

MINUTES OF LAST COMMITTEE MEETING & 2022 AGM

Minutes of the French Connection Committee meeting held 11.00-12.30 Wednesday 19 Oct at the Langford Inn

Present: Shail Patel (Chair). John Adams, Frank Finn, Lindsey Shaw-Miller (to 11.45), Janet Walters

Apologies Jenny Barr, Perran Jervis

The chair proposed that the standard agenda be put aside to prioritise matters relating to the AGM. **Agreed**

1 AGM

.1 Venue : *Janet and John to confirm a venue*

.2 Relations between 'the French Connection' and the 'Wrington Twinning Association (WTA)' were still a cause of some confusion, so:

The WTA had formally changed its name to 'The French Connection' at the AGM in 2018 with twinning becoming just one of the activities within the FC portfolio and managed on behalf of the Parish Council. Although the WTA had dissolved into the FC the bank account remained in the name of the WTA. This was not felt to be a problem, based on the analogy with holding companies and trading names.

.3 A discussion followed, and several views emerged:

- while committee members had each made significant contributions to FC activities as individuals the Committee had little to offer as a management group and could well inhibit action.
- strong infrastructure (Newsletter, Website etc,) better than most other twinning associations - comparatively frequent meetings (every 6-8 weeks at present) were unnecessary and unproductive, since this implied a heavy commitment that discouraged volunteers. In fact, most activities could be run effectively on a minimal time commitment.
- a new way of working should be introduced to make the FC / WTA more attractive and accessible to members and others interested in our aims. However, change would take time to plan and implement and radical reformation should be left to the 2022-23 committee.
- discussion next steps to be an item on the AGM agenda.

[Shail to produce discussion notes for prior circulation with advance copy to Lindsey for Newsletter and Frank for website].

.4 As a step towards achieving structural flexibility and membership participation **it was agreed** to put the following resolution to the AGM:

'That the Clause 7b of the Constitution should be revised to read "The Committee should meet at least once a year".

[John to include this in AGM notification to be circulated by 24 Oct. Lindsey, who has latest circulation list, to circulate]

2 TWINNING

.1 Janet reported (email 20 Sept 22) that she had with Fabrice, Celine, Jerome and others while in Villeneuve and they had explained their plans to upgrade the memorial to Lt Rodgers and install a CCTV camera. Jerome seems to be masterminding this and his idea of the tail end of a plane has been changed to a reconstruction. The plan is to unveil the new memorial on 20th August 2024 – the 80th anniversary of the crash

It was agreed that this should be placed on the agenda for consideration by the incoming committee

.2 Elizabeth Manetas follows twinning development on the website and has been in touch with John. *John to reply informally*

.3 Shail reported that the zoom conversations with Villeneuve were developing well, with several younger members on the French side participating. Jane required support with moderation. *Shail and Jane to discuss options.*

3 DEVON TWINNING CIRCLE

.1 Lindsey [email 26 Sept 22] reported that: 'The Devon Twinning Circle are holding their AGM on Saturday 29th October at Halberton Village Hall (EX16 7AF). Is there anyone who would like to attend? [...] I didn't feel my attendance at the last one did much good for WTA, and there is a certain amount of effort involved. Discussion can be quite intense. I don't mind, but there is really no point if the networking is not really valued, because networking, sharing and discussion are what it's all about.'

It was agreed to constitute the Public Liability insurance organised by the DTC

4 NEWSLETTER Lindsey requested AGM information and items for the Newsletter.

5 EVENTS

There had been enquiries about the possibility of restarting the French language workshops in some form (Pauline Bamford via Margaret)

6 FINANCE

Subscriptions now £10. They provide the current income. Standing expenses, such as the website, Zoom and AGM expenses, are currently in region of £300 p.a.

The bank balance is currently £2,280.

7 Date of next meeting

To be agreed by the incoming committee following the AGM election

THE FRENCH CONNECTION (incorporating the Wrington Twinning Association)

Minutes of AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the French Connection at the Langford Inn on Thursday 24th November 2022 at 4.00

Present: John Adams, Sarah Avery, Frank Finn, Jane Finn, Margaret Hancock, Tony Hancock, Zdenek Kumpel, Anita Smart, Lindsey Shaw-Miller, Janet Walters,

Apologies: Shail Patel, Cassie Farrell, Perran Jervis (PC)

In Shail's absence it was agreed that John should chair the meeting. It was noted that the AGM convened for 16 November had been inquorate

1 Minutes of the AGM 17th November 2021

Approved

2 Matters Arising

These would be addressed under the appropriate agenda heading.

3 Chairman's report This had been circulated in advance and the Meeting noted the progress made under Shail's leadership. He was warmly thanked for his hard work, particularly in the difficult circumstances of Covid.

4 Finance Report

This was discussed and approved. A budget would be prepared for 2022-23. Janet and Mr Empson were thanked for their work on the accounts.

5 Membership Report

Janet reported that paid membership was down on 2021-22 (Y/e 30 Sept). Membership system would be reviewed.

6 Resolutions

The resolution that Clause 7b of the Constitution should be revised to read "The Committee should meet at least once a year" [formerly 4 meetings a year] was passed *nem con*.

7 Election to the Committee

The following were proposed, seconded and elected *nem con*: John Adams, Sarah Avery, Frank Finn, Janet Walters. A committee meeting would be arranged following circulation of the 'Future Directions' (see item 8 below)

8 Discussion: 'Future Directions for the French Connection / Wrington Twinning Association'. A number of constructive suggestions emerged in addition to those arising in previous formal and informal discussions. John will draft a 'future directions' discussion document to be circulated to the membership. Should constitutional change be deemed necessary an EGM would be convened.

9 Any other business

There was none

JOHN ADAMS

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