



AN ASSEMBLY of the PRINCIPALS and ELECTORS of the Parish of Trinity was held in the Parish Hall on Thursday 10th July 2025 at 7.00 pm for the following business:

1. To receive and, if deemed advisable, adopt the Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 11th July 2024.
2. To receive an update on the legal costs incurred by the Parish in relation to the Clameur de Haro inappropriately raised by a parishioner in 2023.
3. To receive the Accounts of the Connétable for the Financial Year 2024 – 2025, the said Accounts having been previously verified and approved by the Committee named for that purpose, assisted by a professional accountant.
4. To vote a sum of money towards the upkeep of the Parish by-roads for the current year.
5. To vote a sum of money towards various Charities.
6. To approve a rate that will produce for the Parish, income that is at least sufficient for the presumed requirements for the financial year ending 30th April 2026, as set out in the approved estimates.
7. To agree the sum to be transferred to the Church capital projects reserve.
8. To agree the sum to be transferred to the Vehicle replacement reserve.
9. To re-appoint Alex Picot Chartered Accountants to prepare and audit the Connétable's Accounts for the Financial Year 2025 - 2026.
10. To elect a committee to examine the Connétable's Accounts for the year 2025 – 2026.
11. To consider the following application for recommendation to the Licencing Assembly:

Name of applicant: Becoorie Jersey Limited

Address: Becoorie On The Beach, Rozel, Trinity
Category of licence: 3rd Category (Restaurant)

Copies of the previous minutes of the last main Assembly together with the Accounts for 2024 – 2025 had been made available in draft from the Parish Hall Office during office hours, from 9am on Monday 7th July 2025, and immediately prior to the Assembly on Thursday 10th July 2025.

The Connétable welcomed those attending including the Rector, Deputies A Howell, J Jeune and E Millar and Mr Steven Philips (the Parish's Audit partner from Alex Picot & Co) to the Main Assembly of the year.

The Convening Notice was read.

Before the business of the Main Assembly commenced, the Connétable gave a tribute to Barry Rondel, who had been a Roads Inspector since 2002 and had died during his 8th term of office. In addition to his honorary service to the Parish, Mr Rondel had been a generous benefactor of the Parish and was sadly missed.

Apologies were received from Mrs F Houghton, Mrs A Le Sueur and Mr R Parker.

1. Minutes of the previous Main Assembly held on Thursday 11th July 2024 having already been made available to the Assembly were adopted on the proposition of Mrs A Pryke and seconded by Centenier J Howell.
2. The Connétable gave the Assembly a lengthy report (a copy of which is attached to these minutes) regarding the Clameur de Haro costs, the last update having been given to the Assembly at its meeting on 5th December 2023. He confirmed that the Parish had reached a mutually agreed settlement figure with Ms de Gruchy regarding the costs owed by her to the Parish in respect of the inappropriately brought Clameur against the Parish. A total figure of £45,000.00 had been received from Ms de Gruchy bringing that litigation to a conclusion. Ms de Gruchy indicated that she wanted to speak at the Assembly on the subject of the Clameur, but she was reminded by the Connétable that the item in the Notice was to receive an update about the costs, not to have a discussion.
3. Mr Phillips of Alex Picot & Co, went through the Parish Accounts for 2024-2025 in detail.

Questions were asked by a member of the Assembly regarding the Parish's refuse collection and road sweeping costs, and accountancy and auditing fees, the parishioner indicating that these costs were much higher compared to other parishes. The Connétable dealt with these questions. On the proposition of Mrs A Pryke and

seconded by Deputy A Howell, the Accounts of the Connétable for the financial year 2024 – 2025, verified and approved by the Committee named for that purpose, assisted by a professional accountant, were accepted by a majority.

