



Newtown Twinning Association
September 14th 2017
Held at Swallow Barn 6.00pm

Present: Catharyn, Liz, Jon, Paul, Steve, Andrew, Alwena, Fred, Kevin and Cheryl, Kate.

Apologies: Richard

Welcome: Catharyn was pleased to welcome three new members, being Cheryl and Kevin Wilson and Kate Rayner.

Previous minutes were approved, signed and dated.

Review of Food Festival: The observations made in the the Health and Safety Report were duly noted and the original will be kept with the minutes and other paperwork.

Barrie Thompson, sponsor of the tent, was pleased with the outcomes of the weekend. A thank you letter will be sent to the delicatessen on behalf of the committee.

It was mooted whether or not the French bought their produce before the trip, which is something we could do for ourselves. Our profits are likely to be small, unless we widen our choice of goods to sell, that weren't so local and included more 'British' items.

Finance Report: All financial details for the festival weekend, relating to the NTA. are on Fred's sheet.

Extra costs were the flag at £170 [which the Town Council will pay for] and liability insurance at £171. There is a balance of £3,000 in the bank.

Town Council reserves of £1200 will be useful for the Music Festival.

The money from the dinner at the Elephant and Castle has been banked.

Membership Report: Helen Bennet from the Silver Band has joined, as have Elliott and Claire Tyler-Waddington. Two thirds of the members from 2016 have rejoined, but Steve thinks that the remaining third may pay when they remember to do so.

Matters arising: Duo's are having problems being paid by the Council, because the Saturday meal was delivered to a private house, rather than a public building. There had been no issue when the proposal had been originally discussed with the Town Clerk, but if we have to pay from our own funds we shall have an extra 20 per cent more [VAT].

Insurance: These papers will be kept with the minutes.

The insurance covers overseas events, though not the travel.

The Insurance Certificate needs to be displayed, but because we meet in people's houses, this raises a problem. Catharyn suggested that we nominate the Town Council chambers as a registered meeting place, as there will be several times a year when it will be more suitable for us to convene there.

The insurance generously covers up to 500 people, who might be in attendance at an event. The potential for using this cover needs to be explored further. However, when travelling with students, they will need to be under the cover of their educational establishment.

Chairs and tables: The Elephant and Castle have offered us the six trestle tables and 25 solid oak chairs that we used at the festival. This is a generous offer, but storage is a problem. Should we auction them off or renovate them?

Fred agreed to store them temporarily, while we send photos of them to Leominster and Hall's to see if there would be any interest in them at salvage sites.

Graham Renshawe has also generously offered us the use of a gazebo with tables and chairs.

Chrono: Hafren Cyclists are intending to go every year, but two of the party are having difficulties getting their bicycles transported. We suggest that the bikes could be carried by those going on the ferry, while son and dad fly. This is one case where we simply can't help out and Steve pointed out that they should become independent travellers each time they want to go.

Ecole de Musique: We need a whole meeting dedicated to discussing the music festival. John Callaghan is keen to arrange the whole event, fortunately. However, the weekend we thought would be fine is already booked by the Newtown Musical Society for their spring production. John C. will get in touch with the French to see if they can fit their schedule in with this. As there are not too many young people involved with the NMS, maybe we can still organise an event. Important now to search for a venue, taking into account cost and size. The High School hall seems an attractive choice, especially as we could be involving some of the students in the event. We must contact the new head to arrange a meeting. However, we can't do anything until we have details of numbers, balance of singers and instrumentalists and possible music from the French. The age range is going to be between 14 and 18.

A sub committee of Andrew, Alwena, Liz and Jon, decided to meet at Manora on September 28th to meet with John and hopefully Esta and Geoff, too. It would be good if John could make contact with the French before the meeting.

Newtown Male Voice Choir : Andrew has asked Marie-Thé if the choir could stay in the same accommodation as the students in June, which was at the college. The choir are aware that the French have cancelled the venues that had booked, due to the uncertainty of their arrangements. However, these can be reinstated if the choir commit to a crossing and next Tuesday is their last chance. If the choir decide not to go, then we could ask New Dynamics if they would like to go.

Food Festival 2018 : Already discussed.

Chrono 2018: Hafren cyclists are committed to go.

High School links: There is a new head, who is keen to link to community projects.

Chantiers Jeunes: We must get this underway early this year.

AOB: The French musicians may join with Ffonic on the eve of the festival in a fundraising event.\

Film Night: Liz is to continue to search for a venue and do some emailing to our membership.

Next Meeting: Town Council Chambers on Wednesday 18th of October at 6.30 pm.

Appendix:

Date:

Signed:

Appendix: Meeting of sub committee for the Music Festival.
[Proposed date - 27th, 28th of April 2018]
Held at Manora on 28th of September at 6.00pm

Present: Andrew, Alwena, Liz, Jon and John.

Little had been organised by Bruno, in relation to all things to do with the festival, on account of getting a new year and term started. However, there could be up to 100 people coming.

Newtown Musical Group: Les Skilton is keen to be involved with the forthcoming festival, but we shall all need to work together to avoid any youngsters having to be split between shows.

Andrew read out a letter from Esta who pointed out that there is a big following by the public in Newtown for all manner of musical groups. This has to be a positive thing for our venture. Our next step is to meet with those who are interested and able to contribute most meaningfully to the needs of the festival.

Priorities: How many days will the festival cover, including some free time for the participants?
How many performances will there be?

What costs can we expect? It's possible that we could apply for a grant from the Arts Council and there maybe support through Russell George, our Welsh Assembly Member, who would also like to be kept informed about the craft fair in Les Herbiers next year.

We shall need to know the French requirements for any equipment.

Looking at the music festival in a pragmatic way, we could suggest that the French create a two hour programme that could be advertised across the area. A programme this long could have the potential of being performed twice.

It would be useful to request that the French form a subcommittee like ours, with whom we can communicate easily.

The essential thing now is to keep everyone informed on a regular basis to maintain momentum.

The next meeting will be at the Town Hall on the 18th of October.