



**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**MICHAELMAS MEETING**

**OF CHIEF PLEAS**

**OF THE**

**ISLAND OF SARK**

**HANSARD**

**Assembly Room, Sark, Wednesday, 30th September 2015**

*All published Official Reports can be found on the  
official Island of Sark Chief Pleas website [www.gov.sark.gg](http://www.gov.sark.gg)*

**Volume 1, No. 5**

**Present:**

**Seigneur**

J M Beaumont Esq OBE

**President of Chief Pleas**

Lt Col. R J Guille MBE

**Deputy Prévôt**

Mr K N Adams

**Greffier**

Mr T J Hamon

**Treasurer**

Mrs W Kiernan FCA

**Constable**

Mr G Williams

**Vingtenier**

Mr P S La Trobe-Bateman

**Conseillers:**

Sandra Williams  
Hazel Fry  
Karen Adams  
Elizabeth Dewe  
Antony Dunks  
Paul Williams  
Rosanne Byrne  
Christine Audrain  
Robert Cottle  
Alan Blythe  
Matthew Joyner  
Diane Baker  
Edric Baker  
Paul Burgess

Peter Byrne  
Elsie Courtney  
Colin Golds  
Charles Maitland  
Nicholas Maloney  
Elizabeth Norwich  
Roger Norwich  
Helen Plummer  
William Raymond  
Arthur Rolfe  
Stephen Taylor  
Christopher Nightingale  
Anthony Ventress

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## Michaelmas Meeting of Chief Pleas

*Chief Pleas met at 10.00 a.m.*

[THE PRESIDENT *in the Chair*]

### **PRAYER**

*The Greffier*

### **ROLL CALL**

*The Greffier*

**The Greffier:** There are 27 Conseillers, the Seigneur and the President of Chief Pleas present.

**The President:** Apologies from Conseiller Richard Dewe.

### **Tribute**

**to HE Lieutenant Governor, Air Marshal Peter Walker CB, CBE**

5     **The President:** In a moment I will be asking for a silence in memory of His Excellency the  
Lieutenant Governor, Air Marshal Peter Walker CB, CBE, who died suddenly on 6th September.  
Before the silence the Seigneur wishes to say some words. Seigneur.

10     **The Seigneur:** I know the death of His Excellency Air Marshal Peter Walker came as a great  
shock to us all. Just recently, he and his wife Linda visited us for the 450th celebrations and  
shortly after that they came for the welcome service for the Rev. Karen Le Mouton. On both  
occasions he was fit and well and full of fun, and under different circumstances His Excellency  
would have been sitting beside me today. He always took a great interest in Sark and in the  
restructuring of Chief Pleas and in the many problems facing Sark.

15     Air Marshal Peter Walker will be greatly missed by us all. Our sincere condolences go to his  
wife Linda in her great, sudden and totally unexpected loss.

**The President:** Thank you.  
Please rise for silence.

20

*Members stood in silence.*

**The President:** Thank you.

**NatWest Bank premises –  
Statement by Conseiller Sandra Williams**

25 **The President:** Conseiller Sandra Williams, you wish to make a statement, please.

**Conseiller Sandra Williams:** It is just a verbal.

When we were made aware that the NatWest Bank was due to close, I phoned Mr Woolford and expressed an interest as a new location for the Sark Tourism Office. Many meetings took  
30 place and after lots of talk and talking to the Finance and Resources Committee, the Committee felt that the rental costs were something we had to be mindful of as it would be an added expense for the taxpayers. The decision was made to stay where we are; it works perfectly well and has no direct impact on the taxpayers as the building is an Island-owned property. That is where we are today.

35 I would just like to say thank you very much to Mr and Mrs Woolford for entertaining the idea and for meeting with us on numerous occasions. Thank you.

**Tax information sharing –  
Statement by Conseiller Raymond**

**The President:** Statement by Conseiller Raymond, please.

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

40 The Finance and Resources Committee has been engaged in discussions with representatives of the States of Guernsey about the problems arising from a recent EU list published in connection with tax information sharing. It appears that Guernsey may have been disadvantaged because Sark has not entered into any Tax Information Sharing Agreements with any other nation. Sark has not been asked to enter into any such agreement and has not been  
45 authorised to do so by the UK.

The Finance and Resources Committee is happy to recommend to Chief Pleas that such information as is collected for taxation purposes on the Island can be made available, but as there are no banks as such on Sark, only sub branches of Guernsey banks, the information that could be supplied would centre on details of properties contained in the Cadastre. No  
50 information is collected on income or capital gains and therefore such information cannot be supplied.

The problem arises because of misunderstandings of Sark by individual countries. The system on the taxation basis has been explained in detail recently to the OECD, who accept that Sark is not a problem. The Committee is working to try to provide information which will satisfy the  
55 international community whilst at the same time being proportionate to Sark and not requiring disclosure of information that the Tax Assessor does not collect.

A further report will be made to Chief Pleas as the matter progresses. Thank you.

**The President:** Thank you.

**450th Anniversary –  
Statement by the Constable**

60 **The President:** I would ask the Constable to make a Statement regarding the 450th Anniversary.

**The Constable:** First of all, I would like to thank the committee: Reg Guille, Jane Norwich, Richard Axton, Sharon Borenbeker, Ray Lowe, Jan Guy, Sarah Cottle, Dave Cocksedge, Lydia Bourne and Sam Bateman. Lots of meetings, hours and hours of time, were put in to decide what was to be organised. After it was decided on, the events, all the Committee each took a project and saw it through.

I would also like to thank Rosalie Smith for her input, artwork and design of the logos, posters etc. She also designed the coins, ordered and distributed them.

70 There are also many people to thank who donated materials and time to make the events such a success. The schoolchildren for the pageant – well done. All the events went very well and the weather was kind to us.

I would like to thank the people who made donations of £585 and Jan Guy and Katy Hamon, who raised £508 fundraising for the *son et lumière* set-up. This and the cruise both made a profit, which helped the budget.

75 At the end of events we came in under budget, but there will be moneys trickling in with sales of coins, stickers etc. This money will go back into the Sark funds.

Thank you.

80 **The President:** Thank you.

**The President:** Seigneur.

**The Seigneur:** I would like to congratulate the Constable's Committee for the excellent arrangements made to celebrate the 450th Anniversary. All the many events went exceedingly well and were greatly appreciated by the Island and all the invited guests and our many visitors.

85 I sent the Proclamation to Buckingham Palace, to Sir Christopher Geidt, and I received the following reply:

Dear Seigneur

Thank you for your letter of 27th August enclosing a copy of the Proclamation read at the celebrations in Sark to commemorate the 450th anniversary of the Granting of Letters Patent to Helier de Carteret the Fief on 6th August, 1565. I have laid this Proclamation before The Queen who has asked me to thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending it.

This letter comes to you with Her Majesty's good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Christopher Geidt

**The President:** Thank you.

**Philip Carré commemorative stamp –  
Statement by Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich**

90 **The President:** A Statement by Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich, please.

**Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich:** In August 2014, as many of you will remember, Sark commemorated 100 years since the beginning of the First World War. The Constable's Committee undertook the work and the results were seen by many.

95 Back in the 1880s and early 1890s, in this very room, a young boy called Philip Carré went to school. In due course he became Sark's postman and for over 50 years he delivered the post all the way to Little Sark. For this dedicated service he was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Coronation Honours in 1953.

100 In World War I he served at the Western Front alongside three of his brothers in the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry. He had left behind six children and his wife carrying on the round on his behalf. Whilst at the Front he received two Christmas cards from the Post Office, just as all other posties from the Bailiwick did. He fought at Cambrai, Paschendale and at Lys.

He returned in 1919 to his family, but his son, Philip, aged 10, had died of the Spanish flu and his brother Thomas had died from gas poisoning on the Western Front.

105 Philip Carré was 'Pop' to Peter Carré, Nellie Le Feuvre, Linda Adams and Suzette Adams.

On 4th August 2014 he was remembered in Sark's commemorations of the centenary of the start of World War I and his medals were on display at the Hall.

110 I am delighted to be able to inform Chief Pleas that Philip Carré has been chosen to be the face of the 42 pence stamp for the Bailiwick on 11th November this year. The image that has been chosen and subsequently approved by Her Majesty will be his embarkation photograph. It is a singular honour to his long and loyal service to Guernsey Post and to Sark, a service carried on by Sark Post Office and our posties today, including his great grandson Simon.

Guernsey Post will be doing a full press release shortly.

115 **The President:** Thank you.

**Thanks from Christopher Beaumont –  
Statement by the President**

**The President:** And a final Statement from me on behalf of Mr Christopher Beaumont. I will read from his letter to me.

May I offer my thanks to Sark in the widest context for the warmth and generosity the Opera Sark team were shown during our festival. The artists were quite emotional leaving the Island on Sunday. They are already champing at the bit to come back.

In particular I would like to thank Sandra and Sharon at the Island Hall for putting up with me trotting in and out asking questions and generally making work for them, when I shouldn't have. I know they are very busy (as are the rest of their team) and they were always completely helpful and charming. Karen and her team at the Tourist Office also helped us a great deal with marketing, communicating with the press and advertising the event. John Hunt and Simon Adams popped in to put up the lighting and were quite happy to trust me not to break it (which I'm glad to say I didn't!). Lewis Heald helped me put up the stage and he and Dave Cocksedge had taken it all down again before I even got to the Hall on Sunday morning. We had support with hosting from Jenny Hopkins, Helen and Alex Magell, and David and Susan Synnott. All the artists staying with hosts were completely taken aback at the welcome they were given and the desire to make them feel at home. Rosalie Smith did our artwork beautifully. Elizabeth looked after us very generously at La Sablonnerie as did Paul at Stocks. Sarah had galvanised the school to be on receive and they loved it (well most of them). I'll have forgotten someone I'm sure.

We had people on the Island who had never visited before, one had come from New Mexico (such is the pull of a good looking Baritone!). But most importantly we had huge support from Sark. My aim was to provide a good reason for an additional week to the Sark calendar and I think we managed to achieve that. But we could not have done any of it without the help of those I've mentioned (and those I've forgotten to mention). We'd like to come and do it again. Next year is too soon as we need more time to get sponsors and sort out some corporate hospitality deals, which will bring in some cash to support the Arts on Sark. Longer term we would like to make this kind of thing a regular part of the Sark calendar with the aim of building up an Arts Fund or Foundation. It might not always be opera but it will always be of the same high quality.

My very best wishes to you all,  
Christopher Beaumont



**Procedural –  
Electronic devices**

**The President:** In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, I would remind all present that mobile phones, cameras, recording devices and other electronic equipment should be switched off now, less for those allowed to Chief Pleas Members in accordance with that Rule.

## Business of the Day

### **1. Midsummer Meeting, 8th July 2015 – Matters arising**

*Matters arising from the Midsummer Meeting held on 8th July 2015.*

**The President:** We now move on to the Business of the Day.  
Matters arising from the Midsummer Meeting held on 8th July 2015: are there any matters arising, please? No matters arising.

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

*Questions not related to the Business of the Day.*

**The President:** We move on to Agenda Item 2: Questions not related to the Business of the Day. There are no questions.

### **3. Constable – Mr Peter Sam La Trobe-Bateman elected**

*Douzaine: To elect a Constable to replace Mr G Williams, whose term of office expires.*

**The President:** We move on to Agenda Item 3, the Douzaine: To elect a Constable to replace Mr Glyn Williams, whose term of office expires.  
I would ask the Constable if he would like to address Chief Pleas.

**The Constable:** It has been an honour and a privilege to act as Constable for Sark and the people of Sark.

During my time as Vingtenier I attended Guernsey for a week doing training, which I found very beneficial. When I became Constable I went back to Guernsey for a couple of days' induction, to the Guernsey Police Station. I went round all the departments and put faces to names, which also was very beneficial because you knew whom you were talking to if you needed any assistance.

I would like to thank all of you for accepting me as Constable. Thank you.

**The President:** Thank you very much.  
140 Chairman of the Douzaine, would you like to speak on the outgoing Constable?

**Conseiller Edric Baker:** Yes, sir, thank you.  
Before I put forward a name, sir, I would like to thank Mr Glyn Williams. He offered his  
145 services at very short notice and was elected Vingtenier and then Constable. He has carried out  
his duties in a very professional manner for his community and to his personal credit and I would  
like to sincerely thank him for that.

**The President:** Thank you.  
150 Constable, do you wish to say anything on your report, which is appended to the Agenda?

**The Constable:** No, I do not think so; it is old.

**The President:** Fine. Thank you very much.  
Before you go on, are there any questions from anybody in the assembly on that report? No.  
155 Carry on, please, Conseiller Baker.

**Conseiller Edric Baker:** Yes, sir. I would like to propose the Vingtenier, Mr Sam La Trobe-  
Bateman.

**The President:** The Douzaine have proposed Mr Peter Sam La Trobe-Bateman to be  
160 appointed Constable.  
Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**  
Congratulations, Vingtenier.

#### 4. Vingtenier – Mr Glenn Williams elected

*Douzaine: To elect a Vingtenier to replace Mr S La Trobe-Bateman, whose term of office  
expires.*

**The President:** We move on to Agenda Item 4, Douzaine again: To elect a Vingtenier to  
165 replace Mr Peter Sam La Trobe-Bateman, whose term of office has expired and who is now to be  
our next Constable.

Chairman of the Douzaine, I would ask you to propose the person selected by Mr La Trobe-  
Bateman and approved by the Douzaine to be appointed to that office.

**Conseiller Edric Baker:** Thank you, sir, yes. The name I would like to put forward is Mr Glyn  
170 Williams from Little Sark.

**The President:** Glenn.

**Conseiller Edric Baker:** Glenn, sorry – I knew I was going to do that! *(Laughter and  
175 interjections)*

**The President:** So we have a Proposition that Mr Glenn Williams be elected Vingtenier.  
Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**  
180 I would like to thank Mr Glenn Williams for volunteering for the role.

**5. Deputy Procureur des Pauvres –  
Miss Lucy Belfield elected**

*Douzaine: To elect a Deputy Procureur des Pauvres to replace Mrs B Dunks, whose extension in office expires.*

**The President:** Agenda Item 5: To elect a Deputy Procureur des Pauvres to replace Mrs Belinda Dunks, whose extension in office expires.

I would ask the Chairman of the Douzaine, Conseiller Baker, to speak on the outgoing Deputy Procureur, please.

185

**Conseiller Edric Baker:** Thank you, sir.

It is slightly different from the Agenda Item. Mrs Dunks actually offered her resignation. I would like to read this letter:

I am writing to inform you that I have served an additional year as Deputy Procureur and now wish to resign from my position as from 30th September. I would like to say that it has been an honour and a privilege to serve the Island as Procureur and Deputy Procureur for a total of five years. Although it has been a challenge at times I have found it most rewarding.

The Douzaine is exceedingly appreciative of Mrs Dunks' work. She has been hands-on, she has really taken the interest in the job so seriously, attended anybody who was ill or in need of help, and we would like to thank her sincerely for her service. (**A Member:** Thank you.) (**A Member:** Hear, hear.)

190

Following on from that, in consultation with Mrs Linda Higgins, we would like to propose Miss Lucy Belfield as Deputy Procureur.

195

**The President:** Thank you.

The Chairman of the Douzaine is proposing that Miss Lucy Belfield be appointed Deputy Procureur des Pauvres.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

200

For your information, the swearing-in of the Constable, Vingtenier and Deputy Procureur will be in this room at 2 p.m. if we conclude business in this session. Otherwise, it will be shortly after the conclusion of the meeting, once the court and officers to be sworn are assembled.

