



OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

OF CHIEF PLEAS

OF THE

ISLAND OF SARK

HANSARD

Assembly Room, Sark, Wednesday, 19th June 2019

*All published Official Reports can be found on the
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Volume 5, No. 6

Present:

Seigneur

Maj. C M Beaumont Esq.

Speaker of Chief Pleas

A J Rolfe Esq.

Deputy Prévôt

Mrs J Godwin

Greffier

Mr T J Hamon

Deputy Treasurer

Mrs L Higgins

Conseillers:

Peter La Trobe-Bateman
Christopher Nightingale
Anthony Ventress
Paul Williams
Sandra Williams
Pauline Mallinson
Helen Plummer
Philip Long

John Guille
Christopher Drillot
William Raymond
Amanda de Carteret
Ellen Lalor
Rodney Lalor
Simon Couldridge
Frank Makepeace

Business transacted

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Extraordinary Meeting of Chief Pleas

Chief Pleas met at 7 p.m.

[THE SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

PRAYER

The Greffier

ROLL CALL

The Greffier

The Greffier: There are 15 Conseillers, the Seigneur and the Speaker of Chief Pleas present.

The Speaker: For the record Conseiller John Guille has also joined the meeting.

5

The Greffier: That is 16.

The Speaker: That is 16 yes. Okay.

Procedural – Filming proceedings

The Speaker: I have given Sue Daly the go-ahead to take pictures of our proceedings for ITV –
10 up to the point where, under the Rules of Procedure, recording devices have to be switched off.

I must say, as Speaker, I do not have any problems with any of our proceedings that are open to the public being recorded by the media and would suggest to the Policy and Finance Committee that they may wish to revisit the restriction in the Rules.

15 **Member of the public:** Hear, hear.

The Speaker: The... did that come from the Public Gallery?

A Member: Yes it did, sir.

20

The Speaker: Please do not.

Welcome to Major Marco Ciotti, Chief of Staff and ADC to the Lieutenant-Governor

The Speaker: The Lieutenant-Governor is unable to attend our meeting due to other commitments. Major Marco Ciotti, Chief of Staff and ADC to the Lieutenant-Governor, is in the Public Gallery and I welcome him.

Apologies for absence

25 **The Speaker:** Apologies for absence. I received an apology for Alan Blythe, who is attending – or when he wrote me – was attending one funeral in the UK, but I gather he has tripled that and is attending three funerals.

**Welcome to Conseiller Frank Makepeace,
following election to Chief Pleas**

30 **The Speaker:** There was only one candidate for the two vacancies in the Chief Pleas by-election scheduled for 12th June. May I welcome Conseiller Frank Makepeace to this, his first, Meeting of Chief Pleas following his election unopposed and I hope you will enjoy the engaging tasks that you will undertake.

**Congratulations to former Conseiller Edric Baker
on award of MBE**

The Speaker: On behalf of Chief Pleas may I congratulate former Conseiller Edric Baker on his award of an MBE – Member of the British Empire – in the Queen’s Birthday honours list for his almost 47 years’ service as a Member of Chief Pleas and for various other services to our Island.

**Vulnerable adults –
Statement by Conseiller de Carteret**

35 **The Speaker:** I call a statement from Conseiller Amanda de Carteret, regarding adding vulnerable adults to the existing Child Protection Law.

Conseiller de Carteret: Thank you, sir.

40 The Special Child Protection Committee, now known as the Special Safeguarding Committee, brought a Proposition to the Easter Chief Pleas Meeting on 1st May 2019 to ask approval to incorporate vulnerable adults to the Child Protection (Sark) Law, 2019 that was being drafted at the time. This was approved.

45 The Committee would like to inform Chief Pleas that as a result of a meeting with the Law Officers and Guernsey Social Healthcare, the Law Officers have now recommended a separate law for vulnerable adults and not to incorporate vulnerable adults with vulnerable children. Therefore the Committee would like to notify Chief Pleas that the original Child Protection (Sark) Law, 2019 will go ahead with the Law Officers as drafted.

50 The Committee and the Law Officers are conscious of safeguarding vulnerable adults on Sark. Therefore the Law Officers will begin preparing a draft to work alongside the Child Protection Law which will be for vulnerable adults, using similar mechanisms, as for the Child Protection Law.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.

**Procedural –
Electronic devices**

55 **The Speaker:** Now, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure I would remind all present that mobile phones, cameras, recording devices and other electronic equipment is switched off now, less for those allowed to Chief Pleas Members in accordance with Rule 18.

