

GUILDFORD-FREIBURG ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 2 June 2015

Present: Deputy Mayor Gordon Jackson, Chairman Peter Slade, Treasurer Michael Gorman, Minutes' Taker Pauline Azizi, & about 45 members

Chairman's Introduction: The Chairman, Peter Slade, welcomed all members to the meeting before the official business of the meeting commenced.

- 1. Appointment of Mayor as President:** Peter Slade welcomed the Deputy Mayor of Guildford, Gordon Jackson, to the meeting, as Mayor Nikki Nelson-Smith was unable to attend. Peter confirmed that in accordance with the Constitution Nikki was appointed as our President for the year. Peter thanked Gordon for attending the meeting.
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Keith Chesterton, Andrea & Guenter Dombrowe. Tessa Johnson, Jenny Jordan, Peter Lutzeier, David Ogilvie, Hilary & John Perry, Joan Wrenn.
- 3. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting 29 May 2014.** These were circulated at the meeting. No points were raised so the minutes were accepted.
- 4. Chairman's Report.** Peter Slade outlined the highlights of the past year in his report, as follows:
 - The Guildford-Freiburg Twinning Association is now in its 36th year & is in very good health. During the year there have been many events & exchanges.
 - Last May GBC's Managing Director Sue Sturgeon and some councillors and officers went to Freiburg.
 - There has been the usual annual exchange between George Abbott School & the Goethe Gymnasium.
 - There was a joint concert with Freiburg Youth Band and the SW Surrey Concert Band at George Abbott School.
 - There have been tennis matches between Pitfarm Tennis Club versus two teams from Freiburg.
 - No matches between Guildford City Boys FC and Freiburg's Blau Weiss Club took place this year as there were problems finding suitable accommodation. The leader of the Blau Weiss Club wanted their members to stay with families rather than in a hotel, and this had been impossible to arrange.

- The Annual Dinner, the Summer Party & the Christmas Market were again very successful.
- The Public Lecture was extremely well attended & filled the Guildhall.
- Hartmut Warm gave a talk on 'Music of the Spheres'.
- Last year's visit to Freiburg included a visit to Vauban & a Professor of Law, who is a resident, gave an insight into life in Vauban.
- Peter reported that he has received an award from Freiburg's Oberbürgermeister for his work with the Twinning Association.
- The Freiburg-Anglo German Club hosted a lunch & arranged a walk in the Black Forest during the Annual Visit to Freiburg.
- Some members attended the annual British-German Association's Parliamentary Day in London, which included a talk by Lord Paddy Ashdown.
- Nine international cities will come together in the forthcoming visit to Freiburg for the Partner Cities Market.
- We are arranging an exhibition of photographs of Guildford to coincide with the Market.
- Thanks were extended to Committee members Camilla Winn for her input with musical liaison, Ros Calow for her schools liaison, Michael Gorman for looking after our finances, Barbara Ford, who has done a superb job as editor of the newsletter Wolf Pietrek for his work organising the Christmas Market and other work & to Brian & Susan Lewis for transporting items for the Freiburg market between the two countries.
- Peter reported that he is in his 10th year as Chairman of the Association.
- The obituary for Katie Butcher who died at the end of last year appeared in this year's newsletter.

5. Treasurer's & membership Secretary's report.

Michael Gorman presented his Treasurer's Report, the audited figures having been signed off by David Barr, our Honorary Auditor. The balance when the accounts were prepared was £4900. Income during the year comprised subscriptions, surpluses from social functions and a small amount of bank interest. The annual grant from Guildford Borough Council has not yet been paid and Michael will send a reminder.

The Christmas Market raised £400 & the Summer Party £200.

We were going to contribute to the football club, but the boys' matches did not take place this year. The Youth Orchestra received £600 towards expenses of their concert with the Freiburg Band.

The Association wishes to facilitate groups going to Freiburg, by offering some financial help.

6. Elections:

- a) **Appointment of Patron – Anne Milton MP.** Agreed as in the Constitution
- b) **Election of Officers.** The following officers were unanimously elected:
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Chairman: | Dr. Peter Slade |
| Vice Chairman: | Mr. Wolfgang Pietrek |
| Hon. Treasurer/Membership Sec | Mr. Michael Gorman |

c) **Election of Committee:**

The follows members of the Committee were elected en bloc:

Mrs. Irene Black, Mrs. Frauke Burge, Mrs Rosamund Calow (Schools Liaison), Mrs. Barbara Ford (Newsletter Editor), Mrs. Patricia Grayburn (University Liaison), Ald. Bernard Parke, Mrs. Camilla Winn.

Peter asked if anyone was interested in taking up the office of Social Secretary which has become vacant following Katie Butcher's death.

Borough Councillor Nominations:

The three Council Representatives on our Committee will be appointed by Guildford Borough Council in the next two weeks.

Election of Hon. Auditor. Michael Gorman confirmed **David Barr** is happy to stand for another year. David was nominated by Peter Slade & seconded by Ros Calow.

7. Any Other Business

Deputy Mayor Gordon Jackson announced that Peter Slade has been awarded the Mayor of Guildford's Award for Service to the Community & was presented with a certificate with thanks.

After the end of the formal part of the meeting, a film about "Freiburg: The Green City" was shown.

The floor was then opened for questions & discussion.

- **Trevor Jones** asked about the EU referendum & whether we should perhaps promote this, & if so what form would it take. Trevor suggested hiring a speaker to talk about what membership of the EU means.
- It was suggested that having a speaker who is a member of the Council, or from the German Embassy, would enrich the meeting. If a speaker could be found, the talk should be advertised in the Surrey Advertiser.

- Michael Gorman reported that we are not a registered charity, but that we enjoy support from all 3 parties, & we would not wish to jeopardise this. It would certainly be interesting to hear other views, but we should not take a political view. The topic would be sure to generate a lot of debate, & we should have various views represented.
- Members felt that further thought needs to be given to the topic, & to the format of the debate.

The meeting closed at 8:15pm. Notes prepared by Pauline Azizi