



OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

MICHAELMAS MEETING

OF CHIEF PLEAS

OF THE

ISLAND OF SARK

HANSARD

Assembly Room, Sark, Wednesday, 5th October 2016

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Present:

Seigneur

Maj. C M Beaumont Esq

President of Chief Pleas

Lt Col. R J Guille MBE

Deputy Prévôt

Mrs J Godwin

Greffier

Mr T J Hamon

Treasurer

Mrs W Kiernan FCA

Constable

Mr P S La Trobe-Bateman

Vingtenier

Mr G Williams

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor

Vice Admiral Sir Ian Corder KBE, CB

Conseillers:

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

Paul Burgess
Peter Byrne
Charles Maitland
Nicolas Moloney
Elizabeth Norwich
Dr 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 25 Conseillers, the Seigneur and the President of Chief Pleas present.

The President: I present apologies from Conseiller Gold.

Welcome to HE Lieutenant Governor, Vice Admiral Sir Ian Corder KBE, CB and his wife, Lady Corder

5 **The President:** Your Excellency, I welcome you to this your second attendance at Chief Pleas, having been to the Guernsey version on Monday. I would also like to extend that welcome to Lady Corder on her second visit to Sark but her first at Chief Pleas. Lady Corder will be leaving after Item 6 to visit with the school.

10 I had informed Members that Crown Advocate, Yousef Kahn, who works in the commercial team at St James' Chambers, is seated in the public gallery. Are you?

A Member: No, he is unwell, Mr President.

The President: No, he is not; he is unwell. We will meet Yousef Kahn at a later date.

Role of Deputy Seigneur – Announcement of Miss Jan Guy and thanks to Dr Richard Axton – Statement by the Seigneur

15 **The President:** Seigneur, you wish to make a statement.

20 **The Seigneur:** Conseillers, at the last Chief Pleas I informed you that Dr Richard Axton had very kindly agreed to continue as Deputy Seigneur but I also said that he had asked for that to be as temporary as possible, so I am delighted that I have asked and it has been accepted that Miss Jan Guy will take over from him and I am very grateful for her stepping up to that plate. Thank you very much.

For Richard, thank you not only from me but particularly from my father for all the attention you have given him over the past years. We are very grateful.

**Tribute to retiring President, Lt Col. R J Guille MBE –
Statement by the Seigneur**

25 **The Seigneur:** One more thing before I sit down – and I am going to break with protocol,
Reg – sorry. Reg has been President since 2013, have you not? (**The President:** Yes.) I believe he
sat in 14 ordinary Chief Pleas and eight Extraordinary Chief Pleas. He is absolutely diligent and
meticulous and he has an eye for detail that defies belief.

30 On a personal note, if I ever have a question about anything on Sark, Reg is always my first
port of call and invariably he knows the answer to the question immediately – and if he does
not, he certainly knows who I can go and ask instead.

I would also like to thank you on behalf of Father, who I know valued your loyalty and
friendship over the years, so for that, thank you very much. I believe there will be some further
stuff later.

**Thanks to retiring Director of Commercial Law, Mr Martin Thornton –
Statement by Conseiller Fry**

35 **The President:** Statement by Conseiller Fry, please.

Conseiller Fry: Thank you.

40 Martin Thornton, the Director of Commercial Law in St James' Chambers, is retiring; indeed, I
understand he has been attempting to retire for several months. I would like to ask Chief Pleas,
please, to record an enormous vote of thanks to him for all his help over the years. Any of us
who have benefitted from his wisdom and razor-sharp legal brain have felt very privileged, and
we would like this to go on public record, please.

At the same time, we wish Yousef Kahn, who succeeds him as Director of Commercial Law,
every success and we look forward to working with him.

Thank you.

**Top Level Domain and ISO status for Sark –
Statement by Conseiller Dr Roger Norwich**

45 **The President:** A statement by Conseiller Dr Roger Norwich.

Conseiller Dr Roger Norwich: Thank you.

50 The Top Level Domain (TLD) Policy and Development Team (PDT) is pleased to be able to
update Chief Pleas on progress made since approval was given by Chief Pleas to move ahead in
its work towards obtaining a Top Level Domain and ISO status for Sark.

The purpose of the initiative, Members should be reminded, is to attempt to develop and
expand opportunities in e-commerce for Sark and to widen business opportunities both for
entrepreneurial residents and potentially create revenue for Sark's Government.

55 As previously made clear, the obtaining of TLD status is a technically laborious process
involving considerable interaction with a large number of UK and international agencies,
including ICANN, BSI and ISO. This involves very considerable input both from ourselves and
from our commercial partners, Webster Marketing, as well as further technical assistance from
Central Nic. By engaging with those parties, the TLD has largely been able to avoid calling on any
support services from Chief Pleas.

60 To date, the TLD has had a number of meetings in London, Sark and Guernsey, both with Webster Marketing and Central Nic, and we have jointly had a long preliminary meeting with the Law Officers, particularly Anthony Ellis at St James' Chambers in Guernsey, regarding this project. This is shortly to be followed up by a further meeting of the TLD, PDT members with the Law Officers in Guernsey.

65 Advice was given by the Law Officer regarding the due diligence which will be needed regarding any future commercial arrangements between the parties, and it was suggested that it was likely that an extension of the exclusivity period between the parties would eventually be needed to cover the work which we need to engage in to complete this project.

70 A further meeting has been held with the Senior Administrator, Miss Kath Jones, to brief her on background discussions. Several areas were discussed, including those relating to the potential benefits to Sark of obtaining ISO and TLD status; also, reputational issues and the use of administrative resources was discussed and PDT was able to give continued reassurance that minimal administrative resources would be sought by the PDT in its future work.

**Inter-Island Environment Meeting –
Statement by Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich**

75 **The President:** A statement by Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich, please.

Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich: Ten days ago I attended as a Sark representative on the Inter-Island Environment Meeting in Guernsey at Castle Cornet: two days of fascinating work on all aspects of the environment in the Channel Islands and its links further afield. Sark has never hosted this important event but because, as some of you are aware, our Ramsar site at Gouliot Caves and Headland has its tenth anniversary next year, so it will be coming to Sark, likely to be in the third week in September, subject to tides.

80 There are likely to be 50-plus attendees staying probably for two nights with a wide range of activities across the Island. The event will be open to all and details, once they are confirmed, will be up in the usual places.

85 **The President:** Thank you.

**Normandy Summit 2016 –
Statement by Conseiller Maitland**

The President: Statement by Conseiller Maitland, please.

Conseiller Maitland: Thank you, sir.

90 In my external relations role, I attended the Normandy Summit held in Jersey on 16th September.

95 Since last year's meeting held at Mont St Michel, Lower and Upper Normandy have been brought together to form one region, which was represented at this summit by its new President, Monsieur Hervé Morin, who was also joined by Monsieur Philippe Bas, President of the Département of La Manche.

A new Co-operation Agreement was signed with Sark joining in as an associate member. Alderney could not make it so they were especially pleased to have at least one of the smaller islands represented. I was able to emphasise the importance to Sark of the Manche Isles' link

and talked at length to the Vice-President of La Manche in charge of infrastructure who emphasised their commitment to this connection.

The new President of Normandy is determined to build on these links and I was particularly interested that Jersey is planning a bilingual primary school, for instance. There is certainly scope for school teacher exchanges as well as other initiatives.

The President: Thank you.

**Tribute to Conseiller Elsie Courtney on resignation –
Statement by the President**

The President: I will just say a few words next on Mrs Elsie Courtney who as you all know tendered her resignation at the end of the last Extraordinary Meeting.

Mrs Courtney first stood for election in December 1999 but was unsuccessful, missing claiming a seat by four votes. Mrs Courtney stood again in December 2014 and was one of the 16 candidates who were elected when only 16 candidates stood for 16 seats. Mrs Courtney resigned as a Conseiller at the conclusion of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 25th August this year, having completed 19 months of her four-year term.

During her time as a Conseiller, Mrs Courtney served on the Development Control, the Douzaine, the Emergency Services, Tourism and, from January 2016, Harbours and Pilotage Committees. Mrs Courtney also served on the Fire Precautions and Top Level Domain PDTs.

On behalf of Chief Pleas, I thank her for her service to the community as a Conseiller.

**Sark Community Blooms Steering Group –
Statement by Conseiller Paul Williams**

The President: Statement by Conseiller Paul Williams, please.

Conseiller Paul Williams: Thank you, sir.

It gives me very much pleasure to give the following report to Chief Pleas, Sark and its people. Two years of hard work by the Sark Community Blooms Steering Group, aided by a large number of local residents and visitors, has resulted in Sark receiving the Lady Dorey trophy at the Floral Guernsey Foundation awards evening on the 8th of last month.

This means that the Island is automatically invited to represent the Bailiwick of Guernsey in the Britain in Bloom finals in the year 2017. To do this Sark had to achieve Gold Level, the highest possible in the competition, and be the overall winner of the competition. Each year there are approximately 1,600 entries for the Britain in Bloom local competitions and just 80 are chosen as finalists. We are now one of those 80 for 2017, so stakes are high.

We hope that the Island will maximise the fact that we are Britain in Bloom finalists by publicising this as widely as possible; perhaps, for example, the RHS Britain in Bloom logo with 'Sark 2017 Finalists' beneath it could be added to tourism and Government publicity, letters and websites.

We are informed that being a finalist is very high-profile at a national level. Sark Community Blooms Steering Group would be happy to discuss and assist with this or any similar idea. This is the first time in 10 years that Sark has entered the competition and winning the award is a tribute to the many residents of Sark who gave time, expertise, plants and donations to enable us to achieve recognition at such a high level. Sark Community Blooms also acknowledges the help and encouragement they have had from organisers of Floral Guernsey.

140 We now look forward to rising to the challenge of putting forward our beautiful Island as
Bailiwick representative in a national Britain in Bloom competition in 2017. A well-attended
public meeting has already taken place to help us muster support for this major project which
will, we expect, involve excellent publicity for the Island as well as enhancing public areas and
other locations across the Island and increasing our already strong community spirit.

145 In addition, at the awards evening Sark also received special commendations for Caroline
Langford, Gallery Stores; Charles Maitland, La Seigneurie Gardens Trust; a Gold Standard for
community involvement; a trophy for best litter-free environment and a trophy for horticultural
excellence.

150 Follow us on Facebook – Sark Community Blooms – to see how we get on and please give us
all the help, time and effort you can to encourage your friends and family to do likewise. Sark
needs you!

Just to conclude, some more positive news: we have just, this week, received 15,000 crocus
corms and 1,000 daffodil bulbs, so look out for posters asking for volunteers to help us with
planting. We might even be able to stretch to a cup of tea and some cakes afterwards.

Thank you.

155

The President: Thank you very much.

Procedural – Electronic devices

The President: In accordance with Rules of Procedure, I remind all present that mobile
phones, cameras, recording devices and other electronic equipment are switched off now, less
for those allowed to Chief Pleas' Members in accordance with Rule 16.

Business of the Day

1. Extraordinary Meeting, 25th August 2016 – Matters arising

Matters arising from the Extraordinary Meeting held on 25th August 2016.

160 **The President:** Agenda Item 1: matters arising from the Extraordinary Meeting held 25th
August. Are there any matters arising from that meeting?
Conseiller Baker.

165 **Conseiller Edric Baker:** Yes, sir. Item 6 on the Minutes, the repairs to the Creux Harbour: I am
pleased to say that this work has been completed and, incredibly, five tonnes of material has
been used in that outside wall, so I think it was very necessary.

The President: Anything else, anybody? No.

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

Questions not related to the Business of the Day.

170 **The President:** We move on to Agenda Item 2: questions not related to the Business of the Day. There are none.

**3. Election of Constable –
Mr Glenn Williams elected**

To elect a Constable to replace Mr Peter Sam La Trobe-Bateman whose term of office expires.

