

Minutes of the Verco R2 Annual General Meeting

Saturday, February 17th 2024 at 5PM

Multipurpose Hall, School of Vercorin

The President welcomes the members present, states that the meeting is validly constituted and opens the meeting with the following agenda:

1. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of February 18th 2023

The minutes of the AGM of February 18th 2023 are unanimously approved.

2. Chairman's report (see Appendix 1)

The President looks back on the first year of his presidency, which he took over from his predecessor, Andreas Saurer, whom he thanks for his support and wise counsel.

The Committee took the opportunity to restate the association's mission and objectives, in particular the harmonious and sustainable development of Vercorin, taking into account the interests, concerns and opinions of all VercoR2 members. To achieve this, the Committee would like to increase the number of paid-up members (123 to date), continue to establish a constructive dialogue with Vercorin's political, tourist and cultural authorities, and develop the association as a whole.

The Committee has also set about defining a **financial support policy** that brings added value to VercoR2 members (art, culture, sport, tourism, young people, infrastructure) and providing financial support (sponsorship, donations, financial backing) for projects or events proposed in Vercorin and accessible to all.

In terms of **communication**, the Committee's first objective was to invest in equipment to raise its profile at events in Vercorin. Its second objective was to be recognized as an active association that defends the interests of VercoR2s, and to become an essential "partner" for local companies. The Committee is represented on a number of local boards, including the Société de développement de Vercorin (SDV, or Vercorin's Development Society), Vercorin Tourisme SA (VTSA, or Vercorin Tourism Ltd Co) and the Société de la Télécabine SA (details are available at www.vercor2.ch).

The President is also in regular contact with the Municipality's President, and with the AnniviersR2 association, through its President Michel Mathys, with the aim of strengthening ties between AnniviersR2 and VercoR2 through a joint event, for example.

Following the success of last summer's R2-SDV (Vercorin Development Society) get-together, it is planned that a VercoR2 event will be organized every summer, after mid-August, to exchange ideas and have a good time. The next one will take place on August 17th 2024.

Together with the Vercorin Paragliding Club, VercoR2 has helped finance a bench on the new platform at the start of the paragliding run (Tour du Mont). It will be inaugurated in 2024.

Verco R2 has already had occasion to inform the VTSA (Vercorin Tourism Ltd Co) of the R2s' disappointment with the latest guest cards, which are unattractive and complicated to use.

The "Services for taxable persons" have not been satisfactory, even though the R2 contribute approximately CHF 450,000 a year to tourism infrastructures.

Verco R2 will become a member of the Valais' R2 Federation (FVSR 2) at its next general meeting on March 23rd 2024, with "carte d'hôte" (guest benefits card) as its main theme.

For further details, the President invites members to refer to his report, which will be sent to them.

3. Accounts 2023

3.1. Presentation of the 2023 Accounts

Isabelle Luthier, Treasurer, presents the accounts, which show assets of CHF 13,345.51 at December 31, 2023. Income is derived solely from membership fees, which amounted to CHF 6,750.00 last year. Total expenditures amount to CHF 6'500.73.

3.2. Auditors' Report

The auditors, Yves Meylan and Michel Fatton, have audited the accounts for the past financial year and confirm their accuracy and consistency. They propose that the 2023 financial statements be approved by the Annual General Meeting.

3.3. Discussion of the 2023 Financial Statements

There being no questions, the President proposes that we move on to the next item on the agenda.

4. Approval of the Accounts and Discharge of the Committee and Auditors.

On the basis of the auditors' report, the meeting, by a majority of members present, approves the 2023 accounts and **discharges the members of the Committee and the auditors.**

4.1 Information on the 2024 Budget

The budget provides for membership fees of CHF 6,100.00 and total expenditure of CHF 6,590.00. Attending members do not have any comments on the matter.

5. Approval of the Partial Amendment to the Articles of Association

The President asks attending members to vote as a whole on the proposed partial amendments to the Articles of Association. There being no objections, the **attending members approve the partial amendment to the Articles of Association by a large majority, less two abstentions.**

6. Statutory Elections

6.1. Committee

Isabelle Luthier, Michka Kovats and Jacques Perret are standing for re-election for a further three-year term.

The attending members **elect by acclamation** Isabelle Luthier, Michka Kovats and Jacques Perret for a further three-year term.

6.2. Auditors

Yves Meylan seeks re-election for a further three-year term.

Yves Meylan is **re-elected by acclamation** for a further three-year term.

Michel Favre, who has reached the end of his term of office, is not standing for re-election. He is warmly thanked for his commitment.