**6. Road Traffic Amendments –  
Road Traffic Committee Report considered –  
Proposition carried**

*To consider a Report from the Road Traffic Committee entitled 'Road Traffic Amendments' and to approve the Projet de Loi entitled 'The Road Traffic Offences (Motor Vehicles and Bicycles) (Sark) (Amendment No.2) Law, 2015'.*

*Proposition*

*That Chief Pleas approves the Projet de Loi entitled 'The Road Traffic Offences (Motor Vehicles and Bicycles) (Sark) (Amendment No.2) Law, 2015'.*

**The President:** We now move to Agenda Item 6: To consider a Report from the Road Traffic Committee entitled 'Road Traffic Amendments' and to approve the Projet de Loi entitled 'The Road Traffic Offences (Motor Vehicles and Bicycles) (Sark) (Amendment No.2) Law, 2015'.

205

I would ask Conseiller Ventress, the Committee Chairman, to introduce the Report, please.

**Conseiller Ventress:** All this went through in the Midsummer Meeting and I feel that there is nothing further to say on either matter.

210 **The President:** Okay, thank you.

Are there any questions or debate from the floor, please? Yes, Conseiller Burgess.

**Conseiller Burgess:** Thank you.

215 Just one question, actually. Five tractor drivers have asked me to ask the question: why they were not consulted regarding the increase of height on tractors.

Thank you.

**Conseiller Ventress:** This had gone on before and I think everything that people had wanted to say had been brought to my attention.

220 Thank you.

**The President:** The Proposition is that Chief Pleas approves the Projet de Loi entitled 'The Road Traffic Offences (Motor Vehicles and Bicycles) (Sark) (Amendment No.2) Law, 2015'.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**7. Upgrade to Sark Slaughterhouse –  
Agriculture and Environment Committee Report considered –  
Expenditure approved**

*To consider a Report from the Agriculture and Environment Committee entitled 'Upgrade to Sark Slaughterhouse'.*

*Proposition*

*That Chief Pleas agrees to the Agriculture and Environment Committee being granted the sum up to £10,000 to cover costs incurred by them in carrying out the upgrade to the Sark slaughterhouse.*

225 **The President:** Agenda Item 7: To consider a Report from the Agriculture and Environment Committee entitled 'Upgrade to Sark Slaughterhouse'.

I would ask Conseiller Paul Williams, the Committee Chairman, to introduce the Report, please.

I will ask for declarations of interest in a moment. Thank you.

230

**Conseiller Paul Williams:** Thank you, sir.

235 The Report before you is somewhat shorter than is to be expected of a report to Chief Pleas. As the background work to the project was still in progress, it was necessary to file a short report in order to meet the deadline for Chief Pleas papers. The alternative would be to have delayed until everything was ready and risk calling an emergency meeting. The information that follows should hopefully answer most of the questions that have arisen.

240 The background: at the request of the Sark Public Health Committee, the Sark slaughterhouse was inspected by Guernsey environmental health officers. It was deemed unfit for meat going to Guernsey. Guernsey agreed to let Sark carry on sending meat to Guernsey as long as we made and seemed to be making improvements, i.e. taking food hygiene more seriously. This allowed the slaughterhouse, with the support of the Agriculture and Environment Committee, to maintain access to the export market, which all meat producers at our meeting in June told us is vital to the continuation of their business. Live exports are not financially nor humanely viable.

245 We know that we need money in order to continue to and to be seen to be making  
improvements in order to keep the export route open and to get a plan in place for the future.  
There will be more work to do if we are to satisfy Guernsey Environmental Health and the  
Guernsey States and Chief Pleas Vet.

250 The aim: to keep the slaughterhouse functioning by carrying out an immediate upgrade to  
hygiene, one that will allow the continued export of meat to Guernsey while representatives of  
Chief Pleas are in discussion with the proprietor and meat producers as to the possible future of  
the slaughterhouse.

255 The points to raise. The target export market is Guernsey. This work is about maintaining this  
part of Sark's economy. Chief Pleas must recognise the importance of the ability to export meat  
to Guernsey. If Guernsey were to refuse to accept meat from Sark, the sheep-farming industry  
would collapse. This in turn would mean the slaughterhouse in its current format would become  
unviable. Without the slaughterhouse, beef farming would cease and this would have a knock-  
on effect on dairy farming. The whole scenario of this would be to rewrite the pastoral  
landscape of Sark in a way similar to that seen on Alderney 15 years ago.

260 One possible option would be to support the current proprietor with help in bringing the  
slaughterhouse up to an acceptable standard. An alternative would be to bring the  
slaughterhouse into public ownership. The landlord has indicated he would allow the current  
leaseholders to sublease. The current leaseholder has indicated he would be willing to do this. I  
have spoken with the current leaseholder and this latter option is the one he strongly favours.

265 Approving the Proposition will allow Sark to continue exporting meat to Guernsey while  
permitting the Committee to enter into discussions as to the possible future of the  
slaughterhouse. It is imperative that these discussions are taken forward as quickly as possible  
to maintain this facility.

270 It is important that Chief Pleas understands that it is not being asked to give the A&E  
Committee the money; instead, that the Committee be allowed access to the extra funds if the  
need arises.

The mention of 'tender' in the Report refers to the physical work upon the slaughterhouse  
that may be needed if, following discussions with the proprietor, this is the preferred option.  
The Committee will return to Chief Pleas with a firmer figure and subsequent request for  
approval.

275 This project could be seen as a stage in fulfilling one of the recommendations within the  
'Vision of Sark', which was to review agricultural policies that encourage self-sufficiency in food  
production.

280 It should be noted that this work is needed to ensure the continued export of meat to  
Guernsey. It is separate from an upgrade that may be required should the European  
Communities (Implementation of Food and Feed Controls) (Guernsey) Ordinance, 2016 be  
approved by the States of Guernsey. This Ordinance is already in the hands of the Public Health  
Committee and is being studied carefully to understand the ramifications for Sark.

285 Work to be done. The upgrade to the slaughterhouse is focused around the improvements  
and consists of three main strands: consumables, such as cleaning materials; improvements in  
practice; work upon the building as identified by Guernsey States and Chief Pleas Vet, David  
Chamberlain, and laid out in the schedule of works.

I am afraid I will have to bore you a little bit more. This is for the recording, so I will read out  
the schedule of works that we have. The list of work identified by the States Vet, David  
Chamberlain, needed to bring the slaughterhouse up to an acceptable standard is as follows.

290 Move the hot-water cylinder system from existing place in roof space above the slaughter  
room to the roof space above the adjoining cutting room.

Move the cold-water tank and all cold-water pipes from existing place in roof space above  
the slaughter room to the roof space above the adjoining cutting room.

295 Align slaughter room and roof space above the slaughter room with appropriate barrier  
materials.

Install a flat ceiling to the cutting room, including access to roof space holding hot-and-cold water system.

Determine if the wall dividing the slaughter room from the cutting room is supporting wall or not, then to remove part or whole, extent yet to be decided, of lower half of block wall dividing slaughter room from cutting room and supporting upper part with RSJ as required. This space will then house the pigs holder so it is accessible from both sides.

Close off existing door from cutting room into yard.

Open access from cutting room to chiller room, designs of the latter to be determined.

Relocate water, lighting and electrics to suit.

Lay/extend concrete apron outside the slaughterhouse.

This list covers the physical building work anticipated and does not include the installation or relocation of any other equipment.

The ongoing management of the operation once the upgrade is complete also needs to be clearly set out and implemented. The timing of any work to be carried out will have to take into consideration the need, as near as possible, to keep the slaughterhouse operational. Slaughtering normally takes place on a Monday; however, it is in consultation with the slaughterman. In certain circumstances it might be possible to change the slaughter day or even miss a week.

In order to minimise the impact upon the operation of the slaughterhouse it has been suggested that the work be split into at least four stages as set out below. Any tender quote would need to be for all four stages as a whole.

Stage 1: relocate pigs holder by removing a section of the dividing wall between slaughter room and cutting room and supporting with suitable RSJ; put in similar RSJ in other cutting room wall so a suitable strong ceiling can be put up with the access to all header tanks, cylinders, i.e. all plumbing equipment, with UV and filtering equipment suitable for purpose. The apex of the roof should be insulated and water – hot and cold – pipes to various locations.

Stage 2: line out slaughterhouse with suitable barrier material; insulate and line apex of roof with suitable barrier material; improve floor to approved standard; fit roller door and ... advise ... and concrete apron outside full length of area.

Stage 3: remove all or part of dividing wall between cutting room and chillers as required, install chillers and insulate roof area as required.

Stage 4 – and this is with agreement from the proprietor and other interested parties: fit out a cutting room, if necessary.

I will just conclude by saying this particular facility is very important to farming on the Island, and with a little forethought and vision the sale of Sark meat around the Bailiwick could be increased and give more work and employment to farmers and locals in the near future.

Thank you.

**The President:** Thank you.

Before we move on with questions, could I ask anyone with a declaration of interest to please stand. I will ask you to state your interest and then we will proceed from there.

Conseiller Nightingale, then Conseiller Plummer.

**Conseiller Nightingale:** Thank you, sir –

**The President:** There are four people standing to declare an interest. I will ask you in turn to state your reason for the declaration, and then I will proceed after that.

Conseiller Nightingale.

**Conseiller Nightingale:** I have to declare an interest on two counts: (1) I am a farmer; and (2) the proprietor of the slaughterhouse is my son-in-law.

**The President:** Thank you.

350 **Conseiller Nightingale:** Thank you, sir.

**The President:** Conseiller Plummer.

355 **Conseiller Plummer:** I would like to declare an interest as a seller of the meat from the slaughterhouse. I feel that interest has to be declared.  
Thank you.

**The President:** Thank you.  
Conseiller Diane Baker.

360

**Conseiller Diane Baker:** As a family we have the use of the slaughterhouse for slaughtering lambs.

**The President:** Thank you.

365

**Conseiller Edric Baker:** It is precisely the same reason, sir.

**The President:** And the same.

370

**Conseiller Edric Baker:** Yes.

**The President:** Thank you.  
Thank you for those declarations.  
Rule 13(3) says:

‘When a Member declares an interest in accordance with paragraph (2)’

– a direct pecuniary interest –

‘the President shall ask if there are any requests for that Member to remain in the Chamber, and if any other Member then requests for that Member to remain and the request is supported by a simple majority of Chief Pleas, the Member may remain in the Chamber during the consideration of and voting on the issue in question.’

375

Do I have any proposal that the four people who have declared an interest remain? We have more than one person and that is for all four, so we will take a vote on whether the four people should remain in the Chamber during the debate.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

I will just continue reading the final paragraph of the Rule:

‘A Member who remains in the Chamber in accordance with paragraph (3)’

– which we have just done –

‘may not take part in general debate or vote on the issue in question. However, if so requested by any other Member, he may contribute factual or technical information for the purpose of any general debate of the issue in question.’

380

So I would like you to remember that.

Now, any questions, please? Yes, Conseiller Fry, Conseiller Maitland, Conseiller Cottle, Conseiller Adams, Conseiller Audrain. That will do for starters.

Start us off, Conseiller Fry, please.

385 **Conseiller Fry:** Mine is not really a question; it is more a statement. I think it would be such a  
tragedy if the slaughterhouse in Sark was not functioning and was not functioning as it should.  
Many, many people have said to me on occasions that the Sark meat is the best they have ever  
tasted. That goes for lamb, beef and pork. I think our animals here have such good, free lives and  
390 such an unstressful journey to the slaughterhouse that it really assists in producing fine meat,  
even though we do not like seeing them being slaughtered – but I think it would be a crime if we  
did not, so I completely support this Proposition.

**The President:** Thank you.  
Conseiller Maitland.

395 **Conseiller Maitland:** I think this is the sort of project which the administration of Sark has to  
be involved with to provide the support for the farming industry and would have to happen  
anyway, even if the meat was not for export. I think it is the sort of thing that ... We would  
expect the highest standards for meat sold on Sark.

400 I just wonder who will provide the training and monitor the hygiene standards in the  
slaughterhouse once it is all completed.

**The President:** Conseiller Cottle.

405 **Conseiller Paul Williams:** Obviously asking his question first.

**The President:** Would you make a note and then reply?

**Conseiller Paul Williams:** Yes, okay.

410 **The President:** Conseiller Cottle.

**Conseiller Cottle:** Thank you, sir.

415 Just a comment for information, really. Agriculture and Environment Committee have  
approached Finance and Resources Committee in relation to the potential funding and it has  
been discussed in committee and has been confirmed that funds, if required, can be made  
available from unforeseen expenditure if this Proposition is passed.

**The President:** Thank you.  
420 Conseiller Audrain.

**Conseiller Audrain:** I would like to support what has been said already. I agree with  
everything that has been said.

425 I just want to ask a question about the finance. If the slaughterhouse is to come under public  
ownership, would it then be rented out to whoever is going to be running it?

**The President:** Thank you.  
Conseiller Adams.

430 **Conseiller Adams:** That was a very comprehensive introduction by Conseiller Williams –  
thank you very much for that.

435 As a member of the Public Health Committee, I am aware of the recommendations identified  
by the States Vet for essential improvements to the slaughterhouse. As Conseiller Fry has just  
said, the meat which is bred on Sark, reared, slaughtered and consumed here, is a wonderful  
high-quality product. I feel certain that we should be prioritising this proposed work within our  
budget, not only so that we can continue to export the meat to Guernsey but so that everyone



who consumes it, both on and off Sark, can be confident that as well as tasting wonderful it has also been slaughtered according to best practices.

440 **The President:** Thank you.  
Anybody else before I ask Conseiller Williams to answer the questions and sum up? No.  
Conseiller Williams, please.

445 **Conseiller Paul Williams:** I think, in answer to the question which direction would we go to get expertise in, we have not got an answer to that at the moment, obviously, but the Committee, with the go-ahead, would be looking into things like this and finding experts and getting things put in place that are necessary to continue.

450 **The President:** That concludes the debate on the Item. Therefore we will go to the Proposition: That Chief Pleas agrees to the Agriculture and Environment Committee being granted the sum of up to £10,000 to cover costs incurred by them in carrying out the upgrade to the Sark slaughterhouse.

455 **The Seigneur:** Her question was not answered.

**The President:** Yes, okay.

**Conseiller Paul Williams:** Sorry, what was the question again, please?

460 **Conseiller Audrain:** I wondered how the financing of it, which ... I agree entirely that it should come under public ownership, but once it does then it is shared by everybody and I wondered how that would be financed by the ... what would happen to the people who are accessing that and whether there would be a rental or some other method of allowing people to use and run the slaughterhouse.

465 **Conseiller Paul Williams:** I think it would be run in a very similar way to the way it is now. Anybody who uses it would pay an according rate for what happens at the slaughterhouse and anything else that continues up there as well. So there would be a charging pattern for everything.

470 **Conseiller Audrain:** Thank you.

