



OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

MICHAELMAS MEETING

OF CHIEF PLEAS

OF THE

ISLAND OF SARK

HANSARD

Assembly Room, Sark, Wednesday, 1st October 2025

*All published Official Reports can be found on the
official Island of Sark Chief Pleas website www.sarkgov.co.uk*

Volume 11, No. 8

Present:

Seigneur

Maj. C M Beaumont Esq.

Speaker of Chief Pleas

P M Armorgie Esq.

Deputy Prévôt

J Godwin

Greffier

T J Hamon

Treasurer

S Hudson

Constable

P Burgess

Assistant Constable

Jonathan Godwin

Conseillers:

John Guille
Helen Plummer
Benjamin Harris
Carol Cragoe
Michael Locke
Natalie Tighe
Christopher Bateson
David Curtis

Edric Baker MBE
Mary Nicolle
James Martin
Frank Makepeace
Patrick Dewe
Samuel Keyte
Nicolas Moloney
Karl Rang

Business transacted

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Michaelmas 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 15 Conseillers, the Seigneur and the Speaker of Chief Pleas present.

The Speaker: For the purposes of *Hansard*, Mary Nicolle has joined the meeting. Greffier, could
5 you please mark that Mary Nicolle has joined the meeting, thank you?

The Greffier: There are now 16 Conseillers present, the Seigneur and the Speaker of Chief Pleas.

Apologies for absence

The Speaker: I would like to welcome everyone to this Michaelmas Meeting of Chief Pleas. We
10 have received apologies for absence this evening from Conseiller Rose, who cannot be with us this evening.

Lieutenant-Governor absent

The Speaker: We have also received apologies from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of
15 the Bailiwick of Guernsey, Sir Richard Cripwell, who unfortunately also cannot be here this evening.

Welcome to Robert Titterington, KC

The Speaker: I would, however, like to extend a very warm welcome to our special guest this evening. Robert Titterington, KC, who we have invited to join us in the public gallery this evening,
20 together with his wife, Lesley.

Robert recently retired as Her Majesty's Comptroller and Her Majesty's Deputy Receiver General in Guernsey. Robert came to Guernsey and Chambers in the year 2000 directly from the Falklands, where he had worked in the Attorney General's office from 1988. In 2005 he became Director of Legislative Drafting. In 2007 he had a six-month secondment to the Falklands as

Attorney General. In 2016 he became HM Comptroller and was appointed QC in the same year. He retired in August of this year.

Robert has been extremely helpful and supportive to Sark and Chief Pleas during his years in office, and we have been most grateful for his experience, his wisdom, advice and guidance on a diverse range of issues. We thank Robert very much and we wish him a long and happy retirement, sir. **(Several Members: Hear, hear.) (Applause)**

Thank you.

**Welcome to Elaine Cobb, Morganna Clarke and George Fairhurst —
Crown Dependencies Team, Whitehall**

The Speaker: We also this evening extend a warm welcome to Elaine Cobb. Elaine is the head of the Crown Dependencies Team in Whitehall, together with her two colleagues, Morganna Clarke and George Fairhurst, who are visiting Sark to meet with Conseillers.

Welcome to you.

Welcome to new Conseillers

The Speaker: I would like to welcome our four new Conseillers to Chief Pleas for their first meeting this evening. Conseillers Dewe, Keyte, Moloney and Rang, we offer a warm welcome to you all. Thank you for joining Chief Pleas, and we hope that this is the start of a long and dedicated commitment to the Government of Sark. We very much look forward to your contributions and to working with you.

Welcome to you.

**Uncontested by-election –
Personal statement by the Speaker**

The Speaker: Moving directly on from that, I would like to make a personal statement. I wish to offer my sincere apologies regarding the recent by-election in Sark, which was regrettably and ultimately uncontested. Unfortunately, one candidate was compelled to withdraw due to personal reasons and a second was declared ineligible because of an omission from the electoral roll.

As returning officer, I deeply regret these circumstances and take full responsibility for the procedural oversight that contributed to this outcome. However, please be assured that this experience has served as a critical learning opportunity. We are committed to thoroughly reviewing and improving both the electoral roll forms and the candidate nomination documentation to eliminate any risk of a single point of failure in future.

Additionally, Sark's membership of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association will provide Chief Pleas with access to valuable resources, including external oversight and scrutiny, which will further strengthen the integrity and administration for our future elections.

Thank you for your understanding during this difficult period, as we take on these important steps to enhance our election processes and uphold the democratic standards of Sark.

Once again, I offer my unreserved apologies.

STATEMENTS

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The Speaker: Moving on to the next items on the Agenda, we have a number of statements this evening, which we have received from Committee Chairmen or Chairpersons, and we also have one personal statement. We will go through these one by one.

**Compulsory purchase of SEL assets –
Statement by Conseiller Guille**

65 **The Speaker:** The first statement, I would like to invite Conseiller Guille to give us an update on Sark Electricity.
Conseiller Guille, thank you.

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir.
70 An update on electricity. Firstly, compulsory purchase of SEL assets. On 25th June 2025, Chief Pleas decided to bring the Compulsory Purchase (Electricity) (Sark) Law, 2021 into force. This started the legal process to bring the assets of Sark Electricity Ltd into the ownership of Chief Pleas.

The objective is to ensure Sark has a safe, reliable and affordable electricity supply for generations to come by bringing it into community ownership.

75 The next step under the statutory process is for an independent valuer to be appointed. A great deal of work has been undertaken by Chief Pleas and its advisers, engaging with nine different recommended valuation firms in order to reach the most suitable and robust proposal. An initial proposal was put to the Managing Director of SEL some weeks ago, though little feedback was received.

80 Today, on 1st October 2025, the Policy and Finance Committee delivered a final proposal to the Managing Director of SEL to attempt to reach a mutual agreement on the appointment of the valuer. Under the law the appointment of the valuer is made by order of the Court of the Seneschal on the application of either party. The Committee will shortly be applying to the court for an order appointing Begbies Traynor, and it hopes to be able to tell the court that both parties support the appointment, but such mutual agreement is not required for the application to be made or for the court to make an order. A decision has been requested from SEL within two weeks.

85 The proposed valuer is accountancy firm Begbies Traynor, supported by Hilco Global for the specific machinery and plant valuation aspects of the exercise. The Committee and their advisers believe that Begbies Traynor has the necessary scale and possesses the relevant expertise and experience for this task.

90 Once compulsory purchase is completed the plan remains the same: all the current SEL staff in Sark would be retained under the new operating company. They would immediately begin the safety and reliability upgrade programme under the supervision of GEL managers and highly qualified technicians. They would also be assisted by outside contractors with a deep and long-earned understanding of Sark's power systems.

95 September bills. In late August, with less than a week's notice until the next billing cycle, SEL announced two new 'levies' to be applied to the forthcoming September bills. The Sark Electricity Price Control Commissioner has reviewed these proposed charges and determined that they are not fair or reasonable. A Price Control Order has now taken effect from midnight on 100 30th September 2025. The Price Control Order will cover any bill from October onwards, but will unfortunately not cover the September bills, which should be received in the first two weeks of October.

For September, customers are advised to contact SEL directly with any concerns. Vulnerable residents are encouraged to inform the Island Safeguarding Officer or the Sark Medical & Emergency Services Committee of their situation. Residents are reminded that for the fitment or alteration of any equipment on your property, SEL staff must be given permission by the resident, or the landlord, in order to enter.

Correspondence from SEL. Chief Pleas, along with SEL customers, local media, the Ministry of Justice, the Lieutenant-Governor, and others, have received numerous communications from the Managing Director of SEL in recent weeks. Several opinions have been stated as fact and the Policy and Finance and Future Energy Committees would like to clarify the actual position:

Discussions between Island Power and Sark, not involving SEL, have been held several times since 2019, the most recent being in April 2025. None of the proposals presented were considered to have been financially credible, technically appropriate, suitable from a community perspective, or compliant with the tender process.

The Managing Director of SEL has claimed many times that he has ‘sold’ SEL to Island Power, yet there is no evidence that such a sale has been made, and Mr Witney-Price still presents himself as the owner of SEL.

On other occasions it has been claimed that Chief Pleas has ‘blocked’ the sale of SEL. This is not true. Chief Pleas has not blocked the sale of SEL to Island Power or to anyone else; it does not have the power to do so. There is no ‘Chief Pleas block’.

Island Power have never claimed to be interested in buying the company. They have consistently proposed a single model where Island Power enters into a partnership with SEL.

Island Power have not provided evidence to show that they have the access to the funds needed to implement the most urgent safety work, let alone the longer-term upgrades. Instead, they have consistently suggested that they would access the proposed £1.5 million loan facility that Chief Pleas has negotiated with the States of Guernsey.

The Managing Director of SEL has also recently made false statements regarding the costs to Sark of legal advice and representation provided by the Law Officers of the Crown. Currently, Sark pays a long-standing Service Level Agreement with St James Chambers to the value of £82,952 for the year 2025. This is reviewed regularly and has risen by RPI in recent years. There are no plans to increase this by £100,000, as stated by the Managing Director of SEL. There are no plans to increase tax by £200 per person on Sark in order to cover legal expenses. The Law Officers of the Crown will be representing Sark in court hearings regarding the compulsory purchase process as part of this Service Level Agreement.

