

Minutes of a Meeting of the FTTA Management Committee held at 8 Worcester Close, Faversham on Thursday, 25th April, 2024 at 4.00 p.m.

Present : Catherine B-C, Clarissa H, Trevor B, Margaret A
Minutes – Christine F

Apologies : Cllr Trevor Martin, Mayor of Faversham, Steve C, Eileen A, Richard S, Julian S, Tina M

Minutes of the meeting of 11.1.24 were accepted.

1 .Future Activities

- a) Catherine is still trying to organise a Wine Tasting, probably at the Purifier Building in May or June
- b) It was decided to hold an afternoon tea (gouter) at the Physic Garden on Bastille Day (Sunday, 14th July). A glass of crémant would also be served.
- c) The Dejeuner sur L’Herbe will be held on Saturday, 14th September – probably also in the Physic Garden. **Clarissa to investigate.**
- d) If it is not possible to hold the Wine Tasting we will hold another evening at Castella in May or June **Catherine will talk to Eric about including some food for those with restricted diets.**

2. Finances : Richard has already e-mailed the financial report to you. Please attach it to these minutes. **It was suggested that Richard remind members that their subs are now due.**

3. Visit to Mi-Careme at Hasebrouck You will already have received Clarissa’s very detailed e-mail regarding this trip. Again, please attach it to these minutes. You will find below a report from Eastling teacher Janette Johnson. The committee asked Catherine to send a letter to Cllr Martin asking him to write to Valentin regarding the visit. **Catherine will then send a report to Matthieu Fioen with suggestions for potential future visits.**

4. Hazebrouck Twinning Association and improving communication. Jean-Michel and Maite from the newly convened Hazebrouck association are frustrated by the slow progress and are anxious to ‘get going’. It was suggested that we need a framework so that communication becomes easier. Direct communication between the two twinning associations would seem more sensible and easier to manage if it is possible to work without going through the civic offices. **Catherine will contact Jean-Michel to discuss how to progress this.**

5. Progress on linking clubs and societies in Faversham and Hazebrouck.

Following Catherine’s suggestion at a previous meeting, **Margaret offered to put together a list of clubs and organisations in Faversham** - this could be given to Hazebrouck Twinning to allow communication between interested groups and displayed in their “Maison des Associations” to allow communication between interested groups. Catherine pointed out that scouts and running clubs in Faversham were interested in making contact with their French counterparts. Participation of clubs and societies of both towns in their respective

open days was also discussed. Catherine will contact Jean-Michel to discuss how to progress this.

There being no further business the meeting closed.

The next meeting will be at 8 Worcester Close on Thursday, 4th July at 5.00 p.m.

Extract of email sent to Clarissa Hanna by Janette Johnson

I think the feedback from the parents/staff who went would be helpful too. This would be that it was such a kind offer to send us to Hazebrouck and a great experience for the children. If I was to do it again though I think it might be better to go on a Saturday when the town is open. I think the children had thought they may be able to visit some shops and have the chance to practise buying things. Also, going to the parade was a nice idea and it was lovely to see this, and be part of it, but it meant that the French Twinning people were very busy with their floats and we didn't see much of them. Maite was amazing and did her best to make us feel welcome although she hadn't known about the visit until just beforehand. She has messaged me today to say that she has some interest from her children's school and will put me in touch with them so the trip may have had the desired effect after all which is good. Possibly the French side could have made the refreshment arrangements clearer, or indeed known themselves what they were!!!, then we would have been more prepared. I did buy the children a meal each (the parents were happy to pay for their own) but you have spent so much on the visit already so this is fine. I know Catherine has battled with the members of Hazebrouck twinning over the past couple of years to get responses about school liaisons so she will not be at all surprised to hear that they weren't very prepared for our arrival. The children's perception was similar to the parents. They were grateful for the chance to go and have the experience of using the tunnel etc. They enjoyed seeing inside the town hall and liked the apple juice and biscuits. They liked seeing all the floats in the parade but they found it a bit odd to be tagged onto a float of 'handball' players who didn't know who they were or why they were there. I'm sure this was the French sides way of including them though. They also thought the bands were good and the hare was funny but they did complain about the weather!!!!

Anyway, hopefully I will hear from Maite's contact at the school and thank you again for organising the visit.

Kind regards,
Janette