Business of the Day

1. Extraordinary (Emergency) Meeting, 27th March 2019 – No matters arising

The Speaker: We move to Agenda Item 1, matters arising from the Extraordinary Emergency Meeting of Chief Pleas held on Wednesday, 27th March 2019.

60 Are there any matters arising?

2. Secondary Education – Education Committee Report considered – Propositions 1, 3, 4 & 6 carried; Proposition 2 carried as amended; Proposition 5 lost

To consider a Report with six Propositions from the Education Committee entitled 'Secondary Education'.

Proposition 1:

That Chief Pleas agrees that Sark children should, if their parents/carers wish it, from September 2020 attend schools in Guernsey from age 13 for Years 9, 10 and 11 of their education and directs the Education Committee to work with the parents/carers to arrange suitable school places and accommodation for these children.

Proposition 2:

That Chief Pleas agrees that from 1st September 2019 Sark School should no longer educate children beyond the age of 13 (Year 8) and instructs the Education Committee to work with the Law Officers to bring any necessary changes to the Education Law and the Education Committee mandate to Michaelmas Chief Pleas.

Proposition 3:

That Chief Pleas agrees that the funding arrangements and parental contribution for Guernsey education and accommodation should be as set out above.

Proposition 4:

That Chief Pleas instructs the Education Committee to establish a Learning Centre facility as described above if any parents/carers of Home Educated children notify the Board of Education that they wish to use it.

Proposition 5:

That Chief Pleas instructs the Education Committee to charge parents for this facility according to the scale of charges set out above.

Proposition 6:

That Chief Pleas instructs the Education Committee to fund agreed on-line GCSE's from an approved provider and associated exam fees for up to 7 GCSE's per home educated child as agreed with the Board of Education in line with the home education plan for that child.

The Speaker: In that case we go to Agenda Item 2, to consider a report with six Propositions from the Education Committee entitled 'Secondary Education'. I call Conseiller Pauline Mallinson to introduce the Report – and I believe you have an amendment to Proposition 2.

Conseiller Pauline Mallinson.

65

Conseiller Mallinson: Thank you, sir.

Firstly, I have to apologise for an error right at the beginning of our agenda report. The Chief Pleas date from which we withdrew our Propositions was actually Easter Chief Pleas 2019.

And secondly, I am requesting to amend one of our propositions – Proposition 2 – to read from '1st November 2019' instead of '1st September'. This is because the original date of 1st September 2019 is actually before Michaelmas Chief Pleas, so therefore we cannot pass the legislation until after 1st September.

Since you asked us to withdraw the Propositions we had put for Easter Chief Pleas, we have held a series of meetings with both Conseillers and parents, resulting in the revised Propositions that we are now putting before Chief Pleas.

At Christmas, Chief Pleas passed a Proposition to allow those children who are 13 this September to go to Guernsey to attend either Les Beaucamps, which is the school that the Guernsey Education Department have allocated Sark children to, or, if parents wish, any of the three independent schools in Guernsey – Blanchelande College, Elizabeth College or Ladies' College. Proposition 1 today is to extend that to all children who reach the age of 13 from September 2020 onwards.

The Committee feel, as we said in our Report, that this will give those children greater choice both of GCSE subjects and extracurricular activities, as well as a larger and more stimulating peer group. Initially the children will live with host families during the week and travel home at weekends, but we are still committed to establishing a Sark house in Guernsey, when the number of children being educated in Guernsey can justify it.

Proposition 2 is to ask the Law Officers to draft changes to the Education Law and the Education Committee Mandate to reflect the fact that we will no longer be teaching GCSEs in Sark School. As I said earlier, to allow time for the necessary changes to be made and passed by Chief Pleas, we actually need to change this Proposition to read 'from 1st November 2019', which is the beginning of the second half of the autumn term 2019, as Michaelmas Chief Pleas is not until 1st October 2019, which is after the beginning of the autumn term.

Proposition 3 covers the funding arrangements and parental contributions for accommodation for Guernsey education, which we are still proposing to be as were originally set out in the Draft Education Strategy which we put to Chief Pleas at Midsummer Chief Pleas in 2018.

Propositions 4 and 5 concern the establishment of a Learning Centre to provide support to both parents and carers who choose not to send their children to secondary school in Guernsey. We had originally proposed that the Learning Centre would be open only in the mornings, but following discussions with parents and Conseillers, we are now proposing that it should cover the same hours as the school day – that is 8.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. with an hour for lunch.

