

THE FRENCH CONNECTION
Also known as The Wrington Twinning Association

CONSTITUTION

1. Name

The name of the Association shall be 'The French Connection' .

2. Objects

The objects of the Association are:

- a) To be the vehicle for activities of the Parish of Wrington pursuant to the Charter subscribed to by the Parish of Wrington and the Commune of Villeneuve-lès-Béziers, Languedoc, France on 19th November 2010.
- b) To facilitate the development of mutual interests between individuals, businesses, organisations and other groups in Wrington and the neighbouring areas and France.
- c) To promote and encourage social, cultural, sporting, educational and other activities and interests that have a connection with France
- d) To attract funding to defray any costs of the above activities.

3. Powers

In furtherance of these Objects the Committee of the Association may exercise the following powers:

- a) to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions;
- b) to buy or lease and to maintain any equipment or materials necessary for the achievement of the Objects;
- c) to buy, sell, take on lease or exchange any property as is necessary for the achievement of the Objects and to maintain it for use;
- d) to publish books, periodicals, pamphlets and other materials in printed, recorded or electronic format, and to hold intellectual property rights in any such material;
- e) to co-operate with voluntary bodies, statutory authorities and other persons or organisations and to exchange information with them;
- f) to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the Objects.

4. Membership of the Association

- a) Membership of the Association is open to all interested people.
- b) Membership will be deemed to have lapsed if it has not been renewed by the annual general meeting following the end of the financial year or such later date as the Committee shall allow.

- c) The Committee shall have the right by giving notice in writing to terminate the membership of any individual member of the Association.
- d) The financial year of the Association shall end on 30th September or on such other day as the Committee shall determine and of which notice has been given by the Committee to members.

5. Membership of the Committee

- a) The Committee shall comprise not less than 5 and not more than 7 persons. Committee members shall be elected at the annual general meeting and shall include at least one Wrington Parish Councillor nominated by the Wrington Parish Council. Other members shall hold office until the following annual general meeting and may be re-elected.
- b) Every member shall have one vote.
- c) The Committee at its discretion may appoint sub-committees and entrust to them specific tasks, provided at least one member of each sub-committee is a member of the Committee.

6. Honorary Officers

- a) Following their election at the annual general meeting of the Association the members of the Committee shall elect a Chairperson, Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall hold office until the next annual general meeting.
- b) In the absence of the Chairperson, the Committee shall elect a Chairperson for the meeting.

7. Procedure of the Committee

- a) The Committee may co-opt not more than 3 members in addition to the elected members.
- b) The Committee shall hold at least four meetings each year.
- c) A quorum shall consist of at least one half of the members of the Committee.
- d) Decisions shall be taken by a majority of votes of the members of those present. In the case of a tie the chairperson shall have a second or casting vote.
- e) The Association shall keep minutes, either on paper or electronically, of the proceedings of the Committee and of general meetings. A paper copy of all such minutes shall be signed by the Chairperson as a true record.

8. General Meetings

- a) An annual general meeting shall be held once a year, not more than six months following the end of the financial year and the Committee may convene extraordinary general meetings at any time.
- b) Every general meeting shall be convened by the Committee by at least 21

days' notice.

- c) Non-members may attend as non-voting observers.
- d) The quorum at general meetings shall be ten members and (save as provided in 10 below) resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority of votes.
- e) Any member may request any item to be placed on the agenda for the annual general meeting by giving notice to the Secretary no later than ten days after the end of the financial year.
- f) Notices may be given by ordinary post or electronically.

9. Accounts

- a) The Treasurer shall present at the annual general meeting accounts and a report for the financial year just ended. These accounts shall be certified by an examination or audit report.
- b) The Association shall maintain a bank account.
- c) All monies received from any source shall be paid into this account.
- d) Payments out of the Association's bank account may be made by the Treasurer by cheque, by internet bank transfer or (for amounts not exceeding £20) in cash, Provided that the Treasurer shall make no payment by cheque or by internet bank transfer unless authorised to do so in writing by at least one other member of the committee.
- e) The bank account shall be kept in credit.

10. Alterations to the Constitution

The constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by two thirds of the members present and voting at a general meeting. The notice of the general meeting must include notice of the resolution setting out the terms of the alteration proposed.

11. Dissolution

If the Committee decides that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Association it shall call an extraordinary general meeting of all members of the Association. The notice calling the meeting shall set out the terms of the proposed resolution. If the resolution is passed the Association shall be dissolved forthwith and the Committee shall have the power to realise any assets held by the Association. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to other organisations or charities to be determined by the Committee.