Taxes in Sark will need to be increased for the next year to cover urgent expenditure on other critical infrastructure projects, but none of this will be associated with electricity matters. The compulsory purchase of SEL and the desperately needed immediate safety and reliability upgrades will be covered by the loan facility and subsequently paid back at a fair rate through the unit price of electricity.

Lastly, the most recent correspondence from the Managing Director of SEL to residents has claimed that the compulsory purchase legislation is not human rights compliant. The Committee is advised by the Law Officers’ Chambers that this is not the case. All Bailiwick legislation is subject to the Human Rights (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2000, and is drafted to be compliant with the Bailiwick’s international obligations, including under the European Convention on Human Rights; and all primary legislation, such as the law, is scrutinised for that purpose as part of the Royal Assent process. It should also be noted that SEL were consulted during the drafting of the legislation.

Conclusion. Chief Pleas is committed to bringing the assets of Sark Electricity Ltd into community ownership ensuring a safe, reliable and affordable electricity supply for our community. The compulsory purchase process is now underway to deliver this.

On Thursday, 2nd October, the Electricity Price Control Commissioner, Shane Lynch, will hold a public meeting in the Island Hall at 6 p.m. Shane Lynch will also have drop-in clinics on Friday, 3rd October, in the Island Hall boardroom from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

It is expected that the Managing Director of SEL may continue to issue statements both publicly and directly to customers. In light of this, the Committee urges calm and unity within the community during this important period. Please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Conseiller Mike Locke if you have any questions during this time.

160 Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille, for that statement.

**Douzaine workstream –
Statement by Conseiller Locke**

165 **The Speaker:** The next statement that we have this evening is from the Chairman of the Douzaine, Conseiller Locke.
Conseiller Locke, thank you.

Conseiller Locke: Thank you, sir.

170 I would like to update Chief Pleas on a number of Douzaine workstreams which have not yet reached formal Report or Proposition stage. This is despite a lot of hard work by Douzaine members since we came into office this year, and the team in the Committee office, who also have new responsibilities, for which we are extremely grateful.

175 In brief, first, Midsummer Chief Pleas directed the Douzaine to draft and publish a guidance note on policies and procedures surrounding rental and leasing of properties vested in Chief Pleas. This note is now in a final draft with both Douzaine and Policy and Finance. Subject to their discussion and final input from the Law Officers, this will be presented to the Christmas Chief Pleas as a Report with Propositions.

180 As we prepare the Douzaine budget for 2026 and beyond, it is clear there are some significant projects which will need significant funding. The most significant being the work programme over three years to stabilise the Coupée. Following the emergency work in 2025, Geomarine have carried out inspections and submitted estimates. Some works have already been done, particularly on drainage and water runoff to reduce erosion. More will be done this year on the roadway and to improve drainage from the causeway itself via rope access work off the sides of the causeway. This will help protect the underlying cliffs from further erosion this winter.

185 We are working with Geomarine for the plans for 2026 and 2027 to do as much as we can with local resource; for example, poured concrete as opposed to sprayed, local carpentry for shuttering, local workforce transport and rope access, which should both reduce overall cost and contribute more to our economy. This update will be done within the current budget cycle.

190 Rubbish disposal is also dependent on cliff stabilisation work at the Harbour Quarry to bring the whole of the quarry back into full operation. To move operations completely to Les Laches would require a new access road as well as new infrastructure buildings. Waste that would need to be sorted for shipment off Island would have to go first to Les Laches and then back down to the harbour, which just does not make sense.

195 The business case for future rubbish waste and recycling has been informed by discussions with and visits to both Alderney and Guernsey, and there is a balance between the costs for shipping and processing and new equipment needed here for any change to the system. More work is needed to finalise this before a decision can be taken for 2026.

200 Working on this business case has highlighted that commercial rubbish charges do not cover the costs of dealing with the commercial rubbish. We are working on a new charging scheme which we hope will both cover costs and reflect the general amount of rubbish we have to deal with from commercial sources.

This is not the only area where costs to the Island are not covered by charges made. It is our view that charges made should at least cover the costs incurred. If this does not happen the shortfall needs subsidising by general taxation, which is not fair, or the work does not get done, which is not satisfactory. Surely those who generate the rubbish should pay what it costs to deal with it.

Another area is income from road users. In the UK their tax and duty system raises two and a half times more revenue from road users than is spent on the roads. Here, it is the other way around. What is raised from road users is just over half of what it costs to maintain our roads. That is not sustainable. As with rubbish, any shortfall has to be covered by everybody else's personal capital and property taxes, the impôt and others.

Many of these charges and other licences have simply not kept pace with inflation since they were last changed. Regrettably, this now has to change, and we are working on licences and fees which will reflect inflation since their last change, and/or increases to cover the costs of the relevant services needed to support those areas as much as is possible. We are not happy with that, but equally we do not want to ask for budgets which will mean all residents taxes have to go up unfairly to cover those shortfalls.

There are a lot of other demands on the Douzaine and Public Works' budgets. The sewage system cannot be done in this year's budget. There is necessary maintenance on public property used by Chief Pleas and leased to our key workers. Toilets, used by visitors and us. Much of this has been put off due to stretched budgets in the past but we have come to a tipping point. This cannot be put off any longer.

The last item is an example of this. Our old Island Hall is 97 years old. The main part where the badminton court and snooker room used to be is used by the ambulance station, tourism, medical, fire service, the Douzaine and Public Works. Its foundations have crumbled and the steel joists underneath it have rusted so they are no longer load-bearing. If this is not addressed soon we risk ending up with a pile of rubble, timber and 26 t of asbestos for disposal. The asbestos alone would cost over £22,000 to dispose of at Guernsey, let alone the specialist handling, double bagging and shipping required.

I, for one, would like it still to be upright and still in service for our Island when it turns 100 in 2028. If we let it fall down or demolish it, where do we find homes for all the Island support services that live there now? It is going to be cheaper to keep this going.

Finally, all of these items will be brought back to Chief Pleas as part of the budget process and with further Reports with Propositions from the Douzaine. But the Douzaine wanted to let the House and residents know that, first, a lot has been done to plan the most economical way to address these longstanding issues, and that secondly, sadly, significant rises in charges to cover costs will be needed.

The upside is that we now have a much better understanding of what is needed and the most economical way to get there. We look forward to positive updates for Chief Pleas in the future.

Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Locke, for that statement.

Spending and tax for 2026 – Statement by Conseiller Guille

The Speaker: Following on from that, I would like now to call on Conseiller Guille again to make a statement on spending and tax.

Conseiller Guille, thank you.

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir.

We are grateful to Conseiller Locke for his statement about the reality of investment that is needed on Sark. This is the culmination of decades of under-investment in many cases. The challenge is large but it is absolutely not insurmountable. Clearly the bigger projects described by Conseiller Locke, such as the Coupée and the Harbour Quarry, cannot be tackled by increases in licence fees alone. General taxation is also going to have to rise for the next year by a sizeable margin. This will be done as fairly as we possibly can under the existing system.

It has become apparent to many Conseillers, officers of Chief Pleas and residents that our taxation system is not entirely fit for purpose anymore and in need of a significant update. A good deal of work has been undertaken by the Special Taxation Committee and the Policy and Finance Committee to investigate ways to adjust this. These potential changes will of course be well-published and consulted upon. At the moment, the Committees are minded towards a retention of the Property Tax and an overhaul of the Capital Tax system. This consultation and these changes however will not be brought before Chief Pleas in time for the 2026 budget.

This means that significant extra revenue will need to be generated for next year from a combination of taxes, licences, commercial charges and other means. While we are concentrating at the moment on next year's budget we will be turning our focus towards the 2027 budget and tax reform in the latter part of this year and the early part of next.

As always, we very much welcome any and all input from the community. Please do not hesitate to contact members of the Policy and Finance Committee, the Special Taxation Committee, or indeed any Conseillers if you have comments or ideas, both positive and negative, about how the Island should be raising more revenue through taxation or otherwise.

While this is a significant challenge that our community faces, it is certainly not as gloomy or desperate as some like to make out. It is well within the reach of our current population to meet these investment needs, and we look forward to a sensible and frank discussion across the Island in the months to come.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille, for that Statement.

Civil Service recruitment – Statement by Conseiller Guille

The Speaker: I am going to ask you to get back to your feet because we have a further statement from Conseiller Guille regarding Civil Service recruitment.

Conseiller Guille, thank you very much.

Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir.

We have recently completed a thorough and professional recruitment process, including first-stage video interviews, followed by on Island interviews and a two-day stay for short-listed candidates where they had the chance to get to meet all Conseillers and officials of Chief Pleas, and get to know the Island.

We are pleased to announce that Mr Rhys Rowlands has been appointed to the role of a second Senior Operations Officer, replacing the previous Senior Executive Officer role.

Rhys is currently working as a civil servant with the UK Ministry of Defence, having valuable prior experience in a variety of roles, including with the UK overseas and with the Bank of England.

Final arrangements have yet to be confirmed, but we are hoping Rhys will join us in January at the latest, along with his partner Claire.

After Rhys's arrival our current Senior Operations Officer, William Spooner, has decided to return to the UK to pursue his charity interests focused on developing countries. There will be a substantial handover period between Rhys and William early next year.