The President: We move on to Agenda Item 3: Douzaine, to elect a Constable to replace Mr Peter Sam La Trobe-Bateman whose term of office expires.
I would ask the Constable if he would like to address Chief Pleas on his last attendance.

175 **The Constable:** I practised my speech last night and was told I sound like a robot! *(Laughter)*
Just over two years ago today, I really put my foot in it: I was having a discussion at the Island Hall to say that if you want to keep Sark, Sark then people need to step up and volunteer for things. I must have been overheard because a couple of days later I got a phone call from Glynn. *(Laughter)*

180 All joking aside, I have very much enjoyed my two-year stint and do not regret taking on the position in the slightest. The role is so varied from day to day, you come away with a whole new skill set – some of which I hope I will never have to use again, like how to escort a trouserless, drunk man down The Avenue without offending many people.

185 The increased training from Guernsey Police has been invaluable and has truly made the Sark Constable role a much more professional one. The establishment of the Children’s Protection Panel has been a real asset to the Constable. Sharing information within a secure and confidential panel has enabled us to better protect vulnerable children and potentially prevent incidents from occurring.

190 Being Sark Constable has been a high honour and a great experience, but now my time is done I am happy to hand over the reins and I have every confidence that Glenn will make a very good Chief.

Thank you.

195 **Two Members:** Thank you.

The President: The Chairman of the Douzaine, do you wish to speak on the outgoing Constable?

200 **Conseiller Edric Baker:** Yes, sir. I had wanted to say a few things in connection with the Barclays-sponsored weekly hate mail, though I decided against that. Therefore, I will simply propose Mr Glenn Williams to be Constable.

205 **The President:** The Chairman of the Douzaine has nominated Mr Glenn Williams, the current Vingtenier, to be the Constable.
Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

The President: We now move to Agenda Item 4, but before I do that I would just like to congratulate Mr Glenn Williams on his appointment as Constable and I hope you have a good and quiet 12 months.

**4. Election of Vingtenier –
Mr Paul Burgess elected**

To elect a Vingtenier to replace Mr G R Williams whose term of office expires.

210 **The President:** We move to Agenda Item 4: Douzaine, to elect a Vingtenier to replace Mr Glenn Williams.
Chairman of the Douzaine, please.

215 **Conseiller Edric Baker:** Yes, sir, Mr Paul Burgess.

The President: Thank you.
Mr Paul Burgess has been nominated by the Douzaine, having been approved by the Independent Policing Panel for election as Vingtenier.
Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

220 I thank Mr Paul Burgess – where are you? You are there, yes – for volunteering for this very important task for Sark.

**5. Election of Procureur des Pauvres –
Ms Lucy Belfield elected**

To elect a Procureur des Pauvres to replace Mrs Linda Higgins whose term of office expires.

The President: Agenda Item 5: to elect a Procureur des Pauvres to replace Mrs Linda Higgins whose term of office expires.
I ask the Chairman of the Douzaine to speak on the outgoing Procureur, please.

225 **Conseiller Edric Baker:** Yes, sir. It is very difficult ... Each time we have to do this, I have to mention how much work the Procureurs do. It is absolutely enormous. Linda Higgins has been an exceptional Procureur. She has carried out her duties very professionally and been very caring to the people within her care. She is going to be very difficult to follow, but I would like to propose Ms Lucy Belfield.

230 **The President:** Thank you.
I would like to add my thanks on behalf of Chief Pleas to Mrs Linda Higgins for her time as Procureur.
The Douzaine has nominated Ms Lucy Belfield to be the next Procureur. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

Thank you, Lucy – where are you? Oh, not here this morning!

**6. Election of Deputy Procureur des Pauvres –
Ms Estelle Day elected**

To elect a Deputy Procureur des Pauvres to replace Ms L. Belfield whose term of office expires.

The President: We move to Agenda Item 6: to elect a Deputy Procureur to replace Ms Lucy Belfield. I would ask the Chairman of the Douzaine to propose that person, please.

240

Conseiller Edric Baker: I am very pleased to announce that Ms Estelle Day has stepped up to the mark and is willing to do the work.

The President: Thank you very much.

245

Ms Estelle Day is proposed to be the next Deputy Procureur. Those in favour; those against.
Carried.

I would like to thank Ms Day for taking on what is a very demanding role.

**Procedural –
Swearing-in at conclusion of sitting**

The President: For your information, the swearing-in of the Constable, the Vingtenier, Procureur and Deputy Procureur will be done immediately after this meeting has concluded and before the Special Sitting of Chief Pleas.

250

**7. The Interpretation and Standard Provisions (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2016 –
Performance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled, 'Interpretation of Legislation' and to approve the Projet de Loi entitled, 'The Interpretation and Standard Provisions (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2016'.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves the Interpretation and Standard Provisions (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2016.

The President: We move to Agenda Item 7: to consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled, 'Interpretation of Legislation' and to approve the Projet de Loi entitled, 'The Interpretation and Standard Provisions (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2016'.

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

255

Conseiller Maitland: This Projet replaces the Interpretation (Guernsey) Law, 1948 which, after 68 years, needed updating. It is purely there in order to simplify the drafting of laws and means that common phrases and expressions employed in general legislation are statutorily defined so that such definitions do not have to be repeated in every piece of legislation.

260

Thank you.

The President: Any comments or debate, please? No.

Then we will move to the Proposition that Chief Pleas approves the Interpretation and Standard Provision (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2016. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**8. The Fire Services (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2016 –
Emergency Services Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report from the Emergency Services Committee entitled, 'The Fire Services (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2016', and to approve the Projet de Loi entitled, 'The Fire Services (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2016'.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas approves the Fire Services (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2016.

265 **The President:** We move to Agenda Item 8: to consider a Report from the Emergency Services Committee entitled, 'The Fire Services (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2016', and to approve the Projet de Loi entitled, 'The Fire Services (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2016'.

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

270 **Conseiller Plummer:** Thank you.

As you can see, the Ministry of Justice identified a technical omission in this Report, so they have put it right for us. We are hoping that this will be voted on today and it could go through. It is hoped that, if it does go through today, there will not be too much hold up in getting it through the channels to be passed on.

275 Thank you very much.

The President: Just for your further information, the Fire Services (Sark) (Amendment) Law will go for Royal Assent and accompany The Fire Services (Sark) Law, 2016 which you approved earlier this year. So the main Law has been held up slightly whilst this amendment Law has been produced, and they will both go for Royal Assent together.

Any comment or debate, please? No.

Then we will go for the vote on the Proposition that Chief Pleas approves The Fire Services (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2016. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**9. The Direct Taxes for 2017 (Sark) Ordinance, 2016 and
The Financial Provisions (Variation of Rules) (Sark) Ordinance, 2016 –
Finance and Resources Committee Report considered –
Propositions carried**

To consider a Report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled, '2017 Budget and Taxation and Financial Provisions' and to approve the Ordinances entitled, 'The Direct Taxes for 2017 (Sark) Ordinance, 2016' and 'The Financial Provisions (Variation of Rates) (Sark) Ordinance, 2016'.

Proposition 1

That Chief Pleas approves:

That the rate of Property Tax be increased to £14.25 per quarter for the year 2017.

That the minimum rate of Personal Capital Tax be increased to £325 for the year 2017.

- *That the maximum rate of Personal Capital Tax be increased to £6,500 for the year 2017.*
- *That the forfeit factor for the calculation of Personal Capital Tax remains at 2.0 for the year 2017*
- *That the net asset fraction for the calculation of Personal Capital Tax remains at 0.30% for the year 2017.*
- *That individuals over 69 years of age on 1st January 2017 who have worldwide assets of £150,000 or less pay nil Personal Capital Tax for the year 2017.*
- *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 £108,333 or less for the year 2017.*

Proposition 2

That Chief Pleas approves the Ordinance entitled, 'The Direct Taxes for 2017 (Sark) Ordinance, 2016'.

Proposition 3

That individuals over 69 years of age on 1st January 2016, who declared assets of £70,000 or less for 2015, shall receive a payment equal to the calculated increase above 2015 in their tax assessment total for the year 2017.

Proposition 4

That Impôt rates are increased by 6% for the year 2017.

Proposition 5

That the Sark Poll (Landing) Tax be increased to £1.10 per adult for the year 2017.

Proposition 6

That Chief Pleas approves the Ordinance entitled, 'The Financial Provisions (Variation of Rates) (Sark) Ordinance, 2016'.

Proposition 7

That the budget Income and Expenditure for the year 2017 be accepted.

285 **The President:** We now move to Agenda Item 9: to consider a Report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled, '2017 Budget and Taxation and Financial Provisions' and to approve the Ordinances entitled, 'The Direct Taxes for 2017 (Sark) Ordinance, 2016' and 'The Financial Provisions (Variation of Rates) (Sark) Ordinance, 2016'.

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

290

Conseiller Cottle: Thank you, sir.

The Budget that is being proposed today by Finance and Resources Committee is the outcome of a lot of work since Midsummer Chief Pleas when the Expenditure Requests were presented to Chief Pleas. It is our mandated role to scrutinise Expenditure Requests and provide information and guidance to Chief Pleas on the financial implications involved.

295 Guided by that and having taken into account the representations made by several Conseillers on behalf of members of the public who asked that expenditure should not be increased above that of last year, we have looked at what can be done.

300 As explained in the Report, we followed up several matters with Committees and eventually arrived at an expenditure figure of just over £1,380,000, a £40,000 increase on this year's

£1,340,000. This is largely due to two items: the ever-increasing cost of the responsibilities undertaken by the Procureur – up by £20,000. As has been recorded earlier, this is vital work and recognised as work that has to be financed. The second item is for £14,000, requested by the Douzaine to pay for the extra workman employed in March this year. There are also other
305 small increases listed in the Report together with some savings.

Our proposal contained within the Report that part of the underspend in 2015 should be carried forward to 2017 allows that £40,000 of the increase does not require extra taxation. The tax has been raised already and we believe that we are in a position to do that with the level of reserves held by the Island currently. That is okay as a short-term measure and allows us not to
310 require raising more new money than in this current year, but that would not be acceptable year-on-year and we should aim for a balanced budget, not over-requesting only to then underspend afterwards. So that is the position we are proposing this year. We needed to raise just slightly less than we have last year for this year.

Unfortunately, Property Transfer Tax received this year has reduced and because the amount
315 cannot be predicted year-on-year we only spend it in the following year after it has been received. This leaves a shortfall.

Bank interest rates have also been further cut, halving the expected receipts from investments. The combined shortfall is £40,000 again, and this has to be met by some increases in taxation. Under our current system there are limited options for this.

320 After consideration, it was decided to propose the measures contained in the Report to try to spread the taxation as evenly and fairly as possible. While they are regrettable, they are nevertheless unavoidable and have been kept as low as possible.

In summary, they are: firstly, the second phase of the Landing Tax increase, which raises a small amount of money as planned last year. But the main changes are: firstly, to raise Impôt on
325 all alcoholic and tobacco products by 6%, after no increase last year, and, secondly, to increase direct taxes, as set out, namely to increase the property quarter rate from £14 to £14.25 per quarter; to raise the minimum tax by £25 to £325 and to raise the maximum tax by £100 to £6,500. All other direct tax provisions remain unchanged including the reliefs introduced last year.

330 The effects of these measures are set out in Appendices 2, 3 and 5 and they demonstrate some examples of how these changes will affect people at various levels and various changes to the Impôt regime as well – how much a pint of beer will go up and so on.

The final £4,000 that was needed will come from receipts from waste collection. There is increased waste collection at the moment, so the receipts are estimated to be increased next
335 year and that will be balanced by the increased cost of collection.

As in recent years all the direct tax proposals are brought together in Proposition 1, as they only raise the proposed amount when taken together.

340 Proposition 3 provides the same special payment to one group who are identified as being disadvantaged by the Property Tax increase last year. Those that were entitled to a payment in 2016 will receive the same level of payment under this proposal next year.

