



**FRIENDS OF OIGNIES TWINNING ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES OF ZOOM AGM HELD Saturday 30 October 2021**

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**Present:** Derek Thomas, Peter Bloomfield, Susan Quas-Cohen, Karen Done, Ian Hamilton, Chris Clegg, Ian Calvert, Sue Hodgkinson plus Members: Peter Quas-Cohen, Paul Lewis, Graham & Val Oakley, Jim & Viv Marriott, Helen Bloomfield, Catrin Davies, Judith & Stuart Dakin, Martin & Anne Willey, Veronique Bernard.

**1. Notice of Meeting:** Sent on 16 October 2021

**2. Apologies:** Anne Johnson, Noel & Joan Patterson

**3. Minutes of Last Meeting:**

Minutes and Treasurer's Report of AGM on 24 October 2020 were posted on the website and no comments received. Read and Accepted.

**4. Chair's Report:**

Ladies and gentlemen, good evening and thank you for joining us for our AGM, which is, for the second year a virtual event but we felt it important to hold an AGM and to give all members the opportunity to participate in the proceedings.

The year started with uncertainty yet optimism with the committee continuing to work towards the possibility of a visit to Oignies in 2021 and our hosting programme for 2022 - also considering the possibility that our visit to Oignies may need to be deferred to 2022 and our hosting would therefore be in 2023.

In the event of course, we were forced once again to reluctantly cancel this year's visit although we are very confident that a visit will take place between 27<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May next year. We have, thanks to the reducing pandemic restrictions, also been able to visit potential venues and make provisional bookings around the likely visit dates in 2023.

Our last fundraiser just before lockdown was a Dinner event in March 2020 with dancing to the Basin Street Jazz Band and I would like to thank Karen and Sue for organising a repeat of this popular event to bring us out of our fundraising dormancy on 26<sup>th</sup> November. Further details are on the website.

Thanks to Chris Clegg for once again producing the FoO Calendar, the 2022 edition is now available to purchase via our website. With the reduced fundraising opportunities due to social distancing, the calendar has become an important means of raising valuable funds for the Association.



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In closing, I'd like to give thanks to our excellent committee for their efforts throughout the year, to Peter Quas-Cohen for his support and expertise in scrutinising the accounts and thank you again for joining us this evening.

**5. Treasurer's Report:**

Peter Bloomfield presented the Balance Sheet for 2020/21 showing a balance in hand of £4,556.03. Whilst we appear to be in a fairly good position financially, due to the Covid pandemic we have not been able to raise any funds this year whilst still having the usual running costs: insurance, communication costs etc. Plus there has been a drop in membership to 51 adults. Subs this year are £22 but we shall still need to fundraise for 2023 against continuing Covid and inflation. Thank you for paying electronically but please contact Peter if this is a problem.

Question from Martin Willey: what is the budget to aim for for 2023 and how much do we need to raise?

Peter replied: we would hope to have up to £6,000 in the bank as we need cash in hand to put down deposits and to fund the hospitality.

Thanks to Peter from Derek.

**At this point the Committee stood down pending the election of a new Committee. All posts were available for nominations from the floor. In the absence of our President, The Mayor of High Peak, the business was conducted by Derek T and Sue QC.**

**6. Election of Scrutineers:** The meeting agreed that none were needed.

**7. Election of Officers:**

**Committee and Officers all agreed to remain in post. Other nominations were invited from the floor but non received.**

**There were sufficient on-line and Zoom votes and no objections therefore to propose and carry the following:**

**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.**



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**Treasurer: 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, Karen Done, and Sue Hodgkinson** were **proposed and duly elected. No further nominations for Committee Members received.**

**The newly elected Chair and Committee reconvened.**

**9. Annual Subscription:**

As outlined in Item 9 in the Chair's report included in the Notice sent out prior to the meeting, in order to continue to balance running costs and the cost of entertaining between fundraising and subs, the Committee propose an increase in subscriptions from £22 to £25 for the year 2022/23 to commence on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022. Children under 18 will continue to be free.

**The proposal to increase annual subscriptions to £25 was put forward and seconded. A vote of those present were all in favour, with on-line voting 9 in favour and 1 abstaining. The Motion was carried: therefore the annual subscription for 2022/23 will be £25.**

**10. Election of Accountant:**

Derek advised that Peter Quas-Cohen had again volunteered to stand as independent accountant. **Those present and on-line votes in favour. The proposal was carried.**

**11. AOB: No items received on line.**

i] Jim thanked Chris and Ian Hamilton for the Wednesday evening Zoom sessions with members of Les Amis de Buxton which have been much appreciated and a lifeline during lockdown. Derek seconded this.

ii] Sue QC reminded members of the Supper Dance on 26 November 2021

Derek thanked all present for their attendance and involvement in the meeting. The Minutes will be posted on the website in due course. Meeting Closed.