



# BRIDGNORTH & DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at the Annexe at 7.30pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018

**Present:** Mike Proudman, Nicky Cooper, Brett Myors, Roger Burkey, David Cooper, Helen Howell, Julia Buckley and Lindy Macdonald

**Apologies:** none

## **Update on the Twinning Festival 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Mike reported that at preliminary figures from Schrobenhausen suggested that 16 visitors were coming. In addition the Mayor and his wife had accepted our invitation. 3 double and 2 single hotel rooms have been requested to be reserved for guests (names to follow). The French party would number at least 25 (all in self catering/hotel accommodation) including the Mayor and his wife. The numbers wishing to stay with host families are awaited.

Mike had heard from the Town Council about the grant for the festival – the exact sum could not be confirmed until the Town Council were clear as to which activities they would be participating in and funding directly. After some discussion it was agreed that direct participation was appropriate for the Mayoral reception on the Friday night. The formal anniversary celebrations on Sunday lunchtime would be organised by the twinning association who would also arrange a suitable gift for Thiers

Nicky circulated the working draft of the programme/budget that was based on around 50 visitors and up to 100 guests at the twinning dinner. It totalled over £7k but could be trimmed to around £6k. More meaningful figures will depend on more accurate visitor numbers. It was agreed that the Association needed to keep around £1k in reserves to cover this year's non-festival expenditure and so could commit up to £3k towards the Festival.

## **European Union Twinning Grant Application**

Julia is experienced in applying for EU grants and had found one scheme that the association could apply for with applications due by 1<sup>st</sup> March for activities taking place in the Autumn/Winter of 2018/19. A grant of up to €25k was possible – half up front with the remainder on completion and evidencing of the agreed activity. The scheme centred on engaging people from different countries in a dialogue about Brexit and the sort of costs covered included travel, hospitality and accommodation. Whilst there was no guarantee of success the Committee enthusiastically accepted Julia's offer to draft an application.

## **Visit of Schrobenhausen School**

Mike reported that a group of 50 young people and 5 teachers were visiting the area in early May. They would be in Bridgnorth on 9<sup>th</sup> May for a treasure hunt amongst other activities. It was important for the Association to welcome them (perhaps in the Town Hall) and Lindy, Brett and Mike agreed to help.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Brett reported deposit account balances of £3831.16 and current account balances of £245.52. He suggested that the Association should attempt to move to Internet banking and would explore opening a new account with an alternative bank and closing the deposit account. ***This was agreed.*** It was further agreed that the signatories on the Associations bank accounts would be

Brett Myors  
Nicola (Nicky) Cooper  
Lindy Macdonald

And that 2 signatories would be required to authorise payments.

**AOB**

Mike reported that the application forms for the Banner project were now available and that he would be contacting the potential participants.

Next meeting Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 at 7.30pm (venue to be confirmed)

The meeting closed at 9.10pm