**The President:** I think it was a slightly longer question the second time round! *(Laughter)*  
I have read the Proposition. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**8. 2016 Budget and Taxation and Financial Provisions –  
Finance and Resources Committee Report considered –  
The Direct Taxes for 2016 (Sark) Ordinance, 2015 approved;  
The Financial Provisions (Variation of Rates) (Sark) Ordinance, 2015 approved –  
Propositions 1-4, 6 and 7 carried; Proposition 5 carried as amended**

*To consider a Report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled '2016 Budget and Taxation and Financial Provisions' and to approve the Ordinances entitled 'The Direct Taxes for 2016 (Sark) Ordinance, 2015' and 'The Financial Provisions (Variation of Rates) (Sark) Ordinance, 2015'.*

*Proposition 1*

*That the rate of Property Tax be increased to £14.00 per quarter for the year 2016.*

*That the minimum rate of Personal Capital Tax be reduced to £300 for the year 2016.*

*That the Personal Capital Tax of an individual who is liable to pay Property Tax as Possessor of Real Property which is his principal dwelling shall be £Nil. This will apply to one individual who is the possessor in the principal dwelling where all adult occupants have net capital assets of £100,000 or less.*

*That individuals over 69 years of age on 1 January 2016 who have worldwide net assets of £150,000 or less pay £Nil Personal Capital Tax for 2016.*

*That the maximum rate of Personal Capital Tax remains at £6,400.00 for the year 2016.*

*That the net asset fraction for the calculation of Personal Capital Tax be reduced to 0.30% for the year 2016.*

*That the forfeit factor for the calculation of Personal Capital Tax be reduced to 2.0 for the year 2016.*

*Proposition 2*

*That Chief Pleas approves the Ordinance entitled 'The Direct Taxes for 2016 (Sark) Ordinance, 2015'.*

*Proposition 3*

*That individuals over the age of 69 on 1 January 2016, who declared assets of £70,000 or less for 2015, shall receive a payment equal to the calculated increase in their tax assessment total for the year 2016.*

*Proposition 4*

*That Impôt rates remain unchanged for the year 2016.*

*Proposition 5*

*That the Sark Poll (Landing) Tax be increased to £1.05 per adult for the year 2016.*

*Proposition 6*

*That Chief Pleas approves the Ordinance entitled The Financial Provisions (Variation of Rates) (Sark) Ordinance, 2015.*

*Proposition 7*

*That the budget of Income and Expenditure for the year 2016 be accepted.*

475 **The President:** Agenda Item 8: To consider a Report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled '2016 Budget and Taxation and Financial Provisions' and to approve the Ordinances entitled 'The Direct Taxes for 2016 (Sark) Ordinance, 2015' and 'The Financial Provisions (Variation of Rates) (Sark) Ordinance, 2015'.

You will have received the addendum for an update to the Report and also amended  
480 Ordinances, which should have been inserted into your business papers.

I would ask the Chairman of the Committee, Conseiller Cottle, to introduce the Report, please.

**Conseiller Cottle:** Thank you, sir.

485 First, apologies for the late additions to the Report. It was due to circumstances being as they were and we had to get them in as we finalised things. I hope everybody has been able to sort out the amended Propositions and the extra information in their information pack and can follow it as I go along. I will try and clear up any uncertainties there as I go along.

490 Dealing first with expenditure, the Report goes over in detail how the expenditure proposal  
was arrived at – a decrease on last year of around £1,000. I do not propose to go through that in  
any detail, other than to thank particularly the Douzaine for agreeing to reconsider their  
expenditure for next year and finding significant savings that have more than offset essential  
increases elsewhere and the modest RPI raise on wages and salaries. The total expenditure  
495 request therefore is for £1,340,079, and that requires the same amount to be raised in taxes and  
charges. It is very good that expenditure has been held down next year, but no one should  
imagine that this can be done year on year as inflation and pressure from charges for external  
services and obligations will not go away. As I have said before, I do not believe there is a lot of  
opportunity for waste in our system and much that would be done elsewhere by paid employees  
is done by volunteers here.

500 Turning to the taxation income, as explained, some changes to the balance of taxes are being  
proposed for 2016. This is an outcome of the Fairer Taxation consultation which took place at  
the end of last year, which asked whether more tax should be raised from the owners or  
possessors of property. This is intended to ensure that sufficient contribution is obtained from  
property that has no one making a contribution of Personal Capital Tax. By way of balance,  
505 provision is being made to lower the Personal Capital Tax rates so that for the large majority of  
people and families living in domestic accommodation the tax total for the household is the  
same or less than in this current year. This was not done to produce a large increase in tax  
income; the total increase is estimated at £24,000 overall from Direct Taxes. As these changes  
are slightly different to the usual year-on-year increases, they need some explanation. The  
510 proposals can all be achieved within the limits set in the Direct Taxes Law by Ordinance. Going  
through them, the main proposed changes are as follows.

The first is Property Tax. The proposal is that the quarter rate is increased by approximately  
50%, from £9.38 currently to £14 next year.

For Personal Capital Tax there are various options available for paying by self-assessment.  
515 The asset rate on declared net assets is decreased from 0.6% to 0.3%. The forfeit factor is  
reduced from 4.0 to 2.0. The minimum Personal Capital Tax is reduced from £320 to £300 and  
the maximum Personal Capital Tax remains at £6,400. This on its own would leave some of the  
less well-off households paying significantly more than this next year, so extra provisions are  
designed to offset this. Firstly, in a household where all adult occupants are assessed as  
520 minimum taxpayers with assets of under £100,000 declared, the person recorded as the  
possessor will pay zero Personal Capital Tax. All other adult occupants would then pay £300  
each, the minimum Personal Capital Tax rate, and that is equivalent to £5.77 per week. Various  
weekly rates are given later in the Report.

The table in appendix 4 shows a comparison between 2015 and the proposals for 2016 for  
525 increasing house sizes in quarters down the left-hand side to show what Direct Tax possessors  
would pay next year against the current tax paid. In all cases for houses of up to 70 quarters the  
combined Property Tax and Personal Capital Tax were lower. The columns of tax for forfeit  
payers and asset factor payers are also shown, and they are also lower, in the appropriate  
columns. There is also a series of worked examples in appendix 3 showing proposed tax  
530 payments for 2016 against those for this year. I think those have been found helpful in the past,  
putting in some worked examples, so the Treasurer has created those again for this year as an  
explanation, which may be slightly more accessible. It includes the tax as a weekly cost as well.

Besides that category there are also two current categories which consist of the over-69s  
535 who declare assets of under £150,000 currently, and they are being combined into one group, or  
one category, and they will all pay zero Personal Capital Tax. That means that those who already  
pay zero Personal Capital Tax because they have declared having assets of under £70,000 this  
year would be worse off due to the Property Tax increase next year. That is not our intention, so  
we have produced a measure for one year, for 2016 only, to prevent this vulnerable group being  
worse off. To prevent them from being worse off, a payment will be made equivalent to the

540 extra tax they will pay, as calculated by the Tax Assessor. A new Project will be brought for 2017 to address this issue.

That is the combined Proposition for Direct Tax changes this year. These measures are proposed in line with the stated objective as set out in the Securing Sark's Future policy, and that is: to examine the collection of Direct Taxes to ensure that they are collected in a manner that fairly distributes the burden of taxation and, where applicable, incentivises the occupation of under-occupied properties with economically active persons.

545 I think, having dealt with the Direct Taxes there, this might be the best point, if there are any questions or comments on the Direct Tax proposals – they could be asked now, before I move on to covering the other points in the Budget. So can we do that at this point?

550

**The President:** Yes, thank you, Conseiller Cottle.

Any questions on the Direct Taxes statement you have heard and the Report?

Back on your feet and carry on.

555 **Conseiller Cottle:** If they think of something in the meantime while I continue with the Report I am happy to take questions on the Direct Taxes at the end as well, sir.

I will carry on then. We have other taxation proposals – nothing as major as what is being proposed there, but I will go through them.

560 No increase is proposed in Impôt next year, following two years of 15% increases. Receipts are expected to fall again, following the trend of the last several years. Therefore, we think a further increase would be counterproductive at this point and we have just allowed for the decrease in the income expectation for next year.

565 This Committee has also met with customs officers from Guernsey this year and we are more confident now that Sark Impôt will be received when appropriate goods – alcohol and tobacco products – are supplied from Guernsey in future.

Another change is in Poll Tax. I apologise for the late replacement of the original Ordinance as last-minute discussions were ongoing with Sark Shipping at the time of publication. The result of the discussions is that the replacement proposal to increase Poll or Landing Tax for the first time in 21 years is by five pence instead of 10 pence. The increase will be from £1 to £1.05 for each journey terminating in Sark for an adult. That will raise approximately £2,500 extra, which is not large but stops the relative decrease due to inflation, which has accumulated over the years where there has been no increase.

575 Property Transfer Tax income is unpredictable, so it has been estimated based on the last year's actual income, as has been the practice for producing the Budget. That income was as a result of two sales and is included in the income prediction for next year.

Income from licences etc. is predicted as similar to this year, but Public Works expects receipts from collection charges to fall, so that is included. I think it was about £23,000 lower prediction for next year due to fewer collections taking place currently.

580 The total income prediction is shown on page 3 of appendix 1 and the amended total, with Poll Tax reduced, is £1,343,500. That, compared to the expenditure figure, gives a small predicted surplus of £3,421.

That is basically what I want to say on the proposals for next year. Following any further questions or comments, there are a series of Propositions to go through.

585 There are seven points in Proposition 1, which are dependent on each other to raise the required amount, so they can only be accepted or rejected together to fulfil the Budget requirement. If they are rejected, then this Committee would have to return to Chief Pleas on another date with an alternative proposal. I would just make that point at this time.

Propositions 2 to 7 can be then taken in order.

590 Proposition 5 is to be modified to change the increase to £1.05, rather than the £1.10 originally printed. So, just for clarity, that Proposition will now read:

That the Sark Poll (Landing) Tax be increased to £1.05 per adult for the year 2016.

And then Proposition 6 refers to the amending Ordinance that goes with that.

If there are any questions I will answer them and, after that, Finance and Resources Committee recommend that the Budget proposals that will follow are accepted for next year.

Thank you.

595

**The President:** Any questions? Any debate?  
Conseiller Baker.

600

**Conseiller Edric Baker:** It is not a question as such. I would like to congratulate the Committee and the Treasurer on what must have been an incredibly difficult task. They have gone through absolutely everything and tried to make it as fair as possible. Well done.

**Several Members:** Hear, hear.

605

**The President:** Conseiller Sandra Williams.

610

**Conseiller Sandra Williams:** I would like to echo that and I would like to congratulate the Finance and Resources Committee on a very difficult job. I think the Fairer Taxation Scheme will be just what Sark needs to help some of the younger families get through what is going to be quite a tough couple of years, I think.

Thank you very much.

**The President:** Plaudits over, we will move to the vote on the Propositions in the Report.

615

Proposition 1: that the rate of Property Tax be increased to £14.00 per quarter for the year 2016; that the minimum rate of Personal Capital Tax be reduced to £300 for the year 2016; that the Personal Capital Tax of an individual who is liable to pay Property Tax as Possessor of Real Property which is his principal dwelling shall be £Nil – this will apply to one individual who is the possessor in the principal dwelling where all adult occupants have net capital assets of £100,000 or less; that individuals over 69 years of age on 1 January 2016 who have worldwide net assets of £150,000 or less pay £Nil Personal Capital Tax for 2016; that the maximum rate of Personal Capital Tax remains at £6,400 for the year 2016; that the net asset fraction for the calculation of Personal Capital Tax be reduced to 0.30% for the year 2016; that the forfeit factor for the calculation of Personal Capital Tax be reduced to 2.0 for the year 2016.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

625

Proposition 2: that Chief Pleas approves the Ordinance entitled 'The Direct Taxes for 2016 (Sark) Ordinance, 2015'.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

This Ordinance will be numbered VIII of 2015.

630

Proposition 3: that individuals over the age of 69 on 1 January 2016, who declared assets of £70,000 or less for 2015, shall receive a payment equal to the calculated increase in their tax assessment total for the year 2016.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

Proposition 4: that Impôt rates remain unchanged for the year 2016.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

635

Proposition 5 as amended: that the Sark Poll (Landing) Tax be increased to £1.05 per adult for the year 2016.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

Proposition 6: that Chief Pleas approves the Ordinance entitled 'The Financial Provisions (Variation of Rates) (Sark) Ordinance, 2015'.

640

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

This Ordinance will be numbered IX of 2015.

And finally, Proposition 7: that the budget of Income and Expenditure for the year 2016 be accepted.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**9. 'Chief Pleas of Sark Rules of Procedure – Proposed Amendments' –  
Policy and Performance Committee Report considered –  
Proposition carried**

*To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled 'Chief Pleas of Sark Rules of Procedure – Proposed Amendments'.*

*Proposition*

*That Chief Pleas approves the amended version of the 'Chief Pleas of Sark Rules of Procedure' as attached to this report.*

645 **The President:** We now move to Agenda Item 9: To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled 'Chief Pleas of Sark Rules of Procedure – Proposed Amendments'.

I would ask the Committee Chairman, Conseiller Maitland, to introduce the Report, please.

650 **Conseiller Maitland:** Sir, this and the next two Reports – so that is 9, 10 and 11 – will be presented by Conseiller Dunks.

**The President:** Thank you.  
Conseiller Dunks.

655 **Conseiller Dunks:** The 'Chief Pleas of Sark Rules of Procedure – Proposed Amendments' ... as this done ... the Report before you. As a result of the move by some Members of Chief Pleas to receiving their official papers in electronic form there arose a need to amend the Rules of Procedure section 1(4) to reflect this.

660 There was also an opportunity to change some other details, which are listed in the Report. However, I would direct you specifically to ... in your papers ... The first one I have got is section 1(4), which starts:

A notice (in French) of every Meeting shall be signed by the Seigneur and President, placed in the official Island Notice Boxes no later than twenty-one days before all Meetings, together with the Agenda. At the same time the Agenda and all relevant papers shall be distributed to all Members and in addition to the Lieutenant Governor, the Bailiff, and H.M. Procureur. All Reports must be publicly available in paper form and posted on the official Sark Government Web site ([www.gov.sark.gg](http://www.gov.sark.gg)).

That is the first change.

665 The second change is in 'Declaration of Interest', numbered 14. You probably cannot see what has been changed. A large chunk has been taken out, which was confusing people, regarding the dates a declaration has to be made upon. We have removed the reference to 10th January 2014. It now reads ... well, clearly what is before you. It just takes out the confusion.

The last major point is section 11, 'Order'. It is simply a rephrasing of subsection (6):

If on any occasion the President considers that the conduct of a Conseiller is grossly disorderly, or offensive, or with malice he may forthwith put the following proposition ...

It just tidies up what was there previously.

670 Another item to note is that the definition of 'Member' in The Reform Law includes people who are not Conseillers. So the document has been gone through, replacing 'Member' with 'Conseiller' where appropriate.

Other than the initial point to allow for the electronic distribution of papers, it is just a matter of tidying up. If there are any questions, please feel free to ask.

675

**The President:** Any questions from the floor, please?

Yes, Conseiller Adams.

680 **Conseiller Adams:** I have a point of clarification. It is not related to any of the things you have just mentioned. I am looking at section 3 with the subheading 'Informal Meeting of Chief Pleas', and I am looking at the first sentence, which begins, 'At the request of a Chief Pleas Committee' and ends, five lines down, 'contained in the notice sent'. In that sentence am I right in thinking that it is the Chief Pleas Committee which may request the President to call an informal meeting? Is it the Chief Pleas Committee that makes that request?

685

**The President:** Yes, that is correct. It has to be a Committee calling an informal meeting. It must be a Committee, not an individual Conseiller, not the President or anybody else; it must be a Committee of Chief Pleas.

690 **Conseiller Adams:** Thank you.

**The President:** Any other questions? No.

In that case, we will move on to the Proposition in the Report: that Chief Pleas approves the amended version of the Chief Pleas of Sark Rules of Procedure as attached to the Report.

695 Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**10. 'The Constitution and Operation of Chief Pleas Committees – Proposed Amendments' –  
Policy and Performance Committee Report –  
Debate commenced**

*To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled 'The Constitution and Operation of Chief Pleas Committees – Proposed Amendments'.*

*Proposition*

*That Chief Pleas approves the amended version of the 'The Constitution and Operation of Chief Pleas Committees' as attached to this report, as amended.*

**The President:** We move to Agenda Item 10: To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled 'The Constitution and Operation of Chief Pleas Committees – Proposed Amendments'.

