



Minutes of meeting Thursday 5th April

Elephant and Castle 6.30 pm

Present: Andrew, Alwena, Steve, Kate, Fred, Jon and Liz, Cathryn and Richard

Matters Arising: Kate suggested that we quickly discussed the Constitution, that had been prepared and sent out to all the committee, before the main business of the day. It transpired that some wording would need to be altered, so that, as a document, it would be working for us rather than against us. The wording would need to be clear and without the possibility of misinterpretation.

Kevin had suggested that we should be called Newtown and **District** Twinning Association, to acknowledge the numbers of members who live beyond the town boundary. This would have implications for the banners that we had already had made, but it seemed a good idea.

Steve worried about possible discrimination over the Welsh language, but as Alwena already translates articles into Welsh, this should obviate any need to expand the use of Welsh in our documentation and avoid extra expense.

Steve suggested that we should accept the constitution and arrange a new AGM to create new roles for the committee. These roles will need to be carefully defined.

We agreed that six main roles should be created, being the Chairman and Vice Chairman, a Treasurer, a membership secretary, a minutes secretary and a secretary to the Chair. It would be unusual for a meeting to take place, in which none of these would be present.

Ordinarily, an AGM needs to take place within 15 months of the previous one. An extraordinary general meeting could be called within three weeks of requesting one and it would seem that we will not have time to call one before the French visit, in order to put our new constitution into place.

It was questioned whether a group of associate members could request a special general meeting, but we could not see how or why that should happen. Bringing us back round to the wording of the constitution, it was agreed that we shall have to discuss this at a specially convened meeting.

Kate thanked Andrew for maintaining such a good website.

Music Weekend: Andrew said that further forms will have to include information about the kind of accommodation that people have available, so that single people and couples can be matched quickly and easily with hosts.

Andrew has had a hard time over the last three weeks, dealing with lots of complications over the hosting. He commented that we need to look for new willing hosts, because most of the people we have at our disposal have been known to us for a long time.

We shall need to promote and advertise the performance on Sunday evening. How shall we do this?

If we are going to have alcohol on sale, we shall need to apply now for a licence. Michelle has offered to do this. The Welshpool music festivals charge £2 a glass for wine and this would be a good return for us. Fred has ordered 80 litres from the French.

As the musicians will not be taking up space in the hall, this will create the opportunity to invite more people to buy tickets. Could there be up to 500 in the audience?

Parking: Richard will ask if the coaches could be parked on the town car park as a special case?

Departure: Coach 1 will depart at 10.15 on Monday. The musicians will have to be brought into Newtown earlier by their hosts and a lunch will need to be provided for the younger people travelling.

Coach 2 will depart on Tuesday morning.

Presents: We shall exchange twinning presents on Saturday and, on Sunday, the musicians will exchange theirs. Newtownia and Number 1 will be patronised for the purchase of gifts.

Reception: Friday's reception will need to be very well organised so that hosts and guests are partnered quickly and efficiently after an introduction and speeches. The French did this exceptionally well last year.

We need to ask Michelle for the organisation of the evening at the Elephant and Castle on Saturday.

Duo's will deliver the sandwiches to the High School.

The French teacher will be staying with Sarah Welch, who will organise her weekend.

Who will be the compère for Sunday evening?

One of our hosts will organise a walk round Newtown.

Signed:

Dated:

