Huntingdon & Godmanchester Twinning Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20th of April, 2022

at Judith's Field, Godmanchester

Present: Dick Taplin Acting Chair & Treasurer
Graham Buck - Secretary

David Brown – Chair of Szentendre S/C

Nan Taplin – Chair of Salon S/C

Di Gutteridge – General Member (Schools Liaison)

Liz Perrett – Chair Marketing & PR S/C

1. Dick Taplin opened the meeting at 7.05 pm by welcoming all present.
2. Apologies for absence were received from David King (Gubbio Chair) and Gesine DeVere (Acting Wertheim Chair)
3. Minutes of the previous business meeting held on 16th of March, 2022 were summarised by Dick Taplin and approved by consent rather than a vote.
4. Matter Arising
   a. The creation of the post of Deputy Chair and Support Coordinator. Graham Buck offered to draft and circulate a job specification with the view to a formal proposal for the creation of the post being presented to the forthcoming AGM.
5. Treasurers Report - Dick Taplin summarised the financial position of the Association.
6. Members Meeting 4th of May
   It was decided there would be no formal agenda, but instead a structured discussion designed to elicit ideas as to how to make the association more interesting and relevant to existing members and attractive to new ones. Graham Buck to circulate a notice to that effect.
7. Forthcoming events
   a. Huntingdon Riverside Gala 25th of June. (Graham Buck offered to coordinate setting up the gazebo.)
   b. Godmanchester Gala 2nd of July. (Graham Buck offered to coordinate setting up the gazebo.)
   c. Huntingdon Carnival 13th of August. Details to be reviewed nearer the date
   d. Christmas Markets. Also to be reviewed nearer the time.
   e. Wertheim 40th Anniversary visit invitation

      It was noted that, as the invitation is technically from town to town and not to the HGTA itself, the timing of forthcoming UK local and regional elections on 5 May means a formal response as to who will travel to Wertheim will need to wait until the election results are known.

      The idea of taking a gift from the HGTA to Wertheim was discussed. David Brown agreed to consider creating a suitable item.

8. Membership numbers were given as 87 general and 1 corporate. It was agreed that committee members would approach some of the corporate members who have yet to renew.
9. Szentendre Sports Festival 24th-26th of September. Di Gutteridge reported that local schools were declining to attend for 2 main reasons:
    a. Security and safety concerns arising from the Russian invasion of Ukraine
    b. Disparities in the age ranges of competing students from differing countries leading to potentially unfair competition.

10. A general discussion was held on ways and means of attracting new and especially younger members to the Association. Various ideas were put forward and (committee) members agreed to solicit ideas from members generally with a view to presenting specific proposals and how to implement them at a future meeting.
    a. One idea that was especially well received was to look at joint ventures with other groups and associations.
11. The Chairman thanked all present for their contribution and closed the meeting at 9.00 pm