4. The Connétable informed the Assembly that the sum of £170,000 was proposed for the Roads Account for 2025-2026, to be spent on maintenance of the Parish by-roads. A member of the Assembly asked why the Parish's roads account was so different to Grouville, the costs being much lower in Grouville. It was explained that comparisons are difficult to make between parishes as parishes have different accounting policies. The sum of £170,000 was proposed by Mr P Williams and seconded by Mr J Gallichan Junior, with a majority of the Assembly voting in favour and one member of the Assembly voting against.
5. The Connétable noted that the Assembly's practice was to add £500.00 each year to the total sum donated to charities and therefore asked for the sum of £15,500.00 to be voted towards various charities. This was proposed by the Rector and seconded by Mrs M Dunford, with a majority in favour.
6. In relation to the presumed requirements amounting to £866,500.00, the Connétable went through the various increases required for the year ahead, which included salaries, professional fees, I.T, insurance and Honorary Police costs. It was noted that bank interest was anticipated to decrease from the previous financial year and that there would be a call on the general reserve (subject to Assembly approval) to fund the Parish Hall extension needed to comply with legislation. The Connétable explained that, whilst the Parish finances were continuing to show a healthy position, an increase in the Parish rate was needed to ensure that the Parish continued to function effectively. He suggested that the Parish rate be increased from 1.20p to 1.30p. To put the proposed increase in perspective, he said that an average four bedroomed house in Le Grand Clos would see an annual increase in Parish rates of about £24.00.

It was noted that, in accordance with legislation, the Island Wide Rate set by the Government of Jersey had been increased in line with the RPI with an increase from 0.92p to 0.94p per quarter for domestic property, and from 1.37p to 1.38p per quarter for non-domestic property.

It was further noted that the proposed increase had been supported by the Connétable's Examining Committee.

A member of the Assembly asked why some of the Parish's funds of approximately £4 million in the bank could not be used to offset an increase in the Parish rate. The Connétable explained that dipping into existing reserves was not prudent and that the

Rates Law requires a Parish to raise enough funds from rates to run the Parish for a year.

Deputy A Howell proposed that the rate should be set at 1.30p. This was seconded by Mr C Bray, with the majority of the Assembly in favour and one member of the Assembly voting against.

7. Regarding the sum to be transferred from surplus income to the church capital projects reserve, the sum of £25,000 was proposed by Mr P Williams and seconded by Vingtenier O Priestley, with a majority in favour and no-one voting against.
8. It was noted that there was currently £40,000 in the Vehicle Replacement Reserve for the police car and that during the forthcoming year the Connétable proposed to increase this by £10,000 with money from the General Reserve, rather than income. Mr A Dunford proposed this move which was seconded by Mr N Le Maistre, with a majority in favour and no-one voting against.
9. The Connétable thanked Mr S Philips for all his hard work on behalf of the Parish over the years in light of his imminent retirement. Advocate C Scholefield proposed and Centenier S de Louche seconded that Alex Picot & Co be appointed to audit the Accounts of the Connétable for the financial year 2025 – 2026, with a majority in favour.
10. The Connétable noted that the Committee elected on a yearly basis to examine the Connétable's Accounts consisted of various ex officio members and a number of adjoints, and that the current adjoints were happy to stand again. One member of the Assembly asked if anyone on the Committee had accountancy experience and raised concerns about some of the adjoints being members of the Roads Committee. No other candidates being proposed and seconded, the proposal of Mr J Le S Gallichan Senior and seconded by Mr P Williams, all members of this year's Committee were re-elected 'en bloc' with a majority of the Assembly in favour and one member voting against. The adjoints re-appointed were Mr B Fossey, Mr N Le Maistre, Mr A Otterwell and Mr R Parker.
11. An application was made by a director of Be Coorie Jersey Limited for the Assembly's support regarding a licence for the property at Rozel that had previously been operated as the Rozel Bay Tea Rooms. The Assembly was advised that the licence would be used in the same way as the previous licence. The application was proposed by Mr J Turner and seconded by Mr P Williams and a majority of the Assembly was in favour. It was noted that 41 were in attendance at this stage of the meeting.

