



## **Minutes of the 2017 AGM on held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 8pm in The Library, Braunston Memorial Hall, Braunston**

### **Present:**

Sue Harrison, John Pomfret, Denise and Terry Waddleton, Terry Tatham, Chris Grossart, Eric and Alison Baker, Liz Fraser, Trines Ward

### **Apologies:**

Apologies for absence were received from: Christine Sanderson, Clare Sabin, Chris Whitby

### **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the AGM held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016 were approved as a true record.

### **Matters arising**

No matters were raised.

### **Chairman's report**

Sue Harrison gave her Chairman's Report (attached at **Appendix A**).

In particular, Sue recorded thanks to the Plough for the Christmas meal and assistance during the twinning visit, thanks to Clare Sabin and Christine Sanderson for representing the Twinners at 'Braunston at its Best' and thanks to Chris Grossart and Sue Lacey for keeping up French lessons at Braunston School.

She noted that the twinning visit had been successful and thanked all involved. Further details of the visit are contained in Christine Sanderson's report at **Appendix B**.

All present thanked Sue for hosting the dinner and entertainment for the French visitors at Home Farm.

Acceptance of both reports was proposed by John Pomfret, seconded by Chris Grossart and agreed by all present.

### **Treasurer's report**

The annual summary accounts are attached at **Appendix C**. John Pomfret reported that there had been continued good results from quizzes, while income from craft fairs had reduced slightly. He noted that we had made the same this year from three events as from four the previous year. We need to think about format and value of future craft fair/jumble sale/tabletop sale type events. Net expenditure on the Quincy-Voisons visit was £2786. Costs were offset by a £300 grant from the Community Café, which helped us to fund participation in the visit and meal by hosts. Just over half of the cost of the visit was met by earnings from this accounting year, with the rest from money carried forward from last year. There was a small balance remaining in funds. This was the same approach as previously; we spend more when Q-V visit us than when we visit them.

After the visit in 2015, we had a balance of £675; this time it is £367, but risks were kept low as we maintained close control throughout, so we would know in good time if we needed to seek a contribution from hosts. Note this year we had 25 adults and 14 children visiting, compared with 20 adults and 4 children in 2015.

It was agreed by all present that cheque signatories should be the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer (this is as required by the constitution).

Acceptance of the treasurer's report was proposed by Terry Tatham, seconded by Denise Waddleton and agreed by all present.

### **Nomination and election of officers**

Chairman - Sue Harrison was proposed by John Pomfret, seconded by Denise Waddleton and agreed by all present.



Vice Chairman (responsible for French liaison) - Christine Sanderson was proposed by John Pomfret, seconded by Trines Ward and agreed by all present (post-meeting note: agreement subsequently obtained from Christine, who was not present).

Secretary - Liz Fraser was proposed by Sue Harrison, seconded by Denise Waddleton and agreed by all present.

Treasurer - John Pomfret was proposed by Eric Baker, seconded by Terry Waddleton and agreed by all present.

Publicity Officer - Trines Ward was proposed by Sue Harrison, seconded by John Pomfret and agreed by all present.

Recruitment Officer - Clare Sabin was proposed by Sue Harrison, seconded by Liz Fraser and agreed by all present (post-meeting note: agreement subsequently obtained from Clare, who was not present).

### **Date of the next AGM in 2018**

The date of the next AGM was set for Monday 11th June 2018 at 8 pm in the Library in Braunston Village Hall.

### **Any other business:**

None was declared and the meeting closed at 2100h.



## Appendix A - Chairman's report

- I would like to thank everyone for welcoming me back to Twinning after a 30 year break.
- An enjoyable year and it's been good to have had the support and be part of a hard working team.
- Special thanks to Trines for the wonderful quizzes, also John and Liz, Eric & Alison, Denise & Terry, Christine and Alice. Also Chris who works every week in the school introducing the French language to year 2 pupils.
- Thanks also to the Community Café and The Empowerment Fund for their continued financial support.
- It was good also to see a good turnout for our Christmas meal at The Plough and much appreciated that we were able to use their car park and bar to welcome our guests.
- Thanks to Christine for the Braunston Twinning Report which was this year included in the Parish 2017 AGM. Also to those who have posted adverts and articles in the BVN. It is most important that we keep reminding people about Twinning.
- Thanks also to Clare and Christine who represented us at 'Braunston at its Best' and hopefully enrolled some new members.
- Together we have organised a craft fair, two quiz evenings and a very successful visit from our French friends this year.
- We have managed to keep Twinning alive and fun for another year – so thank you
- And well done to everybody.
- Lastly a very special thank you and good luck to Alison and Eric who are moving 'up North' in the near future.