To replace him, Olivier Cornaz is standing for the second position of auditor. He is **elected by acclamation** for a three-year term.

7. Miscellaneous, Discussion and Individual Proposals

The President now gives the floor to the members present for their comments and questions:

Question: A member wondered whether the membership fee system should be reviewed, for example by introducing a system of membership fees per couple.

Reply: This point has already been discussed in the past, and it was decided to maintain the individual contribution system.

Question: Another member would like to see more harmonization of the bus schedule in the valley with that of the cable car, which occasionally leaves before the bus arrives. He would like to see an improved pacing of the timetables.

Reply: The R2s will pass on this request to the Municipality.

Comment: A member asked about the outcome of the objections to the new Chalais-Vercorin cable car project.

Reply: The Federal Court has ruled in favor of the opponents. The new route has been put out to a public inquiry and the procedure will take its course. It is therefore unlikely that the cable car will be replaced any time soon. The Municipality has been asked to provide an update on the situation.

Comment: Some members have learned that Vercorin's bakery is due to close in February 2025, and would like the R2s to intervene with the Municipality to find a solution.

Reply: The President will raise this point in his forthcoming discussions with the Municipality, as it is indeed regrettable that a much-appreciated business in the resort should disappear.

There being no further requests to speak, the President invites the assembly to Participate in the the public lecture "Residents of Vercorin, Energy Transition: What to do ?" given by Stéphane Genoud, PhD, professor at the HES-SO Valais-Wallis.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Martine Favarger, Secretary

Appendix 1

Chairman's Report of the VR2 AGM of 17.02.23

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear members of our VercoR2 association,

It is with great pleasure that I have taken over the Presidency of this noble association in 2023, and I would like to thank my predecessor, Andreas Sauer, once again for his support and wise counsel during 2023.

Your committee took the opportunity to reiterate the mission and objectives of our association:

Vision

Harmonious and sustainable development of Vercorin, taking into account the interests, concerns and opinions of all VercoR2 members.

Objectives

- To further increase the number of VercoR2 members (123 paid-up members)
- To continue to establish a constructive dialogue with Vercorin's political, tourist and cultural authorities
- Define a financial support policy that provides added value for VercoR2 members (art, culture, sport, tourism, young people, infrastructure)
- Financial support (sponsorship, donations, financial backing) for projects or events in Vercorin that are accessible to all.

In terms of **communication**, our 1st objective was to invest in equipment to increase our presence at events in Vercorin.

- Purchase of 2 beach flags for VR2 events or those we support.
- Creation of flyers to increase our impact with second-home owners (the Municipality will send flyers to all second-home residents who pay the tourist tax).

Our 2nd "**communication**" objective is to be known as an active association that defends the interests of VercoR2 and to become a key "partner" with local entities. The committee members are represented in the various associations as follows:

- SDV (Vercorin Development Society) Stéphane Favre Michel Minnig
- VTSA (Vercorin Tourism Ltd Co) Jacques Perret Arthur Fivaz
- Télévercorin O. Gétaz Chairman of the Board Ms Anne Laure Vaudin
- Municipality contacts and exchanges O. Gétaz with Municipality's President Sylvie Masserey Anselin
- AnniviersR2 annual meeting O. Gétaz, Michel Mathys, President of the AnniviersR2 association. The meeting provided an opportunity for the presidents to exchange useful information and to consider strengthening links between AnniviersR2 and VercoR2, for example by organising a joint event.

You can find all this information on our VercoR2 website.

Plouf Festival: the festival was well organised (by the paragliding club). VercoR2 contributed CHF 500 and gained a certain amount of visibility thanks to the new beach flags installed on the site.

R2-SDV get-together: the meeting was a success and well attended, which should encourage us to take part in similar events in the future, either with the SDV or with others. For 2024, the meeting will take place in the garden of the Fondation Vallet museum, with guided tours of the museum beforehand. Save the date, **Saturday August 17th 2024**, with an aperitif followed by a raclette at the sheep park. More information to follow.

The idea has been accepted that a VercoR2 event should be organised every summer, after mid-August, to exchange ideas and have a good time in a convivial atmosphere.

We will also be helping to part-finance a bench on the new platform at the start of the paragliding run (Tour du Mont). The Parapente Club Vercorin will also contribute to the funding, as will the Municipality towards the installation costs. Inauguration planned for 2024.

VTSA

We have expressed our disappointment with the latest guest cards, which are unattractive and complicated to use. OG expressed the wish to return to a simpler, more user-friendly system. (Same as Anniviers R2, too expensive).