We wish to thank William for his exceptional work during his time in Sark and his dedication to the role and the community. While he is moving on to some exciting new opportunities, his professionalism, thoughtfulness and devotion to his work here will be missed next year.

300 Chief Pleas will also be recruiting an additional Senior Operations Officer to replace William and provide the capacity and resources needed to deliver the many important areas of policy and administration that Sark requires in the modern age. We look forward to returning the dedicated and hard-working Committee office team to previous numbers to enable Chief Pleas to execute its duty to strengthen Sark's long-term resilience. The recruitment process for this will commence next week.

305 The P&F wish to thank Mr Adrian Lewis, Mrs Pat Cuneen, and Conseiller Mike Locke, who were all members of the recruitment panel alongside the Chair and Deputy Chair. Conseiller Locke acted as the non-P&F Conseiller on the panel, Pat Cuneen acted as the member of the public, and Adrian Lewis acted as an independent expert and also assisted with the proper administration of the process. It has been a successful exercise that was completed thoroughly and properly without
310 having to engage the services of a dedicated recruitment agency.

We hope everyone looks forward to welcoming Rhys and Claire to the Island in the coming months. We also extend our enormous gratitude to William for his dedication to the role and wish him the very best for when he leaves us to pursue some exciting opportunities next year.

Thank you.

315

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Guille, for that statement.

Scrutiny and Oversight Function – Statement by Conseiller Tighe

The Speaker: Next up, we have a statement from Conseiller Tighe, entitled 'Scrutiny and Oversight Function'. Conseiller Tighe, thank you very much.

320

Conseiller Tighe: Thank you, Mr Speaker. This is a brief statement on the Scrutiny and Oversight Function, as a reference to a report being brought back to Michaelmas was mentioned at the Midsummer meeting.

325 The Policy and Finance Committee continues to explore the most suitable options for the proposed introduction of a dedicated scrutiny and oversight function within the Sark system of government. We are grateful to members of the public who have provided feedback and insights to date, which have been invaluable in shaping early thinking.

330 It is recognised that scrutiny and oversight already occur within the House itself, as Conseillers themselves must approve any Propositions, providing an important layer of review. The recent visit by Stephen Twigg and Sarah Dickson highlighted the potential for this function to develop and evolve, and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the CPA, could also provide useful scrutiny benchmarks from jurisdictions of comparable sizes. We also hope to engage further with the tribunal panel members regarding their potential involvement as this work progresses.

335 Looking ahead, we plan to hold workshop sessions with Conseillers and members of the public to develop initial proposals for a scrutiny and oversight function. These proposals could then evolve over time to become proportionate and fit for purpose for a jurisdiction of Sark's size. Further updates will be provided as the proposals are refined.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Tighe, for that statement.

**Channel Islands Joint Visit to the Nuclear Facilities on the Cotentin Peninsula –
Statement by Conseiller Guille**

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The Speaker: The next statement is, once again, from Conseiller Guille, regarding the recent visit to the French nuclear sites.

Conseiller Guille, thank you.

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Conseiller Guille: Thank you, sir.

You will be pleased to know it is the last one from me.

Channel Islands Joint Visit to the Nuclear Facilities on the Cotentin Peninsula. From 14th to 17th September, I visited the French nuclear facilities on the Cotentin Peninsula as part of a joint delegation from the Channel Islands. The delegation comprised members of the Jersey
350 Emergencies Council, members of the Guernsey Civil Contingencies Authority, representatives from Alderney and Sark – although the Alderney representatives were unable to join us due to poor weather affecting travel – members of Jersey and Guernsey Radiation Advisory Groups, and Jersey and Guernsey Assistant Emergency Planning Officers.

The purpose of the visit was for political representatives, together with members of the Islands' radiation groups, to familiarise and gain an overview of the inside operations of the nuclear
355 facilities on the Peninsula and gain assurance of the safety culture within the facilities. The visit also allowed the opportunity to meet with La Préfecture de la Manche.

Throughout the visit, we were impressed by the layers of safety in the sites we visited and the liaison between the authorities and the local communities. The visit also allowed for valuable
360 networking between the Channel Islands delegations. It was especially useful to meet and spend time with political and Civil Service colleagues from Guernsey and Jersey, both long-term Members and those newly elected.

I wish to thank the organisers and La Préfecture de la Manche for their time and hospitality, and the Guernsey and Jersey Emergency Planning Officers for organising the trip. Thank you.

365

The Speaker: Thank you once again, Conseiller Guille.

**CPA Delegation Visit to Sark –
Statement by Conseiller Tighe**

The Speaker: Next up, we have Conseiller Tighe once again with a statement regarding the recent Commonwealth Parliamentary Association visit to Sark.

370

Conseiller Tighe, thank you.

Conseiller Tighe: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Chief Pleas was delighted to welcome a delegation from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the CPA, on 23rd September 2025. The visit provided an important opportunity for
375 the CPA and the Island's parliament, Chief Pleas, to discuss key issues and challenges faced by small jurisdictions and the role of legislators in Island life.

The CPA delegation, comprising Secretary-General Stephen Twigg, Sarah Dickson, the Regional Secretary for the CPA, British Islands and Mediterranean Region, Deputy Adrian Gabriel, Vice-Chairman of the CPA Small Branches Network, and Simon Ross, Greffier of the States of
380 Deliberation, was received by Speaker Paul Armorgie and Deputy Speaker Jeremy La Trobe-Bateman.

During their visit, the delegation visited some of Sark's heritage sites and visitor destinations, along with a carriage ride. They also attended a buffet lunch with Conseillers at the Island Hall and

Community Centre, followed by a public roundtable discussion on promoting scrutiny and oversight in small jurisdictions.

The CPA delegation have since expressed appreciation for the warm welcome they received and for the opportunity to hear first-hand about the work of Chief Pleas and the distinctive challenges and achievements of the Island community.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Tighe, for that statement.

**Sark's participation in the 2025 Normandy Summit –
Statement by Conseiller Tighe**

The Speaker: I am going to ask you to get back to your feet, Conseiller Tighe, and give a statement, please, on the recent visit to Jersey.

Conseiller Tighe, thank you.

Conseiller Tighe: Sark was honoured to be represented at the 2025 Normandy Summit, joining partners from Guernsey, Alderney, Jersey, La Manche and Normandy in Jersey last week.

At the summit, delegates addressed shared challenges and opportunities in energy transition, maritime connectivity, environmental protection, cultural exchange and regional co-operation, as well as tourism links. Sark's participation reflects its commitment to deepening ties with neighbouring jurisdictions and reinforcing collaboration on issues vital to small island communities.

For me personally, it was an absolute privilege to attend on behalf of Sark and to contribute to discussions shaping the collective future for the region.

Looking ahead, Sark looks forward to constructive engagement under the renewed three-year memorandum of understanding, helping to ensure that its voice continues to be heard in regional co-operation.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Tighe for that statement.

**Yellow-legged Asian Hornet Control Report –
Statement by Conseiller Plummer**

The Speaker: Next up, I would like to invite Conseiller Plummer from the Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries Committee to give a statement about Asian Hornets.

Conseiller Plummer, thank you.

Conseiller Plummer: Thank you, sir.

Yellow-Legged Asian Hornet Control to the end of September 2025; this paper was put together by Peter Cunneen.

The overview. This year has been exceptional in both the numbers of queens trapped in the spring and the numbers of nests across Sark. The wind directions from the start of April through to the second week of June, when queen-trapping stopped, were predominantly from the north-east around to the south. The consequence of this was migration on both fronts from both Normandy and Jersey.

425 Spring queening. Many thanks to the 58 Islanders who, using more than 70 traps, caught 137 queens. This is a record surpassing those of the two previous years; 30 in 2024, 24 in 2023. Once the nest tracking is complete at the end of October, we will submit a report for the year, which will include recommendations on improvements for spring queening in 2026.

430 Nests. One primary nest, complete with a queen, was found and destroyed but the other two live primary nests that were discovered had already seen the queens migrate across to the secondary nest. Until this year, no primary nests have ever been found on Sark. Tracking has been extremely difficult this summer because of the proximity of nests to one another and the fact that the discovered nests were not destroyed sooner. The trained person responsible for destroying nests in Guernsey has taken on a new role, so his availability was limited until September. As ever, 435 we are extremely grateful to Guernsey for the support and help that they extend to Sark, and to the Sark population for their help also.

Up to 30th September 2025, six secondary nests have been found. Two very large nests, discovered on 29th September in the Le Manoir Orchard and at the bottom of Stocks' Meadow, are scheduled destruction on Wednesday, 8th October. The road running from the Cider Barn 440 towards a church will require closing for a period during the morning when the nest is treated. An unreachable nest in Greve de la Ville, dealt with by Nicky Dewe and Andy Cook, now requires a few more volleys from a shotgun (*Laughter*) as it has reconstructed itself. As I say, the Guernsey team are coming over on 8th October.

445 Some nests this year have been quite tricky to deal with and have involved the use of the crane and tree surgeons at the back of Clos d'Iris, a telehandler and tree surgeon at Clos à Jaon, and the use of a boat and shotgun in Greve de la Ville. Nests must be recovered after treatment for fear of contaminating the food chain, hence the use of a tree surgeon when it is beyond our capabilities.