During the autumn term we will be establishing the Centre, assuming that there are any children whose parents or carers wish them to attend it, and working with the Trustees of the

105 Island Hall to finalise arrangements for the use of what is currently the Comme Nous Room all day. To allow for this transition period we are therefore planning that the charges, referred to in Proposition 5, will only be introduced from January 2020.

110 The final Proposition is for Chief Pleas to fund up to seven online GCSEs from an approved provider for home-educated children in Years 9, 10 and 11 in line with the home-education plan for each child agreed by the parents or carers with the Director of Education as representative of the Board of Education

The Education Committee is happy to answer any questions you may have on these Propositions and we would also like to ask for named votes on all the Propositions.

The Speaker: You want named votes on all six Propositions, do you?

115 Well, we will go to the floor and ask if anybody wishes to contribute to this or raise questions? I have got Conseiller Tony Ventress, Conseiller Sandra Williams, and Conseiller Sam La Trobe-Bateman. Is there anybody else? Christopher Drillot. Anybody else?

In that case, I will call Conseiller Tony Ventress.

120 **Conseiller Ventress:** Thank you.

On Sunday, together with other Conseillers, I received two emails from Islanders, one seven pages long, which raised a lot of points most relating to the European Commission on human rights legislation and starts its conclusion with, I quote, 'the new proposals put forward by the Education Committee do not establish a statutory system of public education for the children of Sark that is of high quality'.

125 I had prepared a short speech which will become the conclusion to my feelings on this and other comments on our Committee's Propositions. I must apologise to the other members of the Committee for not having been able to send this to them, but I only finished my third draft today.

130 In the correspondence preamble it stated, 'the current proposal put forward by the Education Committee is in breach of Article 8, Article 2 and Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Article 8 guarantees that everyone, including parents and children, have the right to an undisturbed family life in the way they choose. It is wrong to separate children from parents if the parents wish to continue their parental responsibilities', etc.

The correspondent later goes on, 'the Education Committee fails to take into account how to protect the interests of the most vulnerable children'. The Committee understands this and has the Safeguarding Officer in the school which can, when necessary, enlist the help of the appropriate Guernsey experts. There is a bit more on that later.

140 'Not all children are psychologically ready to leave their families at an early age' – I wonder whether it is the parents who often create the problem

145 'Not all children are emotionally mature enough to leave their families at an early age' – again, I feel this is the parents' duty to ensure that their children learn to be independent. How often these days do we hear that 30-year-olds are still living at home, despite being able to subsist on their own?

'Some children are legally prevented from leaving Sark' – one has to ask, why? Is this because the child is being used as a pawn in acrimonious parental disputes? The correspondent then goes on to Article 2 of the First Protocol of the ECHR – the right to education: 'the right to education encompasses the right (a) to an effective education that is adequate and appropriate for all children, (b) of access to existing educational institutions, (c) to be educated in the national language' – I feel that is taken for granted – '(d) to obtain official recognition when studies have been completed'. All of these points have been considered by the Committee and with input from parents and are addressed in its proposals.

155 In my opinion, held for a long time, there is no way Sark can provide the very wide scope of subjects needed in this increasingly complex world and provide the best range of subjects for

the individual children. Without the benefit of the width of subjects of offered by Education in Guernsey, it would not be possible for Sark to give our children the best start they deserve.

160 Following on from that, this correspondent asks that as Sark has a secondary school, why can it not continue to employ a secondary teacher in the future? I have dealt with much of this in my previous answer, but it needs to be pointed out that secondary school teachers specialise and therefore teach their special subject, and are thus less proficient in the other disciplines. Even 60 years ago my secondary school had separate teachers for each of the science subjects and the other subjects. In no way can Sark hope to provide this.

165 This also answers the point further raised by the correspondent, that 'for home-schooled children, it is imperative that parents are given the support of a qualified secondary teacher to ensure that the quality is as good as that provided by a recognised educational institution'. See my previous answer.

170 Finally this emailer goes on, 'there is no evidence that the Education Committee, in considering pupils who have special needs, have consulted with the responsible authorities, i.e. Safeguarding Officer, the Sark doctor and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub'. This is wrong. These are in place, used and – naturally – totally confidential to the people involved.

This concludes the answers to the seven page email and does also answer some of the questions raised by other people.

175 The second emailer dealt mainly with home tuition and also commented that in the Scilly Isles, the Five Islands Academy which caters for all the secondary pupils on the other five islands, has Mundesley House, which is a free boarding house funded by the Scilly Islands' Council, which comes under the British government education system and taxpayers.

