

## MINUTES

### DEVON TWINNING CIRCLE - GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2023

2.00 PM AT WOOLSEY VILLAGE HALL

1. **Attendance and Apologies** – There were 33 members present representing 10 member associations: Bideford, Bradninch, Braunton, Chittlehampton, Chudleigh, Dawlish, Exeter, South Molton, Taunton, Totnes.

Apologies were received from Jean Aplin, Jenny and Philip Worsfold, Claire and Bruce Benton and Sue Moreton and from the following Associations: Clevedon, Crediton, Kingsteignton, Newton & Noss, Northam, Portishead and Tiverton.

2. **Minutes of the General Meeting** held in April 2023 were approved.
3. **Matters arising** – None.
4. **Chairman's Report** – In the absence of the secretary I appointed Pam to take minutes. There were insufficient members of the committee present to hold a meeting so in the terms of the constitution I declared the committee meeting non quorate. The General meeting was held and the chairman welcomed those present. He informed the meeting that the committee meeting had not been held due to insufficient members present
5. **Secretary's Report** – Due to the Secretary's error this report did not reach the meeting but would have read as follows: Much of my correspondence has related to insurance so I sent it on to Pam, so it does seem that quite a few associations are becoming active again after a difficult few years.  
However, a number of groups are struggling. A few have come close to closing but pulled back from the brink. One of those is my own group, Sampford Peverell. A year or so back we thought we would have to close but we are delighted to be entertaining 13 French visitors this weekend with a several new, younger hosts.  
North Petherton has recently had to close and Ide, which has been inactive for a while, has officially wound up their twinning as the French side folded.  
I recently received an email from a lady doing some work in Sidmouth museum who wanted to know why Sidmouth was twinned with Le Locle. Unfortunately Sidmouth is not one of our members so I replied saying I was unable to help but told her all the benefits of joining. I hope she passes it on to Sidmouth Twinning Association.

6. **Treasurer's Report** – the Treasurer had sent apologies but provided a summary of the latest accounts which were circulated. A Member queried why there is such a large balance in the account? It was confirmed that this is recognized, and steps are being taken to reduce the balance. Funds are required to pay for the insurance premium each year which is then recovered from Members retrospectively. Previous unintentional profit of PL premium has been recognized through a reduced premium for the current year (see Insurance Officer's

Report below). A free to Members event is also planned as a way to return benefit to Members (see details under Any Other Business below). There was a suggestion that perhaps some of the excess balance could be used towards advertising costs of Twinning generally. The Chairperson said this would be looked into.

6. **Insurance Officer's Report** – Pam reported that the premium for PL cover for the current year was a little higher than last year. Renewal invitations have been sent out with the majority of Associations taking up the cover. As reported at April's General Meeting, the contribution from Member Associations has been reduced from £135 in 2022/23 to £105 for the current year which runs from 8<sup>th</sup> June.
7. **Matters Arising from the Committee Meeting** – due to number of absentees, a quorum was not available to hold the meeting.
8. **Monica Saunders Award** – the best article in the current Newsletter (Summer 2023) was voted to be from Tiverton TA. The winner of the Monica Saunders Trophy for 2022/23 is Exmouth TA with their article showing us Twinning at its best.
9. **Any Other Business** – A request was made by a Member if a list of current Member Associations could be provided. Additionally, it would be helpful if a list of closing Associations could also be made available together with contact details as it was felt that there may be opportunities for nearby Associations to draw in Members. Members were reminded that DTC have invited Associations to nominate attendees to the BBQ on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Uplowman Village Hall (near Tiverton). Places are still available and those wishing to attend should contact the Treasurer, Claire Benton. The Chairperson thanked Bideford TA for hosting the Meeting and a round of applause was given for the chef and kitchen helpers for a lovely lunch.

Following the meeting we enjoyed an animated talk from Brian Butler, representing Clovelly Twinning Association, describing how Clovelly TA continues to thrive on a simplified basis. He also described the latest visit from their French Twinners this year and how they aim to keep things local and at a low cost.

Date of Next Meeting is October 28<sup>th</sup> hosted by Barnstaple TA with details to be confirmed. This will also be the AGM.

SIGNED .....

DATE .....

Chairperson