

FINAL

MINUTES of the Faversham Town Twinning Association (FTTA) Committee meeting held in the Guildhall, Faversham on Tuesday 26 September 2017

Present: Catherine Bessières-Craddock, Nigel Kay (Chair NK), Peter Flower, Sheila Maister (Secretary SM), Chris Oswald-Jones (COJ), Julian Saunders (Treasurer JS)

Catherine Bessières-Craddock's nomination as a co-opted Committee member was unanimously agreed and she was welcomed to the Committee by the Chair.

ACTION

1. Minutes of Committee meeting on 25 July 2017

The minutes were accepted and approved.

2. Matters arising

Constitution: NK reported that the current solicitors had proved unsatisfactory on matters unrelated to the FTTA and he therefore proposed an alternative firm - CRS - to check the wording of our constitutional aims and objectives. CRS are specialists in advising charities. PF queried the necessity of employing solicitors for this purpose. However, it was agreed that it would be prudent to have appropriate wording which would enable FTTA to apply for grant funding in future. NK reminded the Committee that he had offered to donate the cost of the solicitors' work. It was agreed that we would proceed with CRS, but that it was imperative to have the constitution agreed before the proposed AGM in June 2018. NK agreed to pursue this matter. **NK**

Website: JS explained the background. COJ reported that he had not yet contacted Tim Stoner to see if he could give advice on using Wordpress. It was agreed that we did need a website but that a sophisticated one was not necessary as we already have a Facebook presence. PF offered to try to recruit a volunteer website co-ordinator at the forthcoming volunteer fair. **COJ/PF**

Committee membership: It was agreed that we needed to recruit more members to the Committee. A review of current members' applications was still underway to identify people with specific skills whom we could approach for help. **JS and SM**

SM reported that she had now contacted the Mayor to inform her that we were proposing to send her and the Town Clerk all future member communications. **SM**

Events

Wine Tasting on 7 October: JS reported that 20 tickets had been sold, of a total of 60. A mailing had gone out to FTTA members to inform them that tickets were now available to non-members. The Alexander Centre had agreed to sell tickets on our behalf, for a small commission and to promote the event on their website and in the centre. **SM/JS**

Day Trip to Hazebrouck on 24 November: NK had obtained a quote for a 49-seat coach but it was agreed that the cost was too high for us to consider. It was agreed that we would ask members who were willing to drive, to take passengers who would share

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costs, as we had done before. NK, JS and CBC offered their cars. It was agreed to appeal for additional drivers in the forthcoming newsletter. **SM/JS**

Follow up Film night: JS reminded the committee that feedback after the May film show suggested that there was enthusiasm for more film evenings. It was agreed that we would aim to show another film in March/April at the West Faversham Community Centre.

Hop Festival report: It was agreed that the event had been generally successful, and we hoped that our Hazebrouck visitors had enjoyed their experience. Martine Dauchez had emailed SM and NK to thank us for our hospitality.

3. Future developments

It was agreed that there should be a consultation with members from now until November to identify our priorities for next financial year. The possible priorities presented in the supporting paper for the agenda item were agreed for the consultation which will be carried out via an emailed form.

At our November committee meeting we will then review the results of the consultation as well as our experience so far in order to start preparing a 2018/19 Business Plan, which can be prepared in draft form for committee agreement at our January meeting.

We will then hold a members meeting in February to present the draft plan and get final input on its content from members. Date for this meeting to be set at our November meeting.

AGM and future meeting dates: It was agreed to have an AGM, booked for Tuesday 26 June. **JS/SM**

Topics for talks: NK suggested having a talk on Hazebrouck. It was agreed that the local schools might be useful in progressing this; NK agreed to investigate. CBC suggested contacting a local historian in Hazebrouck who had spoken at the Mi-Carême festival. NK had a contact at Canterbury Christchurch University whom he offered to contact. SM agreed to ask Martine Dauchez about school contacts in Hazebrouck. **NK/SM**

4. **Market Stall:** JS and SM reported that exercise had been successful and we had been lucky with the weather. COJ and PF had assisted with setting up and staffing the stall. 5 people had joined the Association and 5 people had purchased tickets for the wine tasting. There were 45 entries in the free quiz on Hazebrouck and there were three correct entries. NK was asked to draw a winner, Robert Lamoon, who would be contacted about publicity on our FB page. It was agreed that FTTA would cover the £10 prize French food voucher to be redeemed at the Le Berger market stall. **SM**

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5. Financial and membership report

Membership: JS reported that FTTA now has 63 members.

Financial report: Updated accounts provided. £50 of subs income and £240 of ticket income in last 2 months. Expenditure incurred £100 for hire of Alexander Centre, £40 for attendance of interpreter and partner at Mayor's Hop festival reception and £60 gifts for Hazebrouck following March visit. Current balance £1,092 but some wine tasting costs still to be incurred.

As we are now in the second half of the financial year, it was agreed to reduce membership fees for new members to £5 for the remainder of the year. JS

6. Any other business and date of next meeting

Second newsletter to be prepared for October and would be sent out in the week before the wine tasting. Draft copies were circulated for comment. SM/JS

SM reported that following a conversation with the Hazebrouck visitors, she had done some research on the Hazebrouck Railway Workers International Junior Football tournament. SM and JS undertook to contact Faversham based youth football teams to see whether they would be interested in taking part in the future and to report back to the next meeting. SM/JS

Next Committee meeting: Tuesday 28 November 2017