'Not all children are psychologically ready to leave their family at an early age' – I wonder whether it is the parents who often create the problem.

180 'Not all children are emotionally mature enough to leave their families at an early age' – again, I feel that is the parents' duty to ensure that their children learn to be independent. How often do how often these days do we hear that 30-year-olds are still living at home despite being able to subsist on their own ... ?

185 **The Speaker:** Conseiller Ventress, I think you are beginning to repeat – yes.

Conseiller Ventress: Yes, so I see. My apologies.

190 **The Speaker:** I am not going to allow you to do that, I know Winston Churchill once did it but –

Conseiller Ventress: I turned over the wrong page.

195 The email continues with its main point, comparing the advantages of the most expensive, My Online Schooling – if you wish to Google it, it is just one word – over Sark's Cloudlearn. My Online Schooling sees itself as an online school, and as such offers plenty of chances to socialise with the other students through afterschool clubs, homework study groups, weekly home-school assemblies, and even houses, with inter-House competitions, as well as the online lessons taught by teachers qualified in the subjects they are teaching.

200 The emailer believes that parents should have the choice of which online – and there are others – provider they use, which they believe will provide the best for their child. Three years of My Online Schooling doing 7 GCSEs, including exams, related travelling and accommodation expenses will cost about £12,500, compared with the £30,000 for three years of education in Guernsey.

205 Other comments from emails and in conversation: 'My child would have gone to school in Guernsey had the option been available. There are issues regarding children with special needs, usually dyslexia and/or dyscalculia, which are important.' Again, I feel it would be difficult to adequately cater for all these various special needs and that Guernsey schools have greater

210 experience with these and it is found that these children benefit from being included in the normal school system with appropriate assistance. But in extreme cases a specialist school is available.

Another: 'We would simply like to express that we fully support the options offered in the current Chief Pleas papers. Our personal preference would be for a Sark house, rather than host families'.

215 In conclusion I have always felt that, had it been for Sark financially possible, the ideal solution would be for all children to be educated at an English boarding school – rather, a British boarding school. I personally greatly benefited from my times both from age eight to ten and 13 to 18 as a boarder. I never really gave of my best at my three day-schools.

220 However, due to the many circumstances, it is proposed to educate Sark children at a secondary level in Guernsey. This is just financially viable for Sark. I feel that Guernsey is too close to Sark, and when a child feels homesick, this closeness will just aggravate the feeling. The solution, when it becomes available, will be a Sark boarding house. Host families are at best a satisfactory secondary solution. Home education, while it might be – in exceptional circumstances – a satisfactory solution, it leaves many problems, both for the parents and the appropriate person supervising to ensure that the child or children are receiving the wide range and appropriate lessons for their need.

225 Finally, despite the problems and misgivings raised by various parents and others, I feel that in balance I will be voting for the Propositions, as this will be the best solution for Sark children and their future, including possible university progression.

Thank you.

230

The Speaker: Thank you, Conseiller Tony Ventress.

I suppose I should declare an interest – if you suggest that parents might be the problem when it comes to children, I have probably created more problems than most in this Chamber. *(Laughter)*

235 Conseiller Sandra Williams.

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Follow that! We do not all share that view, by the way.

240 I was going to ask the question about human rights. I have also been asked to ask the question about the travel expenses, and you have already said this evening that they will be travelling Monday to Friday. Has anybody spoken to Sark Shipping or the Committees on Sark to try and come up with something reasonable? If you have, I am not aware of it.

245 I would like to say that I have given great consideration to the recent emails and have taken on board some of the comments raised. But after I insisted that there was a parents' and Conseiller meeting at the school three weeks ago, I was stunned at how many parents were there who were happy and were more contented to send their children away to school. So I have to confess I was defeated on that one.

250 Twenty-one sets of parents out of 24 want to move forward and they want their children to go to Guernsey for their education. But there are still a minority who I hope will get all the support and help they need. Maybe once some of the children have gone and it has all worked out, the parents who do not want this to happen will maybe reconsider.

255 My only concern – which has been discussed already – is still the host family. Parents have told me that they were swayed in the opinion that it was better for them to go to Guernsey because they would be sharing a Sark house and that the children would all be together, not split up from their siblings – because it has been brought to our attention that if more than one child goes and it is still a host family, they could end up living with separate parents. I would like to make my point that I do not think that is a very good way forward.

But I will be supporting this Proposition because it is what the parents have asked us to do. Thank you.

260 **The Speaker:** Thank you.
Conseiller Sam la Trobe-Bateman.