I would ask Conseiller Dunks to introduce the Report, please. No, it is Conseiller Rolfe.

700

**Conseiller Rolfe:** Thank you. Slight confusion in the ranks here!

I would just like to say some explanatory things about this, because there is a lot of misunderstanding outside about the purpose of the PDG and the PDTs.

705 On 21st January the new Committee arrangements were passed. It was subsequently discovered that the Rules of Chief Pleas contained the phrase that the PDG and the PDTs 'shall be Standing Committees of Chief Pleas', and this was never the intention going back to the original public consultation in October 2014.

710 On 23rd January, I, as a new, young, rooky Conseiller, wrote to all Members of Chief Pleas simply to say that we really ought to try and get back to the original plan, and it has taken us nine months from conception to rebirth – but here we are, hopefully with a Report that is acceptable and actually does do justice to what was originally intended.

715 The work of the PDG and PDTs, to all intents and purposes, is to do the background work that in other jurisdictions is done by civil servants and research departments with general help from outside experts and what have you. What is proposed here is to return to a situation where those bodies – the PDTs and the PDG, but the PDTs particularly – can work with flexibility, they can actually co-opt members from outside, they can actually ... The PDG can create PDTs as required and they can be disbanded without the need for coming to Chief Pleas for that purpose. The ultimate aim is to get the work of these PDTs, when they come to fruition, through the two Policy Committees, either acting individually or together.

720 I was actually asked by the leader of one of the PDTs about the way in which this Report is written, and I do apologise for this – it was certainly not my intention: the impression this Report gives is that it would then be down to the Policy Committees to carry out the public consultation. That was never my intention. I believe, really, that the PDTs themselves should consult widely and engage with the public, and unless there are matters of confidentiality I do not see any reason why their operation should not be much more open than is usually the case in Sark.

725 And so, for that reason, Madam President, I commend this Report for approval by Chief Pleas.

730 **The President:** Any questions or debate? Conseiller Dunks, followed by Conseiller Cottle.  
Conseiller Dunks.

735 **Conseiller Dunks:** I just wish to draw your attention to section 19, 'Policy Development Group and Policy Development Teams'. The (1) is surplus to requirement and should be deleted – the number (1), not the section; 19(1) is no longer needed, so the (1) can be deleted.

Also I would draw your attention to section 15, 'Human Rights Compatibility'. The Rule is, as written:

Every Chief Pleas Committee shall carry out a review of their existing legislation together with the associated policies, procedures and practices with human rights compatibility and report to Chief Pleas every 5 years in writing, commencing in 2010.

740 This means that this year should have been a year in which all Committees brought their report to Chief Pleas, unless you wish to change that Rule. I would welcome some feedback from Committees as to how to progress: do we take the Rule as it is, do we amend the Rule, or do we delete the Rule?

Thank you.

745 **The President:** Conseiller Cottle.

**Conseiller Cottle:** Thank you, sir.

I have just got one question I would like to put to Conseiller Rolfe for clarification. It is on the second page of the Report at the bottom of the first paragraph. The last sentence is:

It was not envisaged that the PDG and PDTs would report directly to Chief Pleas as no such lines of reporting were shown on the original chart.

750 I would like a bit of clarification on who will report from the PDTs when a piece of work is ready. When a PDT is ready to bring a piece of work to Chief Pleas, would it be the PDT leader, who will be a temporary co-opted member of P&P, who will present the report, if that is the



wish, rather than handing it over to a P&P member? I think that would be the more appropriate route. I would like your comment on that, please.

755 **Conseiller Rolfe:** Yes, I can comment on that because there was an additional paragraph to this Report which actually did explain that, but the President very kindly pointed out to me that, under the Rules, members of the Policy Committees cannot be members of Standing Committees, and anybody coming from a PDT and being co-opted fully onto the Policy Committee would then have to relinquish, presumably, all of their other Standing Committees.  
760 That certainly was not the intention, but I can confirm to Conseiller Cottle that it is very much the intention that those who have done all this work for the PDTs will join the Policy Committees and help progress the work to fruition.

**The President:** Under the current Rules, operational committee members or PDTs cannot join  
765 one of the Policy Committees. Therefore you can be invited to attend but you cannot be co-opted onto those committees. So the PDT leader, when he is ready to bring information to Chief Pleas, will bring his report to one of the two Policy Committees and they can then invite people to attend their committees to progress that work. When it eventually comes to Chief Pleas after the Policy Committee has decided that the report is coming to Chief Pleas, then of course, as we  
770 have done today, people can be invited to speak on that report. But the PDT will not bring it; an operational committee will not bring it. We have several examples of that today where operational committees are bringing matters to Chief Pleas and several PDTs are bringing matters to Chief Pleas, because under the current Rules they can. If you approve the Proposal in front of you today, that will no longer be allowed.

775 Have I summed that up, Conseiller Rolfe?

**Conseiller Rolfe:** Yes, sir, I think you have summed it up very well. The simple fact is, though, that those people who have been working on the PDTs are very, very necessary to help continue the work with the Policy Committees.

780

**The President:** Conseiller Adams.

**Conseiller Adams:** Okay, so I have listened very carefully to all of that. There is just something I do not understand, so I have got to ask. Policy Development Teams are working on issues  
785 which are of great interest to the public and they may reach a stage in their work which might not be the end of their work – they may reach a stage where they feel they would benefit from discussion and debate at Chief Pleas. So I would like to ask why it is not considered appropriate for a PDT to report their progress directly to Chief Pleas. I still do not understand that.

790 **The President:** Conseiller Rolfe.

**Conseiller Rolfe:** This is attracting far more attention than I expected, actually!

There is no reason why a PDT cannot get their work aired, if you like, in Chief Pleas. The intention here really is just that it actually comes through the Policy Committees. That is all that  
795 is being suggested. You have said yourself, Madam President, it is quite often the case that the chairman of a Policy Committee will actually ask somebody else to present a report, and that is probably the best way to do this. But certainly the original diagrams, and the diagram that accompanies this Report, show that there is no direct route from a PDT to Chief Pleas.

800 **The President:** Any other questions? Yes, Conseiller Cottle, Conseiller Audrain, Conseiller Edric Baker.

Conseiller Cottle, please.

805 **Conseiller Cottle:** From that explanation from you and from Conseiller Rolfe, I think what I understand is that as, for instance, the Shipping Review PDT is bringing a report today, that will not be permissible in future but it will come under the umbrella of P&P or F&R, depending on which is the correct route, as is decided.

810 **The President:** That is correct.

**Conseiller Cottle:** The Policy Committee will introduce the report and then allow whoever wishes to – and probably the leader of the PDT would be the correct person – then to present the body of the report with the information that they have gleaned and developed. Is that the correct understanding? If that is, I am happy with that.

815 **The President:** Conseiller Rolfe.

**Conseiller Rolfe:** Yes.

820 **Conseiller Cottle:** Thank you.

**The President:** Conseiller Audrain.

825 **Conseiller Audrain:** Yes, I understand what has been said there, but what I would like to know is: if this has been changed, if there has been a change made here, which the President has mentioned during this debate, where is this stated in this paper, 'The Constitution and Operation of Chief Pleas Committees'? Where is the change stated?

830 **The President:** Conseiller Rolfe.

**Conseiller Rolfe:** Yes, it is actually stated in the Report before you:

The purpose of the PDTs was to develop the background work that would be brought eventually to Chief Pleas through one of the two Policy committees, 'Policy & Performance' or 'Finance & Resources' (or both collectively) [with public consultation].

835 I think that perhaps a little too much is being made of this, because it is very much the intention that the PDTs, which have done all of this work, should be very much part of the process as it goes through the Policy Committees, and I will actually search, if I may, for the actual –

**The President:** Can I direct you to the last definition in Rule 2.

**Conseiller Rolfe:** Yes, thank you, Mr President. It says after the above insert a new paragraph:

A 'Policy Development Team' is a dedicated *ad hoc* group the purpose of which is to develop the background work that would be brought eventually to Chief Pleas through one of the two Policy committees.

840 **The President:** So the effect is that, as I said when I was talking to you earlier, we have examples today of the operational committee and the PDT bringing matters to Chief Pleas. If you approve the amended Constitution and Operation of Chief Pleas Committees today, that will not happen in the future. Those committees and PDTs will bring their issues to either Policy and Performance or Finance and Resources, and those Committees will then bring the report to  
845 Chief Pleas and invite as many of the policy team to attend their committee meetings to discuss that particular issue and will also have the ability to invite those members of the operational

committee or a PDT to speak at Chief Pleas on the issue, but they will not be formally brought to Chief Pleas by the PDT or the operational committee.

Conseiller Audrain.

850

**Conseiller Audrain:** I do not want anyone to think that I am power mad, (*Laughter*) but I do not agree with that and I think that I am going to have to vote against this in that case, because I really do think that when you consider the work that some of these PDTs have done, particularly to do with electricity, it is right that it should be that group that brings this to Chief Pleas and that it does not just ... we do actually report back to the Policy and Performance Committee, but those committees or groups, teams, have been doing that work and I think they should be bringing it to Chief Pleas.

855

**The President:** Conseiller Baker, followed by Conseiller Dunks.

860

**Conseiller Edric Baker:** Sir, I am not sure that I am misunderstanding things at all, but are we saying that in future the Douzaine will not be bringing names for the Constables or Procureurs to this Chief Pleas?

865

**The President:** Those are procedural matters and I believe they would be excluded. It would be my view that those type of issues would be excluded from this. That is not policy, that is not developing policy and bringing policy to Chief Pleas; they are administrative functions and I would see that there would be no change in the Douzaine bringing forward names of Constables, Vingteniers and Procureurs etc. But if you had any other report – dealing with roads, for instance – then that would have to be brought to Chief Pleas by one of the Policy Committees.

870

**Conseiller Rolfe:** No, I am sorry, that is not my reading of it at all. In fact, what Conseiller Baker has done there ... It is perfectly legitimate for the Douzaine, which is a Standing Committee of Chief Pleas ... Well, the Douzaine *is* a Standing Committee of Chief Pleas and it is perfectly legitimate, by my reading of what we are trying to do here ... Incidentally, what we are trying to do here is to get back to the original intention of October 2014 and to give the operation of the PDG and the PDTs the flexibility that was already intended. So we are not, in fact, trying to change the system; we are trying to get back to the original intention. But Standing Committees of Chief Pleas will continue to bring reports here because, under the Rules of Chief Pleas Committees, they are Standing Committees of Chief Pleas. What is changing here is that the PDTs and the PDG are no longer Standing Committees of Chief Pleas.

875

880

**The President:** Conseiller Dunks.

885

**Conseiller Dunks:** The answer to Conseiller Audrain's question and that of Edric Baker can be found in the Chief Pleas Rules of Procedure you have just approved. Section 3:

The President shall accept Reports and Propositions from Chief Pleas Committees for inclusion on the Agenda.

So the Douzaine can send items, which a PDT cannot. So a PDT is not a Chief Pleas Committee.

890

**The President:** Yes, okay. I was under the misapprehension that operational committees were also not able to bring matters to Chief Pleas. That is not correct.

**Conseiller Rolfe:** That is not correct, no.

895

**The President:** Operational committees can still bring (**Conseiller Rolfe:** Yes.) and subcommittees of operational committees can also do that. If there was a subcommittee set up by one of the Standing Committees they could also report to Chief Pleas.

900 **Conseiller Rolfe:** Well, I think really subcommittees ought to report to their main committee. It would be rather unusual to have a subcommittee reporting directly to Chief Pleas, particularly if the main committee did not agree with what they were proposing.

**The President:** But that has been the issue in the past, in that subcommittees have brought  
905 matters to Chief Pleas and then, when that matter has been approved and all the processes agreed, their subcommittee disbands.

I think it is a good discussion to have, because there is confusion. I was confused from the explanation that I had been given that operational committees could not, and I am pleased that they are still able to come to Chief Pleas.

910 Does that help you, Conseiller Audrain?

**Conseiller Audrain:** Thank you, yes, it does. I still do not agree with it. (*Laughter*)

**The President:** Conseiller Baker.

915

**Conseiller Edric Baker:** Yes, sir. Before we pass on too quickly, Conseiller Dunks raised the issue of human rights compliance in the report every five years. I do not think that should be there. Our Laws are drafted by the Crown Officers. They verify the fact that they are human rights compliant. They write statements which are sent to the Minister of Justice and so on. It is  
920 utterly pointless that we review what has already been reviewed.

**The President:** Any more debate on that particular issue, the human rights compatibility?

I think, Conseiller Dunks, you might wish to, if there is further debate on it, make a proposal regarding that section 15.

925

**Conseiller Dunks:** When I first had this brought to my attention I felt the same way as Conseiller Baker. However, it turns out that when case law occurs, the interpretation of existing law can change, which means that although you have had a Law written by the Law Officers and it was human rights compliant at the time of its creation and passing by Chief Pleas, events that  
930 happened since can cause it to move to a less human rights compliant position, which is why you need to keep updating them.

The question here is do we (a) delete the Rule completely, which will have possible reputational damage to Chief Pleas; (b) modify it, such as we take out the requirement to do it in writing; or (c) do we just take it as it is, in which case every committee is expected to produce a report this year on their having done that task, which seems a rather short time in which to do so. So just some feedback from the people now, because we have to approve it, or amend it or  
935 get rid of it.

**The President:** Any more discussion on that particular issue? Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich,  
940 followed by Conseiller Cottle.

**Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich:** I just wondered if Jersey and Guernsey also have that rule in their Rules of Procedure.

945 **The President:** Conseiller Dunks.

**Conseiller Dunks:** They do not have the rule in the Rules and Procedure of Committees. This is a task performed by their administration staff, something which we keep reminding people we do not have.

950

**The President:** Conseiller Cottle.

**Conseiller Cottle:** I think the third option that Conseiller Dunks just gave is totally impossible in the timeframe talked about, so we can cross that one out straight away. Leaving it as it is or taking it out, as he has said, could have reputational issues, so can you repeat the second option again, to see if that is possible, because the other two seem impossible.

955

**Conseiller Dunks:** Option 2 is simply to remove the requirement to do a report to Chief Pleas every five years in writing, commencing in 2010. We will still have to review it, but we can remove the need to come back to Chief Pleas with a report in writing after you have done it. It would make it possible to do this within what is proportional to Sark and applicable to our resources, and still maintain the human rights compatibility.

960

**The President:** So, in this proposal you would say that the Rule would end with a full stop after 'human rights compatibility' and delete the remainder of the Rule.

965

**Conseiller Dunks:** I think there would be some requirement to make sure we are doing it on a regular basis, so it might just be a case of procedures and practice of human rights compatibility every five years. There is a requirement for you to keep it a rolling programme, but you do not have to report to Chief Pleas on that deadline basis of 2010, 2015, 2020 and so on. It would read:

970

Every Chief Pleas Committee shall carry out a review of their existing legislation together with associated policies, procedures and practices with human rights compatibility every five years.

**The President:** Conseiller Maitland has put his hand up to speak, so I am going to let Conseiller Maitland speak and then I am going to call a recess and the Policy and Performance Committee can come back with a proposal for Rule 15, which we could vote upon before we go on.

975

Conseiller Maitland.

**Conseiller Maitland:** This really worries me, because if you look at the number of Laws that P&P have got on their mandates, it is as long as your arm – and who on earth is going to spend time looking through Laws going back a very long time, which are probably, some of them, not human rights compliant? We cannot do it. Are the Law Officers going to do it? Is it practical? I do not think it is.

980

Obviously, all new Laws are now human rights compliant, because that is a part of the set-up of the Law Officers, but I do not think we should have a rule which cannot be enforced.

