service Level Agreement – St James' Chambers'. Conseiller Sam La-Trobe Bateman to introduce the Report.

345 **Conseiller La-Trobe Bateman:** Up and down!

We have to agree this cost each year. The Law Officers at the St James' Chambers give Sark an extremely high level of service and without their support we would struggle to be an independent government. The increase this year is only the RPI, which is set at 2%. So this brings the total cost of their service to £65,265. It is an absolute bargain in today's world, so please support the proposition.

350 Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you. Does anybody wish to contribute or question?

355 In that case, we will move to the Proposition, that Chief Pleas approves the proposed Service Level Agreement with St James' Chambers for 2020 and the associated cost and that Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman be authorised to sign it on behalf of Chief Pleas. Those in favour; are there any against? That this **carried unanimously**.

**5. Re-Appointment of Non-Executive Directors for Isle of Sark Shipping Company Ltd –
Policy and Finance Committee Report considered –
Propositions carried**

To consider a Report with three Propositions from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'The Re-Appointment of Non-Executive Directors for the Isle of Sark Shipping Company Limited'.

Proposition 1:

That Chief Pleas accepts the re-appointment of Mark Dunster as a Non-Executive Director of The Isle of Sark Shipping Company Limited for three years commencing on 1st November 2019 or until the next meeting of Chief Pleas at which a Non-Executive Director can be appointed or re-appointed, whichever is the later.

Proposition 2:

That Chief Pleas confirms the appointment of Richard Graham as a Non-Executive Director of The Isle of Sark Shipping Company Limited for three years commencing on 1st November 2017 or until the next meeting of Chief Pleas at which a Non-Executive Director can be appointed or re-appointed, whichever is the later.

Proposition 3:

That Chief Pleas confirms the appointment of Peter Gill as a Non-Executive Director of The Isle of Sark Shipping Company Limited for three years commencing on 1st November 2018 or until the next meeting of Chief Pleas at which a Non-Executive Director can be appointed or re-appointed, whichever is the later.

360 **The Speaker:** We go to Agenda Item 5, to consider a Report with three Propositions from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'The Re-Appointment of Non-Executive Directors for the Isle of Sark Shipping Company Limited'. Conseiller Sam La-Trobe Bateman to introduce the Report.

Conseiller La-Trobe Bateman: I think this is my last one!

365 In order for our lifeline service to run at its full potential, it is vital that the correct Non-Executive Directors are in place to oversee and steer the company in the right direction. Sark Shipping is going through a major investment in a long overdue boat and the Committee feel that at this time continuity is essential for the company. We wish to recommend the reappointment of Mark Dunster for a three-year term, and that is Proposition 1.

370 Propositions 2 and 3 are a bit of housekeeping that I think got missed out through the transfer of Committees. It is to confirm the appointments of Richard Graham and Peter Gill as Non-Executive Directors which commenced on 1st November.

Thank you.

375 **The Speaker:** Thank you. Does anybody wish to speak to this?

In that case, we move to the three Propositions. Proposition 1: that Chief Pleas accepts the reappointment of Mark Dunster as a Non-Executive Director of The Isle of Sark Shipping Company Limited for three years commencing on 1st November 2019 or until the next meeting of Chief Pleas at which a Non-Executive Director can be appointed or re-appointed, whichever is the later. Those in favour; are there any against? That is **carried unanimously**.

380 Proposition 2: that Chief Pleas confirms the appointment of Richard Graham as a Non-Executive Director of The Isle of Sark Shipping Company Limited for three years commencing on 1st November 2017 or until the next meeting of Chief Pleas at which a Non-Executive Director

385 can be appointed or re-appointed, whichever is the later. Those in favour; are there any against?
That is **carried unanimously**.

390 Proposition 3: that Chief Pleas confirms the appointment of Peter Gill as a Non-Executive Director of The Isle of Sark Shipping Company Limited for three years commencing on 1st November 2018 – is that correct? (**Conseiller La-Trobe Bateman**: Yes.) Okay. – or until the next meeting of Chief Pleas at which a Non-Executive Director can be appointed or re-appointed, whichever is the later. All those in favour; are there any against? That is **carried unanimously**.

**6. Committee Elections –
Top Level Domain Special Committee: no nominations;
Special Safeguarding Committee: disbanded**

To elect Conseillers to Committees, as required.

The Speaker: We go to Agenda Item 6, Committee Elections – to elect Conseillers to Committees, as required. There is one vacancy outstanding on the Top Level Domain Special Committee. Are there any nominations from the floor? In that case that remains a vacancy.

395 I think Conseiller Sandra Williams, you wish to disband ... The Special Safeguarding Committee – correct me if I am wrong – changed its name from ‘Children and Safeguarding’ to ‘Special Safeguarding’. Can you just explain that, please?

400 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** We changed our name because originally we were trying to do safeguarding in general, which was safeguarding for vulnerable adults and children. And we were requested to try and deal with one thing at a time. So we changed our name to the ‘Special Safeguarding Committee’ – Children’s Law.

The Speaker: Oh, okay. The website obviously has not caught up with that.

