



**Paroisse de Ste. Marie
PARISH ASSEMBLY at
St Marys Parish Hall
on Thursday 26th June 2025 at 7.00pm**

Minutes of an Assembly of the Principals and Electors of the parish of St Mary held at St Mary's Parish Hall on Thursday 26th June 2025 at 7.00pm.

WELCOME

The Connétable, David Johnson, opened the meeting by welcoming all present. The notice convening the meeting was taken as read. There were 24 attendees who were eligible to vote. Apologies had been received from: Mr J Drew, Ms S Heppolette, Mr J & Mrs N Alcock, Deputy L Stephenson, Mr G Bower, Mr J Holmes, Mr L Stanton, Mr I Barette, Mr T le Sage, Mr T de Gruchy, Ms P Le Mottee, Mrs A Watson.

1. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 2nd December 2024 had been made available at the Parish Hall, on the Parish website and also to parishioners attending the Meeting. They were duly approved on the proposition put by Mr A de Gruchy and seconded by Mr A Moullin.

2. Election of Vingtenier for Vingtaine du Nord

The term of Ms Sue Heppolette as Vingtenier du Nord was due to expire in July and she had indicated her willingness to be re-elected to the position. Ms Heppolette's re-election was approved on a proposition put by Chef de Police Chris Bunt and seconded by the Connétable.

The Connétable congratulated Ms Heppolette on her re-election and thanked her for her 16 years' service to the Parish as a member of the Honorary Police. Ms Heppolette would be warned to attend at the Royal Court to be sworn in on a date to be advise in due course.

3. Adoption of Accounts

The Connétable invited Mr Andrew Myers of Alex Picot to present the Parish Accounts for the financial year ended 30th April 2025, the Accounts having previously been examined by the Committee's Accounts Committee and audited by Alex Picot.

Mr Myers reviewed the General Account which detailed the receipts and expenditure for the year and also showed the movements in reserves that had been agreed at the corresponding Parish Assembly last year. Receipts for the year predominantly comprised rates income which, net of the Island-Wide Rate, amounted to £473k. This was slightly in excess of budget due to surcharges levied on late payments. Other income received amounted to £32k and exceeded budget principally due to higher bank interest and hall rental income. Total income from the year amounted to £505k.

Expenses for the year overall were £429k, approximately £3k under budget overall. The principal points noted were:

Office expenses were £3k over budget due some essential IT security equipment that had to be purchased, and higher utility charges. Insurances were slightly under budget and significantly lower than the previous year due to a change in insurer on some of the policies. The previous year's cost had also included a cost of £4k for a valuation survey that insurers had required to be carried out. Refuse collection costs were £5k under budget due to an agreement to defer the rise in monthly charge by two months.

Honorary Police costs had increased significantly from the previous year but were only slightly over budget. The increase in costs was due to more equipment for officers, and repairs to two speed display signs that had been damaged, the cost of which being partially covered by insurance.

The youth project funding remained at £20k but had been brought in line with the Parish's accounting year which had resulted in an extra month's cost being accounted for in the financial year.

Overall, the Parish had generated a surplus of £76k against a budget of £56k and prior to taking account of the amounts proposed to be transferred to reserves at last year's Assembly.

The Roads Account was briefly reviewed. The Account had started the year with a balance of £12k and an amount of £38k had been voted for the Committee's use at last years' Assembly. This had been supplemented by £15k from licences and fines. The total expended, including repairs, road-signage and cleaning amounted to £60k and the balance carried forward was therefore approximately £5k. It was noted that approximately £10k was spent on signage which was attributable to the large number of speed limit changes in the Parish last year.

Mr Myers reviewed the movements on reserves during the year, which reflected transfers approved in last year's Assembly and costs charged against them or income received. A new reserve "Don Charitable Accounts" had been created to reflect the fact that the Parish's 'don' accounts had been reflected in the Parish's Accounts, as was the custom in most other Parishes.

