

WELWYN ANGLO FRENCH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

on

*Friday 1 October 2021 at the Civic Centre, Welwyn
at 7.30 p.m.*

Minutes

Present

President	David Nice
Chairman	- Barry Bracken
Vice – Chairman	- Graham Howat
Secretary	- Susan Nice
Treasurer	- Graham Middleton
Committee Member	- Martin Gerty Anne Lloyd
16 other members	

David welcomed members to what is a rather different meeting to last year's which had to take place via Zoom..

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from 16 members.

2 Notification of items of Any Other Business

Barry would like to discuss our relationship with the Parish Council.

Raul wanted to discuss expanding the number of members.

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 Octoberr 2020

Approved unanimously.

Matters arising None

4 Review of the past year

Nigel, who could not attend the meeting, had written expressing concern at the lack of activity. Barry explained that this was due to the fact that many members do not like Zoom, and the impossibility of gathering physically. We are now hoping to be able to resume our past activities.

We had a very successful Bastille Day gathering on 14 July and people took part in a short quiz. Sadly the French were not able to come over; things were worse there than here, They hope to be able to come next year. But if not, we have to consider whether we could go there. John Hirons

asked about the possibility of Zoom meetings with them, but Barry explained that the French are not really into Zoom.

5 Approval of the Accounts for the year to 31 July 2021.

Graham M stated that our only event was Bastille Day. We had an income from subscriptions and interest. Expenditure was the website, public liability insurance, and the wine provided for the Bastille Day dinner. The result was a small deficit of £244 ,The accumulated reserves are down slightly but we still have almost £12,00 in our bank accounts. Mainly because the French did not come in 2020/21.

The Accounts were approved unanimously.

6 Election of Officers and Committee Members

All of the existing officers and committee were prepared to stand for re election and this was approved/

Barry invited nominations from the floor for additional committee members but there were none.

7 Election of Independent Accounts Examiner

Susan Boardman mentioned that we should put his name on the accounts. Graham M advised that it is Mark Slater. He is happy to continue and this was approved.

8 Approval of the level of subscriptions in 2021-22.

There was some discussion over whether subscriptions should be increased. Geoffrey thought that to raise it next year would be best. Martin suggested that we should charge more for events instead and this was met with approval,

It was agreed therefore that the level should remain at £10 for a family and £5 for single members.

Nigel had said in his written submissiont that he thought we should have considered a waiver of the subscriptions. Graham H asked, should we do it now? Geoffrey thought this would be a problem if one paid by standing order. However it was agreed that if anyone felt strongly about this, we would accept non payment from them for the coming year.

9 Future events – information and discussion

Graham Howat advised that we have a wine tasting planned for 12 November. The format will be similar to the wine tasting we held in March 2020. XO will present the wines; they will not all be French.

We plan a Christmas lunch, probably on Monday 20 December. The Rose and Crown in Welwyn has a newly refurbished barn which will make an excellent venue.

We need to establish if St Mary's school are holding a Christmas Fayre this year. Also Anne mentioned the possibility of a Christmas market in the village.

Plans for the visit of the French are on hold until we hear further from them .

10 Any Other Business

There was discussion about how to address the problem of falling membership. We could possibly invite Heads of French in local schools to an event such as a wine tasting.

Barry touched on our relations with the Parish Council, who appeared to want to charge us for room hire. A meeting with the Chairman and Clerk of the Council was to be held shortly. WE would be re-emphasising that the primary function of WAFTA was to support the operation of the Twinning Agreement in various ways and in particular by raising funds.

(Treasurer's note : It subsequently emerged that henceforth the Council simply wanted us to apply formally for "grant aid" which included the grant of permission to use the Council's halls free of charge.)

French conversation – Barry advised that we intend to restart this fairly soon.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p m and was followed by wine and refreshments.