985

**The President:** I can give you comfort, of course: before the Human Rights Law was adopted in the Bailiwick there was a very careful going-over of all the major Laws to make sure that they were human rights compliant before the Law was brought in, and that actually delayed the implementation of the Human Rights Law by a couple of years while that work was carried out by the Law Officers. So there was a point in time, in about 2002-03, where that major review was conducted by the Law Officers and any Laws that required updating were updated before the Human Rights Law came in.

990

I shall now call a recess for 10 minutes, at which time we will come back and have a Proposition on Rule 15.

995 Thank you.

*Chief Pleas adjourned at 11.34 a.m.  
and resumed its sitting at 11.46 a.m.*

**‘The Constitution and Operation of Chief Pleas Committees – Proposed Amendments’ –  
Debate concluded –  
Proposition carried as amended**

**The President:** Conseiller Dunks.

**Conseiller Dunks:** Thank you.

The Committee wishes to propose that section 15 be rewritten to read as follows:

*Every Chief Pleas Committee shall be cognisant of the need to review their existing legislation together with associated policies, procedures and practices with human rights compatibility.*

1000 I shall read that again, slowly: ‘Every Chief Pleas Committee shall be cognisant of the need to review their existing legislation together with associated policies, procedures and practices with human rights compatibility.’

1005 This does not commit them to any particular timeframe and requires them to carry out the process, being well aware of our availability of resources and the need for proportionality and all of that business.

**The President:** Thank you.

Before we move on to the vote on that proposal from the Committee, does anybody have anything to say? No.

1010 In that case, we will go to the vote that Rule 15 be amended: Every Chief Pleas Committee shall be cognisant of the need to review their existing legislation together with associated policies, procedures and practices with human rights compatibility.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

1015 Conseiller Rolfe, would you like to sum up, please.

**Conseiller Rolfe:** Can you hear me, Mr President? *(Interjection)*

**The President:** Stop one moment, please.

1020 *There was a short recess due to a technical problem.*

**Conseiller Rolfe:** The Greffier went and paid the electric bill then! *(Laughter)*

1025 I think it has been a particularly interesting discussion, this, and I just wish to assure those Members who have misgivings about what we are doing. I would just reiterate that we are trying to return to the original plan, which really went out to the public, and give back the PDTs’ flexibility in the way they operate, whilst allowing them still to come through Policy Committees to Chief Pleas.

It has also been suggested to me that the Policy Committees could overrule a PDT, for instance. That is not the intention, because the Policy Committees really, as I see it, should be

1030 there to facilitate and continue the work of the PDTs. I just hope that Members are reassured with that.

I would like to commend the Report as amended for approval by Chief Pleas.

**The President:** Thank you.

1035 Conseiller Raymond.

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

1040 Can I just take that reassurance and say that that is *not* the way that I read the Report and that therefore I have a concern as a result. It is possible for a PDT to do a lot of work on a particular subject, bring it forward to one of the Policy Committees and for it to be altered without the PDT necessarily having access to Chief Pleas.

Thank you.

**Conseiller Rolfe:** Do you want me to respond to that, Mr President?

1045 'Without access to Chief Pleas' is not really the way this thing would operate. The members of the PDT are largely Members of Chief Pleas and it is there that they could do that. Whatever the Report says, it certainly was my intention – maybe I should have worded it better – that the Policy Committees would work with the PDT to actually bring their work to fruition.

1050 **The President:** Right, then, we will go to the Proposition in the Report, having taken note that we have amended Rule 15: That Chief Pleas approves the amended version of the 'The Constitution and Operation of Chief Pleas Committees' as attached to this report, as amended.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**11. 'Committee Mandates – Proposed Amendments' –  
Policy and Performance Committee Report considered –  
Proposition carried as amended**

*To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled 'Committee Mandates – Proposed Amendments'.*

*Proposition*

*That Chief Pleas approves the amended mandates, and remit, as attached to this report, as amended.*

1055 **The President:** Agenda Item 11: To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled 'Committee Mandates – Proposed Amendments'.

I believe it is Conseiller Dunks.

**Conseiller Dunks:** Thank you.

1060 The Report again shows you that in the early part of 2014 the office undertook a project to standardise all committee mandates, assigning to each a list of all legislation the individual committee was to be responsible for. Whilst such a task can never truly be complete, as all things change over time, a stage has been reached where everything is at least up to date.

1065 What is before you is a list of all the mandates and one remit applicable to all committees in a format which is standardised. References to individual persons across individual ... Each separate mandate is now standard. A number of committees have taken the opportunity to make changes to the mandate and I would invite them to make a report after this.

I just have one point to draw attention to, and that is appendix K, the Policy Development Group Remit. Somebody with a sharper eye than I has pointed out that under 'Constitution', the last point: other officials of Chief Pleas and others identified as Expert Volunteers *may* be invited to attend, not 'can'.

If there are any questions or if any of the committees wish to make comment, please feel free to do so.

**The President:** Before we open on general debate, is there any Committee that wishes to point out changes of any significance that they have made to their mandates?

**The President:** Conseiller Diane Baker.

**Conseiller Diane Baker:** The Medical Committee had on its mandate the Sark Children Law and worked closely with the Education Committee. However, as time has progressed, it has become clear that the Education Committee has more in common with this subject than the Medical Committee. In a joint decision it was decided that the Children Law would be best served by the Education Committee having this as part of its mandate. The Sark Children's Panel will be appointed by and work with the Education Committee to ensure the protection and safeguarding of all children in our community. The funding of any work needed will be dealt with in a much clearer way through the Finance and Resources Committee.

**The President:** Thank you.  
Any general debate, please?  
Conseiller Cottle.

**Conseiller Cottle:** Thank you.

This is a comment from Finance and Resources Committee, based on what we have not changed rather than what we have changed, so I have left it until now.

Finance and Resources Committee will be updating its mandate, but has not done it at present, to reflect any changes that will come about due to the review of Sark Shipping recommendations from that review. These will be brought to Chief Pleas in due course, when ready. I believe that this will also affect the Shipping Committee mandate and they will generally relate to the memorandum of understanding and the service level agreement and responsibilities of the two Committees within the mandates, which are not clear at the moment. Further work is needed before the division of responsibilities is finalised, so we have not made the changes to the mandates at the moment.

**The President:** Thank you.  
Conseiller Dunks.

**Conseiller Dunks:** Just one final point. I would point out that, as all legislation is now attached as an appendix to each report, there is no need to bring the whole mandate to Chief Pleas each time some legislation changes. The appendix just needs to be updated in house.

Thank you.

**The President:** So any amendments to committee mandates are basically the constitution and mandate parts, not the appendix. This will change as of today. We have approved two new Ordinances – they can just be added on to the various lists.

Anybody else wishing to speak? No.

In that case we will go to the Proposition: That Chief Pleas approves the amended mandates, and remit, as attached to this report, as amended.'

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**



**12. Securing Sark's Future –  
Policy and Performance Committee Progress Report noted**

*To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee Report entitled 'Securing Sark's Future – Progress Report'.*

*Proposition*

*That Chief Pleas takes note of the contents of this progress report.*

1120 **The President:** Agenda Item 12: To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee Report entitled 'Securing Sark's Future – Progress Report'.  
I would ask the Committee Chairman, Conseiller Maitland, to introduce the Report, please.

**Conseiller Maitland:** The monitoring report attached to the Progress Report gives the up-to-date position with the various work that has been carrying on.

1125 We shall be dealing with sustainable electricity in the next Item, but on land reform Conseiller Raymond would just like to give a brief verbal.

**The President:** Conseiller Raymond.

1130 **Conseiller Raymond:** Thank you, sir.

The PDT has made quite a lot of progress – well, it thinks it has, anyway. The next stage is actually to have a number of public meetings, which will provide a forum for discussion, and we envisage that those will be taking place towards the end of November.

1135 **The President:** Thank you.  
Any questions or comments on the Progress Report?  
Conseiller Audrain.

1140 **Conseiller Audrain:** I realise now I should have put this through the Policy and Performance Committee before I spoke, but I just want to mention about the progress on the Children Law – that in the Report it says that we are carrying out consultation. That has just finished, but we would be very happy to receive any late submissions.  
Thank you.

1145 **The President:** Anything else? No.  
In that case, we will go to the Proposition: 'That Chief Pleas takes note of the contents of this progress report.'  
Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**13. Sustainable Electricity –  
Sustainable Reasonably Priced Electricity Policy Development Team Report considered –  
Proposition carried**

*To consider a Report from the Sustainable Reasonably Priced Electricity Policy Development Team entitled 'Sustainable Electricity'.*

*Proposition*

*That Chief Pleas endorse the strategy of the Sustainable Reasonably Priced Electricity PDT and adopt the form of the draft 'Control of Electricity Prices (Sark) Law, 2015' as a draft for consultation.*

1150 **The President:** We move to Item 13: To consider a Report from the Sustainable Reasonably  
Priced Electricity Policy Development Team entitled 'Sustainable Electricity'.  
I would ask Conseiller Fry, the PDT leader, to introduce the Report, please.

**Conseiller Fry:** Thank you, sir.

1155 There may well be a profound weariness over the whole question of reasonably priced  
sustainable electricity for Sark. The discussion about electricity has gone on for a long time.  
Between July 2010 and January 2015 there have been 73 minuted meetings between Sark  
Electricity Ltd and the Government of Sark, as well as meetings with outside experts.

1160 Earlier this year we kept the residents of Sark up to date with a series of meetings in two  
different locations. At the request of SEL we have had several meetings with a mediator of their  
choice. We have had a single issue: PGG. We have attended David Gordon-Brown's meeting and  
many, many meetings with SEL, with regular emails exchanged, some of which have been copied  
to all and sundry.

Because of all this, my introduction to this Proposition is fairly brief. I believe the Report itself  
sets out the current situation as clearly as possible.

1165 We believe that it is expected and correct for a government in this day and age to ensure that  
the price charged for an essential utility such as electricity is transparent, fair and reasonable  
and that such a supply is sustainable for the future.

1170 During the course of our meetings with residents, Mr Gordon-Brown stated repeatedly that  
in his opinion we were presenting the best option for Sark. Let there be no misunderstanding:  
the Government of Sark wants to buy the assets of Sark Electricity Ltd. We have a once-in-a-  
lifetime opportunity, we believe, within our grasp to install a cable from Guernsey, for Guernsey  
Electricity to run the company on our behalf and the Guernsey government to lend us the capital  
to achieve this. This loan would be repaid over the lifetime of the cable by means of an amount  
being added to the price of each unit used.

1175 Incidentally, Guernsey Electricity would want and expect the company they would run on our  
behalf to be regulated. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts to reach a negotiated agreement  
to purchase SEL, it has, to date, proved impossible. It should not be underestimated how difficult  
it is to reach agreement that a government can reasonably enter into that is acceptable to a  
private company.

1180 Mr Gordon-Brown suggests that he is prepared to sell his company. He says he will agree  
with the valuation but has not agreed the valuation process. We remain open to discussion that  
has a reasonable hope of success. If there was a realistic expectation of reaching a negotiated  
agreement with SEL, the redrafted Law we are presenting today would not need to be put into  
force while negotiations were taking place.

1185 This draft Proposition is being put before Chief Pleas for consultation. SEL have had their say  
and are entitled to have it again. The residents of Sark are entitled to have their say too. Without  
some transparent form of price control our bills could go up and up. There is no evidence of  
them going down as the price of diesel has continued to drop over the last year or so. It would  
be irresponsible of the Government to allow Sark to be exposed in this way.

1190 Before we go to the vote on this Proposition I would remind you again that this is draft  
legislation for consultation. Everyone with an interest in this – and that is everyone on this Island  
and also those we would wish to encourage to come here with their families and businesses –  
must be assured of reasonably priced sustainable electricity for their futures.

1195 This is a big issue, so it would be good to understand both why you intend to vote in favour of  
the Proposition and equally why you intend to vote against it, and of course the Sustainable  
Electricity PDT is happy to answer any questions.

Thank you.

1200 **The President:** If I could ask for hands up from people who wish to make comment or debate.  
Conseiller Rolfe, Conseiller Diane Baker, Conseiller Adams, Conseiller Burgess, Conseiller Roger

Norwich, Conseiller Taylor – my memory is still okay! – Conseiller Cottle waving frantically, Conseiller Maitland and Conseiller Raymond. If I have missed anybody else you can come in later on when I ask again. Conseiller Ventress, you will bring up the rear at the moment.

So we will start off with Conseiller Rolfe, please.

1205

**Conseiller Rolfe:** Thank you, Mr President.

I will be speaking against the recommendation. Firstly, however, I would like to, as I have done in the past, compliment the PDT for the way in which they took us almost to the last fence back in March of this year. What was presented at the public meeting, the suggestion that a cable could be brought over with cheap finance from Guernsey – this is all out in public, incidentally – and that the Guernsey Electric should be awarded a management contract for the whole scheme, I think gave a lot of people at that public meeting a very warm feeling that somehow this was feasible.

1210

But what has happened since then is that there has been a dispute between the PDT and the company over the heads of agreement for valuation, which led to the PDT walking away from the negotiating table back in July, and I think what I would argue is that, for the purposes of actually getting this scheme back on track, the two sides really should continue to negotiate and to try and find an agreement.

1215

What surprises me about this is that the company, who have often said that they are reluctant sellers, are still banging the drum to continue the negotiations. I must say that if I was that reluctant I would actually have walked away myself, but I believe that a last-ditch attempt should be made to obtain an independent valuation of the company. Until that is done we cannot have a financial assessment of whether the project is indeed feasible or not, because that is the last component of expenditure that stacks up on top of the price of the cable and any management costs associated with running the new venture.

1220

1225

All of this, we were assured at the public meeting, would come out of the price per unit of electricity, so we are not looking really at a loan that is taken on by Chief Pleas. What we are looking at is the funding of a scheme by cheap finance, for which the existing customers of the electricity station would be paying out of their unit price.

1230

What this Item is about is regulation, and to me it is another showstopper because the company would rather negotiate without it. I thought it was helpful that Conseiller Fry, in her introductory comments, said that if negotiations could continue then indeed this question of regulation would be put aside whilst they continue. I think that is a correct assessment.

1235

1240

Let me just come briefly to the Projet that is in front of us. I am distinctly uncomfortable with the Projet as it stands. It is not clear how the commissioner's proposed powers of investigation are to be triggered, for instance. This is the independent commissioner who would be asked to look at this. He must have concluded that there are some grounds to suspect that the price being charged is not fair or reasonable, but if, as the draft Projet envisages, the commissioner investigates the position, his function is then limited to determine whether his suspicions are correct. If he does so determine, then his functions will be at an end, because it is at that point that Policy and Performance steps in. It is the Committee, not the commission, which may require the supplier to give an undertaking to charge such a fair price for such a period. In other words, the Committee has the power to set the price. As a member of Policy and Performance, I do not regard it as my job, as a politician, to be setting a price for electricity on this Island.

1245

To me it is a Projet which really is not fit for purpose. The reason why I am opposing going out to consultation on this is because I do not think Chief Pleas really ought to go out to consultation on a Projet which is seen to be not fit for purpose.

1250

Cost is another issue here, because the costs are stacking up. The costs that the company has incurred are stacking up. Our own costs, presumably, through the Law Officers, must be stacking up. And indeed the advice from the company is that if this Projet goes out to public consultation there will be an immediate legal challenge by a petition to the Committee for the Affairs of

Jersey and Guernsey at the Privy Council and, if necessary, proceedings for judicial review. All of that adds to enormous costs, which already go into a six-figure sum.

1255 I did actually suggest that the cost is a major issue to Conseiller Fry yesterday, and she said, 'But we haven't agreed to pay the costs.' That, to me, is something of a misnomer because someone has to pay for those costs, and if they do not come from taxation they will actually come from the price per unit of electricity, because that will be passed on by the company. So, at the end of the day these massive increasing costs will have to be found by the people of Sark, regardless of who pays for them.