The balance on the Parish's balance sheet was £346k, reflected in the General and other Reserves. This was an increase of £62k over last year, although £34k of that related to the inclusion of the 'don' amounts.

Mr Myers drew attention to his firm's Audit Report and advised that he did not have any matters he wished to bring to Parishioners' attention. He concluded by saying that the Audit had run efficiently and thanks the Parish Hall staff for their assistance. The Connétable thanked Mr Myers for his efforts.

The Connétable invited questions, and the following points were raised:

In view of the cost of credit card charges shown in the Accounts, could parishioners be encouraged to use debit cards instead? The Connétable replied that it may be possible to include something on rates demands to that effect.

Now that Evie had stationed a couple of their rental cars in the Parish car park, was any payment being received from them? The Connétable responded that none was at present, but this would be reviewed if rental was being paid in other parishes.

Did JE pay any rental for the EV charging points in the Parish car park? The Connétable advised that the charging points had been put in some time ago and no rental was paid. They

were provided for the use of parishioners who did not have any other access to EV charging points.

Was there any clarity as to the purpose for which the 'don' monies had been left? The Connétable replied that there was very little paperwork relating to them but that he would consult with other Connétables who may have dons by the same name and who may know more about their background. Traditionally such 'dons' were given for the welfare of the poor and needy of the Parish, but the call on them had diminished when the States of Jersey took over from the parish's responsibility for welfare costs in 2006.

The Accounts for the year ended 30th April 2025 were then adopted on a proposition put by Mr J Querée and seconded by Mr M Stodart.

5. Roads Account

Article 10 of the Loi (1914) sur la Voirie required that an amount be placed at the disposal of the Roads Committee for the repairs and other works on Parish by-roads during the year. An amount of £40k had been requested by the Roads Committee, for expending as detailed in the Estimates document due to be considered later in the meeting. The sum was approved by the Meeting on a proposition put by Mr A Moullin seconded by Mr T Renouf.

The Connétable thanked the members of the Roads Committee and the Roads Inspectors for their efforts in maintaining the Parish's roads.

6. Approval of Estimates, transfers and grants

Estimates

Mr C Bunt, the Honorary Accountant, had circulated a document prepared in conjunction with the Connétable's Accounts Committee for the financial year ending 30th April 2026.

Mr Bunt reviewed the Estimates for the year, drawing attention to the following points:

The projected income from Rates for the year had been based on an assumed parish rate of 1.95p, which represented an increase of 0.05p (2.63%) over the last year's rate. This would give an estimated rates income of £483k compared to last year's figure of £469k. Other miscellaneous income for the year (the bulk of which comprised bank interest, hall rental, dog permits and cemetery income) was forecast to be £24k. The total forecast income for the year, based on a rate of 1.95p, was approximately £507k.

Forecast expenses had been increased to make provision for the impact of RPI. Other costs, in particular, insurance and refuse collection, were based on the known actual costs for the year. Comité expenses, over which the Parish had no control, were forecast to increase by more than £6k over last year's actual, due to staff changes in the Comité office and a proposed spend on Honorary Police recruitment amounting to a projected £3k per parish. A small increase of £200 to the Audit Fee had been requested by Alex Picot. £20k was proposed for the Church, Rectory and New Cemetery, in addition to which further £10k was to be proposed later in the meeting as a transfer from reserves for the Rectory Reserve, to add to the existing £10K already in that reserve. Some repair works to the Pétanque hut were required and had been estimated at £1.5k.

The budget for Honorary Police was proposed to be increased to £20k. There was likely to be a requirement to replace the police radios, at a cost in excess of £5k, for which no support would be forthcoming from government, unfortunately a recurring theme.

The Parish had been requested to maintain its support for the Youth Project, which contributed towards the cost of providing a youth worker at the Centre. Accordingly, this had been incorporated in the Estimates at the same level as last year.