Proposition 2 requests approval of the Ordinance that sets out all of the direct tax measures for 2017.

345 Proposition 4 contains the proposal that Impôt on all alcohol and tobacco is increased by 6% with the effects shown in Appendix 5.

Propositions 5 to 7 are self-explanatory.

350 I think there are some other things that need to be said regarding the Budget and taxation. The Government of this Island cannot function properly and provide the services that are expected of it as a modern democracy without the resources to do so. There is a balance to be struck, but expecting that keeping taxation down should be the priority while wanting what is provided elsewhere under very different tax regimes is unrealistic. If we are to improve and expand what we do, it will inevitably come at a price. Conseillers give freely of their time and to the best of their ability to allow our relatively low taxation system to continue. However,

Government has become much more complex here and external pressures have increased in recent times. The best intentions of willing Conseillers to fulfil all the demands of both making
355 policy and carrying out the operational functions can only go so far. The perception that being a
Conseiller is now too difficult and time-consuming may be putting off those who have
considered standing for election. If that is so then we need to change.

The Establishment Review has identified that there are medium to high-risk roles that need
filling, which cannot be filled by volunteers without the required skills. They are roles, if filled,
360 that would make the load on Conseillers more manageable and, as such, we need to carefully
consider if the costs involved should be met for the sustainability of Chief Pleas. They could be
considered essential for that sustainability. Our current model for Committees to request
funding which is then met by raising corresponding taxation makes it difficult to add significant
new expenditure, such as is being proposed for the new posts in the Establishment Review.

365 Policy & Performance and Finance & Resources Committees have started discussions about
how new functions and roles could be budgeted for and afforded to fill the gaps identified as
medium to high-risk. The benefits of providing assistance to Conseillers in particular areas could
be very cost-effective so this merits serious consideration. Working out how to afford that is one
of the challenges, so looking at how we budget and what the advantages of planning over a
370 longer cycle – perhaps three years – could provide the answers we need.

It is currently the responsibility of individual Committees to examine their own spending.
They are provided with monthly reports from the Treasurer through the year so that they can
see how their current budget is being used through the months, and that can be used to plan for
the next year. It is not always just the same or more, savings should be considered where
375 appropriate. The way we annually provide the requested budget for Committees to operate
should not to be taken for granted. They have the best view of what they require but perhaps
more scrutiny and accountability should be expected.

We asked Tourism to provide reasoning for a second increase in two years, together totalling
over £10,500. They have provided a detailed response which comes later in the Agenda,
380 outlining an increase in range of activities, but assessing the cost effectiveness and the benefit to
the Island is not identifiable from that. However, the Committee's willingness to address the
question asked is positive and a step in the right direction.

It would also be good to see more detailed planning from the Douzaine and Public Works,
with extra information about what is being done and what is planned so that costings could be
385 more accurately predicted, work scheduled and prioritised, and value for money demonstrated.
This is not an unreasonable expectation when public money is being spent. No forecasts of
capital expenditure requirements were received from them this year, despite there being
several projects under discussion currently. I hope that this will be given more attention in
future and that the offers of assistance that have been made will be taken up.

390 The new Operation of Committee Proposals appearing in Item 7 in the Agenda today and the
Reform Law amendment to the Douzaine membership number should be positive changes in
that direction.

I have nearly finished!

The Budget proposed today is merely the means to provide funding for the operation of Chief
395 Pleas. That operation requires the diligence of many people who wish Sark to succeed playing
their part in the overall picture. That funding and the raising of the required money by taxation
and charges, as set out, are necessary for that to happen, and a request on behalf of Finance and
Resources Committee that the seven Propositions in this Report are approved.

Thank you.

400

The President: Thank you, Conseiller Cottle.

Are there any questions or debate from the floor on the Report or the Propositions or the
annexes or the Laws? Conseiller Rolfe, Conseiller Maitland.

Conseiller Rolfe.

405 **Conseiller Rolfe:** Mr President, firstly can I apologise for my rather poor state of health. I am rather conscious of the fact that if I pass this on to my next door neighbour here, he will not get into the job of being Vingtenier. *(Laughter)*

I think that when one looks at Sark finances – and we are a low taxation Island, there is no doubt, and I congratulate Conseiller Cottle on his introductory statements – we live in a group of islands where I believe I am right in saying that there is a hole in Jersey finances of £120 million; 410 a hole in Guernsey finances of some £60 million and yet we have a budget surplus in Sark, and that is something that I think should always be remembered.

Conseiller Cottle has mentioned – I will be brief, incidentally; I will not make my usual swinging-the-lead speech on this as it is probably inappropriate – but the Budget underspend of 415 last year that is providing £41,000 to be set against the 2017 Budget to reduce the amount required below last year's expenditure requirement is really, in my view, a Band Aid – and we have already discussed this with Conseiller Cottle. I think in his statements he has realised that it cannot go on every year.

420 But the statement in the Report that I take particular exception to is the one on page 1 which says:

Without telling Committees that they cannot have their full request, which F&RC is not mandated to do and does not believe it is in an informed position to do, then individual Committees have that responsibility.

I do not really believe in my heart that that is a sustainable situation for budget-making in future years, particularly if inflation takes off again. I believe that the Finance and Resources Committee should have the teeth to actually look after both sides of the balance sheet.

Thank you, sir.

425

The President: Thank you.

Conseiller Maitland.

430 **Conseiller Maitland:** Just to say that Policy and Performance will be meeting with F&R in the next few weeks – actually probably after I come back from being away – in order to discuss the points that Conseiller Cottle made, which I totally agree with. It seems to me extraordinary that Sark should have £1.6 million in reserves. When there was a suggestion earlier in the year that the Government might need greater support in order to be more effective, there was an outcry that it could not be afforded.

435 If Sark were a business and I was managing director, my question would be what level of reserves should be kept in order to meet unplanned eventualities, but otherwise how can these reserves be best used and what further investment in our business activity would bring the best return? Because having money in the bank these days with such low interest rates – and who knows, we may shortly have to pay to keep money on deposit – may not be the best way 440 forward.

What parts of the economy need investment? For instance, could we help to finish the Island Hall plan for the hostel accommodation? The Hall building has been half-finished ever since we arrived on Sark ten years ago and the upper floors, at present, are unused which seems to be an enormous waste of resources. Perhaps, then, the Island Hall and school – think of summer 445 schools, etc. – could actually generate income. Government can help prime the pump which then encourages other investment. These are all questions that Conseillers should think about before next year's Budget is put together.

My second point is that, once the Committee has a record of spending year in and year out, that spending never seems to be questioned. I think Conseiller Cottle touched on this. Are we 450 getting value for money from that spending, or if we spent a bit more could we get a better outcome? I personally do not share the penny-pinching philosophy which seems so prevalent in the way the Island is run, because in my book you should always strive for excellence and invest

455 accordingly. That is the philosophy that underlies the success at La Seigneurie Gardens. Each year we invest in improvements which increase visitor satisfaction, which in turn leads to more visitors and we generate more income and more investment: a virtuous circle. It has not always been plain sailing but this has certainly been our most successful year since the Trust took over in 2009.

460 This is not a criticism of F&R – far from it – and I want to thank Conseiller Cottle for all his hard work in the last four years. I know he will be very pleased to retire to a less stressful situation in December.

The President: Anybody else? No – sorry.
Conseiller Raymond.

465 **Conseiller Raymond:** Just an immediate response to what Conseiller Maitland has said: we have not had a Proposition in connection with the Island Hall. That would actually be regarded as capital expenditure and therefore would not reflect normally in the taxation that we raise on an annual basis. The Establishment Review, however, was creating new posts which would require annual expenditure and would require, therefore, increased taxation. I think it is important to remember the difference between the two forms of expenditure when we are
470 actually considering the way forward.

Just to remind people that we operate as Finance and Resources within the mandate of the law and we are not mandated to do anything other than that which we do at the moment. If you require greater input from us, then it does require a change in the law.

475 Thank you.

The President: Thank you.

I see nobody else rising; therefore, we will go to the Propositions in the Report.

480 Proposition 1: that Chief Pleas approves that the rate of Property Tax be increased to £14.25 per quarter for the year 2017; that the minimum rate of Personal Capital Tax be increased to £325 for the year 2017; that the minimum rate of Personal Capital Tax be increased to £6,500 for the year 2017 – (**A Member:** Maximum!) Sorry, did I say something incorrect?

485 **A Member:** The maximum rate –

The President: That the *maximum* rate of Personal Capital Tax be increased to £6,500 for the year 2017. Yes, that could have made a slight difference, couldn't it?

490 That the forfeit factor for the calculation of Personal Capital Tax remains at 2.0 for the year 2017; that the net asset fraction for the calculation of Personal Capital Tax remains at 0.30% for the year 2017; that individuals over 69 years of age on 1st January 2017 who have worldwide assets of £150,000 or less pay nil Personal Capital Tax for the year 2017; 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 £108,333 or less for the
495 year 2017. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

Fortunately, the other Propositions are slightly shorter.

Proposition 2: that Chief Pleas approves the Ordinance entitled, 'The Direct Taxes for 2017 (Sark) Ordinance, 2016'. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

This Ordinance will be numbered VI of 2016.

500 Proposition 3: that individuals over 69 years of age on 1st January 2016, who declared assets of £70,000 or less for 2015, shall receive a payment equal to the calculated increase above 2015 in their tax assessment total for the year 2017. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

Proposition 4: that Impôt rates are increased by 6% for the year 2017. Those in favour –

505 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** Can I declare an interest, please.

The President: Yes, you will not vote. Thank you.

I will say that again. Proposition 4: that Impôt rates are increased by 6% for the year 2017. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

510 Proposition 5: that the Sark Poll (Landing) Tax be increased to £1.10 per adult for the year 2017. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

Proposition 6: that Chief Pleas approves the Ordinance entitled, 'The Financial Provisions (Variation of Rates) (Sark) Ordinance, 2016'. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

This Ordinance will be numbered VII of 2016.

515 Finally, Proposition 7: that the budget Income and Expenditure for the year 2017 be accepted. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**10. The Reform (General Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2016 –
Policy and Performance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To Consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled, 'The Reform (General Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2016' and to approve the Ordinance entitled, 'The Reform (General Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2016'.

Proposition

That Chief Pleas approves The Reform (General Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2016

The President: Agenda Item 10: to consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled, 'The Reform (General Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2016' and to approve the Ordinance entitled, 'The Reform (General Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2016'.

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

Conseiller Maitland: Sir, I have nothing to add to the statement in the Report.

The President: Are there any questions from the floor or debate? No.

525 In that case, we will go to the Proposition that Chief Pleas approves The Reform (General Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2016. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

This Ordinance will be numbered VIII of 2016.

**11. The Reform (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2016 –
Policy and Performance Committee Report considered as amended –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled, 'The Reform (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2016 (Commencement and Consequential Provision) Ordinance, 2016' and to approve the Ordinance entitled, 'The Reform (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2016 (Commencement and Consequential Provision) Ordinance, 2016.

Proposition

That Chief Pleas approves The Reform (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2016 (Commencement and Consequential Provision) Ordinance, 2016.

530 **The President:** Agenda Item 11: to consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled, 'The Reform (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2016 (Commencement and Consequential Provision) Ordinance, 2016' and to approve the Ordinance entitled, 'The Reform (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2016 (Commencement and Consequential Provision) Ordinance, 2016.

I would ask Conseiller Rolfe, a member of the Committee, to introduce the Report. Thanks.

535 **Conseiller Rolfe:** Yes, I moved this, but I would just like to correct a paragraph in the Report. It is the third paragraph, immediately above the Proposition, which states that:

The Ordinance also corrects an omission in the Amendment Law.

I was writing this under the pressure, but I completely misread advice from the Law Officers. This has not yet been done. It is the intention to do so, but that third paragraph probably should be struck out.

540 **The President:** So you wish to remove the second sentence of the third paragraph?

