

Newtown Twinning Association

Minutes of Meeting

9<sup>th</sup> November at The Sportsman 7pm –9pm

<p><u>Present:</u> Kate Rayner: Chair Kevin Wilson: Deputy Chair/Treasurer Tracy Owen: Newtown Council Representative Andrew Gentle - Secretary Cheryl Wilson Steve Page Jessica Markwell</p>	<p><u>Apologies:</u> Alwena Gentle Paul Harry</p>
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**1. Welcome and Apologies.**

**2. Minutes of last meeting:**

Agreed

**3. Safeguarding Issues**

None

**4. Update from meeting with members of LH committee during their visit to Newtown 31st August - 4th September 2022 and further discussion with Alwena and Andrew Gentle when they took time out of their holiday in France in September, to attend a twinning meeting.**

Guy (ex-president of LH Twinning committee) has been tasked by LH to make links with various groups in LH who may wish to develop specific exchanges via the twinning relationship.

- Walking groups: are keen to visit Newtown for our walking festival which next year is scheduled for 3/4<sup>th</sup> June.

Guy has suggested 20-30 would likely want to attend.

Andrew suggested that in addition to the scheduled range of walks offered that w/end by Walking Newtown, as he is on the Walking Newtown committee, they could explore designing some tailor-made walks for our French visitors or at least ensuring the various needs fitness and language wise are addressed.

**ACTION:** Andrew to continue with the liaison role as he is involved in both committees and link in with Guy as and when appropriate and update any developments at future committee meetings.

- Cycling visitors are keen to visit Newtown to engage in cycle rides here. Andrew has liaised with Emma Sargeant (our link with Hafren Cycling) who is keen to reciprocate as Hafren cycling have entered in the Chrono cycle event several years running with LH twinning hosting our local cyclist's and their families.

ACTION: Andrew to liaise with Guy to establish when the cyclists would like to visit and in particular if they wish to visit at the same time as the walking festival. Andrew to ask what the range of fitness is in terms of kilometres and elevations for typical social rides.

ACTION: Andrew then to contact Emma Sargeant to ask for her to identify reciprocal hosting families for the cyclists visit and to discuss with Hafren members them timetabling & leading social rides at various fitness levels.

- Climate Change Groups: Guy says their climate change group would like to join with Newtown's climate change group to share ideas and projects. Jessica agreed that David Markwell would be happy to act as the link with this group as he is involved with the local climate change group.

ACTION: Andrew to remain at this point as link person with Guy until such time as Guy has identified a link person from the climate change group in LH

ACTION: Andrew to bring the above update to the committee before linking David with the LH link person.

ACTION: Jessica to invite David Markwell to the extraordinary meeting in December (see end of minutes for date) specifically to address our visit to LH in April 2023 and who and what groups may or may not be invited to join this committee visit.

- Organic Farming: Guy advised Andrew that LH have a growing initiative for organic farming and would like to share ideas and projects with local organic farmers in the Newtown area. Discussion took place about various organic farmers in the area known to committee members.

ACTION: as a first point of reference Tracy to talk with her colleague Richard Edwards (previous twinning council rep who also works in Cultivate Community project in Newtown) who will have links to local organic farmers and would therefore be a good starting point for information gathering.

ACTION: Tracy to update the extraordinary meeting in December

ACTION: Tracy to invite Richard Edwards to the extraordinary meeting in December (see end of minutes for date) specifically to address our visit to LH in April 2023 and who and what groups may or may not be invited to join this committee visit.

- Arts and Culture: Guy wishes to identify various groups to share knowledge and projects.

ACTION: Stefan from Oriel Davis and the owner of Mid Wales Art Centre to be contacted to canvass any interest.

ACTION: whoever was tasked to progress this item to advise Cheryl who will amend the minutes accordingly!!

## **5. Music Exchange April 2024 Progress Report:**

Kate advised her attempts at securing someone who would be happy to be the music director liaising with Bruno in LH have unfortunately not been successful.

ACTION: Kate to contact Robin Midgely (Head of music in Newtown High School) to enquire if he and his department could take on this role as they were central to the first music exchange which took place in Newtown High School hall.

ACTION: Kate to seek advice from Michelle who is no longer formally linked to music groups, but would no doubt have friendship links she could direct Kate to.

## **6. Committee visit to LH 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**

Andrew advised that the above dates have been confirmed by LH as dates they could host our visit.

Various costings had been researched by Andrew:

Self-drive could only take place if we used our own vehicles or a self-drive minibus with maximum seating for 9. Anything above is not possible due to insurance rules.

Coaches were costed for 29 and 34 seaters. However, discussion took place about the purpose of this first, post covid visit and it being agreed at previous meetings that this would be an initial visit made by the committee to re-establish committee to committee friendships in the same way as the very small contingent from LH in their visit in September this year.