450 Remaining nests. Our bait does not currently attract the hornets, which means that our new tracker cannot be used effectively. Based on our early observations, we believe that there are possibly another 12 nests to locate. As the trees begin to thin, and with the ivy in bloom and the hedges full of insect life, we ask that everybody be aware and keep an eye out for nests. Also, remember that the nests can be in bushes, brambles and walls, so take great care when cutting foliage outside and when using machinery. The hornets give a deep hum that, once heard, is never 455 forgotten. I ask everybody to be vigilant for their safety.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Plummer, for that very informative statement.
Thank you.

**Resignation –
Personal statement by Conseiller Harris**

460 **The Speaker:** Finally, on the statement front, we have a personal statement from Conseiller Harris.

Conseiller Harris, thank you.

465 **Conseiller Harris:** Thank you, sir.

I do not know if this is on, but I will speak loudly, which is not something I am averse to. This will be my –

The Speaker: Just one moment, please, Conseiller Harris. We have a technical hitch with 470 Conseiller Harris's microphone. Just one second, please.

Conseiller Harris: It has just come on. I think it needed a bit of a wiggle.

The Speaker: All right, we have contact.

475

Conseiller Harris: We have contact.

The Speaker: A technical wiggle. Thank you for your patience, Conseiller Harris.

480

Conseiller Harris: Thank you, sir.

This is going to be my last Chief Pleas, as I have decided to step down as a Conseiller. I felt it was important to announce that here so I can briefly – although not so briefly, you know me – explain the reasons I am resigning, as well as express my regret and apologise to the electorate that I will not be seeing out my full term.

485

There are two elements to my resignation: the personal and the political. There is a great deal going on in my personal life at the moment where I am subject to significant changes, challenges and developments. I will not go into the detail of that here but it demands my fuller attention and, in this context, I need to feel that there is a purpose and a point in me being a part of this Chamber.

490

I stood for Chief Pleas as I could see that the Government was on a bad track of overspending on revenue expenditure without sufficient plans for developing revenue, not least for the various capital programmes that we have heard about this evening. I have made proposals over the last couple of years in here and in PDG for various ways to restrain revenue expenditure, but they have not proved particularly popular.

495

I was alarmed also at the imminent prospect in 2023 of the Island inviting direct managerial oversight of the Civil Service from Guernsey. You have all heard me say this before. In my understanding, that would have been a significant step towards losing our constitutional autonomy that would have perhaps restricted our ability to shape law, to develop some of the revenue streams that, at the moment, the Island could still potentially make happen.

500

Now, we have had the Island, as I would see it, bounced into the Bailiwick Commission with its potential perils for our status. That was a decision from which most Conseillers were excluded in terms of the detailed discussion, and which was instead presented as a *fait accompli* determined between Guernsey and a very few in the Sark Government. I am afraid that I have lost any remaining sense of trust in the group in power here as a result, but I must recognise that the majority of my colleagues do not feel strongly about what I see as this insult to the Assembly.

505

I spoke to a Member of the States of Deliberation some time ago who said to me that Sark should be careful, lest it become a glorified parish of Guernsey; yet our own authorities here cannot see that risk. Perhaps quietly some may, in perhaps a conflicted way, even welcome the prospect. As things stand, the Policy and Finance Committee continues to erode, year on year, the Island's reserves, while talking a little in public and more volubly in private – but now we are hearing a bit more in public – about plans to raise government revenue by significantly raising Islanders' taxes, as they claim that there are plenty living here who have broad shoulders. This is in spite of last year's tax consultation revealing that Islanders do not want substantially higher taxes and do support exploring ways to better monetise our being a tax-advantageous jurisdiction through exploring a residency scheme.

515

One imagines that that sensible instinct might support other measures, such as exploring a shipping registry and a corporate registry that could see ancillary financial service companies on the Island providing jobs for the young and, potentially, tax relief for the less-well-off. I know that these are in discussion in PDG, but this should be the primary focus of Policy & Finance, with expert external support in place now, not higher taxes on residents.

520

Those who have made these and other reasonable criticisms of the Government have been implicitly accused of disloyalty and explicitly told that we are bullies, are selfish, have a dark ulterior motive and should be ashamed of ourselves. This in itself is disturbing to me as it speaks to a culture that, in its basic assumptions and operating mechanisms, is not particularly

democratic but perhaps more autocratic. None of us join Chief Pleas to be loyal to individuals but to the Island.

I find it incredibly saddening that talented people in this Chamber who have critiqued the top Committee's direction and voiced concerns about financial and constitutional stewardship have been as floridly scapegoated and demonised as they have been. I find myself wondering – bizarrely, for a place whose success and potential is built on being a low-tax jurisdiction – if groupthink and class resentment are potential influences shaping the direction of travel, and that question for me is a cause for concern.

However, over recent months of wrestling with the situation, I have reached the point of realising that, as things currently stand in the Chamber and behind the scenes, I am now – and perhaps I always have been, I am unsure – giving my time in vain. I have happily sacrificed time, income and energy, as everyone in here does, to serve. But I cannot do that without feeling that I am having a positive impact. Disheartened, I have in recent times withdrawn from all but my most essential duties and I cannot summon the hunger to throw myself back into the fray knowing that I will not impact the outcome.

Bismarck said that one should not look at laws or sausages being made. Unfortunately, my experience here has left me somewhat without an appetite. My hope is that, given time, the cautious, pragmatic conservatism and respect for process and the rights of this Assembly that I espouse, and which represents a significant current of opinion on the Island, can be heard and not vilified by over-certain members of the in-group.

So I join the list of resignations, the sixth in the two years since I was elected. I have always tried to be transparent and to give this Chamber and the public the respect that they deserve. That is why I have wanted to outline my decision here, rather than leaving a question mark. No evasions, no excuses. I have also never wanted to wash dirty laundry in public and I have not done so. The quid pro quo of that is that we really should run a sufficiently ship-shape laundrette, I think.

I wish good fortune to all those who remain and I hope with my whole heart that the Island finds its way on to a better financial trajectory with sounder decision-making and without a mirage of sometimes unreflexive left-wing thought clouding the judgement of those in and around the top Committee. In the past, this Island has not just survived, but it has also thrived. It deserves to do so again, and it can do so again.

My resignation will be with you tomorrow, sir.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Harris, for that personal statement.
Thank you very much indeed.

Procedural – Electronic devices

The Speaker: Right, let us start to move on to the Agenda proper, if we may. I would just make a quick statement. You have all done very well apart from the technical hitch just there with Conseiller Harris.

Please can I remind Conseillers to switch on their microphones before they start speaking and to turn them off again when they have finished speaking. I know I say that on a regular basis, but it is just a quick reminder, particularly for those who are new to the Chamber.

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, I would now remind all present that electronic devices, mobile telephones, recording devices, cameras, etc., and other electronic equipment must be switched off now, less for those allowed to Chief Pleas Members in accordance with Rule 19.2 of the Rules of Procedure.

Thank you.

Business of the Day

1. Matters arising from the Midsummer Meeting held on 2nd July 2025

The Speaker: We come to Agenda Item 1, which is matters arising from the Midsummer meeting held on 2nd July 2025. Are there any matters arising from that meeting? No. Okay.

575 Thank you.

2. Questions not related to the Business of the Day

The Speaker: Let us therefore move to Agenda Item 2, which is questions not related to the business of the day.

580 We have one, and that question is from Conseiller Makepeace to the Deputy Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee, Conseiller Tighe.

Conseiller Makepeace, thank you.

Conseiller Makepeace: I would like to withdraw the question, sir, as I feel that I have already received the answer earlier in the meeting.

585 Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

I will move on. That was Agenda Item 2.

Thank you for that clarification.

3. Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'Amendments to the Real Property (Transfer Tax, Charging and Related Provisions) (Sark) Law 2007' – Proposition carried

590

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'Amendments to the Real Property (Transfer Tax, Charging and Related Provisions) (Sark) Law 2007'.

Proposition 1:

That Chief Pleas directs the Policy and Finance Committee to instruct the Law Officers of the Crown to amend the Real Property (Transfer Tax, Charging and Related Provisions) (Sark) Law, 2007 to enable differential tax rates for local and open market property transactions.

The Speaker: We move therefore to Agenda Item 3, which is to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'Amendments to the Real Property (Transfer Tax, Charging and Related Provisions) (Sark) Law 2007'. I would like to ask

595 Conseiller Baker to introduce the report.

Thank you, Conseiller Baker.

Conseiller Baker MBE: Yes, thank you, sir.

I hope you have all had a chance to read this paper from P&F.

600 This law change that we are proposing comes from the Real Property (Transfer, Tax Charging and Related Provisions) (Sark) Law 2007. As a Projet, we are allowed to make ordinances from it; it is a head law.

What we are proposing in this paper is to introduce a tax rate for local market properties, reducing the rate from 7.5% down to 4%. This charge is intended to support local buyers and
605 sellers and making property transactions more accessible to the local market.

I hope the House will support this.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Baker. Thank you.

Does anybody have any questions that they would like to ask either the Policy and Finance
610 Committee or specifically Conseiller Baker from what you have just heard or what you have read? Are there any comments, any questions, any queries that anyone would like to raise with Policy and Finance? No? Okay. I see no hands raised.