*Sue Harrison - June 12<sup>th</sup> 2017*



## Appendix B - May 2017 Braunston Twinning Visit Report

### Braunston - a Good Place to Live?

I say "Braunston Twinning"; we all do - it's shorthand for 'Braunston and Quincy-Voisins Twinning Partnership'. Braunston Parish Councillors set up the Twinning Association 33 years ago, as a bi-annual family exchange in the first weekend of May. This was when Braunston was a much smaller village. The village school, in the 70s, might have been too small to survive and the village might have become a dormitory village with few community activities or sense of village community. The councillors wanted Braunston to grow but to keep that strong community feeling and be a good place to live and bring up a family. They were outward-looking and decided Twinning was a way to reinforce the community spirit. They chose the village of Quincy-Voisins from around 10 villages on offer in France. They visited them all, but Quincy just "clicked" when they drove in. They knew immediately that it would work with Braunston and they were proud, as a Council, to erect the official Twinning signs at the entrances to the village - signs still there today, celebrating Braunston and Quincy-Voisins.

In the beginning, Twinning with Quincy was focused on football - our teams playing internationals. Now, 33 years later, Twinning is mainly community to community, family by family. We have in recent years, we admit, struggled to keep it going and enthuse Braunston as a whole. These last two years however, with some very welcome financial help from the Empowerment Fund of our Northamptonshire Councillor and from the Braunston Community Café, we believe we are winning again. This weekend 25 French adults and 15 French children, aged 6 to 16, stayed with 18 host families. It was a lovely warm, happy, generous weekend.

The French coach arrived in The Plough car park at 6pm Saturday evening for a welcome in what they now call, after many years, "The Braunston Pub". This year 5 new Braunston families were wondering what they had let themselves in for. [Happy to report they all really liked each other and liked our planned programme]. On Sunday we all went to the Black Country Living Museum, with families free to explore the exhibits but with an organised Canal boat-ride through the tunnel and caverns at 2.30 and home at 5pm In the evening hosts joined up to entertain and feed our guests. I think we had 4 or 5 lively parties in Braunston that Sunday. Monday was free time until 4.30, when we all met at Home Farm Braunston as guests of the Harrisons. Children and adults played football and games outside while inside a wonderful marquee, provided by the Harrisons, local musicians accompanied a Morris Dancing lesson for energetic French and English alike. At 6pm we gathered in the marquee to raise a glass in toast and for speeches. The mayor of Quincy sent a special message, which we heard in French and English translation and we responded with messages, and a poem, in French and English translation. Language has not been a barrier. Some are fluent, most of us enjoy remembering what we might once have known of French and others enjoy pidgin and gestures. The best is the children on both sides seem to have no language fears or problems - they just get on with it. At 6.30 we had a lovely traditional English dinner of tomato soup, roast beef and Yorkshires and apple crumble and custard. Then dancing 'til around 10. Tuesday at 9.00 the coach left from the Plough with so much laughter and hugs, photos and promises to 'do it again next year', that no-one could doubt we had 'community'.

There were moments however. Moments when we knew they were French and another culture. Suddenly, so it seemed, after the soup and when the amazing Home Farm Beef was waiting to be served, they all rose and went outside for a group photo, calling us, somewhat bewildered between courses, to follow. Moments too when we were proud of what we have and do. One unfortunate 8 year old girl fell and broke her arm. Rugby Hospital dealt with it so well. The father could not believe how friendly, kind and efficient everyone was and that with just a name and an address and a passport and no charging system all was sorted. In France you pay first then claim it back after lots of paperwork.

I asked people, French and English, why they were doing Twinning. Why, or even if, it was worth the effort. It is a lot of effort; raising the money during the year to finance the weekend for everyone, catering for visitors when you don't know what they eat, worrying you won't get by on language and all be looking at each other in silence - that has not happened, it seems, actually, but we worry. People said "It's for our community, for the next generation". "It brings out the best in you, to give and not know what you will get back, then you get this amazing friendship back". "It is true it disrupts your routines for the weekend, shakes up some pre-conceptions, but yes it is worth the effort".

*Christine Sanderson - May 2017*

**Appendix C Treasurer's Report****Annual accounts****2016-2017****INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT****Income**

Autumn Craft Fair 2016 net surplus	£311.80
Autumn Quiz 2016 net surplus	£615.36
Spring Quiz 2017 net surplus	£502.02
	<u>£1,429.18</u>

**Expenditure**

Hall hire for AGM	£12.00
Insurance	£212.50
Flowers - Pacton funeral	£35.00
Christmas meal - gratuity	£20.00
Net cost of visit from Quincy-Voisins (Note 1)	<u>£2,786.25</u>
	£3,065.75
Surplus of income over expenditure	<u>-£1,636.57</u>
	<u>£1,429.18</u>

**CASH BALANCE SHEET****Brought forward from 2015-2016 accounts**

Current account	£1,672.16
Cash in hand	<u>£330.93</u>
Total brought forward to 2016-17	£2,003.09
Surplus of income over expenditure in 2016-17	<u>-£1,636.57</u>
	<u>£366.52</u>

**Carried forward to 2017-2018 accounts**

Current account	£208.36
Cash in hand	£158.16
Total carried forward	<u>£366.52</u>

Note 1: Net cost is the value after offsetting by a £300 grant received from Braunston Community Cafe towards the visit by Quincy-Voisins, to assist in making the cultural events organised for French visitors more accessible to Braunston participants as well.