

## WIMBORNE-VALOGNES TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022

at St Catherine's Church Hall, Wimborne

### Present

**Committee Members:** David Emes (President), Peter Brooks (Treasurer), Maya Chatterjee (Minutes Secretary), Bobbie Chinnick, Damaris Eaton, Sue Hansen, Louise Hinks (Town Council Representative), Malcolm Lowe (Archivist), Graham Richards (IT Officer and Editor), Mike Shapcott (Secretary) and Chris Webb.

**Other Members:** Ann Marie Appleton, David Appleton, Pauline Benton, Helen Brooks, Pam Bryon, Peter Bryon, Cornelius Cornes, Luise Cornes, Dorothy Dodman, John Eaton, Jane Ford, Carol Jarvis, Anne King, Ian Lawrie, Jenny Lawrie, Diann March, Janet Maul, Philip Maul, Bill Reid, John Roberts, Zena Roberts, Peter Rock, Freda Smith, Cathy Thompson, Barbara Wathen, Liz White, Judy Windwood, Paul Windwood.

Apologies for Absence had been received prior to the meeting from Elizabeth Gravenor, Vincent Gravenor, Graham Hansen, Anne Hodkinson, Richard Hovell, Dinah Ingle-Finch, Margaret Johnston, Brenda Lawrenson, Peter Lawrenson, Anthony Oliver, Christine Oliver, Velda Payne, Mary Shapcott, Mike Wharfe, Pauline Wheeler and Terry Wheeler. <sup>1</sup>

### Item 1 - Re-election of Committee and President

**The President** announced that all members of the Committee except **Mike Wharfe** were standing for re-election. He asked all the Committee members present to stand so that those present could see who they were.

**Cornelius Cornes** proposed that all be re-elected. This was seconded by **Peter Bryon**. No objections were raised and the motion was passed.

### Item 2 – Volunteers to join the Committee

**The President** asked other members who would like to join the Committee to let him or other Committee members know. More Committee members would be welcome. He also said that **Damaris** had a sheet of paper and would be asking for volunteers to help with social and other events; an offer of an hour or two during the year would be appreciated.

### Item 3 – Treasurer's Report

Printed copies of the **Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2021** were given to those present at the start of the meeting. **The Treasurer** explained that there had only been 3 fund-raising events during the year because the Association only started gathering together again in September. The first event was in honour of **Norman Payne**. The event raised £158.50, all of which had been passed on to the charity *Dreamflight*.

Both the **Quiz** and the **Wine Tasting** had made a profit.

The caterer *The Perfect Pig* had been booked to do the catering for the Saturday evening meal during the visit of the **Twining Visit** in 2020, but was unable to do the catering for the projected visit in 2022. The company had refunded part of the deposit the *WVTA* had paid, but would not refund it all. **The President** had written to *The Perfect Pig* to ask the Company to reconsider its decision but did not get a reply.

**The Treasurer** reported that a £500 grant, given to the Association in 2021 by the Town Council, has been spent on the gazebo. The cost of the gazebo minus the Council grant has been carried forward on the Balance Sheet.

**Malcolm Lowe** proposed that the **Accounts** be accepted. **Cornelius Cornes** seconded the proposal. There were no objections and the motion was carried.

#### **Item 4 – The President’s Report**

**David Emes** said:

*These have been difficult times for us all because of Covid, but we hope to do a lot more this year. We lost **Norman**, our wonderful Secretary but were able to celebrate in September, with **Velda**, what he had done for the Association and some of his other achievements. The pandemic has proved the value of kindness and friendship; we relied on friends and families. We need to strengthen our ties with **Philippe** and his team in France in order to accomplish the things we want to do.*

The **Quiz Night** at the *British Legion* was full. However, **David** will be going to look at another venue, a little further away, on Tuesday (15<sup>th</sup> February) and will keep members posted.

**David** thanked **Peter Rock** for all he had done over the years, particularly with organising and hosting the **Wine Tasting**. He thanked all members of the Committee for their work, enthusiasm and help. He thanked **Derek Henderson**, a long-serving member of the Committee who stepped down a year ago, for all his work over the years; and he thanked **Mike Wharfe** for all his work on the Committee. **David** said that he appreciated **Mike’s** Northern humour as well as his support and advice. He thanked the Town Council Representative **Louise Hinks** for being extraordinarily helpful to us: she lets the Committee know about events being planned in the town so that the *WVTA* can be a presence at these events.

**David** said that he and **Mike Shapcott** had tried very hard to make contacts with schools, but not been very successful in this. However, he wants to keep developing the Youth side of the Association.<sup>2</sup>

In 2021 the **Quiz** was opened to non-members to promote contacts within the community. It is intended that there should be more events to which non-members are invited, in order to gain new members and to develop a higher profile for the Association in Wimborne. We are going to have a **French night** in May with a Quiz and French food and music. Members will be invited to bring friends and family to this event.

