

Ludlow French Twinning Committee.

Minutes of the meeting held on 8th April 2015.

Present: Tim Mawson [Chair], Dave Mulliner, Sheila and John French, Shirley Davies.

Apologies: Martin Knowles, Valerie Cooke, David Chapman, Tony Price, Philip Adams, Sylvia Duffy.

Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

Matters arising: It was noted that at the Annual meeting it was proposed to publish in the newsletter and website, the agenda, previous minutes and date for Committee meetings, inviting anyone who might be interested to let the secretary know that they would like to come along. Subject to numbers wanting to come, the secretary would then send the minutes to that person.

Shirley would ask John Fleming about releasing the website for re-design. Dave would start off by emailing the minutes to members.

Role of Secretary: John would be relinquishing his role as secretary forthwith and Philip would take over. A vote of thanks was given for John's acting as secretary for many years. Sheila indicated that she would be relinquishing her role as accommodations officer in 2016.

Ludlow in Bloom: Dave undertook to see Viv Parry to see how to go about participating. Tim pointed out that there would be a large flower box by the castle which would cost the twinning £80 to have planted with a floral display representing some aspect of the twinning. Philip generously offered to pay the cost.

Membership: Dave reported that he proposed to cross off the list, members, who had not responded to the request for payment of subscription. So far subscriptions amounted to £480. 53 members had enrolled. He would send separately to those who had not yet paid.

Visitors: Sheila reported that Catherine had not yet sent a final list of hosts. She had had problems with sending and receiving emails. It is important that families with children especially, should be making contact with their host families. Tim undertook to contact Yvon Jestin about this. A get-together for visiting families on Sunday 17th May at Ashford Carbonell Village Hall was confirmed. Tony Price would contact David Jackman about this. The schedule could be explained at this get-together which would be on a 'bring and share' basis for food and drink.

Finance: Dave reported that there was £1,538.32 in the current and £2,363.89 in the deposit account with £51 in petty cash. The crossings, including cabins and reclining seats were costing £2,387. He would shortly be sending out requests for the balance of payments, the form for which would include the cost of the meal and European travel insurance. The principle of subsidizing children including those accompanying committee members was discussed. Some felt that Committee members, who put a great deal of work into ensuring that things ran smoothly, should not be discriminated against on the issue of subsidy.

Travel arrangements: Everyone now has to present their own passports at the port. The en route

visits to Caen and Bayeux were explained in the newsletter and apart from the welcome at The Cave des Andaines, no other visit was planned. There was still a question hanging over the proposed visit to the Abbaye de la Lucerne, south of Granville, on the way back to Cherbourg since it would mean a departure from LFM early on the 25th May. The coach driver would not have had the legal amount of rest time before the departure from Poole on the way back. This would necessitate the hire of a separate driver from Poole to Ludlow at a cost of around £300 and the inconveniences which travellers suffered the year before last. This would have to be sorted through contact with Yvon. One solution could be for travellers to go by car with hosts to the abbaye during the morning and early afternoon and be picked up by the coach in mid afternoon.

Apart from the dinner/social at the Chateau de Ranes, no other event was planned.

Other business: Dave reported that he had queried the bill from the Town Council for inclusion in the Council's calendar of events. They had agreed to re-invoice the bill to a smaller sum, [about £60]. It was decided to let it lie at that.

Next meeting: May 7th at Tim's house at 7.30pm.