

FRIENDS OF OIGNIES TWINNING ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF AGM held Saturday 13 October 2018

- Present:** Derek Thomas, Susan Quas-Cohen, Karen Done, Ian Calvert, Sue Hodgkinson, Ian Hamilton, Chris Clegg, Peter Bloomfield, President of FoO The Mayor of High Peak Cllr Linda Grooby & Consort Mark Pearson plus Members
- 1. Notice of Meeting:** Sent on 29 September 2018
- 2. Apologies:** Anne Johnson, G&V Oakley, J&S Jacobs, Jane Collier, Maureen Kitchen, Simon Kitchen, Ted & Eva Fell, Martin and Anne Willey.
- 3. Minutes of Last Meeting:** Following an amendment in the Chair's Report, i.e. Jenny & Luke's daughter born on 3 March was Rachel and not Emily, the Minutes and Treasurer's Report of meeting on 14 October 2017 were read and approved.
- 4. Chair's Report:** Derek began by welcoming Madam Mayor and everyone and thanking them for taking the time to come this evening.
An especially warm welcome to our new members John & Jane Rothery and to the guests who have also joined us this evening.
He continued, it has been an honour and a privilege to serve as Chair during the 50th Anniversary of the Association. We have had a great year with the highlight being the visit to Oignies.
The Association has grown stronger over the past year both in terms of membership and also in the strength of the Committee with new roles for Peter Bloomfield as Treasurer, Ian Hamilton as Vice Chair and Chris Clegg as Publicity Officer raising our profile through a phenomenal website and articles in local media. Thank you to these three and to the entire Committee for all their hard work to keep the Association not only alive but going from strength to strength.
We have been working hard to put together our programme for the 12-16 April 2019 visit to Buxton, and will be able to start revealing details soon but in the meantime it would be helpful if members could confirm whether they are available to host and let us know of anyone else who may be interested in joining.
He thanked everyone again for coming this evening.
- 5. Treasurer's Report:** Peter presented the Balance Sheet for 2017/18 showing a good balance in hand of £4,644.59. He told the meeting that our local RBS bank will be closing in February next year and that BACS electronic payments will be the way forward, and our website the keyway of communication. It was unanimously agreed to adopt the Balance Sheet.
Following a question from the floor regarding membership numbers and subscriptions, Derek responded that our total membership and active membership has been steadily increasing over the last 10 years, from 18 to 56 members now visiting, with a 20% increase in the last two years. We are constantly reviewing our membership tiers, which is why we are working hard to subsidise subscriptions. The cost to the Association per person is £100 over a 2-year cycle, with £60 of that raised through fundraising events.
He reminded Members that the £20 subscriptions are now due by the end of the month. Thanks are to be conveyed to Peter Quas-Cohen for reviewing and preparing of the accounts and advising on a future spending review. Peter has volunteered to continue to be an independent scrutineer as per the vote last year.

At this point the Committee stood down pending the election of a new Committee. All post were available for nominations from the floor. Derek handed over to The Mayor of High Peak, Linda Grooby who thanked him for his hard work as Chair.

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6. Election of Scrutineers: The meeting agreed that none were needed.

7. Election of Officers: **Chair:** Derek Thomas was nominated and seconded. **No other nominations and elected unopposed.**
Vice Chair: Ian Hamilton was nominated and seconded. **No other nominations and elected unopposed.**
Secretary: Sue Quas-Cohen was nominated and seconded. **No other nominations received and elected unopposed.**
Treasurer: Peter Bloomfield was nominated and seconded. **No other nominations received and elected unopposed.**
Publicity Officer: Chris Clegg was nominated and seconded. **No other nominations received and elected unopposed.**

8. Election of Committee: Anne Johnson, Ian Calvert, Karen Done, Sue Hodgkinson were **proposed and duly elected. No further nominations for Officers had been received.**

The newly elected Chair and Committee reconvened.

Derek advised that we can co-opt new Committee members during the year so any member who feels they have specific skills please feel free to volunteer.

9. Annual Subscription: Derek reported that subscriptions for the time being will remain at £20 per member with no variation. This will need to be reviewed in the future. Please see the website for details of events.

10. Election of Accountant: Derek advised that Peter Quas-Cohen had again volunteered to stand as independent scrutineer. **There were no objections and all present were in favour. The proposal was carried.**

11. AOB: Luke asked whether PayPal could be used for paying subscriptions. Peter Bloomfield said that he would look at this and advise the Committee. Derek pointed out that a standing order is the other option available and less time-consuming for the Committee in terms of reminders.

Sue Quas-Cohen gave a reminder of the Dickensian Market on 17th November and asked members for donations of fashion accessories and Christmas gifts.

Derek thanked all present for their attendance and involvement in the meeting.

Paul Lewis thanked the Chair and Committee for all their hard work over the past year.

Meeting Closed