Let us therefore go to the Proposition attached to this Report, which reads as follows: that Chief Pleas directs the Policy and Finance Committee to instruct the Law Officers of the Crown to
615 amend the Real Property (Transfer Tax, Charging and Related Provisions) (Sark) Law, 2007 to enable differential tax rates for local and open market property transactions.

Those in favour, please raise your hand. Those against? That is **carried**.

Thank you for that.

**4. Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled
'Amendments to the Members of Chief Pleas Code of Conduct' –
Report and Proposition withdrawn**

*To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled
'Amendments to the Members of Chief Pleas Code of Conduct'.*

Proposition 1:

That Chief Pleas adopts the Members of Chief Pleas Code of Conduct as attached.

620

The Speaker: Next, we have Agenda Item 4, which is to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'Amendments to the Members of Chief Pleas Code of Conduct'.

Conseiller Guille, would you like to give an update on this?

625

Conseiller Guille: I pass to Conseiller Cragoe, please.

The Speaker: Conseiller Cragoe, thank you.

630 **Conseiller Cragoe:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

The Policy and Finance Committee would like to withdraw this paper. At very much the last minute, an eagle-eyed Conseiller has brought to our attention that there are a couple of minor drafting errors, including a couple of paragraph numbers that are wrong and some misplaced headings, and we think that because it is the Code of Conduct, it should be absolutely spot on. We
635 will be bringing it back as soon as possible. It has not yet received Royal Assent, so we do have a short amount of time.

I very much apologise. We literally found out about this last night. As I say, a very eagle-eyed Conseiller Locke brought this to our attention. *(Interjection)* It was very good. No, it was a very necessary thing to have said.

640 Sir, if that is acceptable to the House, we would like to withdraw it.
Thank you.

The Speaker: Very good. Just for clarity, the Policy and Finance Committee are withdrawing that particular Report in order to bring it back to a forthcoming meeting of Chief Pleas.

645 Thank you, Conseiller Cragoe.

**5. Report with Propositions from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled ‘CPA Branch Constitution’ –
Propositions carried**

To consider a Report with Propositions from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled ‘CPA Branch Constitution’.

Proposition 1:

That Chief Pleas agrees to the CPA Branch Mandate / Constitution as attached.

Proposition 2:

That Chief Pleas agrees to the amendments to section 22 of the Constitution and Operation of Chief Pleas as attached.

The Speaker: Therefore, let us move to Agenda Item 5, which is to consider a Report with Propositions from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled ‘CPA Branch Constitution’. I would like to ask Conseiller Tighe to introduce this report.

650 Thank you, Conseiller Tighe.

Conseiller Tighe: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

655 This Agenda Item proposes a formal amendment to the constitution governing Chief Pleas Committees, enabling the creation of a Sark branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

660 To fully participate as a recognised and credible member of the CPA, jurisdictions are required to establish a local branch. The proposed structure reflects established CPA standards and aligns with widely accepted practices across the Commonwealth, especially in jurisdictions of a similar size to Sark.

The establishment of the branch will allow Sark to engage more fully in Commonwealth parliamentary co-operation and will include a mix of elected Members to ensure broad representation and accountability.

I would like to add, for clarification, that within the introduction it states:

665 Elections for executive committee members (two general vacancies) will follow at the end of the meeting per the normal practice.

670 Just to clarify, the Executive Committee will have three members elected by Chief Pleas from its serving Members, including one member elected from the Policy and Finance Committee and two members elected by Chief Pleas, at least one of whom shall not be a member of the Policy and Finance Committee.

I urge everybody to support this Proposition.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Tighe, for that introduction of this Report.
Are there any questions or debate from the floor regarding this report?

675 Yes, Conseiller Makepeace, thank you.

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes, I would just like to refer to a quote from a report from
Conseiller Tighe, made on 2nd July this year to Chief Pleas:

In accordance with CPA practice and model branch constitutions, the presiding officer is expected to serve as Chair
of the local CPA branch. This reflects the role of the Speaker as the head of the legislature and provides continuity
... in the branch's leadership. This structure is the established norm in CPA branches.

680

However, there is a glaring omission in this statement in that it fails to add that the rule about
the Speaker is only relevant in jurisdictions where the Speaker is already an elected Member of
Parliament, such as, for example, the Isle of Man. My research shows there is not one single
member of the CPA's small branches that has a non-elected Member of its Parliament as Chair of
its branch.

685

It was referred to also in the meeting about Richard McMahon in Guernsey being the unelected
Chair of Guernsey CPA. This is incorrect, as Mr McMahon is President of the branch, which is a
ceremonial title only. Mr Lyndon Trott, an elected Member, is Chair of the CPA. This goes for Jersey
as well. Therefore, the Chairs of the branch executive and therefore the head of the branch is
always an elected Member of its Parliament.

690

What P&F are proposing breaks with this principle; making the Speaker Chair would make Sark
the only small branch in the Commonwealth where the Chair of the branch is not an elected
Member of its parliament. It also creates a ridiculous situation whereby if a vote is tied among
elected Conseiller Members, then the unelected Speaker, as Chair, would have the casting vote.
There is, however, a role for the Speaker as branch president, which is the normal route in such
cases.

695

The Chair of the Sark branch of the CPA has to be an elected Conseiller chosen by ballot among
elected Members. I urge Members, let us not allow an error of governance to damage our
reputation. The proposal has to be withdrawn and amendments made as per suggestion.

700

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

Would you like to come back on that, Conseiller Tighe? Policy and Finance, do you want to
respond to that?

705

Conseiller Tighe: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I think there should be no amendments to the Proposition. This was run through with the Policy
Development Group on 27th August and there were no comments or issues raised at that point,
so I would like to proceed with the Proposition as is.

710

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Tighe.

Yes, Conseiller Makepeace.

Conseiller Makepeace: Sir, the reason no comments were made at that particular time is that
my research was not complete, but now it is complete I think it completely changes the decisions
or subjects discussed at the meeting.

715

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

720 Policy and Finance, would you like to respond to that? Would anyone else like to make a comment regarding this particular issue? Any comments, any observations, any debates? Once again, I will give the option to Policy and Finance to respond.

Yes, Conseiller Nicolle, thank you.

725 **Conseiller Nicolle:** I would like to second Conseiller Makepeace's request that the document is withdrawn and reconsidered.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Nicolle. Thank you.

Yes, Conseiller Moloney, thank you.

730

Conseiller Moloney: If this does go to the vote, I would like to have a named vote, if possible.

The Speaker: Very good. That request is noted, thank you, Conseiller Moloney.

735 Does anybody else have any comments or observations or debate regarding what you have heard and what is before you in the report?

Conseiller Locke, thank you.

Conseiller Locke: Thank you, sir.

740 I note that on the Executive Committee there are three elected Members of Chief Pleas, and it is hard to see, even with Sark's way of doing things, how three people would ever come to a tie in a vote.

Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Locke.

745 Back to Conseiller Makepeace, thank you.

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes, sir.

750 I was assuming, as it has been led to believe, that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is a group of equals, so I would expect that all Conseiller Members would be involved in the vote, and not just the three executive Members.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

Conseiller Guille, you have got your hand up.

755 Thank you.

Conseiller Guille: I may be wrong, but I believe Lyndon Trott is still Chair of the Parliamentary Association in Guernsey and he is no longer an elected Member.

760 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Guille. Thank you.

Are there any further points, questions, debate regarding this particular Report before we go to the two Propositions contained within the report? Any further comments, observations? No? I do not see any hands going up.

765 We have had questions, we have had a response – a number of questions. Conseiller Moloney has requested a named vote, thank you. There are two Propositions, and we will do them one at a time. Would you like a named vote on both Propositions, Conseiller Moloney?

Conseiller Moloney: Only Proposition 1.

770 **The Speaker:** Proposition 1. A named vote on Proposition 1. Very good.

Proposition 1 attached to this report reads as follows: that Chief Pleas agrees to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Branch Mandate/Constitution as attached to this report.

We will go to a named vote, Greffier, thank you.

There was a named vote.

Carried – Pour 13, Contre 2, No Vote 1

POUR

Conseiller John Guille
Conseiller Helen Plummer
Conseiller Benjamin Harris
Conseiller Carol Cragoe
Conseiller Michael Locke
Conseiller Natalie Tighe
Conseiller Christopher Bateson
Conseiller David Curtis
Conseiller Edric Baker MBE
Conseiller James Martin
Conseiller Patrick Dewe
Conseiller Samuel Keyte
Conseiller Karl Rang

CONTRE

Conseiller Mary Nicolle
Conseiller Nicolas Moloney

NO VOTE

Conseiller Frank Makepeace

The Speaker: Thank you for that.

The result of that Proposition is 13 votes pour, 2 votes contre and 1 no vote. Therefore, I declare that that Proposition is **carried**.

Thank you.

Proposition 2, we will do this on a show of hands. Proposition 2 reads as follows: that Chief Pleas agrees to the amendments to section 22 of the Constitution and Operation of Chief Pleas as attached to this Report. Those in favour of this Proposition, thank you, please raise your hands.

Those against? That is **carried**.

