

PARISH OF ST LAWRENCE



Minutes of the Parish Assembly

Held on Thursday 23 July 2026 at 7.00p.m.

Assembly Room, St Lawrence

Present: 43 Principals and Electors

Welcome:

The Connétable welcomed all present.

Apologies:

Jenny Cartwright

Deputies in Attendance:

Deputy Kirsten Morel, Deputy Hilary Jeune, Deputy Phil Romeril

Minutes taken by Parish Secretary Mrs Leasa Nozedar.

Convening Notice:

An Assembly of the Principals and Electors of the Parish will be held at the Parish Hall on **Thursday 23 July at 7.00pm** for the following business:

1. To receive and, if agreed, to approve the Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 18 March 2026.
2. To receive and, if agreed, to adopt the accounts of the Connétable for the year ending 30 April 2026, the said accounts having been audited by Alex Picot Chartered Accountants and examined by the Comité Paroissiale named for that purpose.
3. To approve the estimates of the funds required by the Parish for the financial year ending 30 April 2027 to include a sum of money for the upkeep and maintenance of the by-roads.
4. To approve a Rate for the financial year 2026/27 in accordance with Article 21 of the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005.
5. To name the Comité Paroissiale to examine the accounts of the Connétable for the year ending 30 April 2027.
6. To appoint auditors to audit the Connétable's accounts for the year ending 30 April 2027.
7. To elect three parishioners to the St Lawrence Sports & Community Centre Management Committee.

1. To receive and, if agreed, to approve the Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 18 March 2026.

The Connétable asked for a proposer and seconder for the minutes. They were proposed by Mr Mark Bingle and seconded by James Gray.

On a show of hands, all were in favour with none against; the Minutes having been approved were signed by the Connétable as President of the Assembly.

2. To receive and, if agreed, to adopt the accounts of the Connétable for the year ending 30 April 2026, the said accounts having been audited by Alex Picot Chartered Accountants and examined by the Comité Paroissiale named for that purpose.

The Connétable invited Mr Sam Luce to present the audited accounts for 2025/2026. Mr Luce advised that he would highlight the principal variances between the audited accounts and the estimates approved at the July 2025 Parish Assembly.

Expenditure

Page 6 Expenditure

Mr Luce explained that the Comité des Connétable had overestimated their expenditure for the year, and this had been seen across the Parishes.

Postage, Printing and Stationery:

Mr Luce explained that expenditure had exceeded the estimate due to the unexpected requirement to issue Electoral Registration forms and to post two years' worth of Rates Assessments, following the earlier completion of the 2026 assessments.

Salaries, Social Security and Pension Contribution:

Mr Luce advised that this had risen due to cost of living increases although the figure was lower than the 2025/2026 estimate.

Mr Luce advised that the total Administration Expenditure was £335,375 approximately £8,000 below the Estimate.

Page 6 Establishment

Maintenance of Parish Property:

Mr Luce advised the Assembly that the principal expenditure included approximately £12,000 for the annual maintenance of the Millennium Footpath and a further £5,000 to remove fallen trees following the storm earlier in the year.

Refuse Collection:

The Assembly was advised that this was the last year of the 5-year contract and that the agreed increases were included.

Page 9 Roads Account:

£60,000 was the roads figure agreed to be raised from the rate by the previous Rates Assembly, added to this is other income such as driving licences as written in Law. The main expenditure was used for pothole repairs and four significant phases of work undertaken during the year. Mr Luce also noted that the Parish roads had only been swept twice during the year compared with five sweeps in the previous year. The surplus of £10,766 had been transferred to the Roads Reserve Fund.

Page 7 Grants and Special Votes:

Mr Luce informed that the Grants and Special Votes were in line with the 2025/2026 Estimates.

He concluded that section by advising that the total overall expenditure for the year had been £940,000 which was in line with what had been Estimated, commenting that this had shown good cost control.

