

# BATHEASTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

## 2014 Annual General Meeting Thursday March 13<sup>th</sup> at the George & Dragon at 7:30

### MINUTES

Present: Tim Davies, Brin Johnson, Forbes Roberson, Richard Stopforth, Sally Robertson, Peter Davenport and Carole Bond.

#### 1. Apologies and welcome

Apologies were received from David Gledhill, Martin Veal, Lisa Brown, Peter Giles, Kathy Eardley, and Diana Pidgeon.

Due to the unavoidable delay of the Chairman, David Gledhill, the meeting was chaired by Peter Davenport who welcomed all attending members.

#### 2. Minutes of last AGM 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013

The minutes were circulated in advance by email. They were accepted as a true record and approved by Tim Davies and seconded by Forbes Robertson.

#### 3. Matters arising from the minutes

The only correction motioned was to the Minutes point 8, "Date and time of next AGM" The word April should be removed from that statement. It is unconstitutional to physically do that but the point is noted. There were no other matters arising.

#### 4. Chairman's Report

Due to the unexpected absence of the Chairman, Peter Davenport, as Deputy Chair, addressed the meeting. He thanked the committee for their continued hard work.

He feels that the Association had a successful year despite the continuing decline in public support. We are failing to reach a wider public despite determined effort. Our current strategy is not yielding results and needs to be reconsidered. This was agreed. Peter agreed to continue to explore the reality of including Bathampton within the Association. Brin will speak with the Keynsham twinning group to see if there are similar issues and

problems and what solutions may be adopted.

It was observed that the BNVH (Batheaston New Village Hall) supporters are “vigorous with their persuasion” almost to the point of pressure. Should we be more assertive?

It was pointed out that, quite often, BTA members take part for one, two or maybe a few more years, then drop out. It was suggested from the floor that perhaps that is not a problem, but something to be expected and embraced. Perhaps all Batheaston residents should be “members” (there is no subscription requirement) by default and be encouraged to “dip in and out”, furthering the small group visit approach, as and when the urge takes them and opportunities arise. The challenge would be how to advise and approach the right prospects at the right time

This key issue is under current discussion within the committee and will continue to be so.

#### 5. Treasurers Report

A decrease in funds from £6167.48 to £4738.30 has reverted our funds to slightly below the levels of two years ago.

The year under review is one in which we were visited by Oudon and the costs are typically higher than in years of our visitations.

The Treasurer, Forbes, predicted that, on this basis, the Association would run out of funds within six years. It was questioned whether we need to retain funds. The committee majority felt not. Only a suggested £1500 should be retained for emergencies. But where should any spending of funds be directed? The majority agreed that it should be directed to “seed corn” projects, i.e., those which would further the objects and sustainability of the Association. But how are potentially successful projects to be identified?

Some time ago, funds were used to fully subsidise a member of the village school staff and a partner to take part in the visit of that year but no uptake was returned from the school after the event.

It was suggested that we might work to a Business Plan over say, 5 years to control the finances but this was felt to be introducing too restrictive a measure over the need for flexibility.

Again, this issue is under constant discussion and review within the committee.

A copy of the report was issued to the meeting and is filed with these minutes.

#### 6. Revision to the Constitution of the Association.

The revised constitution was accepted by Tim Davies, seconded by Peter Davenport.

#### 7. Election of Officers and Committee

The committee reluctantly accepted the resignation of Richard Stopforth on health grounds and thanked him for his years of dedicated hard work and commitment, The Association is delighted to learn that he is determined to remain active within the group.

Unfortunately, there were no volunteers to take up his absented place.

The remaining committee members were re-elected. The committee now comprises:

David Gledhill	-	Chairman
Peter Davenport	-	Deputy Chairman
Forbes Robertson	-	Treasurer
Brin Johnson	-	Secretary/Membership secretary
Sally Robertson	-	Officer
Lisa Brown	-	Officer
Martin Veal	-	Officer
Kathryn Eardley	-	Officer
Tim Davies	-	Officer

#### 7. Any other business

There was no other business.

#### 8. Date and venue of next AGM

To be held in February or March of 2015, actual date and venue to be decided.