ACTION: An extraordinary meeting is required to discuss this visit and whether invitations are to be extended outside of the committee to the various groups outlined above in item 4. See end of minutes for agreed date and time.

## **7. Primary schools link update**

Kate met with Marion Bourdet when she visited France in the summer. Marion is keen to continue to try and engage with any interested primary schools and is aware St Mary's raised their interest in such a project.

ACTION: Kate to discuss further with St Mary's to establish if this venture can be progressed.

## **8. Treasurers update:**

Bank Balance £535. Electronic banking should be set to go live any day!

Kevin compiled draft memorandum of Understanding for ED (Town Council Clerk), Kate and Andrew to read and approve or send amendments. Reports were hand delivered by Andrew Gentle but to date no correspondence has been received from Ed.

ACTION: Kevin to forward this MoU to Tracy for her information.

ACTION: Tracy to discuss the MoU with Ed so as to secure a meeting date to agree formally confirm document.

Kevin has submitted two invoices which as yet have not been paid.

ACTION: Kevin to forward the two invoices to Tracy

ACTION: Tracy to check that this is scheduled for the next meeting where such payments are tabled and sanctioned.

ACTION: Kate has some points to raise and will send these to Kevin to hold until all amendments have been received.

ACTION: Once all amendments have been received and MoU is agreed a meeting to be set up with Ed, Kate, Andrew Kevin and Tracy to ensure monies for twinning are managed differently from April 2023.

## **9. Film Evenings**

Costings for each film night will be £94 hire of film and £40 hire of church hall. All agreed this is legitimate business which should be claimed back from the Town Council until such time as the MoU is put in place,

ACTION: Jessica has and will pass future receipts to Kevin for each event

ACTION: Kevin has submitted invoice (as outlined in item 8) to Town Council for £134

Attendance at this film night was very good which will either provide a modest profit or buffer low attendance at any of the three future film nights for this season.

In order to simply break even, over four film nights we need to 77 tickets.

Discussion took place around refreshments. Jessica and Steve confirmed that they are both happy to continue to provide refreshments for each film night. Discussions took place about the funding for such refreshments, see actions for outcome.

ACTION: Jessica & Steve to continue to provide refreshments for each film night.

ACTION: Jessica and her husband David and Steve to have their tickets waived in lieu of providing refreshments.

ACTION: Jessica and Steve to keep an eye on the costings and advise committee if the equivalent of a £7 per person ticket is sufficient to cover their costs.

## **10. Website update:**

The website will be reinstated as soon as is possible.

ACTION: update at next committee meeting.

## **11. Update from Town Council rep.**

Tracy explained there has been a request from New Harmony in America to be twinned with Newtown. Tracy explained a colleague was addressing this issue and had asked Ed (and had approached Andrew) if our twinning committee might extend its role to this twinning relationship.

Discussion took place about the formal charter for this Twinning Association which specifically and formally makes ties with Les Herbiers. Therefore, this Twinning Association cannot extend its remit beyond anything outside of its relationship with les Herbiers.

ACTION: Tracy in her conversations with her colleagues to highlight the paragraph in the charter which specifically outlines the remit for the Twinning Association.

## **12. increasing Twinning Profile:**

ACTION: To be tabled for the next meeting as time not available at this meeting.

## **13. Application for committee members:**

none

## **AOB:**

Cheryl raised the issue of time spent as voluntary twinning committee members and the need to recognise the hours put in across each quarter by all members. The backdrop to this is to raise the profile of the often hidden work undertaken by this committee, as a group and individually and it would help if we could identify this in terms of hours spent on Twinning work.

Jessica confirmed she was aware of organisations that keep a record of volunteers hours.

Tracy confirmed the Ton Council would appreciate an annual report outlining such detail.

ACTION: Cheryl to contact committee members (monthly would work best) for a tally of hours spent on Twinning work and what projects/tasks time spent is linked to.

ACTION: All committee members to keep a tally of time spent on actions and any unforeseen tasks raised when out and about in the community and 'bumping into' Council members or Twinning members for example!

## **Extraordinary Meeting to discuss visit to Les Herbiers in April 2023**

ACTION: Jessica to invite David to attend this meeting

ACTION: Tracy to invite Richard to attend this meeting

Apologies received for this meeting include Jessica and Cheryl

Please bring any amendments to the minutes to the next meeting, scheduled below.

## **Date of Next meeting:**

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Time: 7pm

Venue: The Sportsman (Andrew confirmed booking at the end of this meeting)

**Present Standing Agenda Items**

- **Safeguarding issues**
- **Treasurers Report Update**
- **Increasing Twinning profile**

Cheryl Wilson

10<sup>th</sup> November 2022