

WORTHAM AND BURGATE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 1 February 2022 on Zoom

1. Welcome from the Chairman

Christian Aumann and Silke Steiger from the Bad Bergen Twinning Association were welcomed as guests to the meeting by Linda. She said that the meeting was being recorded and would be available on the association's website.

2. Present

Linda and Andy Simpson, Susan Wright, Lynn Clark, Joy Cornish, Chris Grocott, Pam and Gerry Gurhy, Heather Hovey, Isobel Hunter, Graham Leigh, Lyn Pelham-Burn, Judith Phillip, Ann and David Reynolds, Katherine Smith.

Guests Christian Aumann and Silke Steiger.

3. Apologies

Rob and Sue Bawden, Frances and Nick Beasley, Nikki Miller, and Hans and Netty Verkoost.

4. Minutes and Matters Arising from the last AGM on 4 February 2020

The last minutes described visits to Hédé in 2019 and local social events. There were no matters arising.

5. Chair's Report

A detailed written report had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. It outlined the impact of the pandemic seriously curtailing activities until August 2021 but since then three social events have occurred, a picnic at Bateley's, a Halloween Social and a local walk. In addition, the Twinning Association was represented at an exhibition of local activities at Botesdale Village Hall in October.

Linda explained the difficulties of travel to and from France at present but emphasized the importance of the Twinning Association being a community organisation that links with friends in Europe.

There were no comments or questions arising from the report.

6. Treasurer's Report

There has been little activity on the account and so there was a carry forward of £4,766.54 on 31 December 2021. This included subscriptions received over the two years of 2020 and 2021. The only event to involve expenditure was the Halloween Social.

The account is with HSBC who now charge £5 per month for the account with an additional charge for transactions. This is the cheapest available bank service as the charges of others are higher. It is helpful if payments to the association are made by BACs as these do not incur charges.

7. Membership Subscription

Subscriptions are important as they validate membership of the Twinning Association. The committee has agreed to keep the annual subscription at £10 for an individual and £20 for a family.

8. Future Events

There will be a local walk on Saturday 19 February, starting from Vicky and Tims cottage, 9 Willow Corner The Ling at 10am. After the walk you are invited to have some onion soup in Linda and Andy's garden next door to our starting point.

A decorated biscuit event is proposed for Easter but the details have yet to be finalised. This is intended for children as we now have had some families join our association.

Linda has written to France explaining that a formal twinning visit is difficult at present but welcoming visitors on an ad hoc basis perhaps the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 2-5 June, when there will be community events, 18-19 June for the Wortham Open Gardens or at any other time by arrangement.

CG said that although the Covid situation seems to be improving, it would be difficult to host 30 visitors. Frances and Nick Beasley are going to France at the end of February. Linda will ask them if visit Hédé to talk with representatives of the French twinning to see how they feel about visits.

Linda will contact Wortham Primary School to explore possible links.

Village events are being planned for Thursday 2 June by the Parish Council. They include stalls and a tug-of-war. The Twinning Association will be represented. There is a gap between afternoon events and the lighting of the beacon and fireworks after dark. Possibly, we could show a film during the gap. There may be a professional outdoor cinema organised.

DR suggested that it may be more appropriate to have informal events for this year because of the uncertain situation with more formality next year.

9. Committee Membership

All of the existing committee are willing to stand again and David Reynolds has joined. All those wishing to stand were nominated by Andy Simpson and seconded by Isobel Hunter.

10. Any Other Business

The chairman and the committee were thanked for their efforts to keep the association going at such a difficult time by IH and GL.

Linda encouraged members to invite French friends individually. LC said that local events and suppers can be arranged.

HH said there is a need to urge members to support planned events.

Silke and Christian explained that there is a planned twinning visit by Bad Bergen to Hédé 19-25 July. They would love to come to England at some time.