



## KING'S LYNN-EMMERICH TWINNING CLUB



**President:**

**The Mayor of the Borough of King's Lynn & West Norfolk**

**Chairman: Philip Mole**

### MINUTES OF THE 45th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KINGS LYNN – EMMERICH TWINNING CLUB

HELD AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH, KING'S LYNN ON FRIDAY 7th OCTOBER 2022

#### **Present:**

Angela Allen, Anna Cortens, Jonathan Dossetor, Penny Dossetor, Heather Garner, Chris Garner, Cllr Geoff Hipperson, Rose Hipperson, Horst Hofmeister, Eddie Lyon, Mary Lyon, Philip Mole, Gloria Pantling, Kate Sayer, Colin Sayer, Gillian Smith, Cllr Andy Tyler,

The Chairman, (Philip Mole) welcomed all to the meeting and, in particular, the President of the Club, the Mayor of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, Cllr Lesley Bambridge, who was in attendance.

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Ann Braithwaite, Andrew Clarke, Cllr Angie Dickinson, Ann Drew, Peter Eyre Kay Finch, Brian Harrison, Penny Harrison, Denise Mole, Kate Mould, Annie Ricketts, Claudia Thoma.

#### **2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

These minutes had been circulated and it was agreed unanimously that they be accepted as being a true and accurate record.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4. Chairman's Report**

Philip Mole gave the following report:

As is customary on such occasions there are many people to thank for their help over the past year.

My vice chair Andy, for his guiding thoughts over the challenges we've had and enthusiasm for forwarding ideas and options. Our resourceful secretary Penny, who has as always tried to keep me on the correct path. Our conscientious treasurer Kate, who despite my best efforts has continued to keep her eyes on the overall account balance. Our artistic social secretary Gloria, who has treated us all to wonderful designs in her posters and displays, and we look forward to the supper she has arranged with our caterer Sarah. Our determined exchange secretary Denise, who, though absent tonight, now knows Brita's email address from memory, and last but not least the ever accommodating committee members and council representatives who have been determined to attend meetings whether zoom or in person, sometimes at short notice.

Some of you may already know, but on Wednesday this week a previous stalwart of the club, John Smith passed away following a heart attack. He and his wife Jeny moved from Lynn a couple of years ago to be nearer to their family. I have sent a message of condolence on our behalf.

We have been able to arrange a couple of social events during the year, from a pancake day supper in March to a musical lunchtime concert in August. There was also an option for a strawberry tea at Middleton Golf club for those that wished.

I was relieved that following 2 years without an exchange visit, one finally took place last weekend. More of that in the Exchange sec report. Following from this we have been offered a warm welcome to visit our Emmerich friends next year. I sincerely hope we can better 5 travellers; after all we currently are a twinning, not a social club.

#### **5. Exchange Secretary's Report**

Philip Mole presented the following report on behalf of Denise Mole who was unable to be present as she was suffering from flu.

At last I am able to deliver a report following the recent exchange.

Sadly, only 5 visitors from Emmerich were able to travel this time, but despite problems with the trains, a good time was had by all.

Early evening on the Friday, some committee members met with our guests at The Minster and had an enjoyable and informative tour of the building. We then endured a very noisy meal at The Globe, followed by a coffee in the more peaceful surroundings of The Dukes Head.

On Saturday our visitors had intended to travel to London, but as this was impossible, they managed to sort out the bus timetable and had a very pleasant time in the sunshine at Hunstanton.

On Sunday, due to the hastily rearranged Heritage day, our guests were able to wander round King's Lynn looking at some of the buildings from our historic past. This was followed by a leisurely lunch at The Heacham Manor Hotel where we were joined by Madam Mayor and members of the club who were able to attend.

Our guests returned home on Monday.

We have been invited to Emmerich next year around the weekend of May 20/21<sup>st</sup> and would like to know who would be interested in going.

## 6. Treasurer's Report Adoption of Accounts and Appointment of Honorary Auditor

Kate Sayer tabled the balance sheet for the year 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 and presented her report as follows:

Firstly I would like to thank John Hodson for completing the End of Year external audit.

**The Bank Balance at the end of August was £7909.**

**Membership** has remained at a steady 34. Subscriptions brought in £510. Two members decided not to continue this year.

**Social Events** as we are emerging from the Covid crisis we have held a number of successful social events throughout the year which have brought in a small profit.

**HSBC Bank.**

**Subscriptions.** The committee have not made any specific recommendation regarding the current subscription for 2022-23 and are seeking the membership views on whether we need a subscription for the current year.

**Adoption of Accounts**

It was proposed by Eddie Lyon seconded by Gillian Smith and unanimously agreed that the accounts be adopted.