Conseiller Rolfe: The whole of the third paragraph, just to be safe.

545 **The President:** So take out the whole of the third paragraph? (**Conseiller Rolfe:** Yes.) Thank you. Any questions or debate? Conseiller Cottle.

550 **Conseiller Cottle:** Thank you, sir. It does not mention it in the introductory Report but I would just like it confirming in this arena that the provisions of the Amendment Law Ordinance also bring into commencement ... As well as the election and the matters in relation to the new President of Chief Pleas, there are also matters brought in that are referred to by section number in the Law. There is '26, 28, ... 31 to 34 and 35 ...' and, in particular, 31 to 34 and 35 refer to the change of the position regarding audit being replaced by audit or review and the various amendments that go with that. I just wanted to clarify that that is all included in this commencement so that F&R Committee can instruct our auditors that next year they will have the opportunity to use the updated, approved system for our accounts.

555 Thank you – if that could be confirmed.
560

The President: Conseiller Rolfe.

565 **Conseiller Rolfe:** Yes, the PDT sat yesterday and discussed Conseiller Cottle's comments there which he had the courtesy to let us have beforehand. The only way I can answer him is to say that we are actually going to go back to the Law Officers to clarify that position and we will come back to him.

570 **The President:** From my own reading of the Law – the Commencement Law – and reading it in conjunction with the Reform Law, that definition in paragraphs 31 to 34 has been correctly transposed so I think you could take comfort that when you do go back to the Law Officers that you will get the answer that Conseiller Cottle is looking for. I am fairly confident that that has been totally catered for in section 1(a) of this Commencement Ordinance.

Any other questions or debate?

575 Then we will go to the Proposition that Chief Pleas approves The Reform (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2016 (Commencement and Consequential Provision) Ordinance, 2016. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

This Ordinance will be numbered IX of 2016.

**12. The Reform (Elections of Speaker and Deputy Speaker)
(General Provisions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2016 –
Policy and Performance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled, 'The Reform (Elections of Speaker and Deputy Speaker (General Provisions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2016' and to approve the Ordinance entitled, 'The Reform (Elections of Speaker and Deputy Speaker) (General Provisions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2016'.

Proposition

That Chief Pleas approves The Reform (Elections of Speaker and Deputy Speaker) (General Provisions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2016.

The President: Agenda Item 12: to consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled, 'The Reform (Elections of Speaker and Deputy Speaker (General Provisions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2016' and to approve the Ordinance entitled, 'The Reform (Elections of Speaker and Deputy Speaker) (General Provisions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2016'.

I would ask Conseiller Rolfe to introduce the Report, please.

Conseiller Rolfe: This is with regard to the election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

Since writing the Report, we have had further advice from the Law Officers with respect to the election of the Deputy Speaker. It was the intention to use the Seneschal, and the advice that we are having is that under the way in which the Reform Law is currently written we cannot use the Seneschal because the Reform Law specifically states that the Seneschal can only preside for the purpose of the election of the Speaker.

Normally, of course, there will be a Speaker to preside over the election of the Deputy Speaker. This will require an amendment to the Reform Law in due course. It is our intention that the Seneschal should in future preside over the election of the Deputy Speaker. I just wish to clarify that point.

The President: Any questions or debate? No.

In that case we will go to the Proposition that Chief Pleas approves The Reform (Elections of Speaker and Deputy Speaker) (General Provisions) (Sark) Ordinance, 2016. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

The coughing is catching!

This Ordinance will be numbered X of 2016.

**13. Sub-Lease of the Sark Slaughterhouse –
Finance and Resources Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled, 'Sub-Lease of the Sark Slaughterhouse'.

Proposition

That Chief Pleas approves the Chairman of the Finance and Resources Committee as the person to sign the sub-lease on behalf of the Island of Sark.

The President: We move to Agenda Item 13: to consider a Report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled, 'Sub-Lease of the Sark Slaughterhouse'.

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

605 **Conseiller Cottle:** Thank you.

I think that this Report explains the situation regarding signing the sub-lease straightforwardly, but if there are any questions before the Proposition then I hope that either Conseiller Dunks or I will be able to answer them, as Conseiller Dunks has been quite heavily involved in the work involved in this sub-lease.

610 Thank you.

The President: Any questions or debate on the Report, please? No.

In that case, we will go to the Proposition that Chief Pleas approves the Chairman of the Finance and Resources Committee as the person to sign the sub-lease on behalf of the Island of Sark. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

615

**14. Development Control Committee and
Emergency Services Committee elections –
Conseiller Paul Williams and Conseiller Diane Baker elected**

To Elect Conseillers to Committees, as required.

The President: Agenda Item 14: Committee elections – to elect Conseillers to Committees, as required. I would ask for nominations from Committee Chairmen and we will vote on those nominations.

Can I first have Development Control Committee, please.

620

Conseiller Edric Baker: Members of our Committee propose Conseiller Paul Williams.

The President: Development Control Committee propose that Conseiller Paul Williams be elected to the Development Control Committee. Are there any other nominations from the floor? No.

625

Then we go to the vote that Conseiller Paul Williams be elected to the Development Control Committee. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

The Emergency Services Committee.

630 **Conseiller Plummer:** I propose that Conseiller Diane Baker come to the Committee of the Emergency Services.

Thank you.

The President: Thank you.

635 We have a proposal from the Emergency Services Committee that Conseiller Diane Baker be elected to it. Are there any other nominations from the floor? No.

Therefore, I put to you that Conseiller Diane Baker be elected to the Emergency Services Committee. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

640 Before we move on, is there any other Committee who have suddenly decided they wish to have somebody elected to it? No.

**15. Road Traffic Committee –
Road Traffic Appeals Tribunal Panel elections –
Mrs Wendy Maitland and Mr Peter Sam La Trobe-Bateman elected**

To elect two new members to the Road Traffic Appeals Tribunal Panel.

The President: Let's move to Agenda Item 15: the Road Traffic Committee – to elect two new members to the Road Traffic Appeals Tribunal Panel.

I would ask the Committee Chairman, Conseiller Ventress, to propose the persons nominated for election by Chief Pleas.

645 Conseiller Ventress.

Conseiller Ventress: The Road Traffic Committee would like to thank Mr Graham Maguire and Mr Glenn Williams for the services they have given to the Road Traffic Tribunal.

650 The Committee also thanks the Tribunal Chairman, Mr David Curtis, and the Tribunal Secretary, Miss Stephanie Guille, for their work in obtaining the following two people who have agreed to have their names put forward, and I thank them for so doing.

The Road Traffic Committee recommends that Chief Pleas elect the following to the Road Traffic Tribunal: Mrs Wendy Maitland and Mr Peter Sam La Trobe-Bateman – which will be on the completion of his term as Sark Constable.

655 Thank you.

The President: We have Mrs Wendy Maitland and Mr Peter La Trobe-Batman nominated to go onto the Road Traffic Appeals Tribunal. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

I would like to thank both those persons for stepping up and taking part in this panel.

**16. Securing Sark's Future
Policy and Performance Committee Progress Report noted –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled, 'Securing Sark's Future – Progress Report'.

Proposition:

That Chief Pleas takes note of the contents of this Progress Report.

660 **The President:** We move to Agenda Item 16: to consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled, 'Securing Sark's Future – Progress Report'.

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

665 **Conseiller Maitland:** Sir, while work continues on a number fronts, I am sure that the completion of the draft Projet for the control of electricity prices that is being brought to this Chief Pleas will be met by a certain sense of relief by the members of the PDT and the Law Officers who have spent so much time on this topic. Hopefully, this will free up Law Officer time

for work to move forward on other such items such as the definition of 'a resident' which has been somewhat delayed as a result of not having enough time.

670 Conseiller Roger Norwich would like to give an update on the Medical Practitioners Regulation PDT.

The President: Conseiller Dr Roger Norwich.

675 **Conseiller Dr Roger Norwich:** Mr President, the PDT is pleased to report to Chief Pleas that progress has now been made with regard to the Medical Practitioner Ordinance. We have, for more than one year, been involved in extensive discussions with the Law Officers in St James' Chambers and with HSSD in Guernsey. Delays in bringing this matter forward have been largely as a result of recurrence of issues between the General Medical Council, the GMC, and
680 Guernsey, whose own Ordinance required significant redrafting.

Our own Ordinance will largely mirror that of Guernsey and will allow us – and indeed the Bailiwick in its entirety – to be compliant with current UK medical regulatory measures, but it will also contain some minor amendments relating directly to Sark.

685 We have now completed the final draft and intend to bring this to Christmas Chief Pleas for consideration.

The President: Thank you.

Are there any questions from the floor? Any debate? No.

690 In that case we will go for the Proposition that Chief Pleas takes note of the contents of this Progress Report. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**17. Consultation on RPI Increases to the Wages and Salaries of Island Employees –
Finance and Resources Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled, 'Consultation on RPI Increases to the Wages and Salaries of Island Employees'.

Proposition

That Chief Pleas approves that a period of notice of 12 months is given to all Island Employees of the decision to change automatic annual increases in pay based on prevailing Guernsey RPI.

Further, that all required measures are taken to deal with contractual matters and that an alternative method of dealing with pay policy, in a fair and sustainable way, is brought to Chief Pleas for consideration within that notice period.

The President: Agenda Item 17: to consider a Report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled, 'Consultation on RPI Increases to the Wages and Salaries of Island Employees'.

695 I would ask the Committee Chairman, Conseiller Cottle, to introduce the Report, please.
Conseiller Cottle. *(Interjection)*

Conseiller Cottle: I think he wants to declare an interest, but I have got to say something myself about that. Shall I speak first and then –

700 **The President:** So you are going to make a declaration first – okay, thank you.

705 **Conseiller Cottle:** I was just going to say that, as this Item refers to the pay of Island employees, a number of Conseillers, including myself, must declare an interest. I believe the numbers who can debate and vote on this are sufficient to consider the Proposition. I will therefore hand this over for debate by those who have no direct pecuniary interest in this subject. If the Proposition is approved, then F&R will follow up the matters contained in the second part of Proposition in due course.

Thank you.

710 **The President:** Okay, let's have declarations of interest then please. Keep your hands up. Conseiller Karen Adams, Conseiller Peter Byrne, Conseiller Antony Dunks, Conseiller Edric Baker, Conseiller Elizabeth Dewe, Conseiller Cottle. I can see a hand there: Conseiller Paul Williams.

715 Declarations of interest have been made by Conseillers Adams, Peter Byrne, Dunks, Edric Baker, Elizabeth Dewe, Cottle and Paul Williams. They now retire from the room unless there is a Proposition that they may remain, but if they do remain they are only allowed to provide technical information, they are not allowed to take part in a general debate and they are not allowed to vote.

Do I have any propositions for them to remain? Yes, Conseiller Fry, Conseiller Moloney.

720 The Proposition is that the Conseillers who have declared an interest can remain in the Chamber but not take part in general debate and not vote. Those in favour; those against.

Carried.

So Conseiller, who is going to take this on? Conseiller Cottle, who do you nominate to speak on this Report?

725 **Conseiller Raymond:** No! *(Laughter)*

Conseiller Cottle: This is a piece of work that we felt we had to bring forward and there is some disagreement in the Committee about whether it is the right way forward. Conseiller Raymond's view is that it is not, so he does not wish to speak upon it – not for it.

730 Conseiller Dunks is conflicted and I do not know if Conseiller Moloney wishes to say anything. If not, then I will ask if there is anybody from Policy and Performance Committee who wishes to speak on it? *(Interjection)* If you are happy with that, I will hand it over to Conseiller –

735 **The President:** I am not sure that we have ever had a situation where a Committee comes with a Report and nobody is prepared to support it – or cannot speak on it because of a confliction.

Let me ask Conseiller Moloney to stand up and just briefly introduce the Report and then we will take it from there.

Conseiller Sandra Williams.

