

WORTHAM AND BURGATE TWINNING ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF AGM on 2nd February 2016
HELD at WORTHAM VILLAGE HALL

Present: Nick Beasley and Frances, Joanna Chetburn (guest) Mike and Joy Cornish, Alan and Sally Cowham, Simon and Jane Durant , Linda and Bob Giles, Chris and Jean Grocott, Maggie and James Hale, Barry & Janette Higgs, Katherine, Matt, Billy and Lou Hughes, Isobel Hunter, Ian Luff, Dave Long, Judith and Andy Phillip, Paddy and Michael Richards, Susan Richardson (guest) Andy and Linda Simpson , Caroline Smith, Katherine and Terry Smith, Vikki, Charles, Amber and Joseph Tustian (guests) Hans and Netty Verkroost,.

1. Apologies

Rob and Sue Bawden, Mike and Leslie Bowen, Jacky and Paul Bradley, Lyn Pelham Burne Sue and Edward Coales , Pam Garside, Pam and Gerry Gurhy, Peter and Kay Lucas, Chrissy and Mike Odhams, Ginny White .

2. Minutes of Last AGM

These had been sent out in advance of the meeting to all members.

The minutes were agreed as read. This was proposed by Isobel Hunter and seconded by Chris Grocott.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Chair's Report

Nick read the Chairman's report a full copy of which would be placed on our website. A summary is below.

He started by thanking all members for their continued support and the Committee for helping to further the aims of the organisation and helping to provide activities for everybody to enjoy.

In his report he looked back at 2015, not just the main events but also the opportunities for twinning members to have contact outside formal arrangements. He mentioned the links that Wortham and Mellis schools had made with schools in Hédé and Tienteniac, visits by Klaoda Lastennet for the Garden Lovers trip to Hampton Court, a week-long visit by Bernard and Marie Claire Van Schoorisse and the six week visit of Clementine Delambily, to undertake work experience and improve her language skill. Some cyclists from Eye Twinning visited and were welcomed by Hédé Jumelage.

Nick mentioned the three French language groups that were ongoing and thanked Lynne Clarke and Maggie Hale for their support of these groups.

After outlining events for the coming year, which will be publicised in the next, soon to be published, newsletter, Nick mentioned a pending visit by a Twinning member, Andy Phillip, with a convoy of World War Two vehicles which would be going through Hédé.

A possible three way link with Hédé's German Twinned Town of Badbergen has been suggested and we are in e mail contact with members of the German Twinning group. Some twinning members who are also German speakers will try and progress this, hopefully visiting Hédé when the German visitors are there in October.

There had been a request by young teenage girls basketball club in Hédé for a visit if possible with a match against a similar English team.

Nick said that on a personal note and in the light of recent terrorist attacks he felt that the aims of Twinning were now more important than ever. The positive way in which members interact with our French Twinning partners shows that the spirit of the Twinning ideal is still alive in our organisation.

4. Treasurer's Report

The balance sheet was presented by Treasurer Dave, and had been audited by Colin Lond. He commented that the end of year balance stood at £3250.81 although there were still some expenses to be deducted from this. Overall we had spent a net figure of £325.01 hosting the French (although as was commented later the gross figure was more in the region of £2000 – income from the ceilidh having covered some of the expenditure).

This coming year will be our biennial high spend year since we will be hosting and but Dave we are in a good position with our funding at the current time to provide an enjoyable programme for our guests.

Funding as well as being used to fund events such as the AGM and Christmas social, are also used to subsidise families visiting Hédé and UK hosts for some of their expenses. Dave said that the subsidies are partly what funds are raised for and he urged people to claim any subsidy when they might be eligible.

5. Election of Committee for 2016/17

The current members of the Committee were all happy to continue as committee members. Linda had said that she wished to stand down as secretary and Judith Phillip had agreed to be nominated for this role. Dave and Nick were content to continue in their roles for another year.

Nick thanked Linda for the enthusiasm and drive she had brought to her role. He presented her with flowers by way of thanks.

Linda commented that she felt it was important that individuals should not feel they had to stay in a role for too long a time. It was healthy for any organisation to have a regular change of officers and committee members to keep things lively and from going stale. Although there was no one present who wished to join the committee this year it would be important for new members to join and keep things refreshed. A number of people had volunteered to help organise the visit of the French this year and this was a very positive start.

The Committee were elected as follows:-

Chair Nick Beasley Proposed by Linda Simpson , Seconded by Andy Simpson

Treasurer Dave Long Proposed by Katherine Smith and seconded by Judith Phillip

Secretary Judith Phillip Proposed by Linda Simpson and seconded by Frances Beasley

Committee Lynn Clarke
Joy Cornish
Chris Grocott
Gerry Gurhy
Pam Gurhy
Catherine Hughes
Christina Odams
Andy Simpson
Judith Phillip

The committee were elected en bloc – proposed by Paddy Richards and seconded by Caroline Smith.

6. Membership Fees

It was proposed by the Committee that membership fees will remain the same as last year.

These are:

Family Membership (children under 16 years free)	£20
Individual Membership	£10
Single Parent Membership (children under 16 years free)	£10

7. Programme and Fundraising

Nick invited members to let us know if they have any good fund raising ideas. Members commented that wine tasting was always popular as were Race Nights. However Burgate are holding a race night during the coming year. A French Dance Workshop might be a possibility perhaps tied in with something else , also boules might be popular.

Alan Cowham wondered if something could be done in connection with the Wortham Open Garden weekend. It was agreed though that since this weekend was for raising funds for the Wortham Village Hall all we would be able to do was perhaps have a stall giving some publicity to Twinning.

Nick had already covered events coming up the next one being another film night.

8. Any Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.05pm

The meeting was followed by a French themed quiz. The winning team 'The Bonapartistes – Katherine and Terry Smith , Ian Luff and Andy Phillip - each won a box of chocolates pack of mini eggs.