Thank you very much indeed. Very good. That was Agenda Item 5.

**6. Report with Proposition from Policy and Finance Committee entitled
'Expenses Policy' –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'Expenses Policy'.

Proposition 1:

That Chief Pleas agrees to the attached Expenses Policy.

The Speaker: Next, we move to Agenda Item 6 which is to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'Expenses Policy'. I would like to ask Conseiller Cragoe to introduce this report.

Thank you, Conseiller Cragoe.

Conseiller Cragoe: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Yes, I think this is fairly self-evident and that the Policy and Finance Committee has developed an expenses policy which will be applicable to all Members of Chief Pleas, officers and any

employees and, as it says on the back page, contractors in the course of their duties. The proposed policy is attached and, if agreed, the policy will be published on the Chief Pleas website.

It is envisaged that this is the first in a suite of policies, including around communications, IT, procurement, recruitment, which will assist Committees and staff in their decision-making and support public confidence and also ensure fiscal responsibility, which we do definitely believe in.

I think that the back page of the first page of the Report is the most useful, which explains who it applies to and that it provides a very clear framework for what is claimable and reimbursable for any out-of-pocket expenses incurred during official duties and only during official duties. It will ensure that where public funds are used, this is responsible and transparent and is delivering value for money. We hope that there will be some savings in this, in being clear about what is and is not allowable.

Just to be clear again, the expenses must be reasonable, necessary and incurred in the course of official duty, and all Conseiller officers and all employees must seek value for money and use public transport and the most economic options wherever possible. We have provided a claim form, which is at the back of the paper.

Finally, I would like to thank the Treasurer, Sarah Hudson, for all her very hard work on this, because this is a rather splendid thing that she has produced. I hope that you will all be able to support this.

Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Cragoe, for introducing the report.

Are there any questions or debate from the floor regarding the report that you have got before you, from what you have just heard from Conseiller Cragoe?

Yes, Conseiller Makepeace, thank you.

Conseiller Makepeace: Thank you, sir.

Will the expenses claimed by individual Conseillers be published online as they are in the UK and other jurisdictions?

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

Who would like to take that question?

Conseiller Tighe, thank you.

Conseiller Tighe: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

Section 9 under 'Transparency' states that:

Members of Chief Pleas' expenses will be published quarterly in line with Government transparency guidelines.

I imagine this will be on the website.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Tighe, for answering that question.

Are there any other questions or debate from the floor regarding the Report that you have got before you?

Yes, Conseiller Harris, followed by Conseiller Plummer.

Conseiller Harris first, thank you.

Conseiller Harris: Thank you, sir.

I think this is a well-drafted expenses policy. I am going to support this. Particularly with reference to 5.1, I think it should be noted in debate here that we as a Chamber do expect Conseillers, officers and employees to consider whether travel is necessary or whether the task

or meeting could be completed by telephone or video conference. I think it is a particularly important part of the policy and I mean to support this.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Harris.

850 Conseiller Plummer, thank you.

Conseiller Plummer: I think this is a very good paper and thank you very much to all involved. I do think it lays everything out for us and I, for one, hope I never take this Chamber for granted. Thank you very much.

855

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Plummer. Thank you.

Are there any other comments or observations from the floor regarding the Report before we go to the Proposition? Any other observations, comments? No?

Would you like to sum up, Conseiller Cragoe?

860

Conseiller Cragoe: No, thank you, Mr Speaker. I think that is all that needs to be said.

The Speaker: Very good. Thank you for that.

The Proposition before us reads as follows: that Chief Pleas agrees to the attached Expenses Policy. Those in favour, please raise your hands. Those against? That is **carried**.

865

Thank you.

**7. Report with Proposition from Policy and Finance Committee entitled
'Policy Development Group Revised Remit' –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'Policy Development Group Revised Remit'.

Proposition 1:

That Chief Pleas agrees to the attached Policy Development Group remit.

The Speaker: Moving next to Agenda Item 7, which is to consider a Report with Proposition from the Policy and Finance Committee entitled 'Policy Development Group Revised Remit'. I would like to ask Conseiller Tighe to introduce this report.

870

Thank you, Conseiller Tighe.

Conseiller Tighe: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Earlier this year, the Policy Development Group agreed updates to its remit including extending the Chair's term to two years, adding a Deputy Chair, allowing remote attendance and voting, updating officer titles, relaying cross-committee information, reviewing forthcoming legislation and introducing informal working groups. However, we needed some more clarification on the informal working groups and this was agreed by the PDG at the meeting in August, so I ask that all Conseillers support this Proposition to amend the remit.

880

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Tighe.

Are there any questions?

Yes, Conseiller Makepeace.

885

Conseiller Makepeace: Yes, sir.

I think it is fair to say that at our most recent meeting we collectively agreed that the PDG format had become a bureaucratic nightmare, with so many different topics and subjects on there that nothing was actually getting done or was being finalised.

890 It looks like we are going to go back to the old method where each suggestion or topic will be voted on by Members. As I gather, anything that we are in favour of will go forward and anything we are not in favour of will be rejected with the option for Conseillers to return, maybe with more information.

I do not really see where these working groups come into it. Will they just be with the particular items that have been approved by the membership?

895 Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you for that question, Conseiller Makepeace.

Would you like to come back on that question, Conseiller Tighe? Anyone else from P&F?

Conseiller Tighe, thank you.

900

Conseiller Tighe: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

Earlier this week at the PDG, we actually went through the various informal groups. They are quite *ad hoc*; they are informal; we can meet as and when we have availability, and then any suggestions will come back to PDG for further discussion. Should anything be brought forward to the House, it would have to come through a Standing Committee.

905

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Tighe.

Yes, back to Conseiller Makepeace, thank you.

910

Conseiller Makepeace: Surely a working group can only be set up if the actual suggestion or idea has been approved.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

915

Any response on that, Policy and Finance?

Conseiller Cragoe.

Conseiller Cragoe: Yes, Mr Speaker, thank you.

920

Yes, I think Conseiller Makepeace is right; certainly I see these groups working as that. The ideas come into the group and then possibly in some cases, if there are a couple of similar ideas, get grouped. Then a couple of people will go off, take them and chew on them and work on them and come back. Perhaps they will be something that is just discussed in PDG or perhaps, as is proposed here, we would be able to form a special committee which would be able to take something forward in a slightly more structured way in the way that some of our existing special committees do. I hope that makes it a little bit clearer, but certainly that is my understanding of how it works.

925

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Cragoe.

Does anyone else have any questions for Policy and Finance regarding this Report before you? Any other questions, observations, notifications? No? So therefore let us go the Proposition attached to the Report. The Proposition reads as follows: that Chief Pleas agrees to the attached Policy Development Group remit. Those in favour, please raise your hands. Those against? That is **carried**.

930

Thank you very much.

**8. Education Fees for 2025/2026 –
Education Committee Report with Proposition considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report with Proposition from the Education Committee entitled 'Education Fees for 2025/2026'.

Proposition 1:

That Chief Pleas approves, in accordance with Education (Sark) Ordinance, 2003, the prescribed fees 2025/26.

935 **The Speaker:** Next we have Agenda Item 8, which is to consider a Report with Proposition from the Education Committee entitled 'Education Fees for 2025/2026'. I would like to ask Conseiller Cragoe to introduce this Report on behalf of the Education Committee.
Thank you, Conseiller Cragoe.

940 **Conseiller Cragoe:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.
Yes, this is a bit of an annual task that under the Education (Sark) Ordinance, 2003 the Committee must present every year for review the level of fees prescribed in this section at its Michaelmas Meeting. For those Conseillers who are new, we currently support off Island education for children in years 9 to 11. We provide a tuition cost up to the cost charged to Chief
945 Pleas by the Government of Guernsey for tuition at Les Beauchamps High School, which this year is £9,378.

Parents may use that contribution at a certain number of other schools as set out in the Report that we brought at Midsummer. We also make a contribution for term-time hosting on Guernsey because it is not possible for the children to commute every day. Again, those are rates which are
950 set by Health and Social Care in Guernsey. It is currently £31.25 a day. That is available to parents on a sliding scale, depending on how long a child has attended Sark School previous to year 9.

This is basically just set by Guernsey and it is what we are providing to parents, so I would urge Conseillers to approve this. As I say, it is just a bit of an annual chore that needs to be done, a bit of housekeeping.

955 Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Cragoe.

Do we have any questions or observations from anybody from the floor that they would like to ask the Education Committee regarding the Report and the education fees 2025/2026? Any
960 questions, observations? I see no hands raised, in which case, have you got anything to add, Conseiller Cragoe, or are you happy to go to the vote?

Conseiller Cragoe: Yes.

965 **The Speaker:** Very good. So we will go to the vote on the Proposition attached to this Report. The Proposition reads as follows: that Chief Pleas approves, in accordance with Education (Sark) Ordinance, 2003, the prescribed fees 2025/26. Those in favour, please raise your hands. Those against? That is **carried**.

Thank you very much indeed for that.

**9. Sark School Annual Report –
Education Committee Report considered**

To consider an Information Report from the Education Committee entitled ‘Sark School Annual Report’.

970 **The Speaker:** Next up we have Agenda Item 9 which is to consider an Information Report from the Education Committee entitled ‘Sark School Annual Report’. Once again — you have been busy Conseiller Cragoe — I would like to invite Conseiller Cragoe to introduce this Report.
Thank you.

