

COMBERTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Wednesday 16th September 2020 at 8pm in the Village Hall and on Zoom (postponed from June 3rd due to Covid-19).

Present: * committee members

In Village Hall

Paul Hardy* (Chair)
Brenda Brown*
Liz Bland
Rachel Cook*
Margaret Hardy
Barney McCullagh

Glynis Ellis* (Secretary)
Barbara Mitton
Peter Mitton*
Caroline Mulderij*
Malcolm Wright
Nerys Wright

On Zoom

John Bland
Paula Brown
Godfrey Curtis
Pauline Curtis
David Hughes (left during Item 8)
Jane Hughes
Sandra Hyde

Brian McCabe*
Ailish Meadows *
Colin Morison
Dorothy Morison
Ann Webb *
Steve Webb

Before beginning the meeting with Item 1, a motion was present by the chair to minute the following statement regarding voting rights, proposed by Paul Hardy, seconded by Glynis Ellis: *"That all attendees including those linked electronically to the meeting shall enjoy the same rights as if they had attended in person"*. There were no objections.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Amanda Bacon, Johnny Curtis, Linda & Philip Dennis, David Ellis, Pauline & Stephen Grounds, Debbie Lee, Janet McCabe, Chris Westgarth, Mags & Rob Wilkinson, Richard Winski, Stephanie Young. Ann & Mark Housden and Suki Williams.
- 2. Minutes of the 18th AGM** held on the 12th June 2019 (previously circulated): accepted by all present as a true record, proposed by Margaret Hardy, seconded by Barbara Mitton subject to the following amendments raised by Chris Westgarth:
 - Item 1. Add Chris Westgarth and change Davis to David (Ellis)
 - Item 4. The parish council did not turn down the funding application. It was on the agenda, but no amount was requested.
- 3. Matters arising from the Minutes** unless on the agenda: none
- 4. Chairman's report**
PH summarised from his report for the year June 2019 to June 2020, previously circulated to all members. The report was accepted as accurate by all present subject to the following amendment to the introduction '... my fourth ~~third~~ year...', proposed by Godfrey Curtis, seconded by David Hughes. See item 8 for the Le Vaudreuil slideshow.
- 5. Secretary's report.**
Membership is similar to last year. We have 48 members including a life member plus 5 children (27 households). Two members renewed after a few years' absence. We gained two new members thanks to Liz and John Bland (and the clapping for the NHS). Twenty-two members paid online and nineteen by cheque. The Committee held meetings up to March 2020, in particular to arrange the visit from Le Vaudreuil. There were no committee meetings during or following lockdown this year, but we made decisions by email re the May visit and this AGM.
- 6. Treasurer's report** (See attached)

Amanda previously circulated copies of the accounts summary and Paul put it on a shared screen to view. The secretary has not yet received a signed audited copy, but the Treasurer had confirmed it was available and she would provide it to Glynis.

The £60 quiz expenditure in 2019 is payment in advance when booking for this year (changes to lettings procedure). We had decided to have this held by the VH towards future bookings rather than a refund due to coronavirus cancellations. £12.50 of this paid for the booking tonight. The current balance is £2,534.90, which is a healthy balance because there has been no visit to or from Le Vaudreuil. The £100 in the 'visit from France' row is a refund from the ceilidh band deposit for the cancelled May visit. The £500 in the 'Visit to France' row is a grant from Cambridge Community Foundation which we have been unable to spend due to coronavirus. We have informed the foundation about the visit and workshop delay, and they have confirmed that this is OK. Thanks to Brian for successfully applying for and negotiating this grant. Malcolm commented that it was not clear in the summary that this was grant money and could not see the £250 that he had negotiated from Waitrose, and suggested we have more precise information in future regarding income source. We approved the report subject to that proviso and also audit, proposed Liz Bland, seconded Barney McCullagh.

7. **Election of Committee members**

We were sad to hear that Peter Mitton has decided to stand down but thanked him for his great contribution as a member for twenty years, ten of which were as chairman. All other committee members had agreed to continue and this were elected en bloc and nem con.

We welcomed a new committee member who volunteered at the AGM: Godfrey Curtis proposed by Brenda Brown, seconded by Nerys Wright. The 2020 – 21 committee list is attached.

8. **Future plans**

a. **Visits to and from Le Vaudreuil**

We are still working on the basis that we will have a visit from Le Vaudreuil 14th-16th May 2021, as the French have requested, but Covid-19 may still be a problem, so we will continue to monitor this.

The French are going ahead with their walk in the footsteps of Guy de Maupassant in October, which some of our members had hoped to join. This is no longer feasible due to travel restrictions and possible lockdowns.

b. **Social events**

Apart from the very pleasant party at Brenda's in January most of our planned events have been cancelled or postponed until next year. Our thanks to John and Liz Bland for organising a Zoom slide show of Le Vaudreuil people and places. Some suggestions from members, to be discussed by committee:

- another viewing of the slideshow or for it to be made available for private viewing (though the latter could have privacy issues).
- Barney will make available a longer version of his song to Le Vaudreuil currently being recorded.
- Zoom meeting with the French – would possible need 'breakout groups'/rooms. Would we need a theme e.g. bilingual quiz? A good start would be photos from lockdown in each country?
- A communal French/English musical evening
- a shared piece of music to perform together to a pre-recorded backing track.

c. **Membership**

- Chair repeated need to get new families involved, but made harder by Covid.
- Find out what other community groups are doing to revive flagging membership/attract younger members and families.
- Approach schools. This is not working, possibly due to CVC not wanting us to compete for numbers with their own trips. Also, GDPR is preventing schools publicising non-school activities which might be seen as marketing, e.g. Meridian is no longer giving out flyers.

9. **Date of next meeting:** Early June 2021 on a Wednesday tba not to clash with Parish Council although they change their meeting to this evening after we had arranged ours!

10. **Any other business.**

The communal music suggestion reported above in item 8.

Glynis proposed our thanks to Paul for setting up the hybrid meeting, with Brian's help regarding hall facilities prior to the meeting. Also, for Paul's chairing the meeting under the difficult circumstances of a hybrid zoom meeting with both remote viewing projected onto the hall screen and members in the hall. Well done.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Addendum of clarifications

- a. The grant from Waitrose mentioned by Malcolm was of £240, and received in March 2019, so was included in the previous year's accounts, as income against the "Visit from the French" total of £1285.