

FAVERSHAM TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

MINUTES of the Faversham Town Twinning Association Committee Meeting held at the Guildhall, Faversham on Thursday, 9 January 2020.

Present: Catherine Bessieres-Craddock (CB), Clarissa Hanna (Chair) (CH), Trevor Martin (FTC Rep) (TM), Chris Oswald-Jones (COJ), Julian Saunders (Vice Chair) and Richard Shipman (Treasurer) (RS)

In attendance: Norma Beechey (Minutes Secretary) (NB)

Before addressing the formal business of the meeting, members spent a moment of quiet reflection in memory of Sheila Maister and the significant and positive contribution she had made to the work of the Association.

1. (a) The minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2019 were approved subject to amendment as follows:

Heading: Amend date of meeting to 17 October 2019

Apologies for Absence: Add Catherine-Bessieres-Craddock

- (b) Matters arising:

- (i) Directory of organisations for twinning activities: The Chair had contacted Annie Bodanga in October but had heard nothing more. CH undertook to contact her again to establish the position in respect of the Directory and taking it forward.

Action 1: CH

- (ii) Education Links: CBC provided an extensive update on progress to date from which flowed an enthusiastic discussion about next steps. It was agreed that

CBC would pursue her discussions with the Lycee, Abbey School and QE with support and encouragement as appropriate from TM in his role as both a governor at The Abbey and a link at QE.

Laurent Bouquet at the Lycee had proposed coming to Faversham in April to familiarise himself with the area and meet contacts etc. This would allow for proper discussion on the exhibition and also to arrange the best time to plant a tree in each of our towns.

CH to book 12 Market Place provisionally from 1 October 2020 for five days for the Exhibition;

Other organisations/people would be contacted once the proposed arrangements were clearer to enlist their involvement and support;

Information on this exciting project would be sent to FTTA members

It was noted that municipal elections were taking place in Hazebrouck in March 2020 and that these might impact on future arrangements.

(iii) Music Festival: Update awaited.

2. Sheila

(i) Covering Sheila's Responsibilities

CH reported that a letter had been sent to members inter alia requesting volunteers with relevant skills to help the Committee discharge the work of the Association. JS said that the core of Sheila's work had centred on (i) liaison with Hazebrouck (ii) publicity – e.g. sending out emails, producing the newsletter, social media and (iii) jointly with him, organising events and other activities. Given the significance of maintaining liaison with Hazebrouck, CH proposed that CBC take on this role which was agreed. CH herself was going on a private visit there at the end of the month and hoped to take the opportunity to meet key contacts then.

(ii) Appointment of new Secretary

Whilst the role of Minutes Secretary was covered, JS wondered whether, as was common with similar organisations, the FTTA should have a formal office of Secretary. Members supported this proposal and NB undertook to produce a draft role specification for consideration.

(iii) Remembering Sheila

The wish to remember Sheila and her contribution to the FTTA would be borne in mind until such time as the most suitable memorial presented itself.

3. Mi-Careme Trip to Hazebrouck 28/29 March 2020

JS provided a helpful background to the Fete and what had happened in previous years. Following discussion, it was agreed that

CBC would liaise with Hazebrouck to propose that FTTA members attend the Fete over the weekend 28/29 March and that the FTTA would co-ordinate the arrangements;

The Mayor would be encouraged to attend the Fete;

A communication would be sent to Members detailing the proposed visit (RS).

4. Events Programme

(i) Film Show

Given the success of this event in previous years, it was agreed that CH would approach the Alexander Centre, Arden Theatre and Assembly

Rooms to make a provisional booking for 24 April 2020 until a final decision on venue was made;

The event would open at 7.30, film to be shown at 8.00pm.

(ii) AGM Speaker

A number of options were discussed including linking it in some way to the forthcoming VE commemorations or approaching the French department at the University of Kent, it was agreed that further consideration needed to be given to identifying a suitable speaker for the event

(iii) Other Activities

None to be pursued at this stage given the ongoing level of proposed activity.

5. Financial and Membership Report

Following a report from RS, it was agreed that the membership fee would be an agenda item at the next meeting and that the question of an additional signatory would be held in abeyance pending a decision on the appointment of a Secretary.

6. Promoting the Organisation

Given the potential scope of this issue, CH proposed seeking volunteers with the key skills from the membership. This was agreed as was the need to issue an early newsletter to members to include this request and other relevant articles. It was agreed that this would be taken forward by CH and RS with support from NB. TM suggested that dates of the FTFA's events should be given to the Town Council for inclusion on its website which NB undertook to do.

7. Any Other Business

(i) Invitation to Mayor's Charity Banquet and Ball

This was drawn to attention and would be included in the Newsletter to members in the hope that sufficient numbers might wish to attend as members of the FTFA.

8. Date of next Meeting: Thursday, 27 February 2020, The Guildhall, at 5.00 pm.