Before closing the meeting, the Connétable thanked Mr Steve Phillips, Mr Andrew Myers and the auditors for their assistance with the Parish Accounts. Further thanks were extended to all of the Parish staff, the Rates Assessors, the Procureurs, the Honorary Police and everyone involved with the Municipality for their support and commitment during the year. He also thanked his wife, Angela, and his family for their continuing support, noting it was his 11th and last Main Assembly.

Procureur J Moulin, who was also at his last Main Assembly in his role, then thanked the Connétable for his many years of service to the Parish. He noted some of the milestones achieved during that time, including the completion of the Parish's retirement homes, the creation of the Pétanque pitch and clubhouse, and the refurbishment of the Trinity Youth Centre, and wished him all the best for the future.

The Connétable thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8:20pm.

15th September 2025

Date

P Le Sueur

Connétable

Parish Assembly 10th July 2025

Clameur de Haro final report - Agenda item 2

1. The purpose of this Report is to update the Parish Assembly regarding the progress and conclusion of the 2023 Clameur de Haro litigation. The last update was given approximately 19 months ago, at a Parish Assembly on 5th December 2023. At that time the litigation was still active, in that the issue of costs payable to the Parish was still to be resolved. A costs order had been made in favour of the Parish, the Court having decided that the Clameur had been incorrectly brought by Ms Nicola de Gruchy against the Parish. However, the specific amount recoverable was still in issue. In December 2023, the Parish Assembly approved the payment of all the legal costs incurred to date, plus all future costs, it being understood that some costs would be recovered from Ms de Gruchy in due course.
2. I am pleased to be able to advise the Assembly that this matter finally came to a mutually agreed conclusion in May of this year, the Parish having received an agreed amount on account of its costs in the sum of £45,000.00 from Ms de Gruchy. I will explain shortly how that figure was achieved, but first I need to give a brief background of events as this matter had been ongoing for just under two years.
3. Since 2021, the Parish had experienced difficulties with the branchage in Rue Becq. It tried to deal with matters constructively without the need for and cost of legal representation, despite Ms de Gruchy retaining a law firm in or about December 2022. However, by mid-August 2023, the Parish had no choice but to engage a firm of lawyers, Viberts. By mid-August the first branchage of the year had not been satisfactorily undertaken in Rue Becq and Ms de Gruchy had engaged another law firm, Mistry Law, to communicate with the Parish about Rue Becq.
4. Viberts is a mid-sized Jersey law firm. The terms of Vibert's engagement were set out in a letter of engagement signed by me as Constable after consultation with the Procureurs. The Parish was given a significant 25% discount in respect of its legal costs. Advocate Christopher Schofield was the lead partner on the case, delegating work where appropriate to less senior members of staff. At the outset, the hourly rates for the fee earners involved ranged from £367.50 for the most senior fee earner involved, Advocate Schofield (£490 less 25%) down to £93.75 for the most junior fee earner involved.
5. At the beginning of October, a costs estimate of fees between £4.9k and £12.2k was given. This was given on the basis that Ms de Gruchy would be persuaded that her refusal to complete the branchage on the basis that she owned parts of Rue Becq was a stance not justified in law for her to take, and that common sense as well as the correct legal position would prevail without the need of any Court hearing. Unfortunately, that did not prove to be the case.

