
STATES OF JERSEY



PARISH ASSEMBLIES: INFORMATION PACK

**Presented to the States on 13th January 2012
by the Comité des Connétables**

STATES GREFFE

REPORT

The States, on 7th June 2011, adopted proposition P.60/2011, as amended by P.60/2011 Amd.(2), and agreed to request the Comité des Connétables to investigate the possibility of –

- (a) creating a booklet which would be available to all parishioners in each parish by 31st January 2012 setting out, amongst other things –
 - (i) how a parish assembly worked;
 - (ii) what constituted a parish assembly;
 - (iii) how parishioners could add matters to an agenda;
 - (iv) what they had to do to in the event that they wanted to call a parish assembly;
 - (v) how and whether propositions without prior notice could be made during a parish assembly;
 - (vi) how and whether amendments could be submitted to a proposition;
 - (vii) who could vote at a parish assembly;
 - (viii) a list of parish officials and how they were appointed/elected;
 - (ix) any further information relating to the operation of parish assemblies and the appointment of parochial officials that the Comité deemed relevant;
- (b) publishing a standardized set of recommended procedures for use in all 12 parishes, setting out how a parish assembly should be conducted.

As pointed out in the Comité's comments on the proposition, the information which it is proposed should be included in a booklet is already available in the public domain, principally as the Loi (1804) au sujet des Assemblées paroissiales, through statute and other publications and on the parish websites. The Comité has reviewed this information and has prepared a summary outlining the matters listed in (a) above. To the extent that the procedures for conducting a parish assembly are set out in law, these will also be outlined in the booklet. The Comité will seek advice from the Law Officers' Department to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in the booklet prior to its publication, and therefore it may not be possible to meet the proposed date of 31st January 2012.

The Comité has also considered how such a booklet might be made available "to all parishioners in each parish". The Comité is of the view that ratepayers would not be supportive of the parishes incurring the cost of printing and distributing copies to all parishioners, and therefore intends to make the information available on the parish website, with a printed copy being available to any parishioner on request at the parish hall.