



## **Minutes for Extraordinary Meeting 8th March 6.30 pm**

### **Elephant and Castle**

**Present:** Catharyn, Andrew, Alwena, Fred, Liz, Jon, Paul, Steve, Kate, Kevin and Cheryl.

**Welcome:** Catharyn took the chair and welcomed everybody.

**Apologies:** Richard

**Minutes:** The minutes to the last meeting were read and approved.

**Matters arising:** Hosting

Thanks were given to Andrew for all his dedicated hard work in getting the number of hosts so far. He has a list of all the groups and individuals that he has contacted and is now going to chase up possible hosts. We have 96 currently.

Anne Evans has asked the chamber choir 'Quindici' if there are any members who would like to host for us.

Fred has put out a flyer in TexPlan, where 200 people work, to raise awareness of the hosting problem.

One of the French travellers is Nelly Ratier, who wants to start making contacts between the schools.

Marie-Thé Gauthier is the new president of the association in Les Herbiers and lots of regular contact has already been established.

Jon made the comment that we are pushing hosts to the limit, with the number of guests in some households and the catering involved in looking after them. There was general recognition of this state of affairs.

Steve pointed out that we must give some indication to the French, with future visits, the kind of numbers that we could host. In our current predicament, fault lay with both parties.

There had been some advice from Graham Winchester, to say that it would be wise for the committee to thank the hosts after events such as the music festival, because it would help them to feel appreciated and more likely to agree to host again.

Michelle, on the music subcommittee, has confirmed a generous £1000 towards our costs, from their arts grant.

**Erasmus Review :** We need a standardised approach to assess the worth of the exchange. In turn, this could become an advisory document for future visits.

The shopkeepers felt that February was too quiet for an exchange, as there were times during the day where the students had little to do. However, in some respects, any chosen month could have its advantages and disadvantages in the flow of business. Maybe slack times could be anticipated and given over to English lessons.

Some of them had poor language skills, but the general consensus was that their English improved well over the fortnight, as well as their self confidence.

Fred will ask the Erasmus representative to share with us, those things that the students felt were important to them. Their assessments of their experiences will help us to plan for future exchanges, if we are able to continue in the aftermath of Brexit.

**Chrono:** Marie-Thé has disclosed that a guest of honour has been found for the big race, but we shall be the honoured guests at the main fair.

On Friday there will be a gala dinner with a Celtic theme. There was a suggestion that we could take musicians with us and maybe some Welsh produce for sale at the fair.

As many cyclists as wish may take part in the non professional races and the cycling fraternity will accommodate all those who wish to go.

Someone will be coming in April, who will be able to discuss the trip with us, the cyclists and local councillors.

Catharyn said that we now need to decide if we can run the trip and whether or not we can go for the Jum'Regal as well. Kate pointed out that we don't need many committee members to go on the trip, as long as we do have a presence, and Andrew said that there are 20 cyclists already, who are keen to go. Andrew said we must ask Hafren Cycling Club to assess the level of support for the trip and, if it goes ahead, deposits will have to be secured as a priority.

Working out who will go on the trip, over how many days - we must be there for the Gala on Friday - and the potential difficulties in taking a trailer, will all have to be sorted out. The coach travellers could consist mainly of the cyclists and retired people, some of whom would be taking part of their annual leave in order to go. We may need to travel as early as the Wednesday, which would make it difficult for a lot of people who are working.

**AGM** The room is now booked at the Council Chambers, for 6.30 pm. on Thursday 22nd of March. Kevin, Cheryl and Paul will be unable to attend.

Liz said that she would like to give up her post as secretary for a year.

**Child Protection** Cheryl is proposing giving the committee an hour's training on child safety and is willing to take on the role of security officer for the committee, should they want one. She proposed that the document that she is working on, should be easily understood [tight but fluid] and should be non threatening to potential hosts.

**Next meeting:** AGM

**Signed:**

**Dated:**