1260 I regard this issue as an issue of fiduciary duty. I know that we do not have laws in Sark covering fiduciary duty, but I think every Member must actually understand what their responsibilities are under fiduciary duty, and for that reason, in opposing this, Mr President, I would like to ask for a named vote.

1265 **The President:** Thank you.  
Conseiller Diane Baker, please.

1270 **Conseiller Diane Baker:** Sark Electricity Company has made its point very clear. We have had many emails and a discussion on Monday evening, to which we were all invited, which shows there is not a clear path forward which we can all agree with.

We tasked the PDT with dealing with this subject on our behalf. They were able to discuss whatever needed discussing with whoever was involved. Unfortunately, they have reached a stalemate with Sark Electricity and it is not for the lack of words on either side.

1275 Sark Electric Company would like this Law deferred so more discussions can take place, but it was deferred two years ago and we are still not any closer to having an agreement.

1280 The Proposition clearly reads that this draft is 'for consultation'. You cannot consult if you do not have a draft to discuss. We are criticised for not consulting with the public enough, so I believe we need to take this draft Law out to anyone who is interested in having a say, and let's see what comes back. It may be the Law is not right for us and needs a tweak, or even major changes, but I believe the time is right for us to move forward and let everyone else have a say. Unfortunately, this is seen by the Sark Electric Company as holding a gun to their head, and that is not how I see it or how I believe it is meant to be seen. We do need to make some progress, and I shall vote for this Proposition.

1285 I hope that while the consultation is going on the Sark Electric Company will continue to speak to the Policy Development Team, but this seems doubtful. They made it quite clear at Monday's meeting that to continue looking at this Law did not meet with their approval and they would not continue with talks. Sadly, that sounds as though we have a gun held to our heads.

1290 **The President:** Thank you.  
Conseiller Adams, please.

1295 **Conseiller Adams:** I wholeheartedly agree with every word that Conseiller Fry gave in her introduction.

I support the considerable work of this PDT and thank them for their regular information to Conseillers along the way. I agree that the timing is correct for consultation on this proposed legislation.

1300 **The President:** Thank you.  
Conseiller Burgess.

**Conseiller Burgess:** Thank you.

Conseiller Rolfe actually covered my question pretty much, but in part IV, 'Powers of Committee', section 14(1), where it says:

the Committee may require the supplier to give an undertaking to charge such fair price ...

again, it sounds to me that the Committee is going to be determining what is going to be charged.

But it goes on to section 14(2), where it states:

When determining a fair price for the purposes of subsection (1), the Committee must take all material considerations into account ...

1305 Does that mean the Committee will have access to the accounts, which I understood the commissioner would be doing, not the committee?

Thank you.

**The President:** Conseiller Roger Norwich.

1310

**Conseiller Roger Norwich:** Mr President, I am certainly willing to support this Projet. We have a consultation draft, and 'consultation' means that there is much room for discussion.

I believe that some regulation must be put in place for whoever is going to provide electricity in Sark and I think the discussion needs to move away from whether this is just discussion with a monopoly supplier.

1315

I believe that the Island is making an enormous mistake in pushing forward with the £6 million cable, which, as with all public works, will become and £8 million or £10 million cable by the time it is delivered. I believe that the purchase of a redundant and obsolete electricity company for an amount which will only be agreed at a figure in excess of its actual value is not what the Island needs, because the combination of those costs will be enormous and unsustainable.

1320

I believe that as technology has improved very considerably since all of this discussion started in 2010 we should be going back to look at other alternatives, including renewable energy, which do not require an expensive cable to be brought, and I believe we should look at a community project to bring electricity to the Island and we should aim towards an entirely Island-owned and Island-sustained result, and to really think very, very hard as to whether this is actually a project that we should be taking forward at all.

1325

**The President:** Conseiller Taylor.

1330

**Conseiller Taylor:** Mr President, I must say I do find myself somewhat confused by perhaps the different messages and communications from both parties. However, I do believe the timing of this is wrong. I think the PDT should be concentrating on negotiating the purchase of SEL and seeking the company valuation. At his meeting with Conseillers on Monday night, David Gordon-Brown said that he could agree to the heads of agreement and that the shareholders would agree to sell at a value set by the independent valuer. This could be achieved, he said, in about three months. So I would just ... For me, I do not disagree with regulation but it is the timing that I disagree with.

1335

Thank you.

1340

**The President:** Conseiller Cottle.

**Conseiller Cottle:** Thank you, sir.

1345 It has been suggested to us at the PDT and as Conseillers that this Report and draft legislation should be withdrawn from this meeting. As Conseiller Fry has said, Mr Gordon-Brown has already had his first input on the draft Projet, both by letter from his lawyers and at a meeting that was arranged by him with Conseillers earlier on this week. He believes that there are flaws in the Projet, and if that is the case he is correct to bring our attention to them and it is correct that we look at these arguments.

1350 So, following that, I believe that it is also correct that this is debated today so that all Conseillers also have a public opportunity to express their views, and I also believe that the public should be consulted. This issue is of tremendous importance for all who live on the Island. This should not stop any opportunity for negotiating the sale of the electricity company as sustainable future supply depends on a cable link with Guernsey.

1355 I will support the Proposition while hoping that a solution can be reached to purchase the company in the meantime.

1360 Just one further point that was raised about Law Officer costs: all Law Officers' costs that have been incurred during the assistance that we have received from Guernsey have been covered within the contract that we have with the Law Officers, and no additional costs have been incurred in the work that has been done by the PDT.

**The President:** Thank you.  
Conseiller Maitland.

1365 **Conseiller Maitland:** I have to pinch myself that I am not back in 2012 when I presented a similar report to Chief Pleas on behalf of GP&A. That is three and a half years ago, and although progress has been made, very simply it is vital that we finish this issue and we do not find ourselves back in this situation in another few years.

1370 Back in 2012 there were similar attempts by the electricity company to put pressure on Conseillers before the meeting. We have all received the company's lawyer's letter, which states:

Our clients accept an obligation to charge fair prices and believe that SEL complies with that obligation.

1375 All I can say is that over five to six years and over 70 meetings, most of which I have been involved with, the company has at no time demonstrated the price of electricity is fair and reasonable or opened its books up for scrutiny. Instead, it has chosen to spend tens of thousands of pounds on legal fees in order to avoid exactly this.

I believe this is far too important an issue for the Island and for the future posterity of those of us who live here not to accept the Proposition and go forward with this draft Law.

1380 The company has a de facto monopoly on this Island. We have not got the choice, as you find in England, where you can switch your electricity company or find another supplier. We only have the one supplier, and that supplier should operate in a wholly transparent and reasonable way.

Thank you.

**The President:** Conseiller Raymond.

1385 **Conseiller Raymond:** Thank you, sir.

1390 I view this not as a Proposition to introduce regulation to the pricing of electricity on Sark; rather I see it as the publication of the possibility for the introduction of future price regulation. It is being published now for public consultation, and thus it gives all of the consumers on Sark the opportunity to say whether they wish to see price regulation, and if so, in what way.

The PDT have brought this forward as one of the policies on which they have been working. They have also been working on the possibility of a cable link and the purchase of the company

1395 Sark Electricity. The purchase of the company may or may not go ahead. The cable supply link  
may or may not go ahead. We are looking today at a request from the PDT to ask the Sark  
consumer if they want price regulation of electricity on Sark. The PDT need the sanction of Chief  
Pleas to place the matter in the public domain for debate. We are not committing the Chief  
Pleas to introduce regulation; we are merely approving the wish of the PDT to ask the public.

1400 If we do not pass this Proposition then we are denying the electorate and the consumers of  
Sark the right to comment on an important factor in their future living costs. I believe they have  
a right to express a view. We have a draft Law to consider and that is there for the public to  
comment on. For myself, there are comments that I wish to make and will do so. We have had  
comments from the solicitors for the electricity company. These are worthy contributions to the  
public debate. They deserve careful consideration, but they are a contribution to the debate –  
they should not stop the debate. I therefore suggest that Chief Pleas should vote in favour of the  
1405 Proposition and start that debate. It is wrong to deprive the Island community and the electricity  
consumers of the right to comment on such an important matter.

Thank you.

**The President:** Conseiller Ventress.

1410

**Conseiller Ventress:** I have never been convinced by the arguments from either side, so I  
went to the SEL presentation hoping to have some information to help me fall off the fence. The  
presentation was a lesson in how not to give a presentation to win friends.

1415 What has been lacking throughout from both sides has been facts to support their cases. The  
biggest grouse from ordinary customers is that the price is too high. Sir, I did some calculations  
myself and found a price about halfway between the two figures. We need more facts.

I also find the deadline of 12th November for consultation is too short.

I agree with what Conseiller Rolfe has said, and I also agree with Conseiller Roger Norwich re  
the cable link.

1420

**The President:** Thank you.

Anybody else? Yes, keep your hands up, please. Conseiller Rosanne Byrne, Conseiller Dunks,  
Conseiller Edric Baker.

Conseiller Rosanne Byrne, please.

1425

**Conseiller Rosanne Byrne:** Yes, I would just like to thank the Electricity PDT for all their hard  
work in trying to reach an agreement with Sark Electricity Company.

I believe the time has come to seek the views of all on Sark, so I will be supporting this  
Proposition.

1430 Whatever system of electricity generation we eventually decide on, I believe that the  
regulation draft should be started now and not in another five years.

**The President:** Conseiller Dunks.

1435

**Conseiller Dunks:** At the meeting on Monday evening, hosted by a representative of SEL, it  
was claimed by SEL that the PDT had been unable to accept the latest draft of the heads of  
agreement document and that while the reasons had been conveyed to them verbally this had  
not been done by letter. It was further claimed that SEL was awaiting such a reply before things  
could continue.

1440 Could the PDT confirm that letter was indeed sent out, outlining its reasons it could not  
accept the agreement document? Also, could the PDT explain the reasons it gave?

**The President:** Conseiller Edric Baker.

1445 **Conseiller Edric Baker:** I would rather like that question answered first, if that is possible, before I speak.

**The President:** Yes.

Are you prepared to answer that? Thank you.

1450

**Conseiller Fry:** Yes. On Monday evening David Gordon-Brown said that his letter had not been replied to, and to be absolutely honest, I was not sure which letter he was referring to as there have been many, many letters. But I would confirm that it was replied to at the ... Our lawyer wrote to his lawyer on 1st July. On 10th July I wrote to him explaining what the problems were. I have actually got copies of several letters that clearly stated what the problems were, that you certainly and anyone else is free to look at. One of them was, in fact, put on the website or sent to all Conseillers.

1455

Our biggest issue always has been finance – how much was going to be agreed to pay for the legal costs.

1460

The other sticking point has consistently been that if we did not come to agreement we should agree not to interfere with SEL ever again and to let them do as they wished.

So I hope ... Is that a sufficient ...? Okay.

**The President:** Conseiller Baker.

1465

**Conseiller Edric Baker:** Yes, sir. What we must remember is that electricity is an essential utility. It is absolutely vital that we take that in. We cannot do without electricity. We need it for the community.

1470

One thing that SEL has repeatedly said: tell us what a fair price is. This has happened in meeting after meeting. Well, there is a section in the Law: part III, 'Determination of fair and reasonable price'. It is in the Law. Let it be defined. Let's go ahead with this. Let's go ahead with the consultation. I agree with Conseiller Raymond: let the people of Sark speak, let them enter into the debate.

Thank you, sir.

1475

**The President:** Anybody else before I ask Conseiller Fry to sum up?  
Conseiller Rolfe, please.

1480

**Conseiller Rolfe:** Yes, just to clear up a couple of things, none of us, I think, are arguing against regulation per se, but what we are arguing is that this is something that is actually getting in the way of pursuing the original plan, and it is providing difficulties.

What I am also arguing is that the Projet that we are apparently going out for public consultation on is not fit for purpose, and I do not think that the Chief Pleas really should be doing that.

1485

Conseiller Cottle mentioned the question of the Law Officers' fixed contract. I do hope that he is not suggesting somehow that if Sark taxpayers are not having to pick up the bill for all of this work the Guernsey taxpayers are and that is okay – because it is not.

1490

The final point I would make is that Conseiller Raymond – and also Conseiller Baker, but Conseiller Raymond particularly – came out with this emotive phrase that we are denying the people the right to comment. People can comment. You do not have to actually say to your electors, 'You can't comment until we ask for it.' They can comment at any time.

**The President:** Conseiller Fry to sum up, please. No further questions, unless clarification.  
Conseiller Fry.

1495



**Conseiller Fry:** First of all, I would like to say the draft legislation has been put together by the Law Officers. If there are things that people disagree with, if it is not fit for purpose, this is the time for them to comment, and the comments will be sent back to the Law Officers. We did not make up this Law.

1500 There is one thing I have to agree with Conseiller Rolfe about. I do not always agree with him, but in this instance I think that it would be a very good thing if we could obtain an independent valuation of the company so that we knew what we were talking about. This has to be independent and it has to be done with the agreement of both sides. I think if we knew what we were looking at we would be in a much clearer position.

1505 I would, just to finish, say that if the draft legislation is not accepted by the Chief Pleas for consultation it is actually going against the advice of the Sustainable Electricity PDT and all our expert advisers and putting us in an impossible situation. I would say to all Conseillers you may wish to consider how you would expect the PDT to move forward if this Proposition is not passed.

1510 Thank you.

**The President:** Thank you.

Before we go to the vote, is there anybody who has asked a question in their addresses that they feel has not been answered by Conseiller Fry in her summing up? No.

1515 We will go to the Proposition, and it is a named vote.

*There was a named vote.*

*Carried – Pour 22, Contre 5, No Vote 0, Absent 1*

<b>POUR</b>	<b>CONTRE</b>	<b>NO VOTE</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Conseiller Sandra Williams	Conseiller Burgess	None	Conseiller Richard Dewe
Conseiller Fry	Conseiller Moloney		
Conseiller Adams	Conseiller Rolfe		
Conseiller Elizabeth Dewe	Conseiller Taylor		
Conseiller Dunks	Conseiller Ventress		
Conseiller Paul Williams			
Conseiller Rosanne Byrne			
Conseiller Audrain			
Conseiller Cottle			
Conseiller Blythe			
Conseiller Joyner			
Conseiller Diane Baker			
Conseiller Edric Baker			
Conseiller Peter Byrne			
Conseiller Courtney			
Conseiller Golds			
Conseiller Maitland			
Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich			
Conseiller Roger Norwich			
Conseiller Plummer			
Conseiller Raymond			
Conseiller Nightingale			

**The President:** I declare the vote Pour 22, Contre 5. Therefore, the Proposition is carried.

1520 For the record, because of course this is *Hansard*, I did not read out the Proposition which you had in front of you, but for the record I will read out the Proposition that we voted on, and that was: That Chief Pleas endorse the strategy of the Sustainable Reasonably Priced Electricity PDT and adopt the form of the draft 'Control of Electricity Prices (Sark) Law, 2015' as a draft for consultation.

Thank you.

**14. Terms of Reference for the Establishment Review –  
Policy and Performance Committee Report considered –  
Proposition carried**

*To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled ‘Terms of Reference for the Establishment Review’.*

*Proposition*

*That Conseillers agree the Terms of Reference and Scope for the Establishment Review.*

**The President:** We move to Agenda Item 14: To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled ‘Terms of Reference for the Establishment Review’.

I would ask the Committee Chairman, Conseiller Maitland, to introduce the Report, please.