740 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** Could I just say, sir, that Conseiller Robert Cottle has not actually got a direct pecuniary interest himself. Would it not make more sense for him just to be able to speak on the subject as it is a piece of work that the Finance and Resources Committee have put together?

745 **The President:** Well, we have the Report, which is quite detailed. I just need it introduced by somebody and then we can take questions on it and go from there. Conseiller Moloney, would you introduce the Report, please.

750 **Conseiller Moloney:** Thank you, sir.

I actually have nothing further to add to this Report, *(Laughter)* so I will hand it to the floor to debate.

The President: Right, thank you very much.

Are there any questions or debate from the floor on this Report?

755 Conseiller Maitland.

Conseiller Maitland: Just to say that I fully support the Proposition as it will enable the Government to consider the position and come up with a fair solution that can be applied to all those in the public sector. It just gives the breathing space and then a decision can be made at the end of it.

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The President: Conseiller Raymond.

Conseiller Raymond: Sir, I must explain my objections to the Proposition. We are approving the giving of notice to employees and this has the effect of removing any entitlement to RPI increases, but we have no Proposition to put in its place; there is no considered alternative mechanism. There is talk about perhaps a panel or something to consider the way forward. I think that this is premature; that we are actually passing something which gives notice to employees who know where they stand at the moment and puts them into a situation where they cannot see the future. I, therefore, think that it is premature and it should be postponed.

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770

The President: Are you talking about the whole of the Proposition?

Conseiller Raymond: The Proposition, as I read it, envisages that we are going to give employees notice:

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... a period of notice of 12 months is given to all Island Employees of the decision to change automatic annual increases in pay based on prevailing Guernsey RPI.

We have no alternative that we are proposing to offer them and I think we should have an alternative in place before we pass this resolution. I think it is only fair to them.

The President: Conseiller Paul Burgess, followed by Conseiller Cottle.

780

Conseiller Burgess: Yes, sir. I would just like to agree with Conseiller Raymond as well. I think it should be withdrawn because there is nothing in place for it and I think he is absolutely right, so I support Raymond. I am actually in Finance as well until the end of this meeting.

785

The President: Conseiller Cottle.

Conseiller Cottle: I will speak on a technical point, as I have declared an interest. The proposal that is in place is the alternative during the 12-months' notice period. The matters that are outstanding will be dealt with in the timescale by Midsummer Chief Pleas. Next year, the contracts of those that do have RPI written into their contracts will be discussed and negotiated with those persons and, at the same time, depending on the amount of work that has to be done on that, a proposal will be brought as to an alternative to automatic RPI, even if that proposal is to carry on with automatic RPI – that is one alternative. But this gives us a six-month period during the notice period to come up with the alternative.

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If we fail to come up with an alternative in that six-month period, then at the end of the notice period we may say to carry on with what we have the moment while we come up with an alternative. But this is a clear period of notice for all employees within which the work will get done to a deadline so we do not keep putting this off as too difficult.

I think we need to go ahead with it, but I think the Proposition should go forward and, if you disagree with it, vote against it rather than withdrawing the Proposition.

800

The President: Conseiller Rolfe.

805 **Conseiller Rolfe:** Well, I was not really going to speak on this because I was happy to vote for the Proposition until I heard the two people opposing it. I have said before in this Chamber that the thought of having RPI written into employment contracts and RPI based on another country, virtually... I know it is Guernsey but no other country in the world actually writes into its conditions of employment RPI increases based on another country, except possibly North Korea may do it – who knows.

810 I personally will support this Proposition and I would hope at the end of it that we will get rid of this RPI clause and, as a suggestion, do it by free collective bargaining.

The President: Conseiller Diane Baker.

815 **Conseiller Diane Baker:** I am sorry, I am going to sound rather silly here, but I did not declare an interest because I do not earn from the Island, yet my husband does. Conseiller Cottle did declare an interest, so am I wrong?

The President: No, you do not have a direct pecuniary interest – and nor does Conseiller Cottle, but he declared an interest.

820 Right, you have heard the toing and froing as to whether or not the Proposition should be withdrawn. It has not been withdrawn. Therefore, we will vote upon it, less for those people who have declared an interest.

Before I go to the vote, the final chance for anybody to speak. No.

825 Then we will go to the vote on the Proposition that Chief Pleas approves that a period of notice of 12 months is given to all Island employees of a decision to change automatic annual increases in pay based on prevailing Guernsey RPI. Further, that all required measures are taken with contractual matters and that an alternative method of dealing with pay policy in a fair and sustainable way is brought to Chief Pleas for consideration within that notice period. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**18. New Operational Committee Arrangement –
Policy and Performance Committee Reports considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled, 'New Operational Committee Arrangements'.

Proposition

That Chief Pleas approves the New Operational Committee Arrangement and directs the Policy and Performance Committee to request the Law Officers of the Crown to draft the necessary Ordinances in time for implementation at an Extraordinary Meeting of Chief Pleas to take place before the Christmas Meeting of Chief Pleas in January 2017.

830 **The President:** We move to Agenda Item 18: to consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled, 'New Operational Committee Arrangements'.

I would ask Conseiller Dunks, a Committee Member, to introduce the Report, please.

835 **Conseiller Dunks:** Before I start, there are just one or two small changes to be made. In paragraph 1, the Introduction, line 3 speaks of:

... two policy and twelve operational [committees] ...

‘twelve’ should read ‘fourteen’ as is referred to later on in the Report.

840 Since this Report has been published, I have had some feedback from the public and that feedback has been taken to the appropriate Committee. There is a discussion regarding, while the operational duties of the Fire Arms Committee would go to the Constable, the mandate function to advise Chief Pleas on matters of fire arms licensing should be transferred instead to the Douzaine. I have spoken with the Chairman of the Douzaine and he agrees with this.

845 Secondly, referring to SIPaC: with the amalgamation of Medical and Emergency Committees, SIPaC effectively loses a member, as two Chairmen go into one Chairman. It is suggested that a member of the Douzaine become a Member of SIPaC. The Douzaine will be responsible for selecting which person this will be. Again, I have spoken with the Chairman of the Douzaine and he is happy with that.

The President: SIPaC is the Sark Influenza and (Human) Pandemic Committee.

850 **Conseiller Dunks:** The origins of this particular Report go back to Midsummer Chief Pleas where there were two Reports at Items 19 and 10: Finalising New Committee Arrangements, Structure and Function of Chief Pleas’ Committees and, separately and related to, the Establishment Review – Third Progress Report.

855 Item 19 proposed a change from the current Committee system down to a five-Committee system. This was a significant change from the existing system and worked alongside an Establishment Review of some paid positions to fill in some of the gaps that will be caused by the reduction of the Committees. At that stage it had gone through the Policy Development Group (PDG); it had come to Chief Pleas; received approval, yet when it came back to the Policy Group there was some concern and an alternative suggestion was made by a number of operational Committees which met and made some proposals which then came back to the PDG where, after a full discussion, this Report was generated.

860 There is a perception amongst those working on operational Committees that the workload they are under at present is too great and whilst the move to a five-Committee structure was supposed to release this, it did not get universal support after consideration. It was agreed at the time, when it went through the PDG and there was consensus, but on reflection people seemed to have different opinions.

870 The main purpose of this new Committee structure is not to achieve the same effect as the five-Committee plan. It does not attempt to solve the problems the five-Committee plan had suggested existed and will resolve; it simply reduces the perceived workload. Within the current system this Proposition generates, each Conseiller will be expected to take a place on two Committees. They may take more, they may take less, but there is a requirement for two Committees. When we first changed everybody’s formation in 2015, people were on up to five or even more Committees and the workload was too great at that time.

875 Is this step reversible? Yes, if it does not work we can undo it relatively easily. We can, alternatively, press on and make more changes. It is just a first step. The move to the five-Committee structure was felt by many to be just too great. It is felt to be one way; once you have done it, you cannot undo it. Also, there was a problem felt that the five-Committee structure with six people on each of the Committees required that every person would be required to take on a primary or a secondary role – which is fine for those people who have experience behind them but for those people coming to consider being a Conseiller in December, it could be quite a large step.

880 I am happy to answer questions. Please feel free to ask.

The President: Right, thank you.

885 Are there any questions or debate from the floor, please?

Conseiller Maitland.

Conseiller Maitland: I feel this is a very disappointing solution which does nothing to address the challenges facing the Government of Sark. We spent hours working on a new five-
890 Committee system, which Conseiller Dunks has explained, which would have provided greater focus, accountability, coherence, openness and transparency, together with joined-up Government.

This ten-Committee system does nothing to address these issues. The five-Committee
895 alternative would also have been workable with fewer Conseillers – a situation which you may have to address in our future.

When faced with the challenge, which usually means change, some Conseillers have taken the time-honoured default position in Sark which is to vote to do nothing or in this case to do as little as possible. An effective Government involves continuous change because the world is changing so fast around us and is something to be welcomed, not fought against. Sark needs a
900 can-do attitude that welcomes change and I certainly will not be supporting this Proposition.

The President: Conseiller Audrain.

Conseiller Audrain: Yes, I just wanted some clarification. On the second page about the
905 Committee mandates, it mentions:

The amended mandates would then need to be approved at the Extraordinary Meeting to take place before the Christmas Meeting of Chief Pleas in January 2017.

I am just a bit confused about when that meeting might be and whether it would include the present Members of Chief Pleas who have been working on this or whether it will only include the new Members of Chief Pleas after the election.

910 **The President:** Conseiller Dunks.

Conseiller Dunks: To the last question: the existing Chief Pleas' Members will cease to be Chief Pleas' Members as of midnight on Friday 13th January 2017 – no, it is the night before. The Special Meeting should be on the Friday. Can you just confirm whether the meeting is on the
915 Friday or the Thursday?

The President: The new Conseillers are sworn in on Friday 14th January and the current Members who are standing down, their term of office finishes at midnight on 13th.

920 **Conseiller Dunks:** Thank you.

Just to reiterate, the existing Conseillers will cease to be Conseillers at midnight on 13th; there will be an Extraordinary Special Chief Pleas Meeting on 14th to elect the new Conseillers to the new Committees. It is intended, if the Proposition is accepted, that the all the Ordinances – the transfer of functions and the adjusted mandate – be brought to that meeting
925 and be included as Business of the Day. It will be all the new Conseillers who will approve the new Ordinances; all the new Conseillers will approve the new mandates and get put on Committees.

The President: Conseiller Fry.

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

Early this summer I was full of hope that we were on the brink of moving our Government forward in an exciting and positive way. This hope had not come from the Policy and

935 Performance Committee but from months and months of discussion at the Policy Development Group.

The five-Committee structure which is mentioned in this Report seemed to me to make perfect sense. This suggested structure seemed to be a way of solving a lot of problems that had been talked about for a long time. For instance, too many Committee meetings, too much work, Committees not knowing what other Committees were doing and a failure to work together. 940 There is also the very real fear that not enough people will stand for election in December. Many experienced Conseillers whose term is up have already said they will not be putting themselves forward again.

The new structure that is being presented today, to my mind, does not go far enough to solve any of these problems. Some Committees are amalgamating – great. That will certainly help to cut down the number of Committees people will need to be on and the amount of meetings they will need to go to. However, there still will not be any solid basis for Government working together with accountability and transparency. Each Committee will still be doing its own thing regardless of anyone else and likely lacking sufficient experience or skill to negotiate the complex political demands and decisions that they will have to face. Our Law Officers will also 950 have to do a lot of work for us for what seems to me to be very minor changes.

I believe the time has come for us to move forward with a mature, grown-up system of joined-up Government that is really working together for the best interests of Sark and in keeping with our policy of securing Sark's future.

