DELIBERATION

The Electors of the Parish of the Vale have met at the Douzaine Room on this 4th November 2026 for the election of One Constable and Five Douzeniers.

The Meeting was opened by the Constable of the Douzaine who led the opening prayer.

Apologies were given from Douzenier Van der Tang

51 parishioners attended the meeting.

The Constable read out the publication explaining that an error had been made on our part where the inclusion of the election for the office of member of the Vale Parish Church Property Management Board (2 seats). There would be no election taking place on the evening of the meeting as this always takes place at the March meeting.

ONE CONSTABLE

The candidates or proposers were invited to give a small speech on the candidates and their manifestos. Mr Niles stood and read out his manifesto followed by Mr B de Jersey and Miss R Henry. Mrs M Lowe then stood and gave a speech followed by Mr Lemeé.

Mr T Ashworth stood and called for a deferred election saying it would be more democratic. RL explained there would need to be 7 people required to call for a deferment to which 10 more people stood. Two people objected asking why they could not vote on the night or if it was deferred was it possible to vote by proxy or postal vote.

With the requirements of the Law being duly observed, the Returning Officer, Mr Richard Leale declared a deferred election which would be held on Wednesday 18th November 2026 between the hours of 10am and 8pm.

FIVE DOUZENIERS

As the number of nominations received did not exceed the number of vacancies, and the requirements of the Law being duly observed, the Returning Officer, Mr Richard Leale declared Mr Wilson John Le Page, Mr Nigel John Leale, Mrs Janine Patricia Le Cras, Alexander Paul Rowe and Mrs Nina Jane Gill duly elected.

BY THE ELECTORS AND RATEPAYERS

1. To approve the decision of the Parochial Cemetery Committee to hand over the running of the said cemetery to the Constables and Douzaine of the Vale.

Mrs Denise Cohu, President of the Vale Parochial Cemetery Committee, stood and advised the proposal is now slightly different from in the publication due to the Constables raising issues which the committee have not had time to sort. The proposal is now broken down into two parts:-

a) to accept the resignations of current cemetery committee and
b) to agree in principle the transfer of the management to the Constables of the Vale.

Mrs Cohu went on to explain the decision behind the move was to make efficiencies. The committee of 7 meet four times a year, (which are all minuted), and all walk the cemetery to check on its condition. Although the committee manages the cemetery, the Constables own the land. The committee has been running for over 100 years, but things are much different now. Health and safety, liability and data protection are all difficult to manage for volunteers.

Mr R Brache stood and asked if the Church were happy with what's happening. Mrs Cohu responded that there was no involvement by the Church, although discussions were held with them.

Mrs Cohu continued that the committee cannot comment on how the Constables will run the cemetery, but they are happy in principle.

Mr B De Jersey stood and explained the Cemetery had been formed in 1922 by an Order in Council by King George V. He also went on to say the accounts are now approved but do not go online and that the committee do not use the rules and any changes should be put to the ratepayers. He explained there were 5 cemeteries and named them and where they were in regard to the church. He said he had done a lot of research over the years, but that there was more to running a cemetery than just burials. Did the Constables have the time? They also need to be able to advise and console family members on the death of a loved one.

Denise responded that every word Mr De Jersey had said was true and respected his comments. The rules are still the same, however, the committee do have amendments to be made but all changes will go to the parish meeting. All the parishes have followed the rules. 2 parishes, Vale and St Martins have an ordinance unlike the other parishes. St Sampsons Douzaine have just taken over their cemetery and St Martin's have taken action for change. The committee had not taken the decision lightly to resign en masse.

Mr B Cohu stood and asked why the committee had resigned. Mrs Cohu responded that all committee members are liable in case of any damages brought against the cemetery. Mr Cohu then advised that he used to mow the lawns and playground for the Constables and Douzaine, with a mower purchased for the job by them. He was then stopped after a meeting with their insurance company.

Mr R Leale advised the meeting that the Constables and Douzaine carry a greater insurance cover, however, it has never been tested in law and were advised to be careful when you employ.

Mr R Leale asked if the meeting could now vote on the proposals.

a) to accept the resignations of current cemetery committee. The resignation of committee members would not be immediate. It was asked what happens between the resignation and new committee being set up. Mr Leale advised that the law officers had explained the managing of the cemetery reverts back under the control of the Constables. After a lot of discussion between the meeting members, Mr A Quevatre stood and asked if the meeting could respect the volunteers and their wishes to resign.
   The majority of the meeting raised their hands in approval with 4 against.

b) to agree in principle the transfer of the management to the Constables of the Vale. The majority approved with 1 against.

Mr B De Jersey stood again and asked for a proposal to defer but Mr R Leale advised the vote had already taken place with more details being given at the March parish meeting.

2. **To elect auditors for the Constables accounts for 2026.**

Mr Leale explained that although no longer in the Vale, the Constables and Douzaine would like to continue using Collenette Jones.

RN proposed and Mrs M Lowe seconded the motion. The meeting approved.

3. **To fix the time at which Parish Meetings shall be held in 2027.**

Mr C Smith proposed 7:30pm and the meeting approved.

4. **To take all such measures as the Electors and Ratepayers may deem advisable.**

Mr I Hunter said holding a deferred election was unfair to those at the meeting and found the whole thing distasteful.

Mr B Cohu questioned the use of funds spent by the Constables and Douzaine, £17,000 to repair the roof on the hut at Bordeaux. 10 people have keys, Mr Cohu being one of them. He stated the electricity and water was free and lay-up of boats used to be free.

Mr Leale advised the meeting that the users now pay a lay-up fee which covers the cost of the utilities and the £17,000 would not be asked of the ratepayers but from the collection of dog tax. He also explained that the roof leaks and is made of asbestos which is very old. The Constables have a duty of care to replace. It was asked when the last time the roof had been replaced and nobody knew.

Mr Naftel told the meeting he had worked with asbestos and it's a killer and effects a lot of people.

Miss V Robinson advised she had been one of the 11 who had stood for a deferred election and was unhappy her integrity had been called in to question. She told the meeting it is more democratic when more people turn out to vote with different age groups in attendance and being able to engage with the ratepayers. She also stated she appreciates it is annoying for those who have turned out to vote on the night and are unable to do so.

Mrs M Ellis then stood and agreed with everything that Miss Robinson had said saying it was not co-ordinated or cloak and dagger.

Mrs S Banyard stood and said she didn't want the other 9 to stand and repeat the same thing.

The Constable thanked everyone for attending then read the closing prayer.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:30 pm.

Signed

Witnessed by

J. C. S. F. Smithies

Shirley E Banyard

Witnessed by

SHIRLEY E BANYARD