

## Minutes of the Verco R2 Meeting of 19.5.2018

Website (Michka Kovats) Michka Kovats presents the future website, an important means of communication for our Association. The name of the site is [www.vercoR2.ch](http://www.vercoR2.ch) and it will be operational by mid-June 2018. You will find the latest news such as meeting minutes, Statutes, names of Committee Members or the possibility of contacting the Verco R2 Association. The project is modest but sufficient for the moment and offers the possibility of further development were the need arise. The name of the site has been reserved. The installation of the site costs about 800 francs and the annual operating costs amount to 180 Swiss Francs. The Assembly decides, almost unanimously, to release a credit of 1'200 Swiss Francs, which allows setting up this site and guarantees the operating costs for the year 2018.

Tourist tax (Renato Di Gisi) At the end of the Constitutive Assembly on 17.2.2018, the Commune's President indicated that he wished to move quickly on the subject of the tourist tax. In the end, this was not the case. In anticipation of this debate, the Committee thought it would be useful to seek additional information. We are currently seeking to set up a meeting with the appropriate department of the Government of the Canton of Valais, specifically, to have more precise information concerning the law's implementation. The legal framework is relatively clear. The Valais Tourism Act of 9 February 1996, which is the basis for the ordinance of 10 December 2014, makes a distinction between the tourist tax for "guests staying overnight" in the Commune (art. 17), a tax for R2s (acronym for second home owners), and the accommodation tax for "landlords who provide a paying accommodation to guests" (art. 23), a tax that is mainly aimed at hotels and other professional landlords. The allocation of the tourist tax must be used exclusively for "the operation of an information and reservation service, local entertainment and the creation and operation of tourist, cultural or sports facilities" (art 22). The ordinance (art. 4) stipulates that the municipal regulation on tourist taxes (a generic term that includes tourist taxes and accommodation taxes) must be "approved by the Council of State". Finally, the draft regulation for Communes (municipalities) specifies that the tourist tax "must not be used for the promotion of tourism, nor to finance the ordinary tasks of the Commune" (art 1, paragraph 3). We hope to have more detailed information this coming autumn and are planning a general meeting on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. in the multi-purpose room in Vercorin.

Priorities (Andreas Saurer) The various proposals previously communicated by email are discussed and put to the vote. Here are the first votes:

### Tourist services to be developed

- Mountain biking, Park Freeride cycling etc. on a marked course and excluding the Vallon de Réchy: **20 votes in favour**
- Swimming pool in Le Creux de Lavioz, filled with water from the bise : **19 votes in favour**
- Development of marked ski touring circuits: **only a handful of votes in favour**
- Develop flagship cultural events (music festivals, nature excursions, etc.) that will take place each year on the same date: **only a handful of votes in favour**
- Respect the 20 km/h in the streets of the village and create a space for visitors to meet and mingle: **25 votes in favour**
- When the church is not in use, organise reformed, oecumenical or multilingual services in season: **only a handful of votes in favour**

- Development of public transport: make Vercorin's access more efficient by public transport by strengthening the bus line from Sierre: ***almost unanimous vote in favour***
- Geographically extend the shuttle bus line, particularly on the Liches side and at the bottom of rue des Jardins, and reduce the shuttle's idle time between 13.30 and 15.30 hours: ***only a handful of votes in favour***
- Implementation of an autonomous bus: ***only a handful of votes in favour***
- Strengthen the bus line to the Val d'Anniviers: ***24 votes in favour***

In a second step, those proposals that gathered twenty votes or more were voted on against each other. This process enabled the identification of the Assembly's top 4 priorities:

- 1 ***Reinforcement of the Sierre -Vecorin bus line*** (unanimity, with more than 40 votes)
- 2 ***Have a Verco R2 representative on the Board of Directors of the Société de Télécabine de Vercorin SA*** (30 votes)
- 3 ***Take effective measures to enforce the 20 km/h speed limit in the village*** (25 votes)
- 4 ***Develop dedicated mountain bike trails and set up a Freeride Park, but clearly separate from hiking trails and excluding the Vallon de Réchy*** (20 Votes)

Moreover, the Committee was asked to put some of the Commune's key information on the Verco R2 internet site and also to develop contacts with Vercorin's Development Society, as well as with the Village Association in order to coordinate our efforts and to share our thoughts.

Depending as to whether the Commune will have informed us of their proposals concerning the tourist tax, an Assembly is planned to take place on:

***Saturday, Oct 27<sup>th</sup> at 5PM in Vercorin's multipurpose hall (inside the village's school building).***

Vercorin, 25.5.2018

Andreas Saurer