



## KING'S LYNN-EMMERICH TWINNING CLUB

**President:**

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

**Chairman: Philip Mole**

### **MINUTES OF THE 42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KINGS LYNN – EMMERICH TWINNING CLUB HELD AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH, KING'S LYNN ON FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER 2019**

**Present:**

Ann Braithwaite, Andrew Clarke, Anna Cortens, Jonathan Dossetor, Penny Dossetor, Peter Eyre, Brian Harrison, Penny Harrison, Horst Hofmeister, Eddie Lyon, Mary Lyon, Denise Mole, Philip Mole, Kate Mould, Cllr Tom Ryves, Kate Sayer, Colin Sayer, Claudia Thoma, Cllr Andy Tyler, John Woodford, Denise Woodford.

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 Geoff Hipperson, who was in attendance with Mayoress, Rose Hipperson.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Jan Barlow, Paul Brandon, Teresa Brandon, Linda Creed, Cllr Angie Dickinson, Ann Drew, Heather Garner, Chris Garner, Lorraine Gibson, Terry Gibson Clive Lockyer, Pam Lockyer, Gloria Pantling, June Pendall, Annie Ricketts, Gillian Smith Jenny Smith, John Smith, Natalie Smith, Carl Webb.

**2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

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**

Good evening fellow Twinners. We have reached the end of my first year as chairman of this club and if you so wish, am willing to continue with my term of office. My first duty is to thank the secretary for her guidance and support; secondly to the committee who have supported the meetings and offered their well considered opinions to the proceedings. I now wish to thank our twin hatted treasurer and social secretary Kate for her perseverance in organising the functions we have held, when, together with the committee, difficult decisions of timing, menus and costs are aired and finally, to yourselves, without whom we could not continue.

I know from experience that there are certain reservations in attending an AGM. Notably that one may be cajoled onto the committee. This year is no exception, but the more people attending the meeting means less of a chance of drawing the short straw, so to speak. But for budding volunteers to the committee fear not, all our meetings, of which there have been seven over the year, have been completed before the last bus at 8.30pm.

I realise that I'm speaking to the converted because of your welcomed presence, but I find it odd that we have so many ghost members who pay their subscription but never put in an appearance nor take any interest in the clubs' functioning. This makes planning an event extremely parlous, knowing that a minimum number of members need to sign up in order to make the event financially viable. Over the last year, one event was cancelled and one re-housed so that a loss of funds was not realised. The summer event - a wet picnic at West Acre, strangely a very popular event with the general public, was chosen so that the club did not need to provide finance. I will not support a function knowing it to be loss making, that is not the purpose of our subscriptions. The committee does not hold the monopoly on event planning; if any member of the club has an

alluring idea for a social, at a time and place likely to appeal to our members, then please let us know.

On a membership note I am pleased to welcome some new members into our group. Unfortunately they are not able to attend tonight. It is however with sadness that we have to say goodbye to a past stalwart, Viv Harris. Her daughter Su has informed us that her mother is suffering from Alzheimer disease which is progressing rather rapidly. The secretary has acknowledged the email and been to visit her.

Whilst standing I will briefly report with my other hat attached - that of **Exchange Secretary**. We had a rather small group cross the channel to Germany this year; sickness played its part, but apathy is still very apparent from the lack of response to the invitation to take part.

It was a most convivial exchange and some of the committee did hold a constructive meeting with our German counterparts. We both were ready to ditch the May bank holiday dates because it is proving increasingly difficult to source appropriate travel arrangements. A vehicle crash on the M11 near Stansted did not help to lower our anxiety on airport arrival time.

I have asked Brita if her committee have finalised a date for next year and hot off the email I can announce the visit will be to arrive on Thursday 18 June following a night crossing and leave Monday 22nd taking either the day-boat or the night boat. Their committee is holding a meeting on the 23rd after which more details should be known. There are 7 persons who are looking for hosts in 2020 - 2 single women, a father and daughter and a family of 3. I would be grateful for volunteers. It is an unnerving experience the first time, I admit, but it is most rewarding with friendships continuing each year.

Thank you for your attention.

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

The Treasurer tabled her report and accounts for the year ended 31st August 2019, which showed a balance of £6,176.00. The main income for the year had come from a grant from the Borough Council of £765 and membership subscriptions amounting to £575.(38 members), while the main net expenditure had been £316.00 for the gift to Emmerich and a subsidy of £190 on the travel during the visit. There would be more expenditure next year, as it would be King's Lynn's turn to host the visitors from Emmerich. The costs for this normally came to around £2,000.

**Current position:** the Treasurer concluded her report as follows:

So far this autumn we have received subscriptions from **31** members, including two new members.

The Club has received a grant from the Borough Council for £510 for the year 2019 - 2020. We anticipate receiving the final grant of £250 from the Borough Council during the financial year 2020 -21.

The Current Balance **as of today** is **£7199.85**

I therefore recommend that the subscription in the year 2019 - 2020 remains at £15 per year.

It was proposed by Brian Harrison, seconded by Eddie Lyon and agreed that the accounts be adopted. Penny Harrison proposed that John Hodson again be appointed auditor and this was seconded by Eddie Lyon and agreed by all.

#### **6. Social secretary's Report**

Kate Sayer said that she would welcome suggestions from members as to activities they would like to see arranged.

#### **7. Amendments to the Constitution**

Proposed amendments to the Constitution had been circulated. It had last been amended in 2009 and the Chairman explained that the proposed amendments were merely intended to reflect what now happened in practice, regarding the election of committee members. As before the Committee should be elected by members present at the AGM. However, rather than electing five officers at the AGM it was proposed only to elect the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, with other officers being appointed by members of the committee at their first meeting after the AGM.

The Chairman also said that as there were now considerably fewer members of the Club than in 2009, it was proposed to reduce the minimum number of committee members from 12 to 8 plus two nominated by the Borough Council, with a maximum of 12 altogether.

It was proposed by Penny Harrison, seconded by Jonathan Dossetor and agreed by all that the amendments be accepted.

#### **8. Election of Committee**

The Committee members for the last year had been Philip Mole (Chairman), Kate Sayer (Treasurer), Penny Dossetor (Secretary), Paul and Teresa Brandon, Peter Eyre, Brian Harrison, Denise Mole, Kate Mould, Gloria Pantling, and Thomas Smith, with Councillors Angie Dickinson and Tom Ryves having been nominated by the Borough Council. Peter Eyre and Kate Mould had served three years on the Committee, but both were willing to stand again. Paul and Teresa Brandon and Thomas Smith had all decided to step down, but Andy Tyler had been nominated to become a Committee member in his own right rather than a Council representative.

There were no other nominations, so it was proposed by Penny Dossetor, seconded by Denise Mole and agreed that Peter Eyre and Kate Mould be re-elected and Andy Tyler elected to join the Committee.

#### **9. Election of Officers**

It was proposed by Brian Harrison, seconded by Jonathan Dossetor and agreed that Philip Mole should be re-elected as Chairman, Kate Sayer as Treasurer and Penny Dossetor as Secretary, as all three were willing to continue in these roles.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

The Mayor, Cllr Geoff Hipperson addressed the meeting, and said he was delighted to find that he was ex officio President of such a prudent and cheerful organisation. He also said that he appreciated the fact that the town was twinned with Emmerich despite that town having been 98% destroyed by Allied bombing near the end of the Second World War. He welcomed such international friendships and hoped to become a member of the club and take part in its activities once his term of office was over.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.40 pm and was followed by an excellent supper prepared by caterer, Sarah Shapeero Lown..