405 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** So the Children’s Law is finished so we will have to ... At a later stage, we will reform, or somebody will, and it will be the safeguarding vulnerable adults.

410 **The Speaker:** Okay, I will put that to a vote, that the Special Safeguarding Committee – Children’s Law – be disbanded. All those in favour; are there any against? That is **carried unanimously**.

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

To elect Non-Chief Pleas Members to Committees and Panels, as required.

The Speaker: Agenda Item 7, Committee and Panel Elections – to elect Non-Chief Pleas Members to Committees and Panels, as required. Are there any nominations to elect Non-Chief Pleas Members to Committees or Panels?

**8. Asian Hornet Nest – Found, Destroyed and Removed –
Information Report from Agriculture, Environmental & Sea Fisheries Committee considered –
Report noted**

To consider an Information Report from the Agriculture, Environmental & Sea Fisheries Committee entitled 'Asian Hornet Nest – Found, Destroyed and Removed'.

415 **The Speaker:** In that case, we move to Agenda Item 8, To consider an Information Report from the Agriculture, Environmental & Sea Fisheries Committee entitled 'Asian Hornet Nest – Found, Destroyed and Removed'. Conseiller Helen Plummer.

Conseiller Plummer: Thank you.

420 Last year, a huge nest was found – one of the largest in the Bailiwick, I believe – and it was dealt with very efficiently. I would like to thank all that have taken part in this programme. Judging by the reports and sightings from the public, we have all been very aware of the problem and people are being very vigilant. So I would like to say thank you and the Information Report is laid before you.

425 Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you. Are there any questions or comments from the floor? Well, that is an Information Report.

**9. Annual Sea Fisheries Report –
Information Report from Agriculture, Environmental & Sea Fisheries Committee considered –
Report noted**

To consider an Information Report from the Agriculture, Environmental & Sea Fisheries Committee entitled 'Annual Sea Fisheries Report'.

430 **The Speaker:** We go to Agenda Item 9, to consider an Information Report from the Agriculture, Environmental & Sea Fisheries Committee entitled 'Annual Sea Fisheries Report'. Conseiller Helen Plummer.

Conseiller Plummer: Thank you.

435 Yes, Sea Fisheries have been quite busy. As you can see by the Report, Sark Sea Fisheries have made six patrols and ten trips for a mixture of suspicious fishing boats, missing persons, towing broken-down boats into safety and vessel rescues. These are supplemented with patrols by the Guernsey Sea Fisheries boat and the Committee wish to thank them all for their advice and assistance.

440 As you can see, we have got an Edible Seaweed Report there laid before you. Mr Clancy from Guernsey has stressed that all the farming, drying, packaging all have to be done on Sark. It will all have Sark people working for him. But we would like people to come after this meeting and he will be coming over to give an information meeting and I would encourage all people to come to this meeting with questions, so that he may be able to answer these and put people's fears at rest.

445 I would also like to thank Mr Dick Adams, who has finally hung up his oil skins, for his vast knowledge and advice on fishing matters that he has passed onto the Committee over the years. Thank you very much indeed. We are grateful.

Thank you.

450 **The Speaker:** Yes, I am sure we would all like to extend congratulations and thanks to Dick Adams. (Members: Hear, hear.) Particularly as he is turning up more and more in the *Mermaid* these days, which is always a help!

Are there any questions or comments from the floor? Conseiller William Raymond.

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

On the seaweed project, could Conseiller Plummer please confirm that she either has or will be taking advice from specialist officers in Guernsey on this proposed project?

460 **Conseiller Plummer:** Yes, certainly, we have. We have already made enquiries in Guernsey on this project and yes, we will be keeping very closely information and giving it to the public and to the Conseillers.

Thank you.

465 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Helen Plummer. Anybody else?

That is an Information Report.

**10. Sark Tourism Report 2019 – November 2019 –
Information Report from Tourism (Includes Public Health) Committee considered –
Report noted**

To consider an Information Report from the Tourism (Includes Public Health) Committee entitled 'Sark Tourism Report 2019 – November 2019'.

The Speaker: We go to Agenda Item 10, to consider an Information Report from the Tourism including Public Health Committee entitled 'Sark Tourism Report 2019 – November 2019'. Conseiller Sandra Williams.

470 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** Thank you very much.

You have got a very comprehensive report of what we have and have not been doing over the last year. I have got some updates for you of things that have happened since this report was printed.

475 First of all, it is to do with Liberation Route Europe. Towards the end of 2019, we were asked whether we would like to join the Channel Island application to become members of Liberation Route Europe. We have made our application together with Visit Guernsey and Visit Jersey. In due course we will be added as a location on the Liberation Route Europe trail and 'Vectors' – which are small plaques – will be placed in strategic positions to mark the route taken by the liberating forces during World War II. As tour operators arrange trips along the Liberation Route,
480 it is hoped that they will not only be marking our history and place, but encouraging tourism also.