6. Despite the assistance of an experienced legal team, Ms de Gruchy raised a Clameur de Haro the morning of 5th October 2023 to prevent the Parish from doing the branchage in Rue Becq. An emergency hearing in front of the Bailiff took place later that day, at which the Bailiff gave directions as to how the case would proceed. The Clameur, being litigation classified as a cause de brevité, followed a condensed and intense timetable culminating in a full hearing on 22nd November 2023. This was followed by detailed submissions by the parties on the subject of legal costs. Two Royal Court hearings later, with Ms de Gruchy having lost the Clameur, the Royal Court ordered that she needed to contribute to the legal costs incurred by the Parish in respect of it. The Royal Court delivered its formal judgment on 9th April 2024, which judgment is accessible via the Jersey Law website. It commented as follows: “In our judgment, the raising of the Clameur de Haro was not only improper in the circumstances but it was, in the light of the correspondence, arguably unreasonable.”
7. There is a formal Court process called the taxation of costs by which the specific amount owed is identified, with there always being the possibility of the amount being agreed by the parties involved. As previously confirmed at the time of the last update, as a matter of public policy, there is always a shortfall between the legal costs incurred by a successful party and the legal costs recovered by that party.
8. The Parish made an effort to try and explore a settlement of the costs figure with Ms de Gruchy at this stage. Unfortunately, getting no substantive response from Ms de Gruchy via her lawyer, it had no option but to incur further legal costs pursuing the taxation process. This involved the production of a detailed bill of costs for taxation, for analysis by the Court and Ms de Gruchy. Ms de Gruchy taking no active part in the taxation process, the Parish, having followed that process and having obtained a taxed bill of costs order, sent the order to the Viscount’s Department for enforcement.
9. It was at the enforcement stage that Ms de Gruchy, no longer legally represented, decided to apply for leave to appeal the taxed bill of costs order, seeking for the bill to be reassessed with her input. She cited the breakdown in the relationship with her most recent lawyer as a reason why she had not participated at all in the taxation process. The Court having granted her leave to appeal out of time, the Parish on advice chose not to oppose her application.
10. Rather than continue to incur legal costs by pursuing a contested taxation process, which would have been lengthy and resulted in another Court hearing and quite possibly a subsequent appeal, the Parish entered into negotiations with Ms de Gruchy about the amount of costs payable to the Parish. This is how the figure of £45,000.00 was reached, £2,500 of which was in respect of a contribution by Ms de Gruchy to the Parish’s costs incurred after the Clameur hearing.

11. As at the time of the last update in December 2023, the Parish had received two invoices from Viberts:

31 st October 2023	£32,219.38
24 th November 2023	£46,530.62

Since then, it has received a third bill:

10 th April 2025	£17,780.79
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12. The total legal costs and disbursements incurred by the Parish as a consequence of Ms de Gruchy's 2023's branchage and Clameur de Haro failures, the taxation process, the enforcement process, Ms de Gruchy's application for leave to appeal and settlement negotiations are £96,645.79. The difference of £115 between the total of the bills and total costs relates to costs that had to be paid to the Viscount and Court in respect of enforcement and caveat stamps.
13. The Parish's costs of the Clameur de Haro, as identified in the bill of costs produced for the taxation, were £81,734.41. The recovery of £42,500.00 represents a percentage recovery of 52%, which is reasonable in the circumstances.
14. Whilst I and the Procureurs did everything possible at every stage of the Clameur proceedings to minimise the Parish's expenditure on legal costs and therefore the eventual shortfall to be met by the Parish, the shortfall in respect of the Clameur is just over £39,000. And of course, there have also been additional costs incurred in respect of all the other steps that had to be taken. It is disappointing that the refusal of a solitary parishioner to comply with the Branchage law, which has been in place since 1904, followed by her subsequent decision to commence inappropriate litigation has incurred this expenditure for the Parish. Unfortunately, the Parish had no option but to react appropriately when made a defendant in legal proceedings, and in doing so, had no choice but to spend Parish funds.
15. I sincerely hope that this matter proves itself to be one of a kind for the Parish. On a positive note, the first branchage of the year has been completed in respect of Rue Becq. However, I am afraid that I need to advise the Assembly that Ms de Gruchy has continued to assert a claim of ownership over unidentified parts of Rue Becq, but to date she has not provided the Parish with any evidence or information which supports her claim.