Conseiller La Trobe-Bateman: Not much to add, really, just that I have supported this from
day one. I think it is the best option for all our children. We cannot do adequate secondary
265 education on Sark. Guernsey is the option and I think it is the best option. After speaking to all
the parents the vast majority agree, and failure to do so – because the whole point of this was
actually to keep children here, close to Sark – and after speaking with the parents they felt that
if it did not go through, and Sark was the only option, the majority would leave anyway – either
boarding or taking the whole family away. So if our aim is to keep people here, this is the option.
270 Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.
Conseiller Chris Drillot.

275 **Conseiller Drillot:** Thank you, sir.

I will actually probably cover some of those points but I will read it from what I have written
because otherwise I will confuse myself!

In January I was dead against off-Island education. We are five months later and I can see
both sides, thanks to the time we have had, and the meetings we have been allowed to attend.
280 Meeting with the Director of Education answered some of my concerns, and meeting with the
present parents gave me an idea of what they would like.

We have had many an email, but we have had to make this big decision from a lot of
different opinions. I can see the benefits of setting up with Guernsey and the cost to parents
does not seem to be the main concern. The main concern coming from the parents' meeting was
285 the living accommodation. The majority did not want host families and would prefer a boarding
house. I have got big concerns that Sark will find that very difficult to produce.

I can see the way that the Director and the Committee are looking to produce a very good
school up to the age of 13 with the teachers and the facilities we have, and then produce a good
13-onwards education through Guernsey, instead of getting bad reports from inspectors saying
290 that our secondary school is substandard. I feel that the only opinion off-Island of home
education is not a good one for Sark. There are a lot of possible problems and I feel this needs
more time to set up and to look into all the flaws that are available.

I am worried that if Chief Pleas cannot arrange and fund the schoolhouse in the next three
years, children will have to go with host families, which could mean siblings arriving in Guernsey
295 at different times being split up and a lot of the parents were against that. Financially, I worry
that the predicted figures are based on the numbers in school at the moment. The Isle of Sark
needs to boost its population to survive. Tourism is not enough for us these days. If we are to
build, and to get a lot more families in the next two to four years and they all opt to go to
Guernsey, we will need a bigger house, more finance to cover it, and I am not sure if there is
300 enough income to subsidise that outcome.

My conclusion, I would like to see more time and work done on this, so that everyone is
happy. I think this is a big decision for the Island. I hope it will work. I understand not every
scenario can be thought of, but I feel we have too many unanswered. I quote from one of the
emails, 'It is more important to get this right than to get it done promptly'.
305 Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Does anybody else wish to make a contribution? Right, I have got Conseiller William
Raymond, followed by Christopher Nightingale.

310 **Conseiller Raymond:** Thank you, sir.

I thought about the Propositions being brought this evening at great length – at very great length – and I am saddened to see the reduction in the educational provision on Sark. I also want Members of Chief Pleas to think about the future and well beyond 2020.

315 When I first entered Chief Pleas, there were over 60 children in the school and a number were being educated in England in addition. We now have about 30 children and we are proposing to delegate the initial stages of their secondary education to Guernsey. I say initial stages, as there is no mention of any sixth form of schooling or who or how that will be funded.

320 On the face of it, the economics of the costings based on the age profile of the present school numbers looks compelling, but Sark is committed to increasing its population. There are, after all, about 20 properties already available for that to happen. If the population increases then the advantages of these proposals may not be so secure, as the recruitment of secondary teachers may be a more viable option. Against this possibility, is it wise to envisage legislation to cease the education of children beyond Year 8 on Sark, as this legislation will potentially be
325 irrevocable? We are not just looking at next year. We have to look 20 or 30 years ahead.

The papers state what the Island will fund if the children take up places in Guernsey. But one must highlight the considerable disparity between the Guernsey costs and the financial provision for those who may, for whatever reason, stay on Sark to be educated here. I question whether the parents who are keeping their children on Sark should have to pay for the use of the Learning Centre as envisaged in Proposition 5. I raise this question as parents may have decided
330 to keep their children here for economic reasons and may have difficulty funding these costs. I therefore believe that Proposition 5 is wrong. There should be no charge for the use of the learning hub.

If we are seeking to attract families to the Island, then we must consider what effect the cost of whichever form of education we propose may have on their decision to settle here, as they
335 face an immediate charge for education, as opposed to free education in a country like the United Kingdom. They also face paying the same amount for accommodation in Guernsey or the Learning Centre and I questioned whether this is right. I have real concerns about the lack of a safety net for those who cannot meet these charges, which have been brought about by a change in policy by Chief Pleas, rather than of their own choice. I do not regard loans as being a
340 safety net and I do not regard the reduction in the accommodation cost for second and subsequent children as being realistic.

