

ISLAND OF SARK

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the CHIEF PLEAS to be held on
WEDNESDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2012 at 7.00pm in the ISLAND HALL**

AGENDA

1. To APPROVE the MINUTES of the MICHAELMAS MEETING held on the 3rd October 2012.
2. MATTERS ARISING from the Michaelmas Meeting of Chief Pleas.
3. QUESTIONS Not Related to the Business of the Day.
4. To CONSIDER a Report from the GENERAL PURPOSES and ADVISORY COMMITTEE entitled "The Appointment of the (New) Seneschal".

1st November 2012

Lt. Col. R.J. Guille MBE
Seneschal and President of Chief Pleas

NOTES:

Anyone wishing to see any of the Reports may do so in the Chief Pleas Committee Office, during office opening hours; copies may be obtained from the Committee Secretary. The Agenda, Reports and Supporting Papers may also be seen on the Sark Government Website at www.gov.sark.gg

GENERAL PURPOSES & ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Report with propositions to an Extraordinary meeting of Chief Pleas on
14th November 2012

THE APPOINTMENT OF THE (NEW) SENESCHAL

The timetable for the splitting of the dual role of the present Seneschal has already been agreed by Chief Pleas (Easter 2012 - Item 11). While the appointment of the new Seneschal will not become effective until midnight on February 26th 2013, it is necessary that the terms and conditions of his appointment are agreed in good time by Chief Pleas so that the Seigneur's Appointments Committee can begin the process of recruitment. The newly appointed Seneschal will also have to be sworn in at the Royal Court in Guernsey by 15th February 2013.

The new position with the title of Seneschal, and here any Deputy Seneschal that might be appointed is included, will take over the judicial aspects of the present role:

1. Judge for civil cases
2. Judge for criminal cases
3. Coroner for sudden or suspicious deaths
4. The role of Notary Public for Sark

The role of Seneschal, though essentially a part time role, is of great importance to the Island as it reflects the independence of the judicial process which must be seen to be totally unbiased and beyond reproach at all times. The Seneschal must have a sound knowledge of Sark Law and is also responsible for the smooth functioning of his Court. The position accordingly carries with it considerable responsibility, not only in undertaking the functions of the role, but also in its perception both within Sark and to the wider world and therefore has to be remunerated accordingly.

The Committee recommends that the salary for the Seneschal should initially be £15,000 per annum. It also recommends that the Deputy Seneschal should be paid £2,500 per annum.

The Committee is also considering the establishment of an independent Remuneration Committee to review the salaries and job descriptions of all Island Officers and employees and in this way the salary of the newly appointed Seneschal could be subject to review. Further details of this initiative will be brought to Christmas Chief Pleas in January 2013 for approval.

It is the intention of the Committee to bring a separate report to Christmas Chief Pleas in January 2013 outlining the role and remuneration of the President of Chief Pleas.

Proposition 1 –

That Chief Pleas approves a salary of £15,000 for the role of the (new) Seneschal.

Proposition 2 –

That Chief Pleas approves a salary of £2,500 for the role of the (new) Deputy Seneschal.

Conseiller Charles Maitland
Chairman, General Purposes & Advisory Committee