

Minutes of FTTA Management Committee Meeting held at 8 Worcester Close, Faversham
at 5.00 p.m. on Thursday, 11th January, 2024

1. Present : Catherine B-C, Stephen C, Richard S, Julian S, Clarissa H, Trevor B, Eileen A,
The Mayor of Faversham Cllr Trevor Martin
Minutes : Christine F
2. Apologies : Margaret A, Tina M
3. Minutes of the A.G.M. were approved and no matters raised.
4. Matters arising from the last Management Committee Meeting
 - a) Communication with Hazebrouck. Catherine had been in touch with Jean-Michel. There was no progress on the twinning association. He had sent an e-mail to Matthieu but no reply so far. Jean-Michel is very keen to progress things. It was suggested that Jean-Jacques (partner of Suzanne Gerhart) who came to speak at our AGM) might help and that a list of clubs and organisations in Faversham could be made available and displayed in Hazebrouck Tourist Office.
The Maison des Associations might be the best place and Jean-Michel thinks this is a good idea. A list could also appear in our Visitor Centre in Faversham.
 - b) Catherine feels we have made a lot of effort to keep our twinning link alive and may now need a new strategy – perhaps by using Facebook and Instagram more effectively. Ideally someone younger to do this **Richard to send message to the membership to try to find someone to take responsibility for this. Julian will also advertise it on our existing Facebook page.**
 - c) Keeping in touch with Hazebrouck. Trevor Martin told the meeting that as Mayor he is invited to a large number of events in Hazebrouck, many of which he is unable to accept through financial constraints. Trevor Bryans felt we needed a contact to keep us aware of significant events and to be able to tell of Faversham's events – eg Open Faversham, boating events on the Creek, Noah's Fludde and other concerts etc. Julian felt we were limited in what we could do – it had always been difficult to get things established, and communication has been difficult. It is important to keep contact with Suzanne and Jean- Jacques and for members to keep visiting Hazebrouck and investigate the Hub. Faversham Town Council sends regular invitations to the Mayor of Hazebrouck for such events as the Mayor's Ball.
Trevor Martin will also send a New Year Greeting message.
5. Possible programme for the next year
 - a) French Wine Tasting. Possibly in the Purifier Building and perhaps at the end of May. **Catherine to follow up with Clive when he returns from India.**

- b) Bastille Day Party – perhaps in the Faversham Physic Garden, and maybe with a French accordian player to entertain.
- c) Dejeuner sur L’Herbe – possibly on 7th September and possibly also at Faversham Physic Garden . **Clarissa to make enquiries about the possibility of holding these two events at the Physic Garden. Catherine will try to find a musician.**
- d) Trip to Hazebruck, and perhaps St Omer for members of FTTA. No date as yet. A group of us will go to Hazebrouck for the Mi-Careme parade on Sunday, 17th March, possibly staying overnight.
- e) Activities involving young people. It was suggested that some children from Eastling and maybe the Abbey School, with parents and probably a teacher, be invited to visit Hazebrouck for the Mi-Careme celebration. **Catherine to make contact with the Schools and Steve to make enquiries about the cost of a mini-bus and driver. Also to enquire of the town council about the possibility of using the community bus.**

Trevor B believes QE are re-establishing their links with Hazebrouck Schools following the pandemic. He will talk to the head of languages to see if it is possible through the senior schools to establish links with Hazebrouck primary schools. **Trevor will talk to Mr Johnson.**

6. Keeping the membership involved.

- a) It was agreed that the monthly get-together at Castella’s was not very well attended and that the bar was usually too noisy to be able to hold any discussion. It was suggested that we reduced the number of meetings to one approximately every three months – and perhaps with food as well as wine. A possible first date for this new idea might be 28th February. **Catherine to follow this up with Eric.**
- b) Trevor B suggested that members wanting to discuss French films could perhaps meet in people’s homes. The showing of the 2nd part of the Three Musketeers is on 29th January at the Royal and Catherine and Steve would host a discussion on 31st January. **Richard to notify membership.**
- c) Catherine suggested establishing a loan system for members wanting to watch French DVDs.

7. Financial Report

Currently there are 48 paid up members. Glynn Nash has written wishing FTTA good luck but for personal reasons will not be renewing his membership. Current balance is £4,177.05 with no cash in hand. To date the lottery has raised £200.50 this financial year 1.4.23 – 31.3.24.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.50 p.m. No date was decided for the next meeting. Catherine will email the group at the end of the month to suggest a date.

