



Newtown Twinning Association

06 May 2016

Present:	Fred Mathieu	Apologies:	Catharyn Edwards - Chair
	Andrew Gentle		Rina Clark
	Alwena Gentle		Steve Page
	Jon Bushell		
	Liz Bushell		
	JoJo Thomson - Secretary		

In Catharyn's absence, Andrew Gentle (AG) kindly chaired this meeting.

Actions (A)

Pre - meeting

Following a discussion at our previous meeting, the Committee were joined by John Edwards, Chairman and Eifion Astley, Treasurer of the Newtown and District Male Boys Choir. They were present to discuss a possible musical event during the food festival in September, as well as maybe joining us in Les Herbiers next year.

They were very keen to be able to participate, subject to the dates being free. All specifics would be agreed once they reported back on dates being free for them, however, they were in agreement they could do a performance on the Saturday evening as part of the Gala evening.

They were also keen to learn more about a possible event in France in 2017 – again, subject to dates being free for them. They outlined they are self-funding and their preference is to all stay in the same hotel, as opposed to staying with host families – everyone agreed therefore this would be a very easy event to plan. John and Eifion agreed to report back following their next choir meeting (25 Apr). **Post meeting Secretary note** - Eifion visited the High Street Deli to confirm they are indeed free the first weekend in Sept and therefore available to do a performance on the Saturday evening as discussed at this meeting. Further details can be worked up over the coming meetings.

Matters Arising

1. Minutes of the previous were accepted, however the Secretary is to amend the date recorded for the Pique-Nique to 10 July. (A)
2. **Website:** AG updated the committee with regard to the status of the Twinning Association pages on the Town Council website. Unfortunately, due to the simplicity of the website, it would not be possible on any of our pages for someone to complete and submit a form, as discussed previously. This is not a showstopper.

AG has submitted the first two sections, and made a plea for committee members to email a suitable picture, Twinning related if possible, for inclusion on the web pages. (Action all)
3. **Membership:** It was agreed that a *host list* needed to be drafted as soon as possible. There was further good news on the corporate members front – Cambrian Foundry have just come on board. AG agreed to contact companies about securing sponsorship for the Food Festival. (A) And it was agreed that corporate members should be invited to join in on all Twinning events, including the Gala Night, AGM etc.
4. **Carnival 11 June:** AG contacted Mary Tudor regarding this years Carnival. It was agreed that the Twinning Association would just have a stall in the Park, the aim of which would be to promote the Twinning Association and the activities the group gets involved in as well as try to secure more private and corporate membership. The following was agreed:
 - JT, the Secretary, will provide a gazebo and a 2m table for this event.
 - FM to secure French music and some way of playing it on the day
 - AG to complete the application form to have a pitch at the Carnival
 - Members who can be present on the day to dress 'french style'
 - FM agreed to write a cheque for £7.50 to secure the pitch
Bruce Wilson of Montgomery (toy car collector and museum owner) was mentioned and it was discussed whether it might be a good idea enquiring to see if he has any French cars available to borrow for our Carnival stall? Action unassigned.
5. **Pique-Nique 10 July:** In Steve's absence, it was noted that he was working up a members list as well as a hosts list, in order to invite people to come along to this event. JB agreed to create a 'card' inviting people to this event. (A) AG would mention the invite in his email to hosts, alerting them to expect to receive a hand delivered card invitation from JB. LB agreed to coordinate who would bring what to the event, so as to ensure not everyone brings salad!! (A)

6. **Flix in the Stix:** It was agreed as this would probably be more appropriate in the autumn /winter, we would postpone planning to a later date. Although JB agreed to see if the Sarn cinema club equipment might be available for hire. (A)
7. **Food Festival 3-4 Sept:** AG updated the committee on progress to date in trying to find a suitable location for the Gala evening. He had received a quote from Plas Dolerw for £75 for one room for one evening, or £80 to include use of the kitchen.

AG had also approached Duo's for a quote – they would be willing to do it again (the charge last year was £400).

AG approached the Market Hall – it would be £100 for the two evenings (the Friday and Saturday) with £8/head for a cold buffet from the Café. There was some discussion whether a cold or hot buffet would be better, and in order to cut costs, perhaps committee members could serve at the counter? The Market Hall is available so AG will provisionally book the venue with finer details to follow on possible food options available. (A)

For the Sunday evening, the event should be optional but the Black Boy as a venue was perfectly adequate last time.

It was also agreed we would share the Les Herbiers table at the festival – AG agreed to arrange payment of our half of the pitch with FM, noting it was £20 a pitch with £5 charge for tables. (A)

8. **Treasurers report:** FM informed the committee there was a bank balance of £370. He also informed us that there was a potential issue over payment for the Association t-shirts, which have all been printed (as we saw at the last meeting) however the invoice remains outstanding – it has come to light that the Town Clerk omitted to tell their external accountants about the funds due to come to our association to pay for the t-shirts, as previously agreed by him, and now the accountants have closed the books. This is a significant error on the part of the Town Clerk and whilst the printing company are not chasing for their payment, this is deeply embarrassing for the Twining Association. It is hoped that the accountants can make an adjustment to the accounts to correct this matter.
9. **Constitution:** It was recognised that this needs to be properly addressed and will feature on a future agenda.
10. **Any other business:**
 - Re the Food Festival, FM agreed to contact Les Herbiers to see if they can confirm numbers and in particular if the ramblers are planning on coming this year. (A)

- Alwena agreed to contact Ann Evans of the Silver Band to see if they would like to do something like the Male Choir are planning. (A)
- FM would contact Les Herbiers to see if they had musical groups interested in coming to us this year (A)

11. **Date, time and location of next meeting:** The next Twinning meeting would take place on Thursday 26 May at 1930hrs. Andrew and Alwena Gentle very kindly offered to host the meeting at their home - directions to follow.

Signed

(Chair)

Date