

## **FRENCH CONNECTION**

### **Committee meeting (via Zoom)**

#### **Minutes of Meeting 22 November 6.00 pm via Zoom**

**Present** John Adams (acting chair), Jenny Barr, Lindsey Shaw-Miller, Janet Walters

#### **1. Apologies.**

Sally Bartlett, Frank Finn, Perran Jervis, Shail Patel,

#### **2. Election of Officers**

The following were elected nem con:

Chair: Shail; Treasurer: Janet; Secretary: John.

By agreement John chaired this meeting in Shail's absence

#### **3. Minutes of meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> October**

These were approved as a correct record

#### **4. Chair's Report**

*AGM*

- Sally Benwell had also sent her apologies (to be added to AGM Minute)

- The meeting had been constructive and the increase in membership fees to £10 agreed, to take effect from October 2022.

- Lindsey's talk was superb and Lindsey was again thanked for this contribution.

#### **5. Finance**

Janet reported:

*Current account:* c.£2,500

*Membership fees:* 14 so far received (£70). Reminder to be added to website and newsletter  
([Frank](#), [Lindsey](#))

*Events income:* currently selected events are free to members, although some will incur a charge where costs are exceptional; non-members pay an entry fee (other than students)

*Budget:* needs to be agreed in the light of the 21-22 Events Programme.

#### **6. Parish Council liaison**

- Has Phil Neve contacted Jerome? [see previous minutes] ([Perran](#))

- Perran has confirmed to Shail that he will continue as ex officio member and has been reporting regularly on WTA activity to the PC. If unable to attend FC meetings he will liaise with Shail. PC engagement and involvement central to twinning since we act on behalf of PC. Perran confirmed that the PC remain fully committed to the twinning arrangement and would look favourably on appropriate proposals with a cost attached. He would like to participate in the next VLB zoom if times permit.

#### **7. Villeneuve liaison**

*Fairs Week visit*

Some issues here. There may not be a central village street fair in Broad St (tbc). Celine has reported that the plane tickets that week are very expensive and beyond their budget. There was discussion around modes of transport and possibility of using other airports such as Toulouse. [[Jane](#), [Janet](#) and [Shail](#) to report further]

*Villeneuve Zoom get-togethers continue*

Next meeting 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec @ 6.00 Subject: Christmas.
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#### **8. Events programme and FC Groups**

*Wrington Fair week.* see above

### *Events*

It was felt that an events programme for 2022 was essential as a means of developing community interest and engagement, and that *the next meeting should be extended* in order to create this programme. It seemed enthusiasm for indoor events was returning although live group events would still be subject to Covid restrictions. Phil had emphasised his interest in live, group-based events.

### *Cinephiles*

Continues in good form with a lively discussion on the last film, *La Grande Bouffe*

*Conversation group*. Working well and meeting both by Zoom and face-to-face.

Christmas lunch 16<sup>th</sup> Dec, book with Margaret by 9<sup>th</sup> Dec

## **9. Outreach**

### *Schools*

- Jenny had spoken to Churchill Academy languages head, who felt it was too early to consider renewing links between the 6<sup>th</sup> form and Marc Bloch College at Serignan.
- no contact with Wrington Primary. John to contact Annabel for further info on relations with Georges Brassens primary in Villeneuve, led by M. Faffeur. [John]

### *Community groups*

As part of an outreach strategy Committee members supported contact with Community groups in and beyond the village offering to contribute to the costs of a visiting lecturer on a French theme. Phil is in touch with the local history group. (John to confirm with Phil)

### *Devon Twinning Association (DTA)*

Lindsey had agreed to act as liaison with the DTA and is now in touch with the DTA organiser, Jenny Worsfold.

## **10. Membership**

### *Recruitment*

- a strategy is needed and should be discussed at the next meeting
- a Coffee & Croissant morning at Mother Hen to publicise the FC had been proposed and this was felt to be an excellent idea.. [Shail with Phil]

## **11. Information & Engagement**

### *Newsletter*

Lindsey's copy deadline is 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Contributions from the Committee are strongly encouraged and from the wider membership.

Loss of presence in *Wrington Village Journal* was noted. Nearby village journals might also be interested (Lindsey to check)

### *Website*

- this was a tremendous resource, but publicity was needed to attract visits to the site. To be discussed further at next meeting.
  - Frank reported that he had made further changes to the website, such as retaining files of the minutes of meetings and the monthly newsletters. I am looking at the best ways of doing so. The Committee Agenda & Minutes would be reinstated in interests of transparency, improving communications, minimising attachments.
- Frank was again thanked for maintaining this valuable resource. (Frank)

### **Date of next meeting**

6pm Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (tbc)

nb it is proposed that this should be extended for full consideration of the upcoming Events programme