Page 8 General Account:

Mr Luce advised that the Rates had increased by 3.5%, which gave an increase in income of £21,000, added to this was a significant increase in quarters. Bank interest was consistent with the previous year, even though the base rate had dropped. He noted that the cash had been well managed in the year, other Parishes had seen a drop.

The dog licence had increased due to the new POODLE system; there was a good uptake in licences and easier to chase outstanding amounts.

General Account Summary:

Mr Luce reported a surplus of £12,200 for the year, demonstrating effective financial management, particularly as a deficit of £2,000 had originally been forecast.

He then reminded the Assembly that the Parish should hold 16 weeks of potential expenditure to allow for the Rates income to be received after the Rates Assembly, which is the current position.

Page 13 Parish Fund Accounts:

Property Capital Expenditure Fund:

Mr Luce advised that expenditure during the year included £48,000 for resurfacing the rear of the Parish Hall, £27,000 for initial works to the Millennium Footpath and £7,000 for replacement lighting at the Moignard Liberation Gardens.

Parish Vehicle Fund:

Held a balance of £11,000.

Roads Reserve Fund:

Expenditure of £20,000 was incurred for resurfacing works at La Ruelle Tourgis and repairs to Les Charrières Malorey.

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Parish Housing Fund:

Procureur Bruce Harrison advised the Assembly that the name had been changed from Sheltered Housing to the Parish Housing Fund as the description was not accurate.

Mr Luce informed the Assembly that the increase in rental income was attributable to the two new housing units being occupied for six months of the financial year.

Repairs and renewals had increased significantly, including £10,000 for external decoration and £8,000 related to scaffolding costs. A new stairlift was also installed in block one at a cost of £8,500.

Mr Luce reported that expenditure on the Parish Housing Project totalled £659,000 during the year, bringing the overall project expenditure to just under £1.5 million.

Mr Jason Cronin asked about the current position of the Parish Housing Fund. Mr Harrison advised that the Fund currently held a balance of approximately £100,000 and confirmed that the Parish had not been required to borrow funds to finance the new housing development.

Mr Cronin also enquired whether future applicants for Parish housing would be subject to means testing and whether the Connétable intended to re-establish the Housing Committee. It was confirmed that the Parish had no current plans to amend the existing allocation criteria. The Connétable advised that the reinstatement of the Housing Committee would be considered in consultation with the Procureurs.

Mr Luce having completed his presentation on the Parish Housing figures, the Connétable asked the Assembly if they had any questions?

There being no further questions the Connétable asked for a proposer and seconder to approve the accounts for the Connétable for the year ending 30 April 2026.

Proposed: Miss Pam Staley

Seconded: Mr John Pallot

	On a show of hands, all were in favour with none against.
	3. To approve the estimates of the funds required by the Parish for the financial year ending 30 April 2027 to include a sum of money for the upkeep and maintenance of the by-roads.
	The Connétable presented the draft estimates for the financial year ending 30 April 2027, as set out on page 20. She noted that the majority of expenditure had been budgeted in line with the previous financial year, with increases reflected in the budgets for Heat, Light and Water, and Insurance Premiums. She advised the Assembly that the Roads Account allocation would increase to £90,000 and that a contribution of £50,000 would be made to the Parish Property Capital Expenditure Fund in preparation for the Parish Church Quinquennial works. The Connétable invited Procureur Steve Linney to address the Assembly. Mr Linney explained that this would be the first transfer into the Capital Expenditure Fund for more than five years. During that period, £177,000 had been drawn from the Fund, although this had been partially offset by interest earned. Overall, the Fund had reduced by 21%; however, when adjusted for inflation, its value had effectively declined by approximately 40% over the past five years. Following the Parish Church Quinquennial Report, Mr Linney advised that the Parish would need to plan for expenditure of approximately £50,000 per annum over the next four to five years to meet the anticipated programme of works. Mr Linney further informed the Assembly that a healthy rental surplus was expected over the coming years and that consideration would be given to merging the relevant accounts. The Connétable then invited questions from the Assembly. Mr Peter Le Marinel observed that over 30% of the Estimates related to refuse collection and enquired whether the Parish had considered any alternative options for the service. In response, discussions were held regarding the refuse collection contract. Mr John Pallot commented that operating costs within his own business had increased significantly and that he understood the reasons behind the contractor's increased charges. Mr Mark Bingle advised that the cost of a new refuse collection vehicle was approximately £335,000 and explained that a rolling 12-month contract would not provide sufficient security to justify such an investment. Mr Jason Cronin asked the Connétable if the Parish should be spending the Charitable Funds as it has saved around £45,000. Discussions held included potential beneficiaries and Mr Stephen Cohu asked whether it should be advertised that funds are available. The Connétable confirmed that she would like to set up a new Community Group stating that this could be tied in with the Charitable Funds. The Connétable and the Procureurs reaffirmed that they remained mindful that all expenditure represented ratepayers' money. There being no further questions, the Connétable asked for a proposer and seconder to approve the estimates of the funds required by the Parish for the financial year ending 30 April 2027 to include a sum of money for the upkeep and maintenance of the by-roads. Proposed: Mr Mark Bingle Seconded: Deputy Kirsten Morel On a show of hands, all were in favour with none against.
	4. To approve a Rate for the financial year 2026/27 in accordance with Article 21 of the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005.

