

Minutes of FTTA AGM Thursday 30th April 2026

Present:

Catherine Bessieres-Craddock, Stephen Craddock, Tim Whishaw , Anne Salmon, Trevor Payne, Chris Oswald-Jones, Eileen Allen, Julian Saunders, Tina Montzimir, Shelagh Gregson, Daniel Gould, Mike Wheeler, Ruth Cronk, Mike Wilkins, Trevor Bryan, Clarissa Hanna

Apologies:

Richard and Jane Shipman, Leslie Govier, Bob McKay, Margaret and Trevor Abram

1. Minutes of reset AGM of 23rd April 2025

Accepted.

Proposed: Chris Oswald-Jones

Seconded: Julian Saunders

2. Finances and membership

In the absence of Richard Shipman Steve Craddock gave a brief resume of the Treasurer Report circulated to all members ahead of the mee ting.

The Treasurer report was accepted.

In short the Association finances remain in a very healthy state with a balance of £3,781.

Income came from subscriptions, events, donations and lottery winnings, one of them being quite substantial.

Outgoings were event costs, hire of meetings venues and insurance.

This healthy financial state made it possible to donate £500 to Abbey School to be used as described in Catherine's Chair report attached.

At the end of March 2026 we had 34 paid up members compared with 42 at the end of March 2025.

Chris proposed a vote of thanks to Richard for his work as a Treasurer of the Association over many years.

Thanks to Dennis Parrett CBE for examining and certifying the accounts were also expressed

3. Chair report and actions since the last AGM

See Chair report attached

4. Future of FTTA

For reasons outlined in her report Catherine suggested that the association be dissolved and invited members present to comment/discuss.

The mood of the meeting was one of regret and resignation. There was an acceptance that this was the only possible solution given the fact that no one had come forward to replace those resigning.

Some members asked if the French group meeting at Castella and often lending their support to our events might in some ways continue the work of the Association.

Catherine explained that the group was totally informal and did not aspire to more than being a group of natives and non-native French speakers meeting for a chat. They may however be keen to organise some sort of Bastille Day celebration once a year and to share information about events related to French culture such as films, plays or exhibitions in our area.

Mike Wheeler asked if a list of current members contact details could be kept after FTTA ceases all activities so that they could be informed about such events.

Catherine said that she would be happy to keep a list but that members would have to give their permission in writing to comply with Data Protection laws.

Following a proposal by Catherine and seconded by Clarissa a vote was taken on dissolving Faversham Town Twinning Association.

Trevor Bryan reminded members that a 75% agreement from members present was required by our constitution.

The vote in favour was unanimous (16 in favour)

The Association is therefore dissolved but the planning committee will continue to work on our 2 remaining events for the year: the wine tasting event on Friday 8th May and the Bastille Day celebration on Sunday 12th July .

Several members thanked past and present committee members for all their hard work.

Julian commented that all organisations have their time span and that though we are sad to see this association coming to an end we should celebrate all it has achieved in the 10 years since re-forming in 2016 after many years of inactivity.

Julian and Catherine also clarified that Faversham is still officially twinned with Hazebrouck as the twinning agreement is between the 2 towns councils independently of any twinning associations.

The funds will be disposed of as described in the Chair report after payments of expenses for the 2 remaining FTTA events and members will receive detailed information organisations and projects these funds will help support.

Members will also be contacted with a view to getting individual permission to use their contact details to pass on information on Francophile events.

AOB

Clarissa brought to our attention that a lot of FTTA archive material largely provided by Margaret Abram has been passed on to the Faversham Society.