

Minutes of the Verco R2 Committee Meeting of 3.11.2018

Present: Anne Keller, Renato di Gisi, Jacques Perret, Michka Kovats, Andreas Saurer. Items 1 to 8 were discussed jointly with Martine Perruchoud-Hofstädter and with Alain Perruchoud

1. *Sierre - Vercorin Connection via Public Transport*

- a. In the not so distant future, the Sierre-Vercorin bus line will be abandoned in favour of the new Chalais-Vercorin cable-car.
- b. The new installation of the cable-car requires a zoning change and a public inquiry of the new line. Appeals concerning the public inquiry will be processed in less than a year. On the other hand, the zoning change is a procedure that can be delayed by appeals (Council of State, Cantonal Court and Federal Court), something that can take several years. In all, 3 appeals have been filed (mostly collective appeals).
- c. The construction of the cable-car will take less than a year.
- d. Taking into account the appeals process, the installation of the new cable-car should take place at a time horizon ranging between 2 to 6 years
- e. Negotiations are under way so that Magic Pass holders can benefit from discounts on the cable car.
- f. Chalais' cable-car station will be connected to Sierre and Sion with alternating buses every ½ hours. Sierre's local bus network will also integrate the Sierre-Chalais route into their network.
- g. As for the Brie service, solutions are being studied.

2. *Limiting Traffic Speed in the Village*

- a. It is planned to install a 30 km/h zone throughout the village. However, this poses some problems because it is not possible for the time being due to the fact that a Cantonal road currently crosses the village.
- b. A bypass road is planned towards the Val d'Anniviers at the point where the road to Chalais passes the Thierry Mabillard stable, so as to pass under the base station of the Crêt du Midi cable car to then join the road to Pinsec. Once this bypass road has been created, the Commune should be able to transform all of Vercorin's roads into communal roads.

- c. The centre of the village will remain a 20 km/h zone, although it is known that the implementation of the speed limit poses some problems. The installation of physical obstacles is not possible because they would hamper snow clearing operations in winter.

3. ***Hiking and mountain biking routes***

- a. The Commune has developed a project of itineraries for mountain bikes, snowshoes and walks. As far as possible, mountain bike and hiking routes are separated. These projects involve investments of 600,000 Swiss francs.
- b. Waste disposal at the bottom of the village: the landfill does not meet the standards of Federal legislation and is expected to be closed within the next 2-3 years. This non-compliance issue is not unique to Vercorin and concerns many villages in the Valais. It should be noted that the Commune is considering finding a solution for garden waste. On the other hand, bulky objects, household appliances, plastic etc. will ultimately have to be deposited in the Bramois waste collection center (Sion waste collection center).

5. ***The “ecopoint” at the exit of the village***

- a. It will of course be kept open.
- b. Access to the more elevated deposit slots will be facilitated by stepladders.
- c. The containers will be changed more regularly during the holidays to avoid overflow.

6. ***Bodies dealing with tourism in Vercorin***

- a. The Commune will set up a limited liability company (SA) to deal with tourism (Vercorin cable car, spring, restaurants, shops, municipality) and which will also be the employer of the tourist office. The Commune will be in the majority owner in this SA. This structure will make it possible to strengthen the activity of the tourist office (reception, information and promotion).
- b. To define its strategy in terms of tourism, the Commune will set up a “tourism advisory committee”. One of Verco R2’s Committee Members will have a seat on this committee.
- c. The development company will only deal with run of the mill village animation.

7. A commission for the tourist tax will start its activities in mid-November.

It will meet about 1-2x/month and will have to submit its proposals by April 2019. Jacques Perret agrees to represent Verco R2 in this committee and we are very grateful to him.

8. The town council has decided to release 3 million as its contribution for the new chairlift between Tracuit and Mt Major. The President strongly encourages Verco R2 members to contribute funds to finance this project.

9. Statutory General Assembly of February 23rd at 5PM

- a. The statutory part will be short
- b. We propose to reduce the annual membership fee, but to maintain an admission fee of CHF 50.
- c. We encourage the members of the association to consider participating in the Advisory Committee or in the general assembly of the Télécabine Vercorin SA, while stressing that such participation implies participation in the Association's Committee.
- d. We will invite Christophe Clivaz to a Verco R2 Assembly. He is a professor at the Institute of Geography and Sustainability of the University of Lausanne and works at the Sion site where he is a specialist in economics and tourism development. The purpose of this meeting is to openly discuss the development of tourism in a place such as Vercorin, in order to elaborate a kind of Charter that will define some points of reference for our Association and for our representatives in the various commissions.

10. The next Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, December 27th at 5PM at the Restaurant de la Brentaz, because the rooms of the "maison bourgeoisiale" are already occupied on that date and time.

With my kind regards, Andreas