975 **Conseiller Cragoe:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

This simply is laid before the House. This is the Annual Report which has been provided by the headteacher, Ms Brady, on our wonderful Sark School. It talks about what has been going on in the school last year and also, as she says, just highlights some of the things that are happening in the future.

980 I will not read through it because I think you have probably all heard, and I fear that you might have to hear from me again. I will just pick out a few key highlights, one of which is the very successful re-establishment of the Board of Governors, which was aided by our expert adviser, Mr Marcus Cooper from the UK, and has been nobly overseen by Jan Guy as the Chair. The Friends of Sark School are doing very well. The children have been on trips, they have brought in a new curriculum, and there is a parent forum, so it is all tremendously exciting. The school is really very splendid.

985 She has also provided a little bit about this year that has just begun. This paper was actually put together just slightly before the beginning of the school year and the numbers that are given on the roll on the bottom of page 3 are slightly out. We did have one family decide to go to home education immediately before the beginning of the school year and the numbers have gone down.
990 It is quite a large family and it has gone down to 20, I am afraid. It will be going back up to 21 in the spring when another child joins.

Yes, we have all the same teachers, which is very good, and we have had a very successful In-Service Education and Training (INSET) day with an adviser from England, Vicky Mathews, who has come over to help with curriculum development. Just finally to say, I hear that the implementation of the use of the King’s InterHigh provision as a part-time provision, that they are doing three subjects which are taught online in; I think it is years 7 and 8, but possibly only year 8. The children are really enjoying it and feel they are learning a lot. It has been very successful, so that is really positive. This is simply an Information Report, as I said; I did not mean to talk that long. You will all read it and appreciate our wonderful school.
1000

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Cragoe.

1005 As Conseiller Cragoe says, it is an Information Report and there are no Propositions to vote on, but does anyone have any observations or questions of the Education Committee regarding the Report? I have got two hands up over here: Conseiller Makepeace followed by Conseiller Locke.

Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

1010 **Conseiller Makepeace:** Yes, it is just something I am not really too sure of. At the end of the Report there is a table and it says, ‘Reading Assessment’, ‘Maths Assessment’ and the percentages, ‘Working at expected’. What does that actually mean? Does that mean that they are working at an average or what? I am not really too sure what that means.

Thank you.

1015 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Makepeace.

Would you like to answer that, Conseiller Cragoe?
Thank you.

1020 **Conseiller Cragoe:** Yes, I believe that there are standards for each grade or year level. So what this is saying is that the vast majority of the children are either working at the level you would expect of a child of that age and in that year group and that actually quite a substantial percentage for both reading and maths are exceeding that standard. So, we are doing very well actually and the children are learning as they should be.

1025 That is what this means. It is not a standardised test exactly but it is what you would expect a child of, I do not know, seven to be able to do, or a child of nine or 10 or whatever it is. That would be different obviously if they were 7 or 9 or 10. I hope that clarifies for Conseiller Makepeace.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Cragoe.
Conseiller Nicolle, I will come to you in a moment but Conseiller Locke was next; thank you.

1030

Conseiller Locke: Thank you, sir.

Purely coincidentally I was speaking with a member of *The Press* earlier today who was particularly interested in when the EPCC information will be available publicly. She mentioned that she would usually audit Chief Pleas, and had read all the papers, and she was very impressed with the figures that were contained within this Education Report.

1035

I just thought I would pass that on, particularly that table that has just been referred to. I have absolutely no bias in this whatsoever as I am unblessed with children. So congratulations to our Education Committee. As far as I know. *(Laughter)*

1040 **The Speaker:** I do not think we want to know about your past, Conseiller Locke, but thank you anyway for clearing that up.

Thank you, Conseiller Locke.
Conseiller Nicolle, thank you.

1045 **Conseiller Nicolle:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Just to add to my colleague, Conseiller Cragoe, I would just like to add to Conseiller Makepeace that the Sark School is aligned with the English curriculum. What you are looking at there is national standards, so a good majority of our children are working at the national English level, which is very reassuring. Congratulations to all concerned.

1050

A Member: Hear, hear.

The Speaker: Thank you very much indeed, Conseiller Nicolle, for making that point.

1055 So there we have it. Are there any other questions that you would like to ask of the Education Committee regarding the Report that you have got before you? Any other questions?

Yes, Conseiller Makepeace, once again, thank you.

Conseiller Makepeace: Just really a general enquiry about the term-time hosts. Is it still difficult finding term-time hosts or has the situation improved or not?

1060

The Speaker: Thank you for that question.

Conseiller Cragoe, are you familiar with that situation?

1065 **Conseiller Cragoe:** Yes, I believe it is still challenging. We do not currently have any years 9 to 11 students, I do not believe, who are term-time hosted. I did meet a parent of an older child today who was talking about their child staying with a term-time host, a post-16 student, so people are still being able to find them. But, yes, since COVID it has been quite challenging. It is

partly why the Committee was very keen to continue to support a boarding option for the children in that year group because that gives an alternative to term-time hosting.

1070 **The Speaker:** Thank you, Conseiller Cragoe.
Conseiller Nicolle, once again, thank you.

1075 **Conseiller Nicolle:** Again, just to add to my colleague, Conseiller Cragoe, a huge amount of work has been put in by the Education Committee, Board of Governors, teachers, parents, everyone involved. It is very reassuring that the King's InterHigh provision is now starting to be rolled out; that is very exciting. The improvements in online education are one of the few benefits, I believe, of COVID, and the parents and children now have a really good range of options; one size does not fit all for children.

1080 We have a good online provision just starting, which is very exciting, and support and assistance for schooling either on Guernsey or mainland with boarding. When my children were small I would have really welcomed such support.

1085 **The Speaker:** Thank you for that point, Conseiller Nicolle; thank you very much indeed.
Before we pull this one to a conclusion and move on to the next Agenda Item, is there anything that you would like to add to sum up, Conseiller Cragoe? No. It has all been said. Thank you for the Report; thank you for the questions.

So, therefore, we will move along from Agenda Item 9, which that was.

**Procedural motion –
Reordering of Business –
Motion carried**

1090 **The Speaker:** At this point, in accordance with the Rule of Procedure 11, I propose that Item 12 and Item 13 from the Addendum that was distributed at short notice this week, for which I apologise, be introduced now before we move on to Agenda Item 10. In order to do that, I need a show of hands, those in favour of introducing the Addendum at this point. Please raise your hands if you are happy with that. Those against? **Carried.**

**12. Election/Reappointment of Constables –
Verbal Report from the Douzaine –
Constables Paul Burgess and Charlotte Turner elected**

Verbal Report from the Douzaine entitled 'Election/Reappointment of Constables'.

1095 **The Speaker:** In which case we will move, therefore, to the Addendum, which, as I say, was distributed late. There are two sections to this, we are going to deal with them individually, but I would like to ask Conseiller Cragoe to introduce the Verbal Report.

Thank you.

1100 **Conseiller Cragoe:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.
I would apologise for you needing to listen to me quite so much. I had not focused on quite how many of these things had been attributed to me as I said, 'Oh, yes, of course, I will do that.'
This is a Verbal Report from the Douzaine entitled 'Election/Reappointment of Constables' which will be followed by a Verbal Report from the Douzaine entitled 'Election/Reappointment of

Assistant Constables'. I think because the context is the same, I will do an introduction which will cover both as part of the first paper and then the second one will be extremely short. I apologise for the lateness of this; there were some delays in the recruitment process for the new Constables which just pushed it into a bit later than we would have liked.

So the Constable and Assistant Constable contracts expire at the beginning of October and we would like to express deep thanks to our Constables Paul Burgess and Charlotte Turner, and our Assistant Constables Jordan Burton and Jonathan Godwin, for their service to the Island, the residents of Sark to date.

Because of the way these were structured, new contracts are needed for these posts for the forthcoming year and this Report is to inform Chief Pleas of the results of the recruitment process and to approve the results. An open recruitment process followed an advert last July. The recruitment was handled by the Senior Operations Officer, together with the Guernsey Police, who were involved in the interviews. It is proposed to offer contracts to the current four office holders, each for 12 months.

The Constables are operationally independent in their decision making. The Douzaine acts as the Employer of Record and brings the names of the candidates from the equally independent recruitment process to Chief Pleas for election, hence this Report. As I say again, the Douzaine would like to apologise for the late nature of this Report.

I can confirm that the court have very kindly agreed to meet immediately after this Meeting in order to swear in the Constables and Assistant Constables. We are grateful to the Seneschal, Greffier and Prévôt for agreeing to do this. So for the reappointment of Constables we would like to propose Paul Burgess and Charlotte Turner as Constables for the next 12 months.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Very good; thank you, Conseiller Cragoe.

So therefore let us vote on that, if we may, before we come to the Assistant Constables. A simple vote, and this is to the reappointment of the Constables Burgess and Turner. Please could I ask for a show of hands, those in favour of the reappointment of the Constables Burgess and Turner? Those in favour? Those against? That is **carried**.

Welcome back to those two Constables.

