

Minutes of the Committee Meeting , held in the Services Club, Haverfordwest on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 5.30 pm.

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Present:

Roy Thomas (Chairman) Cllr Sue Murray (President) Patricia Lewis (Secretary) Derek Griffiths (Treasurer) Brian Griffiths, Mike Lewis, Dean Campbell, Peter Lewis, Hillary Price, Ellen Repton, Shirley Thomas, Cllr Alan Buckfield Charles Davies. (also in attendance Liz Griffiths of PCC Youth Service)

Apologies for Absence:

Barbara Morgan, Pat Lewis, Sheila Williams, Cllr Michael Mathias, Cllr Chris Thomas.

Minutes:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 had been circulated. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that they be accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising

Charles asked if anyone had met with the German reporter and Roy stated that an informal meeting had taken place.

Chairman's Report:

Roy thanked everyone for attending. He stated that he wished his report to be included in the minutes in its entirety and it is as follow:-

"It is my firm opinion that the visit of our friends from Oberkirch for the period 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018 was a resounding success.

Several factor lead me to believe this and I feel I would be failing in my duty if I did not record them. I have served on many committees in my time but this is the first time I have served on one in which every single member made a contribution. You all chose to serve on this committee. You knew it would involve work and you have all come up trumps.

The visit had a rough start as the party arrived in the pouring rain over two hours later than expected. Thanks Chris for keeping the Picton Centre open way past midnight.

I have written to all the hosts thanking them for their forbearance and generosity. A written expression has also gone to the Ranger for giving us such an enjoyable coastal path walk and to the two guides who gave such an interesting and informative tour of St Davids historic cathedral.

The Welsh Night provided by the Youth Service proved to be one of the highlights of the visit and letters of appreciation have been dispatched to Liz and The Chief Executive of Pembrokeshire County Council. In that letter I have also mentioned the Head teacher and staff of Haverfordwest High VC School for their generous welcome to the Oberkirch students.

It would have been remiss of me if I didn't mention 'John at the gate' in that same letter for helping us accommodate the very large coach.

I have received mixed messages about the visit to Cardiff. We had no part to play in the organisation of that event but thanks go to Pat for accompanying them.

Friday was hectic. Firstly a successful visit to our new school. Considering it had only been in existence for a few days the ambitions expressed by Johanna were well met.

This was followed by a lunchtime reception generously hosted by the Mayor followed by a visit to the Parlour when they all received a bag of goodies. I have written thanking Sue. I realise Sue is a member of this committee but my special mention is for her contribution as Mayor. We hope this heralds a healthy partnership between this Association and the Town Council. Thanks must be recorded to the ladies of the committee along with the wives of some of the committee members as all of them responded to the Mayors request for support by providing a magnificent display of cakes.

On Friday evening we had a most successful Social/Supper Evening. Special thanks must go to Shirley for organizing the event, Dean for providing most attractive table decorations, Peter for sponsoring the hall and very a special mention of Derek and his fellow Glan Cleddau Dancers for injecting a most energetic contribution to the entertainment.

Saturday saw the whole party have an enjoyable visit to Tenby and I must commend the excellent organization provided by Mike and Brian.

In the evening we all enjoyed a barbeque in Broad Haven and again I must thank Derek for his organizational skills.

Finally we saw our guests off at just after midnight. Each one was provided with a substantial and tasty picnic prepared by Shirley.

Since their departure, over twenty letters of thanks have been sent and I thank our Secretary for helping in the production and circulation of these. She has been by my side throughout the whole visit.

Everyone was quick to agree with Peter when he expressed the Association's appreciation of the way in which Roy had spearheaded one of the best twinning visits ever.

#### Financial Report:

Derek gave the following financial breakdown of the visit of our friends from Oberkirch. He reported that the visit had cost the Association £2,479.02. The remaining balance in the bank was £5,194.68.

#### Future Programme:

Roy gave an up-date on a recent conversation between himself and the Chair of Twinning in Oberkirch. Johanna had asked such questions as "Do you want to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in both towns?" "Do you wish townspeople to take part?" "Do you want a large party to visit?" "Is May 2018 a fixed date?" Some surprise was expressed regarding the vagueness of the Oberkirch response to our request for information. It was acknowledged that no real progress could be made until Oberkirch had firmed up their wishes in the matter.

It was decided that a working party comprising of the officers be formed with the request that they consult with Oberkirch and report back to a meeting of the committee to be held in early November.

#### Date of the Next Meeting:

The next meeting was set for 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in the Services Club at 6.30pm