**Conseiller Maitland:** The Establishment Review stems from the Belinda Crowe Report, where she states:

The new Chief Secretary

– that is the Senior Administrator –

should review existing ‘public service’ roles on the Island to streamline them and eliminate duplication to create efficiencies from within the existing arrangements and provide a more effective all round system of government support.

This was followed by the appointment of the Senior Administrator, and her job description contains the clause that one of her roles is ‘to implement and oversee an annual performance and development review for administration staff, arranging training and advice on pay structure’.

A great deal of progress has been made following the publication of the Crowe Report in May 2012, with only one or two glitches on the way.

An administration, no matter how small, has to keep challenging itself and changing in order to meet the different needs of the times, and there is no doubt that Sark’s structure has developed in a haphazard way, with no common contracts, for instance, or even rates of pay. Some employees have automatic RPI increases and some not.

The Senior Administrator in the UK has conducted these sorts of reviews in a variety of public sector bodies and it is a sign of the growing maturity of Sark’s Government that she has been asked to undertake this establishment review.

Reports and recommendations will be brought to Chief Pleas in due course.

**The President:** Thank you.

Any comment or debate?

Conseiller Adams.

**Conseiller Adams:** I need to declare an interest as a paid employee of a Chief Pleas committee. I am happy to leave while this is discussed, but if I do stay I will not be voting.

**The President:** Thank you.

Any proposals that Conseiller Adams remain or move? Proposal to remain? (**Several Members:** Remain.) Right.

Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich, you have proposed that Conseiller Adams remain.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

Conseiller Peter Byrne.

**Conseiller Peter Byrne:** As Harbourmaster, I am employed by the Harbours Committee and I too ... *[Inaudible]*

1560

**The President:** Yes, you are under the same remit as ...  
Anybody wish to make a declaration? Conseiller Dunks, Conseiller Cottle, Conseiller Paul Williams, Conseiller Golds. Anybody else paid by the Island?  
So we have had declarations of interest from –

1565

**Conseiller Elizabeth Dewe:** I am also ... *[Inaudible]*

1570

**The President:** Conseiller Elizabeth Dewe. That will have shortened the debate somewhat. Conseillers Adams, Peter Byrne, Dunks, Cottle, Paul Williams, Golds and Elizabeth Dewe have all declared an interest as they are paid by the Government of Sark. Is there a wish ...? I will take a vote again that all remain, or they do not.

Those in favour of remaining; those against. **Carried.**  
You may remain. You will not speak unless you are asked to make a technical contribution.  
Any debate?

1575

**Conseiller Fry:** There's nobody left! *(Laughter)*

1580

**The President:** We will go to the Proposition – and remember those who declared an interest do not vote: That Conseillers agree the Terms of Reference and Scope for the Establishment Review.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**15. Isle of Sark Shipping Company Limited  
and the relationship to Chief Pleas acting as shareholder –  
Isle of Sark Shipping Policy Development Team Review Report considered –  
Proposition carried**

*To consider a Report from the Review of Isle of Sark Shipping Policy Development Team entitled 'Review Report: Isle of Sark Shipping Company Limited and the relationship to Chief Pleas acting as shareholder'.*

*Proposition*

*That Chief Pleas accepts the Review Report presented by Mr Milner and adopts the recommendations within it that define a strengthened relationship between IoSS and Chief Pleas as shareholder.*

1585

**The President:** We move to Agenda Item 15: That Chief Pleas accepts the Review Report presented by Mr Milner and adopts the recommendations within it that define a strengthened relationship between IoSS and Chief Pleas as shareholder.

I would ask Conseiller Sandra Williams, the PDT leader, to introduce the Report, please.

**Conseiller Sandra Williams:** Could I just pass this over to Conseiller Robert Cottle, please?

1590

**The President:** Conseiller Cottle, please.

**Conseiller Cottle:** Thank you, sir.

1595 This Report is brought as a result of the work that has been ongoing by the review of the company. This very comprehensive Report by Mr Milner sets out the current position of the Shipping Company and the relationship it has with Chief Pleas of Sark, which wholly owns Isle of Sark Shipping Company. I would like to thank Yan Milner for the detailed thought that has gone into creating this paper.

1600 Several meetings were held with Mr Milner to go through the Report in detail to understand and refine the content. As stated on page 3 of the Report, the Spencer Report recommended the strengthening and formalisation of the company's relationship with Sark Chief Pleas, and this has been partly implemented through the current MOU. Continuing that process and improving the relationship is what this Review Report focuses upon.

1605 The four recommendations of this Report – I believe they are on page 4 ... page 7, sorry – are all about defining the relationship between Chief Pleas, through its delegated committees, and Isle of Sark Shipping Company in a more complete and structured way. This will be to the benefit of both parties as a defined structure will be developed in which everyone understands their own duties, responsibilities and, importantly, the limits of their powers, and also other priorities in the relationship.

1610 The Proposition recommends that Chief Pleas adopts the four points listed on page 7. I will just go through them briefly, giving some kind of summary of what they mean.

1615 Point 1 relates to appendix 1 of the Report, which has quite a detailed setting-out of a model or framework that is being recommended, identifying all the elements involved in the operation of the company and where responsibilities should sit. Within that framework the detail starts to be created by the directors, in conjunction with Chief Pleas through the delegated committees. That will be the ongoing work by the Review PDT, together with the Shipping Committee and the Finance and Resources Committee, in the current Chief Pleas structure. The relationship with Tourism Committee is also shown on the back page diagram of the Report, where it is recommended that the Tourism Committee should work with the Shipping Company on areas of common benefit.

1620 Point 2 of the recommendations recognises that the MOU needs strengthening. It is out of date, since the Chief Pleas structure changed this year, and it is limited in scope. However, it is a good basis to build upon.

1625 The third point is very important, advising that operational matters of Isle of Sark Shipping Company are the business of the Shipping Committee and financial aspects are delegated to the Finance and Resources Committee, so that there are checks in place and so that the desired service supplied by the company does not suffer due to demands for financial performance or vice versa. The two Committees will make sure that a balance is achieved between providing the best possible service to customers and running it in a financially viable way that is sustainable. All parties involved will act with the common goal of an optimised lifeline service. That is the target operating model that is the subject of this Report.

1630 Point 4, about recruiting, is what we are already doing with the report coming up – I believe it is the next report, 'Appointment of Directors'. That is what we are doing already, so point 4 is in progress. However, defining roles and responsibilities in a better structure will make it easier for the new directors and for the Committees of Chief Pleas to carry out their duties.

1635 In summary, that is what the Proposition recommends adopting. It is not then a finished set of instructions but a better basis for the relationship between Sark Shipping and Chief Pleas, which will then be developed for bringing back to Chief Pleas when finalised. This will be an updated and expanded MOU or an equivalent document.

1640 The Shipping Review Policy Development Team proposes that this latest section of the review is accepted and that the four recommendations are adopted to move forward in improving and strengthening the relationship between Isle of Sark Shipping Company and Chief Pleas through its delegated Committees.

I would welcome any comment before putting the Proposition.

1645 **The President:** Hands up, please, those who wish to put questions or debate. Conseiller  
Adams, Conseiller Audrain.  
Conseiller Adams, please.

1650 **Conseiller Adams:** There is much in this Report which to me makes very good sense.  
Clarification of roles and responsibilities both within the company and between the company  
and Chief Pleas is crucial. The service level agreement (SLA) does need to be extended and  
strengthened and it should sit with a separate committee. Certainly the MOU needs updating.

1655 I was also very pleased to hear from Conseiller Cottle's introduction that this is the  
framework only, the basis on which the suggested model will operate, and that it will require  
further discussion and refinement before implementation.

**The President:** Conseiller Audrain.

1660 **Conseiller Audrain:** Yes, I would commend Mr Yan Milner for an excellent Report which really  
gives us the information we need. I must admit that it took me a long time to read and digest  
this Report but, when you really look at it, it does give all the information on which to base  
discussions, as Conseiller Adams has said. It is written in a very positive way and I feel happy,  
from reading this, that the things that are mentioned are going to move forward as soon as  
possible, and I look forward to the outcomes.

1665 Thank you.

**The President:** Anyone else wishing to raise comment or debate? No.

1670 In that case we will go to the Proposition in the Report: that Chief Pleas accepts the Review  
Report presented by Mr Milner and adopts the recommendations within it that define a  
strengthened relationship between Isle of Sark Shipping (IoSS) and Chief Pleas as shareholder.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

With the time at four minutes to one o'clock, I am now going to call the lunch recess. We will  
return at 2 p.m.

*Chief Pleas adjourned at 12.54 p.m.  
and resumed its sitting at 1.58 p.m.*

**16. Executive and Non-Executive Directors –  
Shipping Committee Report considered –  
Propositions carried**

*To consider a Report from the Shipping Committee entitled 'Executive and Non-Executive  
Directors'.*

*Proposition 1*

*That Chief Pleas accepts the appointment of Mr Paul Michael Garlick to the post of Full Time  
Director for a period of three years commencing Monday 2nd November (2015).*

*Proposition 2*

*That Chief Pleas accepts the appointment of Mr Paul Bumard to the post of Part Time Director  
for a period of three years commencing Thursday 1st October (2015).*

*Proposition 3*

*That Chief Pleas accepts the appointment of Captain Peter Francis Gill to the post of Non-Executive Director for a period of one year commencing Thursday 1st October (2015).*

*Proposition 4*

*That Chief Pleas accepts the appointment of Colonel Richard Graham to the post of Non-Executive Director for a period of one year commencing Thursday 1st October (2015).*

*Proposition 5*

*That Chief Pleas accepts the appointment of Mr Mark Dunster to the post of Non-Executive Director for a period of one year commencing Thursday 1st October (2015).*

*Proposition 6:*

*That Chief Pleas accepts the appointment of Mrs Julie Mann to the post of Non-Executive Director for a period of one year commencing Thursday 1st October (2015).*

*Proposition 7*

*That the fee for an Executive Director of £40,000 p.a. and the fee for a part-time Executive Director (Finance) of £11,000 p.a. be approved (subject to employers' social insurance contributions).*

*Proposition 8*

*That fees of four Non-Executive Directors are approved, each with a gross annual fee of £3,000.*

*Proposition 9*

*That a total expenditure of £83,000 (plus social insurance costs) by the Isle of Sark Shipping Company Limited is approved for the year commencing Oct 1st 2015 for the fees of Directors and the fee for the remaining duration of the Review.*

1675 **The President:** Thank you all for being back promptly.

We will now move on to Agenda Item 16: To consider a Report from the Shipping Committee entitled 'Executive and Non-Executive Directors'.

I shall be asking the Committee Chairman, Conseiller Adams, to introduce the main Report and deal with the Propositions contained within it. Then the late update report will be  
1680 introduced by Conseiller Cottle and we will deal with the Propositions on that update report.

Conseiller Adams, please.

1685 **Conseiller Adams:** I would like to start my introduction to this Report by saying a thank you to the retiring director of Isle of Sark Shipping, Mr Colin Smith, whose last official day in post is today.

Colin came out of retirement from Guernsey Electricity to join Mrs Julie Mann at the company in March 2009. During his six and a half years as an Executive Director he has been fully dedicated to the company and for the first two years of the post he chose not to be remunerated. Together, he and Julie Mann worked extremely hard and they turned the  
1690 company around, bringing it to the point where it is very nearly free of the debt they inherited. Colin is highly thought of by the staff and will be greatly missed by them.

The recruitment of new directors for the Isle of Sark Shipping Company has been interesting and challenging. If we had to do it again, we would like much longer. Because we needed to carry out the recruitment process thoroughly and allow sufficient time between all steps, it  
1695 meant that we were not able to distribute details about the successful candidates prior to the closing of the Chief Pleas Agenda on 2nd September. I was pleased, however, to be able to email

Conseillers, the President and the shareholder trustees last week with details of the selected candidates.

1700 We received 21 applications from high-quality candidates and 10 interviews were carried out in Guernsey and in Sark. The recruitment panel working on behalf of the Shipping Committee was comprised of myself, Conseiller Richard Dewe from the Shipping Committee, Conseiller Robert Cottle (F&R), Conseiller Arthur Rolfe (P&P), and the current directors, Mr Colin Smith and Mrs Julie Mann. The standard of applicants was extraordinarily high and so we are now pleased to be able to put forward the following names for positions on the board of directors of IoSS.

1705 Mr Paul Michael Garlick to the role of full-time Executive Director with responsibility for operations. Mr Garlick is a chartered engineer and an experienced senior executive with 15 years' experience as a managing director. He is a Guernsey resident who is currently employed as a consultant in Aberdeen. He has negotiated his terms of notice so he can commence his post at the company on Monday, 2nd November. His business experience has enabled him to demonstrate the range of leadership skills we were looking for in the appointment of an Executive Director for IoSS.

1710 We would like to propose Mr Paul Burnard to the role of part-time Executive Director with responsibility for Finance. Mr Burnard is a chartered accountant and a Guernseyman born and bred. He is currently an associate director of a firm of chartered accountants and business consultants and has been with that company since 1987. To the role of ED at IoSS he will bring his financial acumen and a strong ethos of company loyalty and employee welfare.

1715 We would like to propose Capt. Peter Francis Gill to the role of Non-Executive Director. Capt. Gill served as Guernsey Harbourmaster from 2005 to 2013. Prior to that he worked his way from apprentice to Chief Officer at Shell Tankers (UK) Ltd, and then held a range of port and terminal-based management posts. He is, as you would expect, fully conversant with all local maritime matters and will bring this experience to the post.

1720 We would like to propose Colonel Richard Graham LVO, MBE to the role of Non-Executive Director. Colonel Graham is best known to the residents and Government of Sark from his time as ADC to four Lieutenant Governors of Guernsey from 1998 to 2012. During that time there were very few meetings of Chief Pleas which he did not manage to attend. His principal motivation for applying for the role of Non-Executive Director is to be of service to Sark and its people.

1725 Finally – oh, no, not quite finally. We would next like to propose Mr Mark Dunster to the role of Non-Executive Director. Mr Dunster is an advocate and a partner for Carey Olsen in Guernsey. He is currently Chairman of the Guernsey Bar Association, known as Battonier, and a Douzanier of the Parish of St Peter. He will bring to the NED role at IoSS a razor-sharp scrutiny and oversight.

1730 Mrs Julie Mann was appointed a director of IoSS in October 2008 and we are very pleased that she will continue in her role as Non-Executive Director, and we also wish to propose her today as well.

1735 The Shipping Committee, the current directors and the members of the recruitment panel are in unanimous agreement that at this stage in the company, with the review ongoing and the recommendations from that review, once approved by Chief Pleas, to be implemented with skill and care, this proposed full board of directors will serve the company very well indeed.

1740 **The Seigneur:** Can I just add a vote of thanks on behalf of the trustees to Colin Smith for his contribution to the company, which has been, as you said, exemplary.  
Thank you.

1745 **Several Members:** Hear, hear.

**The President:** Any debate, please, on the main Report? Any questions? No.  
In that case, we will go to the vote on the six Propositions for each of the directors.

