



Caerffili and District Twinning Association
(Cymdeithas Gefeillio Caerffili a'r Cylch)



Annual General Meeting

November 13th 2024 at 7.30 pm

MINUTES

Colin Mann welcomed everyone and opened the meeting in the absence of Mike Prew (Mayor) and David Roberts (Deputy) who were unable to attend.

1. Note of Attendance and Apologies (as below)

PRESENT

Colin Mann, Phil Bevan, Annie Burnell, Steven Skivens, Mike Hallinan, Sylvia Hallinan, Sue Sargent, Diane Lewis, Ron Lewis, Diane Mann, John Reardon, Wilf Hall, Lyndsey Nicholas, Annwyn Nicholas, Christine Jones, Wendy Lewis, Jeff Grenfell

APOLOGIES

Christine Beadsworth, Lata Mathur, Brian Kitson, Caroline Kitson, Jayne Reardon, Geoff Harris, Helena Harris, Mike Griffiths, Mike Prew, David Roberts, Aneurin Minton, Vernon Spragg and Gerald Black

2. Confirmation of the minutes of the AGM held on 7th November 2023.

These were approved as a true record of the meeting by Diane Lewis, seconded by Wilf Hall.

3. Matters Arising – there were none.

4a) Chairman's Report

The Chairman opened his report by welcoming everyone attending the AGM and thanking them for being there. It had been 33 years since linking up with our friends in Lannion and 30 years between Llanbradach and Ploubezre (a plaque had been designed to mark that milestone in Llanbradach this year). He said that the highlight of the year was of course the visit of our friends from Brittany, in July, which was a very enjoyable few days, including the welcome reception in which we were entertained by the Caerphilly Male Voice Choir (who are hoping to link up with a Breton choir next year to celebrate their 100th anniversary with a joint concert). The Chairman gave thanks to all those who hosted or helped, and expressed how well the visits to Big Pit, the Senedd and social events held in Shappelles and Llanbradach had been received.

Llanbradach Junior footballers had visited Brittany in July and had played matches against AS Servel and Ploubezre; last year marked the 25th anniversary of the visits giving young people the opportunity to experience life in another country. He wanted to thank Kenny Ball and Malcolm Bateman for the success of the exchanges.

Two successful fundraising activities had been held this year which included a quiz in the Wingfield Hotel and Fish and Chip evening. He thanked committee members and others who helped. The Wingfield as a venue is now lost as it has closed. Ideas on suitable locations will be welcome for future events. He went on to record his thanks to Annie Burnell for the efficiency and dedication that she has demonstrated over the last six years as Secretary and for everything she has done in this time making his job much easier. He also thanked Sue Sargent as minute secretary and Steven Skivens as Treasurer and members of the small Twinning committee for the work they have done in the last twelve months, also thanking Wilf Hall for working to get the Twinning website up and running. He said that he felt that we needed a presence and to "up our game" on other social media platforms such as Tik-Tok and Instagram and that we needed to strengthen our committee to get through the work needed to organise a visit to Brittany next year.

As per last year he asked people to try and spread the word about the association and encourage people to join, and ended that although we had some new members, we certainly need more.

4b) Treasurer's Report

Copies of the annual accounts were given to all those present, and Steven Skivens went through the profit and loss account, which ended with a balance of £2406.40 in the bank, £13 petty cash, £2419.40 total. The accounts were independently audited by Dave Pugh.

He felt that membership fees needed to be increased as they had remained the same for the last six years. Annie Burnell proposed that the membership fees be increased from £20 to £24 for a couple/family and from £10 to £12 individual membership from January 2025 and this proposal was unanimously carried at the meeting. Steven Skivens said that the most cost-effective way for annual membership to be paid was through direct debit or standing order but that membership by cheque payment would still be acceptable. Members would be advised of the increase of annual membership fees in an email to be sent out by Annie Burnell after the AGM (asking them to amend standing order/direct debits accordingly with the new amounts) and to advise that standing order mandate forms were available from the Treasurer Steven Skivens on request along with new membership forms. Mike Hallinan said that some people may drop out with the proposed modest increase to membership fees, but it was reiterated by Annie Burnell that if someone wanted to go to Lannion next year then they needed to be a member of the association. Steven Skivens asked if anyone had any questions regarding the accounts – there were none.

5. Election of Officers and Management Committee 2024

All executive officers were elected unanimously after being proposed and seconded as per the proposal form.

Chairman	Colin Mann
Vice Chairman	John Reardon
Treasurer	Steven Skivens
Secretary	Sue Sargent
Minutes Secretary	Annie Burnell
Honorary Auditor	Dave Pugh
Committee Members	Mike Hallinan, Sylvia Hallinan, Aneurin Minton, Phil Bevan

Annie Burnell and Sue Sargent have agreed to exchange roles, Annie Burnell now becomes Minutes Secretary, and Sue Sargent, Secretary.

Community Council Representatives are as follows:

Caerphilly Town Council	Mike Prew & Jeff Grenfell
Llanbradach & Pwll-y-Pant	Colin Mann & Dave Edwards
Penyrheol, Treceenydd and Energlyn	No Representative
Aber Valley Community Council	Charlotte Bishop

6. Any Other Business

Wilf Hall (Twinning Website Administrator) advised that he has set up a new website <http://caerphillytwinning.co.uk>. He would like to encourage more content to go on there and to invite members of the society to submit "news" to him. This would be highlighted in a message sent out to all members of the society in December by the secretary. At the moment, no costs are involved, but a security certificate could be purchased at the cost of £25 p.a. if content increased.

There being no other business, Colin Mann declared the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m. Light refreshments were provided.