**Appointment of Honorary Auditor 2022 - 23**

Kate Sayer proposed that Mr J Hodson be appointed as Honorary Auditor for 2022-23.

This proposal was seconded by Chris Garner and unanimously agreed.

## 7. Subscriptions

As the Treasurer had outlined above, no specific recommendation regarding the subscription for the coming year had been made. Philip Mole explained that, given the amount of money in the account and the fact that in the last two years or more there had been little to spend it on, it might be considered appropriate to reduce or even waive the subscription for one year. Following discussion a consensus emerged to continue with a subscription to demonstrate commitment to membership, although a temporary reduction was felt to be appropriate. Sums of £5 and £10 were suggested with those present voting by a majority for £10 to be reviewed at the next AGM. This would become due at the beginning of November.

## 8. Election of Committee

Three committee members were due to stand for re-election: Philip Mole, Kate Sayer and Gloria Pantling. Both Philip and Gloria were willing to stand and were duly re-elected. However, Kate Sayer announced that she wished to tender her resignation both as Treasurer and from the committee with immediate effect. Her explanation for this is included in her statement below;:

I wish to say how extremely saddened I was to hear of John Smith's sudden death. John was one of the original members of the KL Twinning Club. He and his wife Jenny were very highly regarded members of the KL / Elten Twinning Group. We have had many wonderful German exchanges with our Elten friends.

I would like to thank Philip Mole for his kindness & understanding.

On a personal note, over the last two years as treasurer I have only taken payments for subscriptions; the committee have considered it appropriate for other members of the committee to take payments. I have needed to ask for final numbers and cheques. This has become intolerable and quite disrespectful to the post of treasurer who needs to balance the accounts at the end of the year and is the only person scrutinised by an external auditor.

It has been a huge pleasure to be the treasurer to so many of my friends in this room. It is with deep regret that after six years as your treasurer, I must now stand down.

I will of course complete any outstanding payments.

This resignation meant that there was room for at least one more person on the committee. Angela Allen had said that she would be willing to stand. Cllr Geoff Hipperson proposed that she be elected, Gloria Pantling seconded this and it was unanimously **agreed**.

## **8. Election of Officers**

Under the terms of the Constitution three officers needed to be elected at the AGM: the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. Philip Mole had already served an extra year in addition to his statutory three years because of the pandemic. However, no nominations for a new chairman had been forthcoming and it was therefore proposed by Andy Tyler, seconded by Kate Sayer and unanimously **agreed** that he continue for one more year in the expectation that someone else would take over in the following year. PM expressed his thanks for the vote of confidence.

It was proposed by Gillian Smith, seconded by Heather Garner and unanimously **agreed** that Penny Dossetor be elected to continue as Secretary.

As the post of Treasurer had unexpectedly become vacant it was **agreed** that this be held in abeyance for the time being and Philip Mole would circulate the membership to ask for volunteers.

## **9. Future Social Events**

Gloria Pantling asked for suggestions for future events and a number of suggestions were made, including a film either at the Corn Exchange or possibly in conjunction with the Community Cinema Club, a theatre trip, and an outing on the Mid Norfolk Railway, which could include an afternoon tea. The Mayor mentioned the North Norfolk Railway, which had trips with a lunch on some days. Gloria also reminded people that an enjoyable Advent Tea had been held at the home of Jonathan and Penny Dossetor at the end of November last year, which had included singing carols in both German and English.

## **9. Any Other Business**

The Mayor, Cllr Lesley Bambridge addressed the meeting, and said that she had been very pleased to find that she was ex officio President of the Twinning Club, and had enjoyed the lunch with the visitors from Emmerich the previous weekend.. With regard to the funds, she suggested that some money might be spent on sponsoring young people to travel to Emmerich. If money was needed there were grants available for specific purposes, but any application for such funding had to be justified. She wished the Club well and might consider joining when her term of office was over.

Before concluding the meeting Philip Mole asked for a show of hands as to who would consider going to Emmerich next year, and was heartened to see 12 hands go up. The Committee would investigate the various options for travel and keep the membership informed.

## **10. Date of AGM 2023**

On behalf of St John's Anna Cortens asked that the AGM next year be put back three weeks to the 27<sup>th</sup> October, which would be during half term. This was because the Youth Club normally met in the Good News Centre on a Friday and they had kindly made the hall available to the Club on this occasion. However, they did not meet at half term so the problem would not arise.

It was proposed by Kate Sayer, seconded by Andy Tyler and **agreed** that the AGM in 2023 be on **27<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm in the Good News Centre in St John's Church.**

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.05 pm and was followed by a two course hot supper prepared by Sarah Shapeero Lown, and an enjoyable geographical table top quiz supplied by Kate Mould.**