We have got an update on what we have been doing at the old Island Hall. We asked permission to use part of the old Island Hall as an exhibition. We have been given this space for a three-year period in order to house an exhibition which tells the story of Sark's Occupation.
485 There will be various information boards. One will be a timeline of events on Sark from the beginning of the Occupation until Liberation. Others will depict the importance of the role played by the old Island Hall over the years. It is hoped that the exhibition will breathe some life back into the building and give it a purpose.

490 The Bloomers, we understand, have kindly indicated that they will continue to decorate the front of the building with floral displays and for this we are most grateful.

Heritage75: we have adopted the visit Guernsey Heritage75 logo and they will be assisting us to advertise the events taking place on Sark as part of the Heritage75 celebrations. The Visitor Centre has invited Island businesses to take part, with the emphasis being on celebrating 75 years of Liberation. The Visitor Centre naturally will be taking part, in addition to the exhibition and we will be putting together a schedule of the events in the near future, which will be available online, in paper format and circulated digitally and in paper format.

Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Any questions or comments? First of all, Conseiller Alan Blythe and then Conseiller Simon Couldridge.

Conseiller Blythe: Thank you, sir.

I would just like to say, it is a good job we did not take the old Island Hall down, then, isn't it? Thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Simon Couldridge

Conseiller Couldridge: Yes, thank you.

Just a small question to Tourism: given that tourism is our principal ... well, not principal; our only industry in the Island – I wonder if the current budget of £89,000-odd is adequate.

Also, I know that the tourist office tells me that they are not able to open the hours they would like to because of budget constraints.

The final question is – which may not be technically tourism but it crosses over into tourism and shipping – I have had recently complaints from visitors saying they have booked holidays in Sark, but have not been able to see the shipping timetable yet – which I think may have been addressed literally hours ago, but it seems a bit late in the day, considering that the tourist season of bookings is well underway.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Okay, thank you. Does anybody else wish to raise anything?

In that case, I will call Conseiller Sandra Williams to answer Conseiller Couldridge.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Obviously, if they wanted to give me £100,000 for my budget I would spend it. But we are living in a small community and I think personally – it is not down to me – we do very well with the amount of money that we receive. We advertise, we do everything. We have had a big boost this year because obviously the brochure has gone out – as you can see, the new brochure is out now – and we have had a lot of extra advertising this year through SEM and through Andrew Miller. We have had lots of extra advertising.

I think it is fair to say that we did not open the tourism office on Sundays last year for the very early part of the season because the records showed that if we had three or four people arriving in the office between eleven and one, that was all we were receiving. We will be looking at it again this year and addressing that situation.

But bear in mind, and I do keep reminding people, that at one time the office was open for 25 hours a week. We are now open nearly 48 hours a week and we do not have an awful lot more money now than we used to have five or six years ago. But I do take your point on board.

And the other question to do with Sark Shipping timetable. Yes, we know it is late coming out but there has been an awful lot of work going on to do with the buying of the new vessel. The timetables have to be ... well, they do not have to be agreed but they have to come through Sark Shipping Committee in order to look at them and it has taken a lot of jiggery-pokery. But they are on. They have been on since last week. The minimum they have to supply has been online

since last Friday, and as you heard earlier on in my statement, there will be more boats added as and when we know what the purchase is going to be on the new vessel.

545 **The Speaker:** Thank you. Okay, that was again an Information Report.

**11. Seasonal Regulation No. 2 –
Information Report from the Douzaine considered –
Report noted**

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

The Speaker: We go to Agenda Item 11, to consider an Information Report from the Douzaine entitled 'Seasonal Regulation No. 2'. Conseiller Alan Blythe.

550 **Conseiller Blythe:** Sir, this is a bit of housekeeping, as is usual at this time of year. This is relating to the tractors' regulations.
Thank you.

The Speaker: Okay. Anybody?

**12. Seasonal Regulation No. 4 – 2020 –
Information Report from the Douzaine considered –
Report noted**

To consider an Information Report from the Douzaine entitled 'Seasonal Regulation No 4 – 2020'.

555 **The Speaker:** In that case, we go to Agenda Item 12, to consider an Information Report from the Douzaine entitled 'Seasonal Regulation No 4 – 2020'. Conseiller Alan Blythe.

Conseiller Blythe: This is the same again, a bit of housekeeping that is relating to the horse-drawn vehicles and horses.
Thank you very much.

560 **The Speaker:** Okay.

I might suggest that in future these two Regulations which come up and there is very rarely any discussion on them, if they might be better considered – and I put this to you for your consideration, Conseiller Blythe – that they be laid before Chief Pleas, rather than as Items.

565 **(Conseiller Blythe: Yes.)** Okay, thank you.

**Regulation laid before Chief Pleas –
The European Communities (Food and Feed Controls) (Guernsey,
Alderney and Sark) Regulations, 2019**

The Speaker: We have moved to the final Item, a Regulation laid before Chief Pleas: The European Communities (Food and Feed Controls) (Guernsey, Alderney and Sark) Regulations, 2019. That is a laid before, okay?

Now that meeting is concluded. It is now 10.55.

570 Greffier, the Grace, please.

PRAYER

The Greffier

Chief Pleas closed at 10.55 a.m.