

Minutes of the ACIP AGM 2021

Friday 12th November 2021 at 15h00 at the Salle Eugène Le Roy, Le Bugue



ITEM	AGENDA TOPIC	DISCUSSION
1	Welcome & apologies	The event was held outside, given the sunny weather and the ongoing Covid situation, with President Andrew Easdale opening the event by welcoming the 16 members present, plus the full committee of 8 people. No apologies had been received and 5 proxy votes had been noted.
2	Signing of the minutes of the 2020 AGM	The minutes of the 2020 ACIP AGM had been circulated to all members prior to the current AGM and, with no objections raised, they were duly signed by the President.
3	President's Report	<p>Andrew explained that a copy of his annual report to the membership was one of the documents that had been circulated prior to the AGM but went on to highlight the ongoing situation within ACIP. Covid-19 had naturally had a major impact on ACIP activities, with our annual BBQ in July heralding the first opportunity for us all to meet since early 2020. The event was a great success and the President gave thanks to Vice President Andre de Wandeler and his team for providing the food and organisation, alongside Martine van Meerbeeck and Maddy Pelzman for making an equal success of the more recent Vide Grenier. Andrew went on to thank the whole membership for their continued support for the association during these difficult times, their subscriptions more than covering our overheads despite our much attenuated activities.</p> <p>With most restrictions currently lifted he continued by stating that there were now plans for several new groups, including a pottery class (via Caren Grall) and a revitalised boules group meeting each week under the supervision of Evelyn Kaplan. He gave thanks to everyone who continues to freely offer their time and energy to such classes, with the language courses again operating. In the case of French classes, they are again oversubscribed, with 55 members learning the language at various levels, so new teachers continue to sought. Similarly we need a new group leader for our popular yoga class(es) and once again members were encouraged to get involved to further our mutual benefits and support.</p> <p>As for forthcoming events, the monthly Friday evening socials have recommenced and there are plans in place for the popular Christmas lunch, alongside two events in January to celebrate our planned move to new premises in Le Buisson. This latter move will require a good number of volunteers to help with moving materials from Le Bastion and handing the premises over in good shape (to be coordinated by Alec Robshaw) whilst also preparing the new building for our opening in January (under the supervision of Martine van Meerbeeck).</p> <p>Finally, tributes of thanks were made to retiring Treasurer Martin Crawford and retiring Secretary Paul Cope, with thanks also to longstanding Group Coordinator Jane Morris who received a parting gift at the summer BBQ.</p>

4	Membership Report	<p>Membership Secretary Julie Healey stated that whilst her report had also been sent out to everyone prior to the AGM there had been a good number of recent new members, the total now standing at 275. This number consists of fifteen different nationalities (with less than half being 'British') and Julie went on to confirm that subscriptions were now calendar-year which effectively gave everyone an additional three months, at no cost. Membership renewals are due at the year end so notices will soon be circulated, with a strong preference being expressed for payment by Bank Transfer or cheques (posted to the Treasurer).</p> <p>Julie concluded by again thanking everyone for their continued support, despite the recent hiatus in activities.</p>
5	Treasurer's Report	<p>Retiring Treasurer Martin Crawford gave a brief summary of his previously circulated report, which detailed a small increase in funding despite reduced membership numbers and a general lack of events and group activities. This small gain resulted from less outgoings (other than fixed overheads) but for the coming year he again projected a small operating loss of €1400. This was projected to result mostly from temporarily paying two rents (for Le Bastion and also Le Buisson) and also for costs associated with the move. His forecast was based on a membership of 280 and was thus stated to be pessimistic, especially if our normal activities resume. The members present were asked if they had any questions concerning his circulated report, for which Jane Morris enquired about how the Le Bastion exit had been negotiated. In response, Vice President Andre De Wandeler explaining that all avenues to attenuate our contractual agreements had been explored but the landlady had no immediate plans for the building and was therefore happy for the term to expire naturally at the end of February 2022. There were no other questions raised.</p> <p>The President then went on to introduce Shona Wisedale who will pick up the Treasurers role (if subsequently voted in) and to general applause presented Martin with a case of wine as an expression of gratitude for his serve to the organisation over the last five years.</p>
6	AOB	<p>Reference was again made to the above rental terms by Shirley Swarsbrick but no other questions or topics had been submitted or raised at the meeting. Jeannie Walker requested a general vote of thanks for all the work done by the committee and helpers, to a generous round of applause.</p>
7	Election of Officers	<p>Andrew Easdale explained that whilst Andre and himself were again standing for the roles Vice President and President, the other two officer roles of Treasurer and Secretary had been sadly vacated, with thanks again being expressed to Paul Cope for all his past efforts on behalf of ACIP. As previously mentioned, Shona Wisedale stood unopposed for the office of Treasurer and long-standing committee member Alec Robshaw was presented for the role of Secretary. After a show of hands all were duly elected, without opposition.</p> <p>The President concluded proceedings by making a call for additional support for both the committee and support group members, for which a recruitment drive will soon be underway.</p>
8	Closure of Business	<p>There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 15h45.</p>