The "Services for taxpayers" were not satisfactory, even though the R2 contribute approximately CHF 450,000 a year to tourism infrastructure. The VTSA management initially wanted to reduce the budget for "Services for those subject to the tourist tax" from CHF 50,000 to CHF 35,000. In the end, the Board accepted JP's proposal to maintain the budget of CHF 50,000 for 2024. The VTSA is now awaiting proposals from the R2s for the 2024 budget. (It will have to be spent!).

FVSR 2 (Valais' Federation of Second Home Owners' Associations) O. Gétaz has contacted the "Fédération Valaisanne des R2". Our application has been accepted. (CHF 200 per year). AGM 23 March 2024 with "carte d'hôte" as the main theme.

Local authorities :

We would like to thank Sylvie Masserey Anselin, President of Chalais Vercorin, for the attentiveness shown by the local authorities on the subject of VercoR2. Things are moving forward and being put in place with the interests of the VercoR2s in mind. Let's be grateful for that.

Footpaths on the Mont

Following the registration of permanent easements, it is now possible, following the work carried out during the summer of 2023, to leave from the Bourgeoisie picnic area and reach La Crevache via a path "derrière le Mont", or to reach Les Crêtes and the impasse du Mont. The route will be signposted in spring 2024. Another option is under consideration, which will leave near the impasse des Vornys to join the Crevache, as was possible in the past; we need to be patient as negotiations to register rights of passage are under way.

Allocated taxes BASIC WATER TAX AND BASIC SEWAGE and WASTE TAX

The new regulations were presented at the primary meeting in December 2023. The VR2s should benefit from the same conditions, **with a weighting coefficient** as the R2s in Val d'Anniviers.

One thing is certain: Vercorin is short of water and we have to get it from our "neighbours". This means that water meters will have to be installed in all new buildings in the medium term. The new regulations stipulate that all new buildings must be fitted with water meters, as must equipment for collecting roof water.

See: <https://www.chalais.ch/commune/chalais-info-69.html>

The basic waste tax has been reduced by 30% to CHF 155.50 (formerly CHF 221.70). The reason for the decrease is that the account was in the black.

Waste Centre

After a difficult start, the centre is now operating correctly. There is still a computer problem with the cards for holders of several dwellings (the Municipality has not provided more than one card per owner)

The old waste collection centre has reopened for green waste only.

We're looking for solutions for the Eco-points, especially the one at the entrance to the village, which isn't a great place to visit, but nothing concrete has been done yet. If we have any ideas, please pass them on to the appropriate people.

Energy Transition, Possible Subsidies for VR2

The local authorities are going to create an energy transition fund of CHF 1 million to renovate, insulate, change windows, etc. and equip all the local authority's public buildings with photovoltaic panels, among other things. The savings made in the future will go into a fund that will enable homeowners and VR2s (I hope) to benefit from subsidies. The regulations will also be presented at the primary meeting in December 2023.

Creux du Lavioz

Pending investment in a new "restaurant", the Municipality has decided to invest in the sanitary facilities at Le Creux du Lavioz by renovating and extending them.

Information Websites

Various ideas were exchanged on how best to communicate what's going on in Vercorin, as there are several websites, with some redundancies:

- Chalais info: <https://www.chalais.ch/commune/chalais-info-69.html>
- Tourism office
- Verconews: <https://www.vercorinnews.ch/>
- Development society
- What about our VercoR2 site?

What communication strategy do we want to put in place via our site without duplicating the others? Your committee will be brainstorming on how to bring our site to life and make it attractive. If you have any ideas or comments, please let us know: info@vercor2.ch

Conclusion:

In the future, O. Gétaz would like to see greater consultation with our partners (the Municipality, SDV and R2) and for our association to be recognised as an influential partner.

The idea is that we should work "all together" for the good of Vercorin's tourism development in the broadest sense of the term, by defending our interests as "secondary residents". We're on the right track and I'm receiving more and more requests for consultation on tourism and infrastructure issues. Together, we can achieve great things for Vercorin, for its year-round and second-time residents, and for the tourists who come to spend some quality time in the sublime setting of Vercorin.

Before I finish, I would like to thank all the members of my committee for their commitment and for all the work they have done during 2023. I would also like to thank our Past President and founding member of the VercoR2 Association for his confidence and for the smooth handover of his position as President.

"Happiness and confidence are the most beautiful things you can wear" Taylor Swift artist and singer

That's what I'd like to wish everyone here at the end of this afternoon, and I'd like to thank you for your attention.

Olivier Gétaz, February 17th 2024