A lot of the comments that have been received centred on the establishment of a Sark house in Guernsey, and I am concerned that there are no further details of the potential costs of this
345 possibility at the moment.

It is clear that I have severe reservations about the Propositions, but I do commend the Education Committee for the enormous amount of work that they have put into this. Their task has been formidable, but I am not convinced that these Propositions should form the final
350 answer.

The Speaker: Thank you.

I have got Conseiller Phil Long and Conseiller Amanda de Carteret, but first of all Conseiller Christopher Nightingale.

355 **Conseiller Nightingale:** Thank you, sir.

I am probably going to sound like a cracked record, but as I have said many times, I worry that the potential cost of having to send children to Guernsey would put off families with young children who are proposing to settle here and that is what we need – people to come and live here. We do not want anything to discourage them from coming here.

360 My second point that worries me is I do not think – I may be wrong – but I do not think there is a child that is ready to go to Guernsey for the next two years, so I cannot see why we have to rush through this if everybody is not happy with it.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Conseiller Phil Long.

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Conseiller Long: Thank you.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Education Committee for what one can only imagine is a long and thankless task. They have done fantastic work.

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I too have received letters from concerned parents, one of which Conseiller Ventress has read from at length. With regard to that, that I have serious concerns that the writer of the letter is more concerned about their own situation than the rest of the Island, and especially the rest of the children.

I will be voting for this. I think realistically it is the best thing to do. The majority of parents want it to happen and I think it be churlish for us not to do it.

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Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Conseiller Amanda de Carteret.

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Conseiller de Carteret: I am okay, thank you.

The Speaker: Sorry?

Conseiller de Carteret: I do not need to speak now.

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The Speaker: You do not need to?

Conseiller de Carteret: No. Thank you.

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The Speaker: Anybody else?

In that case, I will call Conseiller Pauline Mallinson to sum up the points and answer the points that have been made.

Conseiller Mallinson: Thank you, sir.

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A lot of points come out of those various statements. I will try to address at least some of them.

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The human rights issues that have been referred to – our initial understanding is that the proposals that we are putting forward are not in contravention of human rights, but obviously that is something that the Law Officers will be looking at for us as they are working through the drafting. Also Conseiller Raymond's comment about the irrevocable nature of the thing – I think that is something else we would take on board. If you look at the existing Education Ordinance, it actually talks about the education of children above 11 being in a limited number of subjects and at the discretion of the Education Committee. So it is not prescriptive at the moment as to exactly what will happen and I think we can take on board that point and talk to the Law Officers about it.

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The question of future costs and population increase – yes, that is a very valid point. We have based the budget forecasts we have put in on the best figures that we can based on the school population and, commenting on Conseiller Nightingale's point, actually there are children – not large numbers – but there are children both for September 2020 and the following year who would be eligible to go to Guernsey under these Propositions. So it is something that I think we do need to not rush into, but at least perhaps get to a point of making a decision on reasonably soon or we are leaving those parents and those children with a lot of uncertainty.

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The point about future costs is a very valid one. All I can say is that yes, if the population of the school went back up to 60 children, then we could look again at the possibilities of secondary education. Although again, I would say, St Anne's, who do do education to 16 in

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Alderney, have limitations on that and they are three times the size of Sark School. So I think we would have to grow quite a lot before we would feel differently about the ability to do GCSEs in Sark School.

420 Travel expenses – that is something that in fact we have mentioned to the parents when we met with them. The figures that we put together for accommodation do include an estimate for the boat fares. Now, no, we have not had conversations with Sark Shipping because – to be honest – until we have an agreed Proposition to talk to them about, it is difficult to have the conversations. But the figures that we have quoted to the parents for likely accommodation costs do allow for boat fares to and fro.

425 The charge for the learning hub – interestingly we had various discussions with Conseillers about that. The Education Committee, I think the honest thing to say is that we do not feel strongly about that. I think that was something that Conseillers themselves pushed towards when we had the meeting with them – that we should be charging a comparable figure for the learning hub to the Guernsey accommodation charge. If Conseillers wished us to go back and have further discussions on the charges for the Learning Centre – so long as we can move forward with getting the Learning Centre set up – then we would be happy to have further discussions on what those charges should be. I did say in my introductory remarks that we were not planning to start charging for the Learning Centre until January.

