

GUILDFORD-FREIBURG ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

29 May 2014

Present: David Elms - Mayor of Guildford and about 30 members

Chairman's Introduction: The Chairman, Peter Slade, welcomed all members to the meeting. He then advised that there had been a change to the programme and Chris Reynolds would give a talk on his recent visit to Freiburg before the official business of the evening – see page 3 for a brief résumé.

- 1. Appointment of Mayor as President.** Peter Slade welcomed the Mayor of Guildford, David Elms, and confirmed that in accordance with the Constitution he was appointed as our President for the year. David would also be taking the chair for the meeting and he was thanked by Peter for attending.
- 2. Apologies for Absence:** Camilla Allison, Kathy Atkins, Brenda Bentley, Irene Black, Katie Butcher, Gavin Dix, Graham Ellwood, Angela & Frank Gunning, Joanna Howse, Anthony & Tessa Johnson, Helen Poole, John Perry, Veronica Plested, Jennifer Powell, Tony Stockwell, Keith & Lucy Taylor, Tony Trent and David Watts
- 3. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting 29 May 2013.** 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 – see attached.
- 5. Treasurer's & Membership Secretary's Report.**

Copies of the audited accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2014 were distributed at the AGM by Michael Gorman, Honorary Treasurer.

Michael reported that current membership of 117 members on the list equates to 177 people, 60 couples and 57 single people. This is an increase of 5 entries since May 2013, 10 members having been gained and five lost. Of the 117 entries more than 100 are on e-mail, which saves a lot of money in postage. The membership list is held on computer and is subject to the Data Protection Act; Michael gave his assurance that proper care is taken of the data and it is only used for the purposes of the Association.

Michael then referred to his Treasurer's Report, the audited figures having been signed off by David Barr, our Honorary Auditor. The balance as of 8 May 2014 when the accounts were prepared was £4,900, £130 more than in May 2013. Income during the year comprised subscriptions, the annual grant from Guildford Borough Council, surpluses from social functions and a small amount of bank interest.

Payments included a £9 bank charge for transferring money to Germany in respect of goods purchased from Freiburg for the Christmas Market. Barbara Ford suggested PayPal could be considered in future. Secretarial expenses now include the purchase of printer cartridges and the £447 charge for printing 300 copies of the 16-page colour newsletter is considered very reasonable.

The £20 subscription to the British-German Association is a worthwhile fee as it keeps us in touch with events in London, as circulated by Peter Slade, and the £400 spent on donations to other twinning events included money given to the Guildford City Boys & Girls Football Club.

Finances are therefore in a healthy state and we continue to look for the right sort of people to give money to; any sensible suggestions would be welcome.

Ian Stewart queried why subscription receipts were lower than in the previous year and Michael replied that reminders had not been sent out in 2013. He added that he was receiving a good response to this year's reminders and subscriptions should return to the level of two years ago.

Trevor Jones asked what is done with the extra copies of the newsletter and Michael advised some are sent to Borough councillors and some put out at events such as the Christmas Market. An economical sale price would be £1.50 but we do not sell any as such publications have to be given away. Peter Slade added that further copies are sent to Freiburg, we always send a current and a previous year's newsletter to new members and we do not have many copies of the 2013 newsletter left. Barbara Ford pointed out that the newsletter also acts as good publicity.

Peter Slade advised that he would like to encourage members to consider paying their subscription by standing order as this is very useful for the Association and Michael Gorman mentioned he was very happy to take membership subscriptions after the meeting.

Peter Slade commented that a number of members attend British-German Association events in London, approximately a dozen people having attended last year's Parliamentary Day. Frauke Burge advised that 10 people from the Anglo-German Club in Freiburg will be attending this year's event.

Peter Slade reported that he has had trouble recently in sending out e-mails and a member suggested messages with attachments might go into the junk mail folder.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Trevor Jones and seconded by Barbara Ford.

6. Elections

- a) **Appointment of Patron - Anne Milton MP.** Agreed as in the Constitution.
- b) **Election of Officers.** The following officers were unanimously re-elected:
Chairman: Dr Peter Slade
Vice Chairman: Mr Wolfgang Pietrek
Hon. Secretary: Ms Hilary Mills
Hon. Treasurer/Membership Sec: Mr Michael Gorman
- c) **Election of Committee.** In reply to a query from David Elms, Peter Slade confirmed Camilla Allison is now happy to sit on the Committee.

The following were elected en bloc:

**Mrs Irene Black, Mrs Frauke Burge, Mrs Katie Butcher (Social Secretary),
Mrs Rosamund Calow (Schools Liaison), Mrs Barbara Ford (Newsletter Editor),
Mrs Patricia Grayburn (University Liaison), Ald. Bernard Parke**

**Council Representatives (appointed by Guildford Borough Council):
Cllr Graham Ellwood, Cllr David Goodwin, Cllr Keith Taylor.**

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

7. Any Other Business

- **Schools Liaison** – Peter Slade advised that schools liaison had been mostly covered in his Chairman’s Report but Ros Calow was asked to say an extra word. Ros advised it is very pleasing that the exchange between the Goethe Gymnasium and George Abbot School is still highly successful, the students from Guildford visiting Freiburg every spring and the Freiburg students coming here in the summer term. In addition, a group from the Max Weber Schule comes to Guildford every autumn to attend a course which includes work experience placements; this is very much enjoyed.

Peter Slade also met up with pupils from the Karlschule who were staying in Hastings but visited Guildford for the day. Hastings offers inexpensive accommodation and possibilities are being explored in Guildford to offer similar facilities.

Ros advised it continues to be quite hard to persuade schools to take up exchanges with Germany as many schools now teach Spanish and also only have limited time to take children out of the classroom. It is also thought the recession might be biting in Germany as fewer requests are being received. Ros will continue to work on promoting schools liaison and she added the Association can offer small grants to people who want to go to Freiburg but cannot afford it; this might include children who wish to participate in the tennis matches.

Peter Slade asked whether any progress had been made on a possible exchange between the Karlschule and St Catherine’s in Bramley or St Peter’s, but Ros said nothing further seems to have happened.

- **30 Year Anniversary of Football Club Exchange in 2015.** David Elms referred to an e-mail he had received from Phil Dyas and Peter Slade advised that the 30th anniversary of the exchange between the Guildford City Boys & Girls Football Club and Blau-Weiss Freiburg will take place next year. The Association is keen to do all it can to support the big event to be held in Guildford over Easter 2015; there will probably be in excess of 100 visitors from Freiburg. Plans need to be discussed fairly soon and Peter advised we have an association member who holds a list of accommodation. David Elms suggested university or church accommodation could be considered.
- **Newsletters.** Peter advised newsletters – and glasses of wine - were available for collection at the back of the hall.

David Elms closed the meeting at 9.07 p.m.

Chris Reynolds, Guildford Borough Council’s recently-appointed Climate Change and Sustainability Officer presented his illustrated talk. Together with the Managing Director Sue Sturgeon, the Council Leader Stephen Mansbridge and a few other Council officers and councillors he visited Freiburg in May 2014 to discuss environmental issues. Using photographs taken during the trip, Chris described and discussed the four principal issues he went to observe: transport, energy efficiency, community and spatial planning. Comparisons were made with Guildford and Chris hopes it will be possible to incorporate some of Freiburg’s systems into our own town.

During his very interesting and informative talk Chris was happy to answer questions posed by members. Peter Slade wondered whether Chris and perhaps one or two colleagues would give a talk to the Association some time in the future.

David Elms mentioned the possibility of a return visit relating to sustainability in October.