I was just thinking, this morning we have a new Seigneur, a new Lieutenant Governor, and we are about to have a new President. Things change; our position in the world changes. Government has become far more complicated than it was. I cannot believe that the Proposition before us today can achieve any of this or can meet any of these changes. 955

I dislike voting against a Proposition that my colleagues have worked hard to produce, but I cannot support what has been presented today. I am afraid that if we are not very careful we are going to slide into an abyss where Sark will not be able to govern itself. This is a dreadful thought with unknown consequences. I urge all Conseillers to think very carefully about this Proposition and to allow us all time to consider the future before voting on it. 960

Thank you.

965 **The President:** Conseiller Burgess.

Conseiller Burgess: Thank you, sir.

I am very disappointed on what has been discussed so far because the people that are against this Proposition are actually the Policy Teams. This was done by the operational Committees; they decided amongst themselves the best way to run these Committees. They brought a proposal – I am part of the Policy Teams as well – and we should support them because they are the operational people. If they feel this is the best way to go, we should support them. 970

Thank you very much.

975 **The President:** Conseiller Adams.

Conseiller Adams: I just wanted to pick up on something that Conseiller Dunks said in his verbal introduction which took me a bit by surprise, because he said that, 'this new Committee structure would not be irreversible but it could be amended, adapted, retracted'. Now that seems to be contradicted in the Report itself where it says we would need to approve new mandates at the Extraordinary Meeting. Then he explained that all the transfer of function legal work would have to be done. That seems to me to be an awful lot of legal work required to bring this in and makes it seem that it is not easily reversible. So I just wanted to say that we need to 980 be pretty sure about this. We need to be sure it is the right thing.

The President: Conseiller Dunks.

990 **Conseiller Dunks:** Any resolution of Chief Pleas is reversible and a future Chief Pleas can reverse it. I refer you to the workload involved: it is probably 14 transfer of function Ordinances and a half-dozen mandates. Mandates, we will do in our office; the transfer of function Ordinances will require Law Officer work.

995 Whilst I am standing, please could someone check the dates for January next year? Is it really Friday 13th or Friday 14th? Seriously, I have got people telling me I have chosen the wrong dates.

Conseiller Peter Byrne: It is Friday 13th.

Conseiller Fry: A good day! *(Laughter)*

1000 **The President:** It is set out in the Ordinance you have just approved for the election that the new Members, the Conseillers designate as they will be, will be sworn into office on Friday 13th January at 10 a.m. Thereafter, there is an Extraordinary Special Meeting of Chief Pleas to elect persons to Committees and, as Conseiller Dunks has explained, his suggestion is that the new Committee structure will come in then and with that new Committee structure and mandates will be the transfer of function Ordinances as drafted by the Law Officers.

1005 Then, having approved those mandates and the transfer of function Ordinances, then people will be voted to populate those operational and policy Committees, because there may well be people required to go onto the policy Committees as well.

1010 The current Conseillers who are standing down, their term of office finishes at midnight on Thursday 12th January. Those dates are set out in the Law and, if in the debate different dates have been bandied about because we did not have calendars in front of us, they are in the Law, so those dates will be adhered to.

Anybody else? Conseiller Sandra Williams, Conseiller Edric Baker.
Conseiller Williams.

1015 **Conseiller Sandra Williams:** Thank you.

I would just like to support this as I am one of the people on the new committee arrangement. I am disappointed that the Policy and Performance do not feel that this can work and I am more disappointed that we have been accused of voting to do as little as possible.

1020 We have put a lot of thought into this and I believe it is a way forward. Every person I speak to in the street says to me, 'I would be a Conseiller but I do not want to be at four or five Committee meetings. I do not want to be at Committee meetings that take five or six hours.' I really feel that being able to say to people, 'If you think about putting yourself forward, the most Committees you will have to be on are two.' I just think that needs to be taken on board. I think working on operational committees, like I have done for the last twelve years, people do not appreciate how much work goes into working on so many operational committees and I think we should be given the opportunity to make something work that the majority of the operational committees are supporting.

1030 **The President:** Conseiller Edric Baker.

Conseiller Edric Baker: Yes, sir. When Conseiller Dunks spoke, I understood the irreversible part of the committee arrangements were going to be the five-Committee structure. The arrangements that we are proposing are certainly reversible. They can be changed at any time.

1035 The other point that I would like to make is that, as the Proposition says that:

... the Policy and Performance Committee will request the Law Officers of the Crown to draft necessary Ordinances ...

With their appeared opposition to this, how will this go through? I have been reliably informed by the head of the Legal Department of St James' Chambers that they can start drafting the transfer of function Ordinances immediately after Chief Pleas. I hope that is the case.

Thank you, sir.

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The President: The Proposition is that if 'Chief Pleas approves the New Operational Committee arrangements it *directs* Policy and Performance to request the Law Officers ...'. That is an instruction to the Committee and the Committee will observe an instruction from Chief Pleas.

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Conseiller Rolfe.

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Conseiller Rolfe: I was not going to speak to this one, but so many people have suggested that it is a Policy and Performance Committee opposition. That is actually wrong – this has come from the Policy Development Group. Although I do not believe this to be the ideal solution, I will be voting for it because I think it is a work in progress and I think more change will have to come along. I just wanted to correct this misapprehension that somehow or other P&P are voting with their feet. I would never do that.

1055

The other thing I was going to say is I am assuming that the PDT will discuss this with the Law Officers. It is very unusual for Policy and Performance, as a Committee, to discuss very much with the Law Officers. All the nitty-gritty is done in PDTs and that, I suspect, is where it will done. When it comes back to the Extraordinary Chief Pleas – or whatever the meeting is called – it will be with Conseiller Dunks representing P&P and proposing it.

1060

The President: Conseiller Fry.

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Conseiller Fry: I would just like to say that what I have said has not necessarily been because I am a member of P&P. I have been on operational committees; I know about the pressures of being on five Committees at the same time. I just really think back to the Policy Development Group meetings where we had three white boards up and everybody was asked for their ideas; everybody contributed and it just seemed to make such good sense. Then, suddenly, it did not anymore. That is what I would like to say. I do not believe it is P&P working against, and I certainly am not insinuating that Conseillers do not do a lot of work or are doing as little as possible.

1070

The President: Thank you.
Anybody else? Conseiller Edric Baker.

1075

Conseiller Edric Baker: Just to come back once more on the law changes: I believe that the law changes will only be Ordinances, the transfer of function Ordinances. (**A Member:** Correct.) It is possible that moving the arrangements from the Fire Arms Committee to the Douzaine could necessitate a Projet but we would need legal advice on that.

1080

The President: Thank you.

Can I just remind the Assembly that the Policy Development Group does not have a mandate, it has a remit. It is a debating chamber, it does not make decisions.

The decisions that were taken and brought to Chief Pleas at Midsummer were rejected by Chief Pleas. The proposal to go to a five-Committee system was rejected by Chief Pleas. Therefore, Conseillers went away. The proposal had been rejected and they discussed it again in the PDG which is a non-decision-making body, and the operational Committees, as we have

1085 heard, have now come up with a different solution to that provided by the Report that came forward in Midsummer.

Chief Pleas is perfectly entitled to accept reports, reject reports, accept Propositions, reject Propositions. Chief Pleas – you, the body of Chief Pleas – make the final decisions. Therefore, it is quite in order that new Propositions have come forward today to replace those that were
1090 rejected in Midsummer, and it is up to you as Conseillers to vote as your conscience dictates on the Proposition that is in the Report.

Conseiller Maitland.

Conseiller Maitland: Just one small correction, sir.

1095 It was an Information Report that I brought to the Midsummer Chief Pleas and there was not actually a vote on it.

The President: You withdrew it, did you?

1100 **Conseiller Maitland:** No, there was not a vote. It was just an information report.

The President: For the five-Committee structure? (**Conseiller Maitland:** Yes.) Right, I stand corrected.

Conseiller Audrain.

1105

Conseiller Audrain: Just to add to what you have just explained, sir. There are decisions made in the PDG but those decisions are to do with whether the PDG is asking certain PDTs to proceed, so it is not, as you say, a decision which is made by the whole of Chief Pleas.

1110 **The President:** Right, we will now go to the vote on the Proposition in the Report that Chief Pleas approves the new Operational Committee Arrangement and directs the Policy and Performance Committee to request the Law Officers of the Crown to draft the necessary Ordinances in time for implementation at an Extraordinary Meeting of Chief Pleas to take place before the Christmas Meeting of Chief Pleas in January 2017.

1115 Conseiller Dewe.

Conseiller Richard Dewe: May we have a named vote, sir?

The President: You certainly may.

There was a named vote.

Carried – Pour 22, Contre 3, No Vote 0

POUR	CONTRE	NO VOTE
Conseiller Sandra Williams	Conseiller Fry	None
Conseiller Adams	Conseiller Maitland	
Conseiller Richard Dewe	Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich	
Conseiller Elizabeth Dewe		
Conseiller Dunks		
Conseiller Paul Williams		
Conseiller Rosanne Byrne		
Conseiller Audrain		
Conseiller Cottle		
Conseiller Blythe		
Conseiller Diane Baker		
Conseiller Edric Baker		
Conseiller Burgess		
Conseiller Peter Byrne		
Conseiller Moloney		
Conseiller Dr Roger Norwich		
Conseiller Plummer		
Conseiller Raymond		
Conseiller Rolfe		
Conseiller Taylor		
Conseiller Nightingale		
Conseiller Ventress		

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The President: I declare the Proposition carried by 22 votes pour and 3 contre.

We shall now take a short recess and we will return at 12 noon to carry on with Agenda Item 19.

*Chief Pleas adjourned at 11.48 a.m.
and resumed its sitting at 12 noon.*

**19. The Re-Appointment of Non-Executive Directors
for the Isle of Sark Shipping Company Ltd –
Shipping Committee Report considered –
Propositions carried**

To consider a Report from the Shipping Committee entitled, 'The Re-Appointment of Non-Executive Directors for the Isle of Sark Shipping Company Ltd'.

Proposition 1

That Chief Pleas accepts the appointment of Col. Richard Graham as a Non-Executive Director of The Isle of Sark Shipping Company Ltd for one year commencing on 1st November 2016 or until the next meeting of Chief Pleas at which a Non-Executive Director can be appointed or re-appointed, whichever is later.

Proposition 2

That Chief Pleas accepts the appointment of Mrs Julie Mann as a Non-Executive Director of The Isle of Sark Shipping Company Ltd for one year commencing on 1st November 2016 or until the next meeting of Chief Pleas at which a Non-Executive Director can be appointed or re-appointed, whichever is later.

Proposition 3

That Chief Pleas accepts the appointment of Mr Mark Dunster as a Non-Executive Director of The Isle of Sark Shipping Company Ltd for three years commencing on 1st November 2016 or until the next meeting of Chief Pleas at which a Non-Executive Director can be appointed or re-appointed, whichever is later.

Proposition 4

That Chief Pleas accepts the appointment of Capt. Peter Francis Gill as a Non-Executive Director of The Isle of Sark Shipping Company Ltd for three years commencing on 1st November 2016 or until the next meeting of Chief Pleas at which a Non-Executive Director can be appointed or re-appointed, whichever is later.

1125 **The President:** We now move on to Agenda Item 19: to consider a Report from the Shipping Committee entitled, 'the Re-Appointment of Non-Executive Directors for the Isle of Sark Shipping Company Ltd'.

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

1130 **Conseiller Adams:** Thank you.

There is not a lot to add to what is already there in the Report. We are really pleased that all four non-executive directors wish to continue in their role as they each offer their own area of expertise and perspective.

1135 The Shipping Company, as we know, is wholly owned by the inhabitants of Sark so it is correct that there should be a robust scrutiny of its methods and decisions. The Shipping Committee and the Finance and Resources Committee have their role to play in this in line with the framework approved by Chief Pleas last year, but an effective board of directors is also vital in influencing key decisions and ensuring the company achieves its vision whilst meeting the needs of the customers.

1140 We hope that you will support the Propositions in this Report and reappoint all four non-executive directors who are currently in place.