1750 Proposition 1: that Chief Pleas accepts the appointment of Mr Paul Michael Garlick to the post of full-time Executive Director for a period of three years commencing Monday, 2nd November 2015.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

1755 Proposition 2: that Chief Pleas accepts the appointment of Mr Paul Bumard to the post of part-time Executive Director for a period of three years commencing Thursday, 1st October 2015.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

Proposition 3: that Chief Pleas accepts the appointment of Capt. Peter Francis Gill to the post of Non-Executive Director for a period of one year commencing Thursday, 1st October 2015.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

1760 Proposition 4: that Chief Pleas accepts the appointment of Colonel Richard Graham to the post of Non-Executive Director for a period of one year commencing Thursday, 1st October 2015.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

1765 Proposition 5: that Chief Pleas accepts the appointment of Mr Mark Dunster to the post of Non-Executive Director for a period of one year commencing Thursday, 1st October 2015.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

Proposition 6: that Chief Pleas accepts the appointment of Mrs Julie Mann to the post of Non-Executive Director for a period of one year commencing Thursday, 1st October 2015.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

1770 Conseiller Cottle, please.

**Conseiller Cottle:** Thank you.

1775 As required by section 10 of the MOU between Sark Shipping Company and Chief Pleas, the update report that you received brings three Propositions to Chief Pleas for approval. Related to the appointments just made, the fees for the two Executive Directors and the four non-executive directors and the total expenditure for the year commencing 1st October 2015 – that is tomorrow – are set out in the report. These have to be approved by Chief Pleas, so we bring them here in relation to the appointments just approved. These fees are recommended by the current directors and the interview panel as being appropriate to the appointments. They are 1780 £40,000 to the full-time Executive Director, £11,000 to the part-time Executive Director (Finance) and £3,000 per appointee for the Non-Executive Directors. All those sums are per annum and, as you will have seen in the report, the Executive Director appointments are subject to social insurance contributions to Guernsey States made by the company on their behalf.

1785 Next year – that is commencing tomorrow – the total expenditure on directors and management will be increased due to the remaining period of the review that is ongoing. As the new Executive Director will not be in post until November, that will reduce the extra that is reported in the report to just being an extra £2,500 next year above the current year's budget for directors and management review. This amount for next year is budgeted by the company in their expenditure budget for next year. It is their commitment to make the payments, it is not 1790 Chief Pleas', but we have to approve it, so this is why this is brought here.

In the meantime, Yan Milner will continue in post so that the review will be completed and, as caretaker manager, his knowledge will be invaluable in integrating, assisting and handing over to the new directors over the remaining period of the contract.

1795 The Finance and Resources Committee and Shipping Committee support the company in recommending these fees and ask that the three following Propositions at the bottom of the Report are approved.

Thank you.

**The President:** Any questions or comment, please? No.

1800 In that case, we will go to the vote on the three Propositions, which are numbered as follows.



Proposition 7: that the fee for an Executive Director of £40,000 p.a. and the fee for a part-time Executive Director (Finance) of £11,000 p.a. be approved, subject to employers' social insurance contributions.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

1805 Proposition 8: that fees of four Non-Executive Directors are approved, each with a gross annual fee of £3,000.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

1810 Proposition 9: that a total expenditure of £83,000 (plus social insurance costs) by the Isle of Sark Shipping Company Limited is approved for the year commencing 1st October 2015 for the fees of directors and the fee for the remaining duration of the Review.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**17. Audit of Island's Financial Statements –  
Finance and Resources Committee Report considered –  
Proposition 1 carried as amended, Proposition 2 carried**

*To consider a Report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled 'Audit of Island's Financial Statements'.*

*Proposition 1*

*That Chief Pleas requests the Law Officers of the Crown to draft an amendment to Section 62 of the Reform (Sark) Law, 2008 to remove the requirement for an Audit and to replace it with the requirement for an Independent Review carried out under International Standards.*

*Proposition 2*

*That Chief Pleas approves that the Accounts of the Procureur should be included in the Audit or equivalent Review of the Island's Financial Statements commencing with the year 2015 Accounts.*

**The President:** Agenda Item 17: To consider a Report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled 'Audit of Island's Financial Statements'.

I would ask the Committee Chairman, Conseiller Cottle, to introduce the Report, please.

1815

**Conseiller Cottle:** Sorry, I keep popping back up!

Moving away from shipping matters for a minute, this concerns the audit of the Island's Financial Statements.

1820 I did make contact with the President last night that we wanted to change the Proposition at the bottom of this because I spotted a small error in the Proposition. I will just mention it now. In Proposition 1, where it mentions section 62 of the Reform Law, there is actually reference to the audit in sections 62 and 63 of the Reform Law, so I would like to change the Proposition so as to replace the words 'Section 62' with 'Sections 62 and 63'. The rest of it will remain as is.

1825 Briefly, there are two Propositions here, firstly relating to the current audit that is carried out each year in accordance with section 63 of the Reform Law. Current international standards on auditing are for larger, more complex organisations than Sark, and the attached letter from KPMG, our currently appointed auditor, recommends that a review to the appropriate standard is better suited to Sark. A review to the international approved standard would give assurance that the Financial Statements have been examined and a full opinion would be expressed on the  
1830 correctness of them. That would remove the need for a qualified opinion, which KPMG could in future find unsustainable. As the Reform Law currently requires an audit of the Financial

Statements to be made, Proposition 1 requests permission to instruct the Law Officers to draft an amendment Project replacing 'Audit' with 'Review' in sections 62 and 63. It should be emphasised that the purpose of replacing 'Audit' with 'Review' is to have the appropriate complete examination of the Island's Financial Statements, not to put in place a cheaper, less rigorous process. That deals with the first Proposition.

1835

Proposition 2 asks Chief Pleas' approval to include a confidential examination of the Procureur's accounts in the process carried out by the auditors, be it an audit or a review. Given that assurance of confidentiality which we have received from KPMG, this Committee, after discussion with the Douzaine, recommends that those accounts are included, so that an unqualified opinion is received. This will not compromise the confidential nature of the work of the Procureur.

1840

That is all I have to say at the moment, sir. Thank you.

1845

**The President:** Thank you.

Any comments or debate, please? No.

In that case we will go to the vote on the two Propositions in the Report. Proposition 1 is amended, as has been verbally given to you, so the Proposition to be approved is:

*That Chief Pleas requests the Law Officers of the Crown to draft an amendment to Sections 62 and 63 of the Reform (Sark) Law, 2008 to remove the requirement for an Audit and to replace it with the requirement for an Independent Review carried out under International Standards.*

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

1850

Proposition 2: That Chief Pleas approves that the Accounts of the Procureur should be included in the Audit or equivalent Review of the Island's Financial Statements commencing with the year 2015 Accounts.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**18. Isle of Sark Shipping Company; Request for Short Term Loan 2016 –  
Finance and Resources Committee Report considered –  
Proposition carried**

*To consider a Report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled 'Isle of Sark Shipping Company; Request for Short Term Loan 2016'.*

*Proposition*

*That Chief Pleas approves a short term in-year loan to Isle of Sark Shipping Company of up to £200,000 be made available from January 1st 2016 with repayment made by 31st August 2016 on terms agreed with the Finance and Resources Committee.*

1855

**The President:** Agenda Item 18: To consider a Report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled 'Isle of Sark Shipping Company; Request for Short Term Loan 2016'.

Conseiller Cottle, please.

**Conseiller Cottle:** Back to shipping, then: Sark Shipping request for a for a short-term loan 2016.

1860

This is the third request by Isle of Sark Shipping Company for a short-term winter loan to provide cash for the period commencing 1st January 2016. Again, it will be an in-year loan with repayment in full in August 2016 together with interest at the agreed rate of 1% per annum. This

year, £150,000 of the £200,000 facility was drawn, and while £200,000 is again requested, it is anticipated at present that the full amount will not be drawn.

1865 When Mr Yan Milner was appointed last Michaelmas, the first part of his brief was to look at  
the expenditure of the company through the final months of 2014 with a view to making  
sustainable savings through the winter and keeping borrowing within the agreed limits. This he  
achieved through working with the directors and all the company's staff, and it put Isle of Sark  
Shipping Company in a strong position going into the summer season. That meant that even  
1870 when poor weather reduced day visitor numbers to some extent in July and August it did not  
have a great effect on the year.

The current financial year of IoSS, ending today, has been successful for the company and the  
directors have reported that a modest profit, slightly above budget, is confidently predicted. This  
is not finalised but will not change significantly. That will be reported as a final figure in the  
1875 annual accounts, but that is not for today. Therefore, going forward, the position is continuing to  
improve as winter approaches and, given continued careful monitoring and control of costs, the  
required drawings will be less than this year.

Having completed repayment of the first Lombard loan and with the final instalment of the  
second loan due for repayment next June, it is anticipated that a further short-term loan will not  
1880 be required for the following winter of 2017. That is, of course, dependent on continued  
profitable trading for the next financial year.

Isle of Sark Shipping is now in a much more stable financial position looking forward, and that  
is due to the continued efforts of all those involved within the company.

I would just like to add my comments about Colin Smith here. Particularly, I wish to thank  
1885 Colin Smith for the considerable time and effort that he has put into his role as Executive  
Director responsible for finance since 2009. As announced earlier, Colin is retiring today and I  
add my wish that he has a long and happy retirement and that we continue to see him visiting  
Sark in the future.

Back to the loan, the cashflow forecasts for the period of the loan have been received by the  
1890 Sark Treasurer. These indicate that the projected company bank balance will be sufficient to go  
into next January without borrowing and the first drawdown can be then made. Further  
drawdown will be as required, within the limit of the request of £200,000, and repayment will  
be made in August, as indicated.

As before, monthly financial information will be supplied by the company to the Sark  
1895 Treasurer through the next year to allow continued monitoring of performance and to give early  
warning of any variance from budget.

On this basis, Finance and Resources Committee recommend the Proposition to approve a  
further in-year loan as requested by the directors of the Isle of Sark Shipping Company.

Any questions before the Proposition? Thank you.

1900

**The President:** Any questions or debate, please? No.

Then we will go to the Proposition in the Report: That Chief Pleas approves a short term in-  
year loan to the Isle of Sark Shipping Company of up to £200,000 to be made available from 1st  
January 2016 with repayment made by 31st August 2016 on terms agreed with the Finance and  
1905 Resources Committee.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**19. Independent Election Observer's Recommendations –  
Policy and Performance Committee Report noted**

*To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled 'Independent Election Observer's Recommendations'.*

**The President:** Agenda Item 19: To consider an information report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled 'Independent Election Observer's Recommendations'.

I would ask the Committee Chairman to introduce the Report, please.

1910

**Conseiller Maitland:** I would like to ask Conseiller Rolfe to do this, please.

**The President:** Conseiller Rolfe, please.

1915

**Conseiller Rolfe:** This is really an information item so that everybody in this House and everybody outside knows that we have not just filed this Report.

As it says, it will be coming up for public consultation in the autumn and the timetabling of it is such that we wish to get any comments incorporated or agreed before the next elections.

1920

**The President:** Thank you.

Any comments or debate, please? No.

**20. Maintenance Point Robert Lighthouse –  
Policy and Performance Committee Report noted**

*To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled 'Maintenance Point Robert Lighthouse'.*

**The President:** We will then move on to Agenda Item 20: To consider an information report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled 'Maintenance Point Robert Lighthouse'.

I would ask the Committee Chairman, Conseiller Maitland, to introduce, please.

1925

**Conseiller Maitland:** I would like to ask Conseiller Jane Norwich to deal with this.

**The President:** Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich, please.

1930

**Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich:** The Report is really an early notice of works to be taking place at Point Robert. Policy and Performance have co-ordinated all the relevant committees to support the work and I think you will find that the Trinity House clear report states what work is involved and the significant hazardous material that needs to be dealt with.

I hope you will find the Report explanatory.

1935

**The President:** Thank you.

Any questions or debate, please? No.

**21. La Ville Roussel Trust Housing Loans –  
Finance and Resources Committee Report noted**

*To consider a Report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled ‘La Ville Roussel Trust Housing Loans’.*

1940 **The President:** In that case we will move on to the next Item, Item 21: To consider an information report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled ‘La Ville Roussel Trust Housing Loans’.

I would ask the Committee Chairman, Conseiller Cottle, to introduce, please.

1945 **Conseiller Cottle:** Thank you. I have just got three lines here to introduce this. Finance and Resources Committee brings the Report to Chief Pleas at the request of the trustees of the loan fund to report the current position of the fund.

If anyone wishes to have more information or discuss the scheme, then they should contact the Greffier via his office. If there are any questions today, please could you direct them to the trustees.

1950 I believe the Seigneur has volunteered to answer any questions, if they are appropriate, on the day.

Thank you.

1955 **The President:** Any questions, please?  
Conseiller Rolfe.

1960 **Conseiller Rolfe:** Yes. Some electors have in fact asked if it would be possible to relax the terms of the La Ville Roussel Trust for housing loans. The money could be loaned to the users and owners of the slaughterhouse to be repaid. The terms of this repayment could be agreed by all parties.

Another suggestion would be, as the funds in the Trust seem to be under the given criteria, would it be possible to use the fund to stimulate small works and home improvements by allowing people to apply for smaller amounts for upgrading and improving their homes? I just wondered if the Committee had given consideration to that.

1965 **The President:** Seigneur.

1970 **The Seigneur:** The management of La Ville Roussel Trust is very curtailed by the Laws governing that particular Trust and, as it stands at the moment, it would not be able to vary without changing the Law.

1975 **The President:** As a trustee, I will say that the information just provided by Conseiller Rolfe in regard to that ... we have, as a matter of courtesy, put it onto our next trustees’ meeting agenda.

**Conseiller Rolfe:** Okay, thank you for that.

1980 **The President:** So we will look at those two points, but we are constrained by the La Ville Roussel Trust Law.

**Conseiller Rolfe:** Thank you for that.

**The President:** Anybody else? No.

**22. Annual Report on Sark School –  
Education Committee Information Report noted**

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

1985 **The President:** In that case we will move on to Agenda Item 22: To consider an Information Report from the Education Committee entitled ‘Annual Report on Sark School’.

I would ask the Chairman of the Committee, Conseiller Audrain, to introduce the Report, please.

1990 **Conseiller Audrain:** Thank you.

I am very pleased to present this Report from the Education Committee, which shows how hard the school has worked throughout the year to deliver a wide and interesting curriculum. I feel that it also shows the many ways in which the school has a high profile within the community.

1995 There is lots in the Report about the things that have happened in the school and the achievements, and a comment I would like to make is that the school and the Education Committee are very pleased with the development of the school, but we are not complacent about the achievements.

2000 I would direct you to the paragraph within the Report that explains how we are carrying out inspection and review of the curriculum, which will lead to further development of the school.

Thank you.

**The President:** Any questions of Education on the Report, please? A very comprehensive Report.

2005 Yes, Conseiller Adams.

2010 **Conseiller Adams:** It is not a question. I would like to congratulate the Education Committee for bringing this extremely comprehensive Report to Chief Pleas and for facilitating a high-quality education for the children of Sark. The teaching staff are also to be praised for ensuring that there are many different ways for the children of Sark School to shine, including, of course, the traditional academic route.

**Regulations laid before Chief Pleas –  
The Motor Vehicles (Sark) (Amendment) Regulations, 2015**

**The President:** That, then, concludes the Business of the Day and just leaves us with the Regulations laid before Chief Pleas.

2015 The Regulations laid before Chief Pleas are The Motor Vehicles (Sark) (Amendment) Regulations, 2015.

There have been no motions to annul the Regulations; therefore the Regulations remain extant and those Regulations will be numbered I of 2015.

**Procedural**

2020 **The President:** The closing date for Agenda Items and reports for the Christmas Meeting of  
Chief Pleas, to be held on Wednesday, 20th January 2016, is Friday, 11th December at 3 p.m.,  
with papers going out not later than 18th December.

2025 I will just add that after the Christmas Meeting you have six weeks to get your papers in for  
the Easter Meeting. The Christmas Meeting is quite late, the Easter Meeting is very early, and  
therefore there is going to be a very short turnover between the Christmas Meeting and Easter.  
So, when you are developing reports for Christmas, can I ask you to please bear in mind any  
reports you want to bring for Easter, because there is going to be a very short timeframe to then  
bring them forward.

Greffier, the Grace, please.

**PRAYER**

*The Greffier*

*Chief Pleas closed at 2.32 p.m.*