



Epsom and Ewell Town Twinning Association

26th Annual General Meeting held at the Town Hall on

Tuesday 21st June 2022 at 7:15 pm

MINUTES

Present:

The Mayor of Epsom and Ewell, Councillor Clive Woodbridge (President,) Councillor Nigel Collin (Chairman), Councillor Neil Dallen, Diana Deavin (Vice Chairman and Acting Secretary) and 16 more Members who signed the attendance register.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting and introduced the Honorary President, the Mayor of Epsom and Ewell, Councillor Clive Woodbridge.

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Barry Nash, Councillor Liz Frost, Councillor Christine Cleveland, 17 more Members offered apologies.

2. Welcome from the President

The Mayor paid tribute to the former Honorary Vice President, Councillor Clive Smitheram, who had sadly died during the year and who had been a Founder Member of the Twinning Association. Twinning had been important to Clive who had been a staunch supporter since the inaugural meetings.

The Mayor said it was encouraging that we were able to meet for the AGM again in the Town Hall, after the restrictions of the COVID pandemic.

Despite these restrictions it had been a very successful year for the Association, culminating in a visit from a delegation from Chantilly on 4th and 5th June to coincide with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate two milestones, 25 years of Twinning and the Jubilee.

It had also been a very beneficial year for many other Associations in the town, and the Twinning Association has played a positive role in promoting links with similar organisations in Chantilly.

The Mayor concluded by expressing thanks to the Chairman and to all the committee for their work during the year.

3. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 5th October 2021

Accepted as a true and fair record. Proposed Clive Richardson, Seconded Barbara Lewis.

4. Matters arising

None

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked the Mayor for his attendance. As his predecessor, the Mayor had placed Twinning on a firm footing. In her speech during the recent visit, the leader of the Delegation, Deputy Mayor of Chantilly, Bénédicte de Cacqueray had expressed the great depth of feeling which was held in Chantilly for Twinning and for Epsom and Ewell and hoped that the 25th anniversary would provide an impetus for future developments. There were other aspects of the visit of the Delegation in particular to which the Chairman wished to draw attention. He thanked the host families, the members who had organised everything and Caroline Baldock, who had organised a visit to The Durdans where graves of past Derby Winners (now a listed monument) are located.

The Chairman thanked Brian Vandervilt who would be stepping down as Honorary Treasurer after the meeting. Brian had been a staunch supporter of Twinning since the early negotiations and Treasurer since the beginning. Donna Williams would be proposed as his successor.

Martin Lewis, who would be standing down as Publicity Officer, was presented with a gift in appreciation.

The fundraising Quiz Evening held during the year had been sold out, but, sadly, the race night had had to be cancelled.

New links had been made, in particular with the Karate Club in Chantilly and, most recently, tennis clubs in both towns.

A Bastille Day Tea Party would be held on 14th July, and the possibility of recreating the Field of the Cloth of Gold next year was being investigated. A car rally and a local event in the marketplace with Chantilly the Train to raise awareness during September Heritage week were also under discussion.

Despite encouraging possibilities for the future, the Chairman felt that Twinning had lost some of its resonance during the past year, perhaps due to COVID, and he wished to redress the balance in 2022/2023. The committee had reviewed objectives and core values and had defined these as: "Friendship, Understanding, Communication and Cooperation".

A full text of the Chairman's report is available on request.

Acceptance of the Report proposed by Ann Dallen, seconded by Clive Richardson.

6. Treasurer's Report

There was a deficit of £308 in the financial year ended 31 March 2022, which seemed reasonable considering there was very little opportunity to fundraise. This is prior to the cost of the French visit, estimated at around £3000, which would be recovered over the coming years. The expenditure for the visit would initially be met from the Choir Festival account, as there were currently no plans for the next festival, and it was very likely there would be a minimum of three years before it would be held in Epsom again.

The Committee had unanimously decided to use the Choir Account as the Platinum Jubilee and Silver Jubilee events were appreciated as unique occasions, by the French also.

