



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016, beginning at 19.30hrs,  
in the Council Chamber, Newtown Town Council, The Cross, Newtown.**

**Present:**        **Catharyn Edwards [Chairman]**  
Fred Mathieu  
Andrew Gentle  
Alwena Gentle  
Alexandra Spenser  
John Spenser  
Jo-Jo Thomson  
Barry Thomson  
Steve Page

**01.                    Apologies for absence**

Were received from Freddie Chaublet, Liz and John Bushell.

**02. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2015**, previously circulated, were for information only, having been approved previously. [Secretary's note; There was no AGM in 2015, the Twinning Association having been only 'ticking over' until then, but the February meeting in 2015 was the one at which two of the current officers were elected.]

**03.                    Chairman's report**

Catharyn Edwards gave an overview of the past year. She said that a very successful visit to Les Herbier's 'Jum' Regal' food fair had taken place at the beginning of May, with a large party of Welsh visitors joining others from Les Herbiers' other partners towns in Germany and Spain. Several of the Montgomeryshire food producers had sold out of their stock over the weekend. This had been followed by an equally successful reciprocal visit to the Newtown Food Festival by a French party in September.

Looking ahead, Catharyn said that despite the difficulties in supporting the planned craft fair this year, the twinning committee in Les Herbiers were hoping to organise another 'Jum' Regal' food fare in 2017, in which case Newtown would again support this. A visit by a group of French walkers is likely to occur in the late summer of this year, to be hosted through the Twinning Committee. Catharyn explained that the objective of the association was to promote links with our partner town in France on the part of Newtown organisations, and to that end the Association had adopted its present logo during the past year, based on a stylised representation of the River Severn. Presentations had been given to larger businesses and to the Town Council, as a result of which the association had received 'preferred partner' status for the purpose of relationships with overseas towns. The organisation was now actively seeking corporate members from among the business community of Montgomeryshire.

She pointed out that there were pages linked to the Town Council web site which explained what the Twinning Association was endeavouring to do, and that a Facebook page had been created by Freddie Chaublet but that this now needed fresh work. It was hoped to involve the younger

generation more actively and to this end the association would seek a rapprochement with the new Headteacher of Newtown High School, when s/he is in post.

**04. Financial Matters**

04.01 The Treasurer reported that at the date of the AGM, the Association had £162 in the bank current account, after the activities of the year, the most recent being the Annual Dinner, at which the Quiz, of his own devising, had raised a modest contribution to the association's funds. He also reported that a sum of approx. £150 remained of the sum allocated for Town Twinning in the Town Council's 2015-16 budget. Any money unspent at the end of the financial year at the beginning of April would be transferred to the reserves and not be available to be spent for Twinning purposes in the next year.

04.02 Purchase of T-shirts with Twinning logo  
A price had been obtained from Sports Links, a Newtown-based clothing branding specialist, for the supply of T-shirts as outlined in 04.01 above. A sample of the artwork was shown. The company was prepared to waive set-up costs in view of the nature of the Association's activities, and this led to the suggestion that the company might be given corporate membership without payment to Newtown Twinning for one year. Shirts would cost £6.95 each if fewer than 50 were purchased, and £6.25 each if the order totalled more than 50.

**04.03 AGREED** – to purchase 20 T-shirts of various sizes, subject to the Town Council being prepared to contribute towards the cost, the T-shirts to remain the preparty of Newtown Twinning.

**05. Election of officers 2016-17**

**Noted** – that alone among the existing officers, the Secretary had indicated that he was unable to continue in post for another year. He was thanked for his services. The following officers were then elected, in each case nem con –

**Chair – Catharyn Edwards**

**Secretary – Jo-Jo Thomson**

**Treasurer – Fred Mathieu**

**Corporate Membership & Hosting – Andrew Gentle**

**Individual membership – Steve Page**

**Media relations – Liz Bushell**

**06. Any other business**

Wide-ranging discussion on twinning-related matters then followed. It was agreed that members would need to bring these points to future meetings in order to progress them.

**07. Date and time of next meeting**

Agreed - that the next ordinary meeting [not AGM] would be held at the home of Fred Mathieu on Thursday 21st April, beginning at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Signed this ..... day of .....2016.

..... Chair.