

## **WORTHAM AND BURGATE TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

#### **HELD ON FRIDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2017 AT WORTHAM VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Nick Beasley, Judith Phillip, Linda Simpson, Frances Beasley, Andy Phillip, Andy Simpson, Joy and Mike Cornish, Pam and Gerry Gurhy, Alan and Sally Cowham, Simon and Jane Durant, Linda and Bob Giles, Barry Higgs, Katherine Hughes, Isobel Hunter, Paddy and Michael Richards, Caroline Smith, Katherine and Terry Smith, Hans and Nettie Verkroost, Helen Dickson, Liz Collins, Lynn Pelham Burn, Nikki Miller, Ruth Slack, Fay and John Dunkley.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Rob and Sue Bawden, Mike and Lesley Bowen, Chris and Jean Grocott, Jacky Bradley, Peter and Kay Lucas, Sue and Edward Coales, Lynn Clark, Christine Odams, Lesley Sergeant, Fee and Nick Robertson, Ginny White, Janette Higgs and Dave Long.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes for the last meeting were approved.

3. Treasurer's report

In Dave Long's absence, Andy Simpson read a copy of the Treasurer's report. The accounts were in process of being audited. 2016 had a net spend of £582.09 and funds at the end of 2016 were £2688. The Treasurer was pleased with the level of funds as 2016 had been our hosting year. Costs for the previous AGM amounted to £130.55 and the Christmas social £30.66.

There were three fund raising events which raised amounts as follows:

Film night: £115. Barbeque: £126.48. Music Hall evening: £272.18

The Christmas market final profit was £518.57 after costs and travel.

The French visit had a spend of £3020.45. Funds of £1198.85 were raised from the main event giving a net cost of the visit of £1821.60, including £400 of host subsidies.

The Treasurer recommended no change to the current subscription for 2017.

A full copy of the Treasurer's report will be annexed to the minutes of the AGM.

4. Chairman's report

Nick Beasley gave his report, a full copy of which will be attached to the minutes.

In brief, he said everyone had had a good year and he thanked the committee for everything that they did.

Nick said that events had been documented by Linda in the newsletters she prepares. In particular, Nick felt that the twinning weekend had been excellent and well organised by the sub-committee led by Linda, supported by Judith and the team.

He thanked Dave Long for his help as Treasurer but said that after four years, Dave wanted to resign and a new Treasurer was desperately required.

Nick mentioned the various language groups under Lynn Clark and Maggie Hale and self help conversation groups which were functioning.

The visit to Hede would be 6-10 April. Ideas for other social activities were invited.

Nick mentioned the proposed Badbergen link and asked for input. He also mentioned a suggested basketball team visit.

Nick gave a personal comment on the future of the twinning, details of which appear in his report.

Nick mentioned the sad death of Paul Bradley, one of our founder members.

5. Election of committee for 2017

Nick Beasley would stand down as Chairman although he would remain on the Committee. Linda Simpson was happy to take over. This proposal was unanimously supported by members attending. Linda took the chair at this point. She handed Nick a gift on behalf of members and thanked him for his service. Nick offered to act as Ambassador to Hédé and general consultant, which Linda proposed and again this was seconded by the members.

Further officers were elected as follows:

Judith Phillip. Secretary. Proposed by Netty Verkroost, seconded by Simon Durant

Dave Long. Treasurer. Dave would continue this role for this one year but he wished to hand over finally at the end of this year. This proposal was proposed by Andy Simpson, seconded by Paddy Richards.

The committee were re-elected on block, proposed by Linda Simpson, seconded by all members in the room.

Nikki Miller had agreed to join the committee and this proposal was proposed and seconded by all members in the room.

The Committee and officers were therefore:

Linda Simpson. Chairman

Judith Phillip. Secretary

Dave Long. Treasurer for 2017 only

Committee Members:

Joy Cornish

Lynn Clark

Chris Grocott

Christine Odams

Katherine Hughes

Pam and Gerry Gurhy

Andy Simpson

Nikki Miller

Nick Beasley

6. Membership fees and renewal date

It was proposed to keep the fees the same as the previous year. Linda reminded members that fees were now due.

7. Visit to Hédé Bazouges

The visit was planned for 6-10 April. Members were welcomed to join in with the visit and should confirm as soon as possible so that arrangements could be made.

8. Badbergen link

Linda explained that Hédé was also linked with the German town of Badbergen and that it had been suggested that we could join in with the three way link. A few members from Wortham had visited Hédé earlier in the year when the Germans were visiting and had been warmly received. It was proposed that members could join in with the French visit to Germany in July this year. Linda asked members if they could think about the link and make comments as to whether they would support a three way link. Various issues were raised, including cost implications and language. The matter would be discussed further after taking into account members' views.

It was also mentioned that Hédé also had a link with Spain.

9. Social and fund raising programme for 2017.

Members were asked to discuss ideas for fundraising in their groups and these would be collected and discussed so that a programme could be put in place for 2017.

10. Any other business.

Netty Verkroost asked if the French visit could be organised for July in future as it might suit more people. Linda said that this idea could be discussed further with the French. Air fares would be higher and the schools would be closed which might be considerations to take into account.

Paddy Richards asked if the primary schools were involved. Linda replied that we had funded learning resources at Wortham and that there had been an exchange of materials between the schools. Mellis had exchanged materials with Tintiniaic through Nadine. We were keen to encourage the links. Linda would make an appointment to go into the schools to meet with the French teacher.

The issue of safeguarding of children was mentioned. Children would always have to travel with a parent or grandparent or nominated adult carer. Members were asked for their help in promoting the Association if they had any links with families or schools. It was suggested that grandparents could take their grandchildren on the trips.

Members were asked by Linda to discuss the various ideas on the forms, which included whether they were hoping to go to Hédé this year, their ideas for social events, the German link, and also any ideas for a present to mark the 25th anniversary of the twinning link.

The meeting ended at 8.30 and was followed by the raffle and the talk by Jason from the Suffolk Cheese company.