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

1145 Then we will go to the vote on the Propositions in the Report. With your permission, Conseiller Adams, I would like to take Propositions 1 and 2 in a single vote – it is the same terms, just different names – and the same for Propositions 3 and 4.

1150 We will be voting on Propositions 1 and 2 at the same time. Proposition 1: that Chief Pleas accepts the appointment of Col. Richard Graham as a non-executive director of The Isle of Sark Shipping Company Ltd for one year commencing on 1st November 2016 or until the next meeting of Chief Pleas at which a non-executive director can be appointed or re-appointed, whichever is later.

1155 And Proposition 2: that Chief Pleas accepts the appointment of Mrs Julie Mann as a non-executive director of The Isle of Sark Shipping Company Ltd for one year commencing on 1st November 2016 or until the next meeting of Chief Pleas at which a non-executive director can be appointed or re-appointed, whichever is later.

Those in favour of Propositions 1 and 2, please; those against. **Carried.**

1160 Propositions 3 and 4: that Chief Pleas accepts the appointment of Mr Mark Dunster as a non-executive director of The Isle of Sark Shipping Company Ltd for three years commencing on 1st November 2016 or until the next meeting of Chief Pleas at which a non-executive director can be appointed or re-appointed, whichever is later.

And Proposition 4: that Chief Pleas accepts the appointment of Capt. Peter Francis Gill as a non-executive director of The Isle of Sark Shipping Company Ltd for three years commencing on 1st November 2016 or until the next meeting of Chief Pleas at which a non-executive director can be appointed or re-appointed, whichever is later.

1165 We go to the vote on Propositions 3 and 4. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**20. Alcohol Production Regulation –
Policy and Performance Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled, ‘Alcohol Production Regulation’.

Proposition

That Chief Pleas requests the Law Officers of the Crown to draft the appropriate Ordinance to commence The Regulation of Production of Alcoholic Products (Sark) Law, 2012.

The President: We move to Agenda Item 20: to consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled, ‘Alcohol Production Regulation’.

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

1170 **Conseiller Maitland:** Sir, I should like to ask Conseiller Jane Norwich to take this one.

The President: Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich.

Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich: Sorry for the confusion – it is my parents’ fault.

1175 Sark is not obsessed with alcohol, as might seem to be the case here today. It is just that diverse issues have come to the surface at the same time.

I believe the Report with the Proposition speaks for itself. We need to commence the Law already approved. That Law has passed all the hurdles required: the Royal Court, the MoJ, the Privy Council and, of course, given Royal Assent by Her Majesty the Queen.

1180 Sark, like other jurisdictions, was covered by alcohol production regulation law from at least 1931, but due to an error in the process in 2003 it was repealed by Guernsey. This means that if that particular law had not been repealed in error we would have a law in force regulating the production of alcohol and all producers or potential producers would already be regulated, and I would not be presenting this Report today. As far as I can ascertain we are the only jurisdiction in Western Europe that does not regulate the production of alcohol.

1185 I know Sark is quirky and different but do all these countries know something we do not? However, a new Law does now exist, passed in 2012 by Chief Pleas and receiving Royal Assent in 2013. It just needs to commence with all the necessary procedures and fees clearly laid out. This is what I am asking Chief Pleas to support.

1190 Giving you a little bit of background, public consultation was undertaken in 2013 on the Regulation of Alcohol Production (Commencement) Ordinance. The Proposition for a Commencement Ordinance was then brought forwards and later removed just before Chief Pleas sat; being removed due to a challenge by certain parties that the Law Officers advised needed consideration first.

1195 The challenge included potential harm to people’s human rights and hampering of trade. As far as I am aware there is no challenge to the principle that products should be produced hygienically and monitored. It is alleged that the Law is an attack on one producer and a restriction of his trade. They are not the only business on the Island currently and probably not in the future.

1200 Other more pressing matters then moved to the front of the queue and this work of good governance was laid to one side, but now this matter has returned to the fore having been looked at over the past year.

1205 The recent emergence of a serious producer of beer needing to comply with regulation to export within the Bailiwick commenced production this summer. Chief Pleas has a duty, following legal advice, to ensure that our laws are human rights compliant. Chief Pleas must and does support good governance, protecting the residents of Sark equally and ensuring that the reputation of Sark, the Bailiwick and Her Majesty the Queen are not damaged.

1210 The Law is just what its title says: that it is to regulate the production of alcohol including licensing and monitoring. How does anyone know what the alcoholic product they have purchased as landlord, hotel owner, visitor and resident really is? In Guernsey they know because it says so on the tin. In the UK they know because it says so on the tin. This is no longer so in Sark if it is locally produced. You might think that is okay for us, we know who produced it. Visitors certainly do not know. If we want to export, then the destination jurisdiction will expect to know that the producer is licensed and the goods are hygienically produced. They need to know that the alcohol percentage is monitored and accurate. If that is not available then no export off-Island can take place for alcoholic products produced on Sark. The product cannot go and waive the flag for Sark – yet another dent in the perception of Sark, that we are doing nothing to support business and regulate in a manner proportionate to Sark.

1220 I personally know of two alcoholic products commercially produced on Sark. I have sampled both. I prefer the fruit and vegetable wines – sorry Sam I am not yet a beer drinker. I have not seen or tasted any of the sparkling wine that is alleged to have been produced on Island in the last couple of years. I do not know if the gossip is true. I certainly have not attended the advertised grape pressing events as they have clashed with other matters, so I do not know how it is being done or where it goes.

1225 The possible new Bailiwick Law on food and feed, covering hygienic production, will not relate to alcohol-level testing but may relate to the conditions in which fruit juices such as apples for cider or Perry Pears are extracted and stored. We still await more information on that matter.

1230 I am also aware of someone on Sark investigating the possibility of a boutique gin. If Guernsey produces Blue Bottle Gin, why cannot Sark produce one too? Their own enquiries and research have already shown that a licence and compliance with statutory regulation is required for it to be exported to the cocktail bars of London. Certainly the introduction of licensing and monitoring cleanliness along with alcohol levels will deal with a large part of this Law.

1235 Once we have a draft Commencement Ordinance, more consultation across the Island will be needed to ensure the procedures proposed are workable and proportionate to Sark.

1240 Another part of the Law is that of Impôt. This is part of the Law that has been through all the normal legally processes already; it is not something new. The level of Impôt is regulated in other places and takes place in conjunction with Guernsey Border Agency, a service we pay for. At what time Impôt is applied – maybe as the product leaves the production premises or bonded warehouse, arrives at the distributor or as each glass is sold – needs to conform to a sensible, reliable procedure. Right across Europe and other parts of the Channel Islands it is levied at the point it leaves the warehouse or place of production.

1245 This Commencement Ordinance is not an attack on any one individual or group. These Regulations will support business on Sark and the export of goods to the Bailiwick and beyond. It is to protect the public and, as with the rest of Europe, ensure that we get exactly what it says on the tin.

I would ask Chief Pleas to support the proposition that we request the Law Officers to draft the Commencement Ordinance.

1250 **The President:** Any questions? Conseiller Rolfe.
Anybody else?
Conseiller Rolfe.

1255 **Conseiller Rolfe:** Yes, I am inclined to oppose this. If this were to be merely a question of quality control, then I would support it but it will be seen, I believe, as a tax on production. I do not believe in taxing production of anything – this is not just restricted to alcohol. It will be seen as a business tax and I, for one, will be opposing it.

1260 **The President:** Thank you.
Anybody else? Conseiller Maitland, Conseiller Cottle, Conseiller Edric Baker.
Conseiller Maitland.

1265 **Conseiller Maitland:** I have talked to the brewer at the Isle of Sark Brewery, who happens to be sitting as our Constable. He supports the introduction of regulation because it will ensure that the products of the brewery meet the standards required. It is particularly important for off-Island sales.

1270 **The President:** Thank you.
Conseiller Cottle.

Conseiller Cottle: Thank you.
As I understand it, this is not a tax on production at all. Alcohol: at the end, the tax is paid by the consumer, whatever the producer produces from the brewery or wherever is taxed when it leaves the premises, because that is the point it leaves control of the producer. If it was consumed locally, that would be at Sark's rate. If it was exported, then the normal procedure is that any local tax that has been raised is refunded to the producer at the point that it raises the paperwork for export, so that would be the procedure that I would expect Sark to follow. It is the same as every other taxation on alcohol when borders are crossed: the paperwork accompanies it and the final destination is where the taxation is actually finalised. So there are procedures to be put in place and I presume they will go alongside it or the Commencement Ordinance and licensing regime that will be put in place. That is not a tax on production as I see it.

1285 **The President:** Conseiller Edric Baker.

Conseiller Edric Baker: Sir, I congratulate P&P with this Report. It was well put together and the introduction was excellent. It leaves us in no doubt as to why the Law is needed.

1290 **The President:** Thank you.
Anybody else? No.
We will then go to the vote on the Proposition that Chief Pleas requests the Law Officers of the Crown to draft the appropriate Ordinance to commence the Regulation of Production of Alcoholic Products (Sark) Law 2012. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**21. Consultation on the Charging Method for Impôt: Alcohol by Volume (ABV) –
Finance and Resources Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled, 'Consultation on the Charging Method for Impôt: Alcohol by Volume (ABV)'.

Proposition

That Chief Pleas approves that the Finance and Resources Committee consult with the public of Sark about proposed changes to the Sark Impôt charging system, as set out in this Report.

1295 **The President:** Agenda Item 21: to consider a Report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled, 'Consultation on the Charging Method for Impôt: Alcohol by Volume (ABV)'. I would ask Conseiller Cottle to introduce the Report, please.

Conseiller Cottle: Thank you.

1300 This is a separate alcoholic matter. There is not any link to the previous one other than them following each other.

This Report and the accompanying Proposition seeks permission from Chief Pleas for Finance and Resources Committee to consult with the public of Sark on changing the method of charging Impôt on alcoholic products.

1305 Until last year, Sark and Guernsey used the same categories of alcohol by type and strength to calculate the Impôt payable. After consultation, the States of Guernsey approved the new system for Guernsey that is shown in the table within this Report. Now you can see that the bands are no longer compatible and that presents some challenges for Sark.

1310 There would be two advantages to Sark changing to come back into line with Guernsey. Firstly, because all Impôt on drinks imported into Sark is collected by Guernsey Customs and forwarded to the Sark Treasurer. Having the same bands would simplify calculation and collection. Secondly, the proposed system would more accurately reflect the amount of alcohol contained within a drink, particularly with the spirits, beer and cider charges shown.

1315 It would not be proposed to bring the actual rates levied into line with Guernsey's. Currently Sark's rates are about 80% of those charged by Guernsey. The rates would continue to be set annually at Michaelmas Chief Pleas within the Budget. Therefore, Finance and Resources Committee requests that the Proposition is approved so that these proposals can be consulted upon.

Thank you.

1320

The President: Any comment or debate? No.

Therefore, we will go to the vote on the Proposition that Chief Pleas approves that Finance and Resources Committee consult with the public of Sark about proposed changes to the Sark Impôt charging system as set out in this Report. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**22. Amending the Number of Conseillers on the Finance and Resources Committee –
Finance and Resources Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled, 'Amending the Number of Conseillers on the Finance and Resources Committee'.

Proposition

That Chief Pleas approves the reduction in the members of the Finance and Resources Committee, from five to four members, and that it approves the amended Mandate.

1325 **The President:** Agenda Item 22: to consider a Report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled, 'Amending the Number of Conseillers on the Finance and Resources Committee'.

Conseiller Cottle, please.

Conseiller Cottle: Thank you.

1330 Briefly! Following on from the proposed changes to operational Committees that have taken place, as approved in Item 18, F&RC reviewed its own workload. Bearing in mind that all the financial administration is done by the Island Treasurer – who, as an *ex officio* member, also provides information and technical guidance – it was agreed that four members are sufficient to carry out the functions which are set out in the mandate of this Committee.