Adoption of the Treasurer's Report was proposed Anne Richardson, Seconded by Martin Lewis Carried nem. con.

7. Membership Report

Anne Richardson, as Membership Secretary, reported. During the year there was the death of one of the founder members: As mentioned above, Clive Smitheram was one of the first members of the management committee set up following the formal twinning with the French town of Chantilly in 1995 and, as Secretary for a number of years, ensured a firm basis and smooth running of what is now known as the Epsom and Ewell Town Twinning Association. Clive was made a Vice President for his services to Twinning.

Also the death of Ralph Salter was reported. He was a regular attendee at all activities. Although Ralph had become increasingly ill, he had worked hard to support twinning and attract new members

Articles in various local publications had also attracted new members and offers of help, particularly for hosting the recent visit of the French delegation and for the Quiz Nights. The Committee was very grateful for the contribution of Caroline Baldock through her talks during her exhibitions and the various lockdowns.

Email membership was now 128 plus 16 members who do not have Email. The corresponding figures for 2021 were 129 plus 16, a near balance between gains and losses.

8. Election of Officers, Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary

The President took the chair for this item

Chairman - Councillor Nigel Collin, proposed by Caroline Baldock, Seconded by Anne Richardson

Treasurer - It was proposed by Diana Deavin that the nomination of Donna Williams be accepted, first as a Committee Member, then as Hon. Treasurer, Seconded by Caroline Baldock

Secretary - There being no nominee for the position, Diana Deavin would continue in an acting role until further notice..

The above were duly elected.

9. Election of Committee

2nd Council nominee - Councillor Barry Nash

General Committee - Barbara Lewis, Anne Richardson (Membership), Christine Rippon, Caroline Baldock, Cllr Neil Dallen, Martin Lewis and Peter Hardy had agreed to re-election.

Additionally Margaret Nightingale was proposed by Diana Deavin, Seconded by Nigel Collin

That the aforementioned members be re-elected was proposed by Diana Deavin, seconded Nigel Collin

Accepted nem. con.

Ann Dallen would be stepping down as a Committee Member but had agreed to help as necessary.

10. Appointment of Auditor

Donna Williams proposed Holmes and Co., in Claygate, whose services would be free of charge, Seconded Peter Hardy

Accepted nem. con.

Appointment to be confirmed in writing in due course and the previous Auditor, Guy Brew, thanked for his services.

11. Any other business

No business had been formally notified.

However

11.1 The Chairman put forward the suggestion that Brian Vandervilt be elected an Honorary Vice President

Proposed Diana Deavin

Seconded Ann Dallen

Agreed nem. con.

11.2 Future events and contacts

It had been agreed with Epsom Rotary Club that the Senior French Speaking Competition be held on 7th. March 2023 with the Junior competition 21st or 28th February 2023 at Blenheim School. Rotary still had a link with Rotary de Chantilly. It had not been possible to meet for some time due to the pandemic and efforts were being made to rectify this.

The RAC Club had been put in touch with a motoring organisation in Chantilly, but the latter was not currently in a position to move this forward.

Epsom College had agreed to be the contact school with the College des Bourgognes in Chantilly to support them in their new International status (a new English teacher is to be appointed).

The Surrey Bowmen and the Fencing Club had been put in touch with their opposite numbers in Chantilly and news was awaited. The Jockey Club were keen to make links and it might help to facilitate a visit by them and other parties interested in the racing industry. Other links, including that for a girls' football club, would be addressed as the year progressed. During his mayoral year the President hoped to have an opportunity to visit Chantilly, possibly for the proposed Soup Fest in October. Margaret Nightingale was keen that the Choral Festival should re-start, but Chantilly had reported that Watermael-Boitsfort, Belgium, and Überlingen, Germany, were currently dealing with other priorities.

The Chairman suggested that the next committee meeting should be in September. The meeting closed at 2000 hours

Peter Hardy - 05.07.2022

Councillor Nigel Collin - Chairman
