

Chairmen's Committee

Record of Meeting

Date: 23.09.10

Meeting No: 60

Present	Senator B. E. Shenton, President Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier, Vice-President Senator S.C. Ferguson Deputy G. P. Southern (present for all items except 1,2 and 10) Deputy P.J. Rondel Deputy M.R. Higgins
Apologies	
Absent	
In attendance	Mrs. K. Tremellen-Frost, Scrutiny Manager

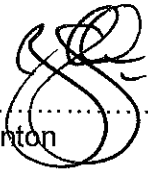
Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	1. Minutes The minutes of 15th, 19th, 29th, 30th July, 6th, 9th, 10th, 19th August and 8th September 2010, having been approved were signed accordingly.	
	2. Panel Reports The Committee noted the above	
15.07.10 item 4 515/1(26)	3. Economic Affairs Scrutiny Sub-Panel: Jersey Post Review It was noted that the Chairman of the above Sub-Panel review into Jersey Post had given notification of prolonged absence until further notice due to personal matters. It had been suggested that Deputy Wimberley should take over the Chairmanship of this review in order to progress it and that another Member was sought to join the Sub-Panel. The Committee was advised that the review had been continuing with the two remaining Members only.	
	4. States recesses - Member workload over such periods The Committee considered the unwillingness on the part of a States Member to undertake parliamentary work of any nature during States recesses. The reasoning behind this appeared to be that when the States were in recess the entire time could be a holiday period for Members. Whilst the Committee considered it reasonable, indeed wise, that part of such periods could be taken as holiday, it was very concerned about this approach not only from a scrutiny perspective but from an overarching States perspective. The Committee considered that, whilst it could challenge an individual Scrutiny Panel Member in respect of scrutiny work, it believed that this was a wider matter than being restricted to scrutiny and should, therefore, be forwarded to the Privileges and Procedures Committee for it to consider whether the intention of States recesses is for Members to take the entire time as holiday	BS/KT F

	<p>and for no parliamentary work to occur.</p> <p>The Committee also agreed to recommend that, following its deliberations, the Privileges and Procedures Committee should draw up an agreed protocol to advise all States Members of its expectation of Members regarding the appropriate use of States recesses.</p>	
	<p>5. P120/2010: “Ministerial Government: establishment of Ministerial Boards and revised system of scrutiny”</p> <p>The Committee welcomed the proposer of P.120/2010 Senator A. Breckon and Deputy T. Vallois, who had been Chairman of the group tasked to review the current Code of Practice for Scrutiny Panels and the Public Accounts Committee, to the meeting. Senator Breckon explained the rationale for having brought the proposition.</p> <p>The Committee considered a number of related points as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The shortage of time which would be available to undertake scrutiny given the involvement of more Members in Executive work; 2. Proper independent recording of minutes - it was believed that these should be undertaken from within the States Greffe (the Committee was advised of a proposed Privileges and Procedures Committee amendment to ensure this); 3. Concern that Board Members would be bound by confidentiality ; 4. The current system had gone wrong due to Members approach; 5. Whether such radical changes were required in order to make scrutiny more review specific; 6. The current lack of a defined role and accountability for Assistant Ministers; 7. The current procedures for appointing Assistant Ministers; 8. The corporate sole of the Minister would remain and there would be no voting capacity on a Board; 9. Whether it would be more appropriate to “beef up” scrutiny ie: give it more powers, make it compulsory for the States to debate Scrutiny reports and recommendations, bring more propositions to the States rather than make such a dramatic change; 10. Whether it could be made compulsory to sit on either scrutiny or the Executive but not permitted to be an independent back-bencher. <p>The Committee noted that there were split views on the proposition. On consideration of a paper relating to the proposition the Committee requested Senator Breckon to answer the questions contained therein for the Committee to consider prior to the debate.</p>	
<p>22.06.10 item 1</p> <p>511/1(33)</p>	<p>6. Attendance of Ministers at joint meeting between the Chairmen’s Committee and the Council of Ministers</p> <p>The Committee recalled that it had corresponded with the Chief Minister in relation to the poor attendance of Ministers at recent joint meetings between the Committee and th Council of Ministers. The Committee received and noted a Minute of the Council of Ministers meeting in which it referred to the correspondence from the</p>	

	Chairmen's Committee in respect of the above matter and it was noted that the Chief Minister had made it clear that he expected all Ministers to make the effort to attend joint meetings.	
15.07.10 item 9 510/3(6)	7. Scrutiny Matters newsletter: update The Committee noted that all Panel/Committee pages had been received and the first proof was awaited. Date of circulation was from 28th October onwards in order to promote its Stand at the HomeLife Show 2010 on 12th to 14th November 2010.	
15.07.10 item 8 510/1(28)	8. HomeLife Show 2010 The Committee noted that Panel approved reviews were to be used as a focus of the Show and that these had now been received. The Committee recalled that it had agreed to a budget of £6,000 for display purposes. The Committee also recalled that it had been agreed that the stand would be manned by Scrutiny Members and officer support would be for the purposes of administration and assistance only. A rota for Member attendance had been circulated.	
15.07.10 item 12 510/3(2)	9. Citizenship 2010 and 2011 The Committee noted that it had been difficult to identify sufficient Members to attend these sessions and there appeared to be limited political interest in this initiative. It was also noted that as a number of schools had moved the session into the Autumn Term, that it could cause confusion if the initiative were to take place in the Spring or Summer Term of 2011. Further to this, the Committee was mindful of the 2011 election in October 2011. Given the above, it was agreed that it was appropriate to suspend the programme in 2011 but to resume in 2012 following the elections. The Committee agreed that a letter would be sent to the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture in respect of the above.	
	10. Dates for 2011 meetings The Committee agreed to continue meeting at the same times (12.30pm - 2.30pm monthly on Thursdays) with a midday start until 1.45pm on joint meeting days with the Council of Ministers. The following dates were agreed:- 27th January 12.30pm - 2.30pm 24th February 12.30pm - 2.30pm 24th March 12.00 - 1.45pm (Joint CC and CoM 2.00pm - 3.00pm) 12th May 12.30pm - 2.30pm 16th June 12.00 - 1.45pm (Joint CC and CoM 2.00pm - 3.00pm) 14th July 12.30pm - 2.30pm 29th Sept 12.00 - 1.45pm (Joint CC and CoM 2.00pm - 3.00pm) 3rd Nov 12.30pm - 2.30pm	

Signed

Date:



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Senator B. Shenton
President

..... 28th October 2010