

Parish Assembly

The Twenty-Ninth Day of July Two Thousand and Twenty-One

An Assembly of Principals and Electors of the Parish of St. Peter will be held in the Parish Hall on Thursday 29 July, at 7.30pm to:

1. **Receive, and if deemed advisable, approve the Act of the Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 29 June 2021.**
2. **Elect a Vingtenier, for Vingtaine Coin Varin, for a period of three years.**
3. **Elect an Officer du Connetable, for Grande Vingtaine for a period of three years.**
4. **Elect an Officer du Connetable for Vingtaine Douet, for a period of three years.**
5. **Elect a Vice-Chairperson for St Peters Youth & Community Centre as the current term of office having expired.**
6. **Advise the Assembly of the updated position for both Registrar and Deputy Registrar for the parish.**

1 On the proposition of **Joao Camara**, seconded by **Alan Dix**, the minutes of the previous assembly held on Tuesday 29 June 2021, which had been previously handed out, were approved.

2. **Vincent Piron** was nominated and proposed by **Joao Camara**, seconded by **Michael Holley** for the position of Vingtenier for Vingtaine Coin Varin.

Vincent has been involved in the Honorary police since 2017 where he began as a Constables Officer then transferred to become a Vingtenier in August 2018.

As there were no further nominations the Constable thanked Vincent for his work for the Parish. Vincent will be advised in due course of his swearing in date at court.

3. **Richard Urban** was re-standing for the role of Constables Officer for Grande Vingtaine but was unable to attend the Assembly due to having respiratory problems and due to COVID thought it was best to stay at home, his apologies were given by **Joao Camara**.

Richard was proposed by **Marion Romeril** who stated it was a pleasure working alongside Richard and who is a valued member of the team, this was seconded by **Joao Camara** who stated that he echoed the statement from Marion as Richard is a valuable, diligent member of the honorary police.

As there were no further nominations, the Constable requested it be noted that he thanked Richard for his service, and he will be advised of the date to be sworn in at the Royal court.

4. A nomination for a Constables officer for Vingtaine Douet was received for **Louise Robinson**, she was proposed by **Susan Ambler**, who has known Louise for over 10 years and supports Louise for this role, she was seconded by **Mark Hodgson**.

As there were no further nominations, the Constable thanked Louise for coming forward, it is unfortunate that fewer people do come forward for these roles so does appreciate that Louise is willing to offer her time to the parish.

As there were no further nominations, the Constable thanked Louise again and said she will be advised of the date for swearing in at the Royal Court.

5. **Sarah “Sally” Johnson** was nominated once again for the role of Vice Chairperson for St Peters Youth & Community Centre. Sally was proposed by **Mark Capern** who has worked alongside Sally since she was nominated in January 2015. Her HR experience has been valuable to the centre and is happy to nominate her.

Sally was seconded by **Robert Surcouf**.

As there were no further nominations the Constable thanked Sally for all her help, especially during covid across all parts of the centre, Tea Room and Pre-School.

6. There had been recent nominations for the posts of Registrar and Deputy Registrar for the Parish. It had been indicated by parishioners that they did not want to lose this role from the Parish. Subsequently looking into this role as it is now and after the nominees training, it is apparent in today’s world that there are significant legal risks involved if you fail to undertake duties, even if not deliberately, there are severe penalties.

The two people nominated can advise that in the past a few errors had been made and even incidents for the Royal court.

Following discussions with the nominees a decision has been made that the job should be centralised as with 7 other parishes.

The two nominees stood to address the assembly to advise their thoughts behind this, they confirmed that Claire Follain, the Super Intendent Registrar took on the whole Islands work during COVID, a move to centralise has already been made by some other parishes. Claire has investigated the legislation, historically everyone knew everyone, and it is a lot different nowadays, the role and duties are really important and there are consequences of possibly 5 years in prison or a fine up to £10,000 if errors are made. There is no professional indemnity cover that will cover this role. An average death can take up to 6 hours, St Peters is the second biggest parish for deaths, so a lot of time is taken for this honorary role. You must have medical knowledge so that you are aware if anything has been written down wrong, they were asked to buy a medical dictionary. If you make a mistake in the register you must go to the Royal court to change it. It is their responsibility to ensure the death certificate is correct, if you allowed a cremation then later a relative appears??? You are expected to liaise with the States system (Tell us Once), if you put a wrong name down you could affect someone’s pension! Death certificates are crucial documents that can be sent worldwide.

If professionalised, there are better alternatives to deal with this style of deaths.

Their conclusion, it makes great sense in this day and age to use the office of the Super Intendent Registrar who have the full documents/ systems to hand, our hearts tell us to keep it in the Parish but the head states we must centralise this.

The Constable said we have to consider the majority of deaths have no connection to the parish, the parish have recently dealt with deaths that have no relatives, so we have arranged the funerals and we know nothing about them. The Registrar would have problems gaining information, everyone used to know everyone, this is no longer the case, there is great scope for an error without knowing it.

The Constables have asked for an amendment to the law, which allows the Parish to takeback the role if we want it. There is no initial charge by the Super Intendent now, if this changes and charges get substantial, if economical to bring it back to the parish.

There are risks of the actual job, we do not get a large amount of people offering to do the role. The Constable can make the decision to centralise this role however, he would like to get an informal vote from the assembly of their thoughts: Is it the right thing to centralise the role?

Comment from a Parishioner that they agree what has been said but in the past the Registrars used to receive a letter explaining the role ... the Constable said he is aware of the letter, priorly they would allow for some errors to take place, the Attorney General has said this can no longer happen.

There is a current practice of appointing registrars and learning from experienced registrars, there are 12 different methods throughout the parishes.

We have made every effort to retain the role, we may have to employ someone in the office to do the job, is this a good use of parish funds- **No**. The Parish could be prosecuted if an error is made.

Father Michael stated that any post going away from the parish is a sad day, this role is increasingly becoming complicated, and he has sympathy for the two ladies involved having volunteered and wanting to help.

The Constable asked for a show of hands and a unanimous vote was given to centralise the role. No abstentions and none against.

As there were no further business the Constable thanked everyone for attending.

**This concluded the business of the Assembly.**

**29 July 2021**

**R P Vibert**  
**Connétable**