**13. Election/Reappointment of Assistant Constables –
Verbal Report from the Douzaine –
Assistant Constables Jordan David Burton
and Jonathan Owen Godwin elected**

Verbal Report from the Douzaine entitled 'Election/Reappointment of Assistant Constables'.

The Speaker: The next section, Conseiller Cragoe, would you like to introduce that, please?

Conseiller Cragoe: Yes, thank you.

The context of this is exactly the same. So, as with the previous Report, we would like to propose Jordan David Burton and Jonathan Owen Godwin as Assistant Constables for 12 months. Thank you.

The Speaker: Very good, thank you.

I should just point out, that is Agenda Item 13; the previous one that we just voted on was Agenda Item 12 for the purposes of *Hansard*. My apologies.

1145 So, therefore, the Proposition is: the Reappointment of Assistant Constables Burton and Godwin. Once again, please, could we have a show of hand, those in favour of those reappointments? Those in favour? Those against? That is also **carried**.

Welcome back to those two Assistant Constables as part of Constable team.

Very good; thank you for that.

10. Committee Elections –

Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries: Mr P Dewe elected –

Douzaine: Conseillers N Moloney and K Rang elected –

Education: Conseillers S Keyte and N Moloney elected –

Harbours, Shipping and Pilotage: Conseiller P Dewe elected –

Online Identity (Special): Conseiller N Moloney elected –

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Sark Branch (Special) : Conseillers C Cragoe and J Martin elected

To elect Conseillers to Committees, as required.

1150 **The Speaker:** Moving next to Agenda Item 10. Bear with me on this one because we have had a couple of resignations in the last week or so. I think I have got the most up-to-date information here. Agenda Item 10 is the Committee elections to elect Conseillers to Committees as required.

1155 So in the time-honoured tradition of doing this, I have an alphabetical list here of the various Committees and the vacancies on those Committees; we will work through Committee by Committee. I will ask for nominations both from the Committee and any additional nominations from the floor. We will go to the vote on each of those nominations, if we may.

So, therefore, the first Committee that we are dealing with is Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries where we have one vacancy. I would ask Conseiller Plummer, do you have any nominations for that vacancy?

1160 **Conseiller Plummer:** Yes, I do, sir. I would like to nominate Conseiller Patrick Dewe.

The Speaker: Conseiller Dewe. Thank you very much indeed, as nominated by the Committee.

1165 Do we have any other nominations to join the Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries Committee? Any other nominations? In which case, let's go to the vote on that, I think. Those in favour of Conseiller Dewe joining that Committee?. That is **carried**.

Conseiller Dewe, welcome to your first Committee.

1170 Next up we have the Douzaine. Now I should just say, whoever we vote on for this — and there are two vacancies on the Douzaine — they will also be sworn in by the court immediately after Chief Pleas this evening. So not only will we deal with the Constables and the Assistant Constables, we will also swear in the two Douzeniers. So we have two vacancies on the Douzaine and once again I am going to ask the Chairman of the Douzaine, Conseiller Locke, for nominations from the Committee.

Conseiller Locke: Thank you, sir.

1175 Yes, having consulted the Douzaine, we would like to nominate Conseiller Nicholas Moloney and Conseiller Karl Rang.

The Speaker: Conseiller Moloney and Conseiller Rang. Thank you very much indeed.

1180 Do we have any other nominations from the floor from anyone that would like to be considered to join the Douzaine? Any other nominations? No? Therefore, a quick show of hands that we have

nominations for Conseiller Moloney and Conseiller Rang to join the Douzaine. Those in favour, please? Those against? That is **carried**.

Welcome Conseiller Moloney, Conseiller Rang to the Douzaine. Once again, there will be that swearing-in process immediately after this Meeting.

1185 Next, please, to Education, and we have two vacancies on Education and I would ask Conseiller Cragoe for your nominations to join the Education Committee. Conseiller Cragoe; thank you.

Conseiller Cragoe: Thank you.

1190 I would like to nominate Conseiller Keyte and Conseiller Moloney, please.

The Speaker: Conseiller Keyte and the second one was ...?

Conseiller Cragoe: Conseiller Moloney, please.

1195

The Speaker: Moloney; thank you very much indeed.

So they are the two nominations from the Committee. Do we have any other nominations from the floor for Conseillers to join the Education Committee? Any other nominations? Therefore, please can we have a show of hands? Those in favour of Conseiller Keyte and Conseiller Moloney joining the Education Committee? Those in favour? Those against? That is **carried**.

1200

So, once again, welcome Conseiller Keyte and Conseiller Moloney to the Education Committee; thank you.

Next up we have a late resignation from the Harbours, Shipping and Pilotage Committee that I received this afternoon from Conseiller Bateson, so I felt it appropriate to deal with the vacancy this evening rather than delay it through until the Budget Meeting. So we have one vacancy on Harbours, Shipping and Pilotage. I know this is short notice but, Conseiller Martin, do you have anyone that you would like to propose to join Harbours, Shipping and Pilotage?

1205

Conseiller Martin: I would like to nominate Conseiller Dewe.

1210

The Speaker: Conseiller Dewe to join Harbours, Shipping and Pilotage. So that is the nomination from the Committee. Do we have any other nominations to join the Harbours, Shipping and Pilotage Committee? No. In which case, we will just go to a quick vote. Those in favour of Conseiller Dewe joining the Harbours, Shipping and Pilotage Committee, please show your hands.. Those against? **Carried**.

1215

Conseiller Dewe, welcome to the Harbours, Shipping and Pilotage Committee.

Next up, turning the page, we have a vacancy on the Online Identity (Special) Committee; one vacancy on that Committee. Once again, I would ask Conseiller Locke for a nomination from the Committee; thank you.

1220

Conseiller Locke: Thank you, sir.

Due to pressure of time I have not had a chance to consult each member of the existing Committee; nevertheless, as Deputy Chair, I would like to propose Conseiller Nicholas Moloney who has previously served on the Committee when it was under a different name.

1225

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Locke.

So that is the nomination from the Committee. Do we have any other nominations to join the Online Identity (Special) Committee? Any other nominations? So, therefore, let's go to the vote on that. Those in favour of Conseiller Moloney joining the Online Identity (Special) Committee, please raise your hands. Those against? That is **carried**.

1230

Welcome to that Committee, Conseiller Moloney, or welcome back to the reincarnation of that Committee, the one that you served on previously.

1235 Last, by no means least, as a result of what we heard earlier, we have the CPA Branch elections. We have three vacancies, the first of which has been nominated by P&F. Please can I ask Policy and Finance to confirm which member of P&F you would like to join the CPA Branch. Who would like to put that forward?

Thank you, Conseiller Guille.

1240 **Conseiller Guille:** Thank you, sir.
We nominate Conseiller Tighe.

The Speaker: Conseiller Tighe; thank you.

1245 That is specifically a nomination from the Policy and Finance Committee for Conseiller Tighe to join that particular Branch Committee. We have two other vacancies on that Committee from the floor of the House. One of those can be from P&F; the other one is not to be from P&F; so we have two vacancies. Therefore, can I ask for any nominations from the floor who would like to join that Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Branch Committee? Any nominations?

Conseiller Tighe; thank you.

1250 **Conseiller Tighe:** I would like to nominate Conseiller Cragoe and Conseiller Martin.

1255 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Cragoe and Conseiller Martin to join that Committee. Do we have any other nominations from anyone who would like to join that brand-new Committee? Any other nominations from the floor? Very good; thank you. Once again, let us please go to the vote on that. Those in favour of Conseiller Cragoe and Conseiller Martin joining the inaugural CPA Branch Committee? Those in favour? Those against? That is **carried**.

Welcome, Conseiller Cragoe; welcome, Conseiller Martin to that very exciting new Committee. Thank you for that.

1260 That completes those appointments; thank you.

11. Committee and Panel Elections – None

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

The Speaker: Moving on then, therefore, to Agenda Item 11 which is Committee and Panel elections: to elect non-Chief Pleas Members and Panel Members to Committees and Panels, as required. Do we have any nominations from any Committee for non-Chief Pleas Members or Panel Members to join any of those particular Committees?

1265 I should just say we have had a resignation from the Medical Committee. Dr Anthony Beaumont has resigned as a non-Chief Pleas Member from that Committee, so there is a vacancy there potentially. But that is down to the Committee to decide whether they want to fill that vacancy at this Meeting or wait until a future Meeting.

1270 Are there any nominations for anyone to join any Committee as a non-Chief Pleas Member or Panel Member? Any nominations? Any suggestions? No. Very good. In which case we will defer that, as we invariably do, to the next Meeting of Chief Pleas.

Thank you for that.

**Budget Meeting deadline –
Statement by the Speaker**

1275 **The Speaker:** My closing remarks are that I would remind Conseillers that the next scheduled Meeting of Chief Pleas is the Budget Meeting on Wednesday, 19th November 2025 at 5 p.m. A very important Meeting, as always. The closing date for reports and submissions is not far away, that is, the closing date is Tuesday, 21st October for those reports. Please ensure that you get those reports in in good time with your submissions to the office in order that the Committee and the Treasurer are able to deal with that.

1280 At that, I will say that the Meeting is closed at about 18 minutes to seven, and I would ask the Conseillers to say the closing prayer; thank you.

PRAYER
The Greffier

Chief Pleas closed at 6.42 p.m.