1335 With the approval of Chief Pleas today that will release one Conseiller to sit on operational Committees where it has been considered that the number of issues involved require more Conseiller input.

1340 Other than that the Committee mandate is unchanged: three members will be required for a meeting to be quorate and any proposal for change will require majority approval before implementation.

The Committee requests that Chief Pleas approves the change contained within the Proposition.

Thank you.

1345 **The President:** Thank you.

Any comment or debate? No.

Then we will go to the Proposition that Chief Pleas approves the reduction in the membership of the Finance and Resources Committee from five to four members and that it approves the amended mandate. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

23. Control of Electricity Prices (Sark) Law, 2016 – Policy and Performance Committee Information Report noted

To consider an Information Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled, 'Control of Electricity Prices (Sark) Law, 2016'.

1350 **The President:** Agenda Item 23: to consider an Information Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled, 'Control of Electricity Prices (Sark) Law, 2016'.

I would ask Conseiller Fry, Committee member, to introduce the Report, please.

1355 **Conseiller Fry:** As you will have seen, this is merely an Information Report. It is a continuation of Chief Pleas' approval on 17th May to engage BW Energy to provide specialist technical input to the regulatory legislation, setting out the role and function of the Commissioner.

1360 As a result, I am very pleased to report that BW Energy and our Law Officers have now provided the revised draft Control of Electricity Prices (Sark) Law, 2016 that you have in your bundle today. This has been in the public domain since the publication of Chief Pleas' Reports for this meeting.

The owner of Sark Electricity Ltd, who was in Canada at that time, was sent a copy and was asked for his comments as a particular stakeholder in this matter. Members of the public have also had access to this draft.

1365 Having learned from previous consultation feedback, we have made available a layman's guide to this draft Law to make sure that everyone with an interest in sustainable, reasonably priced electricity can contribute their views. Indeed, we hope that many more will do so.

1370 As you are aware, a public consultation formally began on 30th September, with the layman's guide being delivered to every household on the Island on that day. The consultation period will end at noon on 21st October this year. Before then, on Wednesday 12th October, a week from today, the Sustainable Electricity Policy Development Team will hold a residents' meeting. Please encourage as many as possible to come to this meeting with their questions and their

comments. The result of the consultation will then be sent to the Law Officers of the Crown where any appropriate revisions to the Law can be made, subject to the results of the consultation.

1375 We plan to request an Extraordinary Meeting of Chief Pleas to enable this legislation to be sent to the Privy Council as soon as possible.

1380 Contrary to any propaganda you may have heard, we have no vendetta against Sark Electricity Ltd. On page 23 of the draft Law, it states the entitlement of the regulated electricity supplier to receive such reasonable return as the Commissioner thinks fit. We want to merely establish what is a fair and reasonable price for sustainable electricity on our Island. We do not believe that 70p a unit is a fair and reasonable price. We consider it to be excessive. People have come to me in tears, literally, saying they just cannot afford to pay 70p a unit. Others have told me that they are getting rid of freezers and other electrical equipment. In our opinion this is not right.

1385 Thank you.

The President: Any comment or debate, please? Conseiller Rolfe.

Anybody else?

Conseiller Rolfe, to start us off.

1390

Conseiller Rolfe: You will be pleased to note that this will be my last piece of swinging the lead.

1395 This saga has been going on for quite a long time and, I believe, with very little achieved. I would like to say, first of all, that I am not against regulation *per se* but I have said before in this Chamber that I regard it as a side issue. The main issue would have been to continue the negotiations with the company themselves.

1400 When the PDT was set up on January 2015, the same people from Chief Pleas were placed on it because that would help the company continue their negotiations with people they knew. Within two months negotiations had broken down and I think that would have been an appropriate time for a change in personnel on our side.

1405 What is being said to Conseiller Hazel Fry may very well be true – and I am sure it is true; I do not think she would lie to us – but other people are actually complaining that the unintended consequence of this PDT's action against the company is causing the company to mount considerable legal bills, and there is a certain amount of blame attached to the PDT for the rising price of electricity, namely the company claims to have a legal bill of £150,000 which it is passing on to its customers. I believe that probably will continue, knowing the personnel involved; that the legal bill will continue rising and the electricity price will go far beyond 70p.

1410 That is the last time you will hear me on this subject, Conseiller Fry – (*Interjection by Conseiller Fry*) I will sit down now.

The President: Anybody else? No.

There is no Proposition.

24. Membership of the Sark Taxation Appeals Tribunal – Finance and Resources Committee Information Report noted

To consider an Information Report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled, 'Membership of the Sark Taxation Appeals Tribunal'.

1415 **The President:** We will move on to Agenda Item 24: to consider an Information Report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled, 'Membership of the Sark Taxation Appeals Tribunal'.
Conseiller Cottle, please.

1420 **Conseiller Cottle:** This is very short because the Report is self-explanatory and I would like to repeat my thanks to Mrs Bertha Cole for her service to this tribunal since 2012.
As stated, this vacancy will not be filled immediately. Discussions will be held with His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor, and also with the Good Governance PDT, and once a process has been agreed then a suitable recruitment procedure will be put in place to make a new appointment.
Thank you.

1425 **The President:** Any questions, comment, debate? No.

25. Tourism Committee Budget – Tourism Committee Information Report noted

To consider an Information Report from the Tourism Committee entitled, 'Tourism Committee Budget'.

The President: The next is Item 25: to consider an Information Report from the Tourism Committee entitled, 'Tourism Committee Budget'.
I would ask the Committee Chairman, Conseiller Williams, who produced the Report ...
1430 Before that, Conseiller Adams.

1435 **Conseiller Adams:** I know this is just an Information Report but I do feel I need to declare an interest because the content relates directly to my paid work at the Tourism Office and the impact that that has in the Budget. So I do think it is right that I declare an interest and I am quite happy to leave the Chamber if that is considered the best thing for me to do.

1440 **The President:** I think because of the direct implication here, that unless there is a vote for you to remain, that you should leave. Is there a vote that Conseiller Adams should remain? Yes, we have more than two. Those in favour; those against. Conseiller Adams you may remain. You may not speak in debate or vote. Thank you.
Conseiller Williams, please.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Thank you very much.
1445 As it was likened to earlier on by Conseiller Robert Cottle, we sat and procrastinated very hard over our budget for next year early in the season. There are lots of changes taking foot in our office over the winter and through the summer of next year, i.e. having to advertise for a new senior visitor officer – which is going to impact on salaries because we are going to have to pay our senior officer and also someone to be learning the job. We have asked for an extra £3,000 to oversee this. We cannot see us using it, but it has given us the opportunity to share
1450 with people who really do not seem to know what goes on in the Tourism Committee Office even now. It is very busy and, as you can see from just the points that have been made, people were not aware that the Tourism Office is now open all day on Saturdays and it is open for between three and four hours on a Sunday. It is a seven-day-a-week job at the moment.

1455 I am happy to take any questions on why people think we should not have it or why people think we should, but I do not really have an awful lot more to say.

Thank you.

The President: Thank you.

Any questions, comment or debate on the Tourism Committee Budget Report?

1460 Conseiller Cottle.

Conseiller Cottle: It was right that the Finance Committee challenged this request for extra money and, therefore, following the receipt and publication of the request at Midsummer Chief Pleas, we thought we ought to go further and ask Tourism Committee for some more justification in why they were asking for – I think it was – £2,500 for extra staff costs and £500 for advertising. I would like to thank the Tourism Committee for responding to the request for more information and providing this Report. It is very helpful to have more explanation of what they do. We have obviously got a lot of information there.

If Committees are to retain control of their expenditure budgets, then they do need to be able to demonstrate that they continually look at what they do and the service that they provide, and make sure that they provide value for money and demonstrate that as well. I believe that Committees are in the best position to do that and I would not like to see the final say on expenditure of Committees fall just to one Committee where there may be only three members who form a majority view that we should be capping their particular Committee. The Committee knows better than us, and it is in their best interest and it is their interest as part of the community to make sure that they spend properly and do not overspend.

I do think that asking for more money in case a review reveals a need for extra staff hours is a bit back to front. I think that is a procedure that probably needs explaining and I would be happy to talk with Tourism more about that. However, I think it is positive that the time and care has been taken to bring this extra Report and remind us of the very varied range of ways in which the Tourism Office promotes the Island and assists visitors, so I would like to say thank you to the Committee for doing that.

The President: Anybody else? No.

1485

Conseiller Fry: Am I too late to just respond to Conseiller Rolfe on 23? (**The President:** Yes.)

I did try but you had moved on.

I just would wish to suggest –

The President: I think if you need to say anything else, then you write to Conseiller Rolfe and make it available to the other Conseillers

Conseiller Fry: I will tell him later.

1495 **The President:** Thank you.

26. Draft Code of Conduct Conseillers of Chief Pleas – Policy and Performance Committee Information Report noted

To consider an Information Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled, 'Draft Code of Conduct Conseillers of Chief Pleas'.

The President: We will go to Item 26: to consider another Information Report, this time from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled, 'Draft Code of Conduct Conseillers of Chief Pleas'.

I would ask Conseiller Rolfe to introduce the Report, please.

1500

Conseiller Rolfe: Yes, I would just like to thank Members of the Reform Law Good Governance PDT: Conseillers Hazel Fry, Richard Dewe, Anthony Ventress and, in particular, Conseiller Jane Norwich who has done considerable research and assembled the Report that you see before you.

1505

We had hoped to get it finalised by now. We do hope to get it finalised before the General Election but, with your permission, I would like to ask if Conseiller Jane Norwich can introduce the Report?

The President: Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich, please.

1510

Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich: Continued confusion!

Thank you, Conseiller Rolfe. The Report and attached draft Code, we believe, speak for themselves. Between other areas of work, the PDT has been working on this for almost a year. Initially it sounds simple. We thought we all knew what we meant by 'Code of Conduct', but it is only when you dig a little deeper that you realise that there is a lot more to it. You can have a Code but how do you deal with it if someone complains? Who deals with the procedure? What is confidentiality? How does it stand up against other jurisdictions?

1515

We started with the 'Guiding Principles of Public Life' listed at the front of the Code and worked outwards. We have tried to make it proportionate to Sark and yet remain robust. We have had a few comments – mainly supportive – but one concern was the possible referral to the Police if the alleged breach might be considered criminal. It is not for a lay conduct panel to decide if something is a criminal matter, but the panel could approach the Police if they have any concerns and take advice or pass it to the Police for further investigation.

1520

We are only a small jurisdiction and that can make it difficult to demonstrate that we take good governance seriously. Having a written Code and related procedures demonstrates to all that we are and do take our responsibilities very seriously indeed. It is only proper that anyone considering standing for election to this happy band of Chief Pleas' Conseillers is aware of this proposed addition to the Rules and procedures.

1525

We hope to return very shortly with the remaining issues and supporting aspects completed.

1530

Thank you.

The President: Any comment or debate, please? No.

27. 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'.

The President: We will move on then to the final Item for the Business of the Day and that is to consider an Information Report from the Education Committee entitled, 'Annual Report on Sark School'.

1535

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

Conseiller Audrain: Thank you.

1540

This is our Annual Report on Sark School. It outlines the things that have been happening in the school during the year 2015-16 and it has been, as usual, a very busy year, with staff

changes, lots of things happening, some of which have come to Chief Pleas. So it has been quite busy for the Education Committee as well.

I hope that you have read our Report and approve it.

1545

The President: Any comments or questions on the Information Report? It is quite extensive. No.

Procedural

1550 In that case, that concludes the Business of the Day. We now move to closing remarks and the closing date for Agenda Items and Reports for the Christmas Meeting of Chief Pleas – which is to be held on Wednesday 18th January 2017 – is Wednesday 7th December at 3 p.m. That is before the General Election takes place, with papers going out no later than 14th December. Greffier, the meeting is closed.

PRAYER

The Greffier

Chief Pleas closed at 12.38 p.m.