435 I think that is all I wanted to say, except I just briefly wanted to comment – there was a comment about reduction of educational provision at secondary level. I would just like to remind Conseillers that, actually, what children were receiving in school, was online GCSEs – yes they had a teacher supervising that, but that was all that they were receiving in school. They were not being taught in school and they were having to pay for those online GCSEs themselves, whereas we are proposing that those online GCSEs – up to seven – would be paid for.

440 So again I do not believe that we are reducing the educational provision for children who stay in Sark, because they will still be doing online GCSEs and they will still be receiving supervision for those online GCSEs.

Thank you.

445 **The Speaker:** Thank you, in that case, we will go to the propositions. Proposition 1 – and a named vote has been called for all of these. Proposition 1:

That Chief Pleas agrees that Sark children should, if their parents/carers wish it, from September 2020 attend schools in Guernsey from age 13 for Years 9, 10 and 11 of their education and directs the Education Committee to work with the parents/carers to arrange suitable school places and accommodation for these children.

There was a named vote.

Carried – Pour 13, Contre 3, No Vote 0

POUR

Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman
Conseiller Anthony Ventress
Conseiller Sandra Williams
Conseiller Pauline Mallinson
Conseiller Helen Plummer
Conseiller Philip Long
Conseiller John Guille
Conseiller William Raymond
Conseiller Amanda de Carteret
Conseiller Ellen Lalor
Conseiller Rodney Lalor
Conseiller Simon Couldridge
Conseiller Frank Makepeace

CONTRE

Conseiller Christopher Nightingale
Conseiller Paul Williams
Conseiller Christopher Drillot

NO VOTE

None

The Speaker: That is **carried:** 13 votes Pour and 3 votes Contre.

450 Before we go to the named vote on Proposition 2, I should put it to you – and I will do it on a show of hands – that you agree with the amendment that the ‘1st September 2019’ be changed to the ‘1st November 2019’. All those in favour? In that case, I will put the Proposition 2 as amended:

That Chief Pleas agrees that from 1st November 2019 Sark School should no longer educate children beyond the age of 13 (Year 8) and instructs the Education Committee to work with the Law Officers to bring any necessary changes to the Education Law and the Education Committee mandate to Michaelmas Chief Pleas.

There was a named vote.

Carried – Pour 12, Contre 4, No Vote 0

POUR	CONTRE	NO VOTE
Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman	Conseiller Christopher Nightingale	None
Conseiller Anthony Ventress	Conseiller Paul Williams	
Conseiller Sandra Williams	Conseiller Christopher Drillot	
Conseiller Pauline Mallinson	Conseiller William Raymond	
Conseiller Helen Plummer		
Conseiller Philip Long		
Conseiller John Guille		
Conseiller Amanda de Carteret		
Conseiller Ellen Lalor		
Conseiller Rodney Lalor		
Conseiller Simon Couldridge		
Conseiller Frank Makepeace		

The Speaker: That is **carried:** 12 votes Pour, 4 votes Contre.

Proposition 3:

That Chief Pleas agrees that the funding arrangements and parental contribution for Guernsey education and accommodation should be as set out as above.

Greffier.

There was a named vote.

Carried – Pour 12, Contre 4, No Vote 0

POUR	CONTRE	NO VOTE
Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman	Conseiller Christopher Nightingale	None
Conseiller Anthony Ventress	Conseiller Paul Williams	
Conseiller Sandra Williams	Conseiller William Raymond	
Conseiller Pauline Mallinson	Conseiller Frank Makepeace	
Conseiller Helen Plummer		
Conseiller Philip Long		
Conseiller John Guille		
Conseiller Christopher Drillot		
Conseiller Amanda de Carteret		
Conseiller Ellen Lalor		
Conseiller Rodney Lalor		
Conseiller Simon Couldridge		

455 **The Speaker:** That is **carried:** 12 votes Pour and 4 Contre.

Proposition 4:

That Chief Pleas instructs the Education Committee to establish a Learning Centre facility as described above if any parents/carers of Home Educated children notify the Board of Education that they wish to use it.

There was a named vote.

Carried – Pour 12, Contre 4, No Vote 0

POUR	CONTRE	NO VOTE
Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman	Conseiller Christopher Nightingale	None
Conseiller Anthony Ventress	Conseiller Paul Williams	
Conseiller Sandra Williams	Conseiller Christopher Drillot	
Conseiller Pauline Mallinson	Conseiller William Raymond	
Conseiller Helen Plummer		
Conseiller Philip Long		
Conseiller John Guille		
Conseiller Amanda de Carteret		
Conseiller Ellen Lalor		
Conseiller Rodney Lalor		
Conseiller Simon Couldridge		
Conseiller Frank Makepeace		

The Speaker: That is **carried:** 12 votes Pour, 4 votes Contre.