Donations and grants – it was proposed to maintain funding at the same level provided last year.

Transfers

The following Transfers from/to the General Reserve had been recommended by the Connétable's Accounts Committee and were duly considered:

Police Car Reserve toward the cost of replacement of the Police Car in due course - £5k
Rectory Reserve - £10k

Cemetery Wall Reserve – Following a period of monitoring, it appeared that there had been no further movement in the wall and the structural engineers had advised that it appeared now to be stable. Consequently, the wall had been repointed and the balance of the reserve, amounting to £15,649, was proposed to be written back to the General reserve.

The car park and footpath needed some significant works to improve their drainage and consideration would be given as to how this should be remedied. The amount proposed to be transferred into a new Car Park and Footpaths Reserve was £20k.

The Estimates and Transfers were approved on a proposition put by Mr T Renouf and seconded by Mr A de Gruchy.

It was requested that the Estimates document produced for next year should show the effect of the rate remaining as for the prior year to enable comparison to be made.

7. Approval of a Parish Rate

The Constable's Accounts Committee had proposed that a Parish Rate of 1.95p should be put to the Meeting. This was forecast to derive a surplus for the year of £59k.

The proposition was therefore put as follows: Prop: Mr A de Gruchy, Sec: Mr P Le Liard and duly approved by the Meeting.

8. Grants

The proposal for the allocation of grants was split into a number of sections and after due discussion, the following grants were approved:

£500 each for 6th Jersey Scouts, 20th St Mary Brownies and Kids Club (Total £1,500) proposed by Mr T Renouf and seconded by Mrs S Rowles.

£1,500 additional funding towards the expenses of operating the Youth Club, proposed by Mr T Renouf and seconded by Mr A de Gruchy.

The Silver Lillies had requested some support from the Parish toward the costs of their celebration of the 50th anniversary. Deputy Gorst advised that Government had agreed to fund local charities and voluntary organisations with £1.5m from the Jersey Reclaim Fund this year, and it might therefore be an appropriate opportunity to utilise the funds normally available for small grants to charities to be instead allocated to a deserving cause within the Parish. The meeting therefore approved a grant of £1,500 towards the Silver Lillies 50th anniversary

celebration, with the remaining balance of £500 being left to the Connétable's discretion, on a proposition put by Mrs S Rowles and seconded by Mr T Renouf.

9. Connétable's Accounts Committee

After some discussion, it was agreed that the Committee would be comprised of those who currently made up the Committee, viz: Connétable, Procureurs du Bien Publique, Centeniers, Vingteniers, Roads Committee members, Roads Inspectors, Rector and Church Wardens, and that Mr A Ashbrooke and Mrs S Rowles would also join the Committee. A further person would be sought to join the Committee, to be elected to the post at the next Parish Assembly. The proposition was approved on a proposition put by Revd K Allan and seconded by Dr E Moran.

10. Appointment of Auditors

The Connétable advised the Meeting that Alex Picot had indicated their willingness to continue in office. A proposition to reappoint Messrs Alex Picot as Auditors for the financial year ended 30th April 2026 was approved on a proposition put by Mr D Munns and seconded by Mr M de Gruchy.

CONCLUSION

Prior to closing the Meeting, the Connétable advised that the Youth and Community Centre would require a new chairman following the retirement of Mr Tim de Gruchy at the Centre's forthcoming AGM in September. The Parish would also require a new Procureur once Mr David Munn's term came to an end in March next year. Mr Bunt advised that it was proposed to hold a 'volunteers open day' at the Youth & Community Centre in September for anyone who wanted to come along and find out about honorary roles within the Parish system, including the Honorary Police.

The Connétable concluded by reminding the Meeting that elections for all political posts, including Connétable, were due to take place next June and, as he had previously announced, he would not be standing for re-election. The Connétable received an appreciative round of applause.

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm

David Johnson
Connétable

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