



**FRIENDS OF OIGNIES TWINNING ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF AGM HELD Saturday 8 October 2022**

The Meeting began with a Minute's Silence in Memory of those members who have died since our last AGM: Anne Johnson, Viv Marriott, Albert Turbier and Georges Dragon

Present: Mr Mayor Ollie Cross (President), Ian Hamilton (Acting Chair), Peter & Helen Bloomfield, Sue & Peter Quas-Cohen, Chris & Catrin Clegg, Ian Calvert, Sue Hodgkinson, Karen Done, Paul Lewis, Jeanette Hamilton, Sue & Jek Jacobs, Ian & Sue Morris, Judith & Stewart Dakin, Charles, Maureen & Simon Kitchen, Jean Todd & Keith Ray, John McGrother

1. Notice: Notice was circulated to Members on 23 September 2022 and on FoO website

2. Apologies: Derek Thomas & Alison Hales, Graham & Val Oakley, Martin & Anne Willey, Noel & Joan Patterson, Mike & Frances Badman, John Walton & Ginney Prestley, Bernie Dart & Julie Abrahams, Judith Newman, Jim Marriott, Kim & Gareth Flanagan

3. AGM 2021: Minutes circulated to members with Notice and on website. Read & Approved.

4. Chair Report: **See below.** This was given by Ian Hamilton in the absence of Derek.

5. Treas Report: The Annual Accounts were circulated. Peter advised that whilst we do have sufficient funds for the 2023 visit to Buxton, in future we shall have to factor in inflation. The Balance Sheet was **Approved and Accepted by All.**

Paul Lewis thanked the Committee on behalf of Members for all their efforts throughout the year and for arranging the AGM this evening. Acting Chair appreciated support.

The Committee stood down at this point.

6. Election of Scrutineers: Mayor Ollie Cross, Ian Hamilton and Sue-Quas-Cohen were nominated and approved.



**FRIENDS OF OIGNIES TWINNING ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF AGM HELD Saturday 8 October 2022**

7. Election of Officers & Committee: Presided over by Mayor Ollie Cross

All Officers agreed to remain in post. Other nominations were invited from the floor but none were received.

Chair: Derek Thomas was nominated and seconded. **No other nominations.**
Elected unopposed.

Vice Chair: Ian Hamilton was nominated and seconded. **No other nominations.**
Elected unopposed

Secretary: Sue Quas-Cohen was nominated and seconded. **No other nominations.**
Elected unopposed.

Treasurer: Peter Bloomfield was nominated and seconded. **No other nominations.**
Elected unopposed.

Subs Secretary: Peter Bloomfield was nominated and seconded. **No other nominations.**
Elected unopposed.

Publicity Officer: Chris Clegg was nominated and seconded. **No other nominations.**
Elected unopposed.

8. Election of Committee: Ian Calvert, Sue Hodgkinson and Jeanette Hamilton were proposed and seconded and duly elected.

No further nominations for Committee Members received.

The newly elected Chair and Committee reconvened.

Subscriptions: Chris addressed the Meeting with the proposal to raise future subscriptions in line with inflation and attached to the Retail Price Index. Therefore as from September 2023 the Annual Subscription will increase to £28. This was put to a ballot and all present voted in favour. **Proposal Passed.**

Election of Accountant: Peter Quas-Cohen agreed to remain as Accountant and was elected unopposed.



**FRIENDS OF OIGNIES TWINNING ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF AGM HELD Saturday 8 October 2022**

Any Other Business:

- i)** Re Visit 2023 to Buxton - Helen Bloomfield proposes entertainment with songs from G&S Pirates of Penzance with all male members to be involved. Rehearsals to start after Christmas.
- ii)** Karen was again thanked for her contribution as a Committee Member and Ian presented her with a bouquet of flowers.
- iii)** Dickensian Market - 26 November: Ian asked for volunteers to help with the stall and money-raising ideas/suggestions as this cannot go ahead with help from members. Chris will put this on the website and on a News Bulletin.

End

The formal agenda was followed by wine and cheese



FRIENDS OF OIGNIES TWINNING ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF AGM HELD Saturday 8 October 2022

CHAIR'S REPORT:

Mr Mayor, Ladies and gentlemen, good evening and thank you for joining us for our AGM, it is good to be face to face for the AGM for the first time since 2019.

The twinning year started with uncertainty yet optimism with the committee continuing to work towards the 'now likely' visit to Oignies in 2022 and our hosting programme for 2023. We tried to ignore the possibility that our visit to Oignies may need to be deferred to 2023 and our hosting to 2024.

As the date of the visit drew closer it appeared we may not be able to meet the high cost of hiring a coach with fewer members able to join us this year so we were therefore immensely thankful when The Mayoral Charities Committee came to our rescue with a kind and generous donation and the trip was on... only for us to get another set-back when our ferry booking was suspended by P&O due to strike action...!

Anyway, despite yet further complications and set-backs right up to embarkation at Dover, we made it to Oignies for a wonderful and quite emotional reunion and a great weekend that was enjoyed by all.

The work of the committee never stops... whilst we are putting together the final elements to hosting this coming April we are also assessing how we meet the ongoing challenge of balancing the Association's accounts. It is becoming increasingly difficult for the committee alone to not only plan and organise the visits but to also finance the operation with less than a third of our funds currently coming from subscriptions.

We would welcome any help and ideas from all our members in raising future funds to ensure the ongoing success of our wonderful Twinning. Vive le Jumelage.

In closing, I'd like to thank Peter Quas-Cohen for his support and expertise in scrutinising the accounts, to our excellent committee for their efforts throughout the year. We'd like to make a special note of thanks to Karen Done who is stepping down as a committee member after many years of tremendous support, and finally, thank you again for joining us this evening.