The Connétable invited Procureur Steve Linney to address the Assembly on this item. Mr Linney proposed that the Parish Rate be set at 1.30p, advising that this would result in a small budgeted deficit and noting that the proposal had been approved by the Comité Paroissial. He further confirmed that the Island-Wide Rate had increased in line with the Island's Retail Prices Index. This equated to an overall increase in the rates of 7.6% for the domestic rate and 6.7% for the non-domestic rate. The proposal was seconded by Deputy Kirsten Morel. Mr Stephen Cohu commented that the actual overall increase in the Parish rate would be 12%, which Mr Linney confirmed. Mr Linney commented further that the increase in the Parish rate was almost entirely due to the transfers to the roads reserve fund and the Parish property reserve. The Connétable then asked if there were any other proposals for the rate? Mrs Judy Pallot enquired whether the Parish should consider setting a higher rate in order to meet anticipated expenditure during the 2026/2027 financial year. Following discussion, the Assembly agreed that the Parish Rate should be set at 1.30p. On a show of hands all was in favour and none against. The Connétable declared the rate set at 1.30p per quarter.	5. To name the Comité Paroissiale to examine the accounts of the Connétable for the year ending 30 April 2027.
The Connétable proposed the following as members of the Comité Paroissiale. The Connétable The two Procurers The Rector Deputies who reside in the Parish The two Churchwardens The Roads Committee Chairman of the Rates Assessors The four Centeniers Proposed: Mr Mark Bingle Seconded: Mr John Pallot On a show of hands, all were in favour with none against.	6. To appoint auditors to audit the Connétable's accounts for the year ending 30 April 2027.
The Connétable invited Procureur Bruce Harrison to address the Assembly when he recommended the re-appointment of Alex Picot, Chartered Accountants, as auditors to audit the Connétable's accounts for the year ending 30 April 2027. The Connétable then called for a proposer and seconder. Proposed: Miss Pam Staley Seconded: Mr Mark Bingle On a show of hands, all were in favour with none against.	7. To elect three parishioners to the St Lawrence Sports & Community Centre Management Committee.
The Connétable asked for nominations for Parishioners to serve on the St Lawrence Sports and Community Centre Management Committee. Mrs Marion Hibbeard was proposed by Miss Pam Staley and seconded by Mrs Mary Cotillard	

	Mrs Pat Sabey was proposed by Mr John Emmanuel Snr. and seconded by Mr John Emmanuel Jnr. Mr Norman Laverack was proposed by Mrs Sue Hardy and seconded by Mr John Pallot As there were no further nominations the Connétable thanked them for standing and declared them to have been duly elected for a one-year term.
	Meeting Closed:
	There being no further business the Connétable declared the meeting closed at 8.04pm.

Signed:.....

Date.....

Tina Palmer, Connétable
President of the Assembly