

# WELWYN ANGLO FRENCH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

## *Annual General Meeting*

*on*

*Wednesday 10 October 2018 at 7.30 p.m.*

## *Minutes*

<u>Present</u>	President	- David Nice
	Chairman	- Nigel Jeffery
	Secretary	- Susan Nice
	Treasurer	- Graham Middleton
	Committee Member	- Graham Howat
	8 other members	

### **1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from 24 members.

### **2 Notification of items of Any Other Business**

None

### **3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 October 2017**

Approved unanimously. Matters arising - None

### **4 Review of the past year**

Nigel told the meeting that the year had been busy but enjoyable. We had a very good first event, a talk on the Bayeaux Tapestry by Gary Fisher. Our Christmas Meal at the Plume of Feathers in Tewin was enjoyable and well attended. Our most important event, the quiz, did very well financially, though there were some issues regarding the format. But Simon Edwards will come back next year. Our wine tasting went very well and our thanks are due to Dave Clarke. The Waggoners evening did well financially. Laurent provided a very nice spread and we were able to take our own wine. Our visit there during the Twinning Weekend was however a little disappointing.

We did not do well in the boules event at Baldock and although we had hoped to have an event on Bastille Day weariness following the Twinning visit meant this did not happen.

The recruitment of new members has been disappointing, but we were not in a good position at the Street Market.

The Royal Wedding prevented us going to Windsor during the Twinning Weekend but in the end our visit to Shuttleworth was highly successful. There were some issues regarding the catering at the Gala Dinner but the caricature artist was very good. Finding accommodation for young French families was a challenge but we were helped out by 3 families, two were not even members. The net cost of some £3,150 was well within budget. We received a grant of £250 from the Parish Council via Bill Morris and wish to record grateful thanks for this.

We have finished the year in a strong financial position.

## **5 Approval of the Accounts for the year to 31 July 2018**

Graham reported that we had ended the year in a good position. We budgeted £4,000 for the Twinning Weekend but spent less, and we made more on events than anticipated. But there was no expenditure on publicity; that is something yet to happen. We have a deficit of just over £1,000 for the year as a whole; and ended with an accumulated surplus of some £8,700. As we started the year with £9,800 it is a very good result.

Vernonne asked about the deferred grant. We need to spend it this year, and there is a need to attract new members so we must redesign the flyer

The accounts were approved unanimously.

## **6 Election of Officers and appointment of other Committee Members**

All the existing committee members are willing to stand again. This was approved – John Hiron, seconded by Barry Northrup.

Nigel invited nominations from the floor but there were none.

Nigel announced that he would like to step down as Chairman at the end of this year.

## **7 Election of Honorary Independent Examiner**

Martin Gerty is willing to stand again and this was agreed unanimously. However he has asked for certain things to be carried out - better supporting paperwork, and a more prompt submission of expenses claims.

## **8 Approval of the level of subscriptions in 2019-20**

It was agreed unanimously that the level should remain at £10 for a family and £5 for single members for 2019-20. We should then review the situation with a view to a possible increase. We should look into what other Twinning Associations charge.

Dave Clarke asked about the free first year membership scheme. There are no plans to change this, but not many join. Nigel feels that we don't work on them enough but Graham Howat has now prepared a Welcome Pack. Graham is mounting a charm offensive to improve the conversion rate and will be trying to energise St. Mary's School again.

## **9 Future events – information and discussion**

We have a full programme for the year and a newsletter will be sent to members shortly. We have the Inter Twinning boules this Saturday. There is a wine tasting on 20 November at Majestic

followed by a supper at the Bakehouse. On Monday 17 December there will be a Christmas lunch at the Plume of Feathers. We will have our quiz in January. We have two talks, one by Michael Bunn on 8 March “Around the Coast Dunkerque to Biarritz”. In April we have a talk by Gary Fisher, Henry V and Agincourt. These are all on the website.

The Twinning weekend will be for three nights, 17 – 20 May. We will ask for expressions of interest by Christmas.

We will hope to have a Bastille Day event, and to be at the Street Market (but not Singler’s Marsh). We also hope to be at the Welwyn Garden Petit Tour, if it runs.

Our priorities will be to maintain a sound financial position, to move ahead with marketing, and to progress the school link.

Thanks are due to the Parish Council, not only for the grant but also for the free hall hire. We appreciate the helpfulness of the caretaker, Tony. Nigel thanked all members for their support. We must thank Dave Clarke not only for the wine tasting but also for his work on the archives. Special thanks to the host families, in particular those who stepped in at the last minute, and members who helped with transportation. Nigel thanked the committee members for their contributions; also Ruth for the website, Janice for organising the French conversation group and Rob and Veronique for their excellent posters.

## **10 Any Other Business**

Barry Northrup asked about GDPR. Graham Howat produced his Final Draft and explained what actions have been taken.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p m and was followed by Cheese and Wine.