

WIMBORNE-VALOGNES TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 14th February 2023
at St Catherine's Church Hall, Wimborne

Present

Committee Members: Malcolm Lowe (Acting President and Archivist), Peter Brooks (Treasurer), Maya Chatterjee (Minutes Secretary), Damaris Eaton, Louise Hinks (Town Council Representative), Graham Richards (IT Officer and Editor), Mike Shapcott (Secretary), Barbara Wathen, and Chris Webb.

Other Members: Pauline Benton, Helen Brooks, Pam Bryon, Peter Bryon, Edward Camp, Pamela Camp, Ian Cardall, Jayne Cardall, Cornelius Cornes, Luise Cornes, Brenda Cosstick, John Eaton, Michael Evans, Dinah Ingle-Finch, Richard Hovell, Philip Maul, Jeanne Mills, Anthony Oliver, Christine Oliver, Peter Rock, Cathy Thompson, Mike Wharfe, Liz White.

Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies

Malcolm welcomed those present.

Apologies for Absence were received from Graham Hansen, Sue Hansen, Derek Henderson, Danny Israel, Nicky Israel, Alison Johnston, Steve Johnston, Ian Lawrie, Jenny Lawrie, Chris Letchford, Horace Letchford, Ruth Kay, Diann March, Janet Maul, Velda Payne, John Roberts, Zena Roberts, Mary Shapcott, Freda Smith, Pauline Wheeler and Terry Wheeler.

Item 2 – Minutes of the previous AGM

Malcolm asked if everyone had read the Minutes of the previous A.G.M., that were circulated via e-mail prior to the A.G.M. There was no assent or dissent.

Malcolm proposed that the Minutes be approved and **Helen Brooks** seconded the Motion. There were no objections, so the Minutes were approved.

Item 3 – The President's Report

Malcolm read out the report written by **David Emes**. He also asked people to enlist as helpers at future events and to report this willingness to **Damaris**. In addition to the members who had passed away during the past year and were named in the President's report, **Malcolm** asked people to remember long-time Committee member **Wendy Wadsworth**. He also thanked **Mike Wharfe** and his helpers for tidying up the *Valognes Garden*; he said that this had been much appreciated by our French visitors last June.

Malcolm asked people to consider standing for election to be *President of the Association*. Nobody spoke up and **Malcolm** said that he and some others considered that **Damaris** would make a good president. **Damaris** had agreed to put her name forward.

Item 4 – Financial Report and adoption

Printed copies of the **Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2022** were distributed to the members present. **The Treasurer, Peter Brooks**, said that there had been a deficit in 2022 due primarily to the expense of the French visit. Money had also been spent on acquiring lights and other bits and pieces (including T-shirts and caps), in addition to the gazebo, to publicize the Association.

Peter also mentioned that the subscription had been raised from 1st January to £10 for individual members and £15 for couples. He requested people who had paid their subscription at the old rate to pay the additional sum required. **Peter** stated that the income for the year 2022 had been reasonable, and then invited questions.

Peter Rock asked if the amount paid to the caterers in 2020 for the event that never happened (due to Covid) had been refunded. **Peter** said that the caterers had refused to refund all of the deposit the *WVTA* had paid, and we had had to write this amount off.

Mike Shapcott proposed that the Accounts be accepted. This was seconded by **Brenda Cosstick**. There were no objections and the Motion was passed.

Item 5 – Volunteers to join the Committee and Item 7 – Election of Committee Members

Malcolm said that, as all the present Committee members had been re-elected in 2022, there was no need for them to stand for re-election in 2023¹.

It was announced that **Jayne Cardall** had volunteered to be on the Committee. **Malcolm** proposed that **Jayne** should be elected to the Committee. The proposal was seconded by **Maya Chatterjee** and **Helen Brooks**. No objections were raised, so **Jayne Cardall** was duly elected.

Item 8 – Biennial Visit to Valognes

Malcolm announced that September 22nd – 24th had been suggested as the weekend for the visit to Valognes and that 20 -30 people usually go. He said that anyone with queries about the visit should contact **Mike Shapcott**².

Mike requested members who would like to go on the visit to notify him of this by e-mail. In the e-mail, please say whom you would like to stay with, if this is known. Our French “twins” have a very large membership and there should be no trouble finding hosts for people from Wimborne who have not visited Valognes before.

Michael Evans asked if *Britanny Ferries* would be running ferries to Cherbourg from Poole at the time of the visit. **Malcolm** replied that **Nikki**³ was confident that the *Barfleur* would be operating from April till the end of October. In the past, *WVTA* members have had a very good discount for travelling with *Britannia Ferries*. **Malcolm** is awaiting a reply from **Nikki** about whether there will be a discount this year.

Malcolm requested members present at the A.G.M. to tell those absent about the visit.

Item 6 – Election of Officers

Only **Damaris Eaton** had volunteered to stand for the office of *President of the WVTA*. **Mike Shapcott** proposed that **Damaris** be elected as *President*. **Anthony Oliver** seconded the proposal. There were no objections, so **Damaris** was duly elected.

Item 9 – Any Other Business

Michael Evans proposed a vote of thanks to **Malcolm** for standing in as President⁴.

Thanks were also given to **Cathy Thompson** for hosting the *Barbecue*, to **Velda Payne** for hosting the *Garden Party*, and to the Committee members for their hard work.

Cornelius Cornes mentioned that *Club Voyages*⁵ gives discounts on *Britanny Ferries*. **Malcolm** said that the *Britanny Ferries* website had been difficult to navigate in the past, but was now a bit better. You must make a sample booking if you want to access the website and find the cost of a ticket. **Cornelius** said that it is easier to log in if you are a member.

The A.G.M. was followed by convivial discussion and refreshments.

Maya Chatterjee

(17th February 2023)

¹ Committee members who wish to remain on the Committee are required to be re-elected every two years.

² **Mike Shapcott** is the Secretary of the *WVTA*.

³ **Nikki Dilawersah** has been the *WVTA* contact at *Britanny Ferries* for some years.

⁴ **Malcolm Lowe** had been *Acting President* following the sudden resignation of **David Emes**.

⁵ *Club Voyages* charges £60 for Initial Registration and £60 Annual Subscription in the first year of membership, then just £60 per year in subsequent years. Club members are entitled to free reclining seats.