We go to Proposition 5:

That Chief Pleas instructs the Education Committee to charge parents for this facility according to the scale of charges set out above.

Greffier?

460

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Sorry.

The Speaker: Conseiller Sandra Williams, is this a point of order?

465

Conseiller Sandra Williams: No, I wanted to make a comment sir.

The Speaker: We have had all the debate, I mean ...

470

Conseiller Sandra Williams: Well, I am sorry, but I am sure earlier on somebody asked that Proposition 5 be withdrawn, and I would be happy for it to be withdrawn, because it will not affect anything that is going forward about the charge to the parents for using the facility of the hub, and I was rather hoping that somebody from the Education Committee might stand up and pull it themselves.

475

The Speaker: Conseiller Pauline Mallinson, I did not really hear anybody ask for it to be withdrawn. I know that Conseiller Raymond was very much opposed to it.

Conseiller Mallinson: I did not ask for it to be withdrawn. I think I would prefer –

480

The Speaker: No, because I believe it was Conseiller William Raymond (**Conseiller Mallinson:** Yes.) who said he was unhappy with it.

Conseiller Mallinson: I would prefer that it goes to the vote, but if it were lost then obviously we would need to have further discussions around the charging for this facility.

485

The Speaker: Okay. Right I will put it again. Proposition 5:

That Chief Pleas instructs the Education Committee to charge parents for this facility according to the scale of charges set out above.

Greffier.

There was a named vote.

Carried – Pour 4, Contre 12, No Vote 0

POUR	CONTRE	NO VOTE
Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman	Conseiller Christopher Nightingale	None
Conseiller Anthony Ventress	Conseiller Paul Williams	
Conseiller Pauline Mallinson	Conseiller Sandra Williams	
Conseiller Amanda de Carteret	Conseiller Helen Plummer	
	Conseiller Philip Long	
	Conseiller John Guille	
	Conseiller Christopher Drillot	
	Conseiller William Raymond	
	Conseiller Ellen Lalor	
	Conseiller Rodney Lalor	
	Conseiller Simon Couldridge	
	Conseiller Frank Makepeace	

The Speaker: That is **lost:** 4 votes Pour, 12 votes Contre.

490

We go to Proposition 6:

That Chief Pleas instructs the Education Committee to fund agreed on-line GCSE's from an approved provider and associated exam fees for up to 7 GCSE's per home educated child as agreed with the Board of Education in line with the home education plan for that child.

There was a named vote.

Carried – Pour 14, Contre 2, No Vote 0

POUR	CONTRE	NO VOTE
Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman	Conseiller Paul Williams	None
Conseiller Christopher Nightingale	Conseiller Christopher Drillot	
Conseiller Anthony Ventress		
Conseiller Sandra Williams		
Conseiller Pauline Mallinson		
Conseiller Helen Plummer		
Conseiller Philip Long		
Conseiller John Guille		
Conseiller William Raymond		
Conseiller Amanda de Carteret		
Conseiller Ellen Lalor		
Conseiller Rodney Lalor		
Conseiller Simon Couldridge		
Conseiller Frank Makepeace		

The Speaker: That, Proposition 6 is **carried:** 14 votes Pour, and 2 Contre. And I hope as a result of that, those who are being educated have better luck with their apostrophes.

**3. Committee Elections –
Top Level Domain Special Committee and Child Protection Committee –
No nominations**

To elect Conseillers to Committees as required.

The Speaker: We do go to Agenda Item 3 – Committee Elections, to elect Conseillers to Committees as required.

495 There is one vacancy on the Child Protection Special Committee. Are there any nominations from the floor? Okay. We will carry that over to the next time.

There are three vacancies on the Top Level Domain Special Committee. Are there are nominations from the floor? No? Okay.

**4. Committee and Panel Elections –
No nominations**

To elect non-Chief Pleas members to Committees and Panels, as required.

500 **The Speaker:** Agenda Item 4 – Committee and Panel Elections, to elect non-Chief Pleas Members to Committees and Panels as required. Are there any nominations? In that case that carries over.

That, really, concludes our business, and I am now closing the meeting at 7.55 p.m.
Greffier.

PRAYER
The Greffier

Chief Pleas closed at 7.55 p.m.