The gazebo cost a lot of money, but will be used at public events, including the **Xmas Lights Switch-on** and **Jubilee events**, to get the Association more widely known in the community. Badges are to be given to new members. Badges and shirts with the *WVTA* logo will be available to members for purchase at cost price. These could be worn in town and at events.

**David** reported that **Velda (Payne)** had agreed to hold the **Tea Party**<sup>3</sup> in her garden in the summer and that the **Bar-B-Q** would go ahead as usual.

**David** concluded by saying that members’ support is paramount for the Association to flourish. We also have to reach out to draw people in of all ages and walks of life within the community. **David** said that he had promised **Norman** that he would try to do this. (There was spontaneous applause after this.)

#### **Item 5 – Hosts for the French Visit**

**David Emes** said that the French do not yet know whether they can come to England in June because infection levels are high there at the moment.

However, we have made preparations for their visit. The dinner on the Saturday evening has been booked at *Crane Valley Golf Course*. A double-decker bus (to accommodate 65 people) has been hired to take people from the Square to the Golf Club and back.

**David** asked those who would be prepared to host some of the French contingent in their homes to let **Mike Shapcott** know, so that he can compile a list. **Mike Shapcott** added that he had not been involved in organising a visit by the *Valognais* before and would welcome information. People were requested to let him know by e-mail.

### **Item 6 – The Valognes Garden**

**David** said that **Mike Wharfe** had told him that he and his wife, **Jackie**, would be happy to tidy the *Valognes Garden*. With *Wimborne in Bloom*<sup>4</sup>, *BID*<sup>5</sup> and the Town Council, we need to formalize a plan to transform the existing garden into something colourful and iconic<sup>6</sup>. *Dorset Council* will be transferring authority over the Garden to the Town Council. **John Roberts** asked if companies around the community would contribute to the cost of maintaining the garden and have their contribution acknowledged by a sign. **David** said that he had approached *Savills*<sup>7</sup> asking for £1500 in sponsorship. The Company had agreed in principle to sponsor the new garden.

**Malcolm** said that *Savills* had been extremely helpful, but couldn't proceed at the moment because of the *Covid* situation.

**David** said that he is seeking further sponsorship of the *WVTA* through advertising in the Newsletter.

### **Item 7 – Any Other Business**

1. **Peter Rock** expressed concern that, although **David** had thanked many people during the course of the evening, he had not mentioned **Graham** who had contributed greatly to the *WVTA* through producing the Newsletter, which is essential in keeping people informed and in contact. (Applause)
2. **Malcolm Lowe** spoke about the **Archive** and requested that anyone who wants to donate to the Archive or wants any information about past events should let him know by e-mail. He said that the contents of the Archive, such as press cuttings and photographs, were currently stored in his loft  
**Peter Rock** said that he had a replica of a milk jug that was given to **Mrs Henry Purchase** by the French about 50 years ago. **David Emes** asked **Peter** to bring it out at the **Tea Party**<sup>3</sup> in the summer.
3. **Chris Webb** requested anyone wishing to join the *WVTA* team at the **Wimborne in Bloom Quiz** to let him know. He mentioned that another quiz is also being organized.
4. There was discussion about **Petanque**. **Cornelius Cornes** had arranged a couple of games at *Redcotts* a few years ago, but since then sand has been put on the pitch and the ground is now unsuitable. There was discussion about playing **Petanque** at the *Cobham* or *Hamworthy Club*. **Cornelius** said he would be happy to organize a game of **Petanque**. **Helen Brooks**, **Bobbie Chinnick** and **Damaris Eaton** expressed interest in playing.
5. It was mentioned that the **WVTA Subscriptions** are now due. **David Emes** announced that the Committee had agreed that from 2023 the subscription would be raised to meet increased costs. More information will be given in due course.

The meeting ended at 8.30 p.m. and was followed by a convivial discussion about future activities of the *WVTA*.

*Maya Chatterjee*

(14<sup>th</sup> February 2022)

<sup>1</sup> An apology was received shortly after the A.G.M. from **Michael Evans**.

<sup>2</sup> Initial contact with QE and Allenbourn at the end of 2019 and beginning of 2020 was very positive, but the pandemic lockdown in March 2020 brought plans to a halt. **David** and **Mike** hope to make progress when conditions in schools allow.

<sup>3</sup> The President's Tea Party

<sup>4</sup> **David** actually said "Tammy" (the *WVTA*'s contact at the *BID*) but meant to say "Wimborne in Bloom".

<sup>5</sup> *Wimborne BID* = *Wimborne Business Improvement District*. This is a business-led initiative to invest money into the local economy of *Wimborne Minster*.

<sup>6</sup> *Savills* was approached a year before the pandemic.