

GUILDFORD-FREIBURG ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

30 May 2012

Present: Jennifer Jordan - Mayor of Guildford and about 32 members

Chairman's Introduction: The Chairman, Peter Slade, welcomed all members to the meeting and thanked them for attending. The Chairman especially welcomed the new President of the Association Mayor Jennifer Jordan and all new members who had not attended an AGM previously.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Anne Milton MP – Patron, Kathy Atkins, Jean and Gordon Bridger, Pat Grayburn, John and Caroline Greenwood, Angela and Frank Gunning, Stanley Hemming-Clark, Anna Hummel, Bob and Marilyn Jarrett, Tessa Johnson, Diana Lockyer-Nibbs, Peter Lutzeier, Bill and Valerie Monaghan, David Petche, Vicky Slade, David and Marie Watts, David and Jenny Welbourn.
2. **Minutes of Annual General Meeting 1 June 2011.** These were circulated at the meeting. There were no comments and the minutes were agreed.
3. **Chairman's Report.** Peter Slade summarised the highlights of the past year in his report – see attached. Peter then advised that copies of the 2012 newsletter would be available at the end of the evening for collection; he also asked that anyone having any thoughts on how to improve the annual Christmas market should please speak to him. Finally, Peter commented that he was personally delighted that Freiburg's Oberbürgermeister Dieter Salomon had been able to visit Guildford in Autumn 2011.
4. **Treasurer's & Membership Secretary's Report.**

Copies of the audited accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2012 were distributed at the AGM by Michael Gorman, Honorary Treasurer. Michael advised they had been prepared by our Honorary Auditor, David Barr, who continues to offer his services voluntarily to the association. Michael confirmed the balance at year end was £4,154 versus £4,922 for the previous year, giving an overall deficit for the year of £768. However, one exceptional item of payment this year, as already discussed by the Chairman, was the visit by OB Dieter Salomon. The visit had originally been envisaged for 2009, the 30th anniversary of twinning, as at that time Guildford Borough Council had advanced us money towards the arrangements. As the visit eventually took place in 2011 and changes had in the interim occurred regarding Council expenditure it was felt that the grant should be reimbursed. £1,131 was therefore returned, being the sum originally granted to us in 2009. Excluding this £1,131 the operating profit would have been £363; including it gives a deficit of £768, as mentioned earlier. This figure does include the generous new sponsorship from Allianz Insurance, so overall in reality more money was spent than was received. This is however only right as it is our function to see that money goes to good causes - £800 was also granted to other twinning events, including the money donated to the Guildford Vox Choir. Michael also mentioned that two payments were made to the Guildford City Boys and Girls Football Club because of the variability of the date of Easter, and it was unlikely that we would be due to make a payment to them in the forthcoming financial year. It was a good year for social functions, which gave a net surplus of £225, and Michael thanked all who attend our social functions and support them, allowing the money to come in.

Michael stated he would be happy to answer any questions; there were none.

Michael then stated that membership comprised 113 entries in the data base, corresponding to 165 people. This equates to 61 single people and 52 couples. 97 entries are on e-mail and Michael is grateful to those people who allow us to contact them electronically as it is an easier way to keep people up to date with what is happening. Michael also appreciates the fact that 38 subscriptions are received as standing orders. He added that subscriptions were now due from anyone not paying by standing order and who had not recently paid by cheque and he would be delighted to receive any payments after the meeting. Michael will send out letters and standing order forms in a month or so to anyone whose subscription remains overdue.

Michael advised the membership figures were approximately comparable with those from the previous year, with one or two inevitable changes as people move away. Membership remains steady and Michael thanked all members for their continuing support.

5. Elections

- a) **Appointment of Patron - Anne Milton MP**
- b) **Appointment of President – Jennifer Jordan – Mayor of Guildford.** Peter Slade advised that the Association's Constitution suggests that the mayor of Guildford for the year should be president. He invited Mayor Jennifer Jordan to stand as President, which the Mayor accepted.
- c) **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

Michael Gorman suggested his job could be split if someone would like to join the committee and take over part of the job, otherwise he is happy to continue in both roles.

- d) **Election of 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), Mrs Val Hazelwood, Ald. Bernard Parke**
Council Representatives:
Cllr Graham Ellwood, Cllr David Goodwin, Cllr Keith Taylor.
- e) **Election of Hon Auditor. David Barr** was proposed by Katie Butcher and unanimously re-elected.

6. Any Other Business

John Bannister asked who was the most senior member of Guildford Borough Council to have visited Freiburg in the last 12 months. Peter Slade replied that there had not been any. Cllr Jennifer Powell commented that the previous Mayor Terence Patrick had enjoyed the lecture given by Oberbürgermeister Dieter Salomon at Surrey University.

Mayor Jennifer Jordan advised she had been present at the inauguration of the original twinning in 1979.

Ros Calow advised that as Schools Liaison Officer for the Association she had received a request from a 17-year-old young man seeking an internship in Guildford for a month. We were not able to help him, particularly as he is under 18 years old, and the Volunteer Bureau was also unable to assist. He has now found suitable work in London but as such requests have been received before and we might be approached again, Ros asked that if anyone has connections to a charity which might be able to help they should please let her know.

Tom Sharp asked whether any residents of the towns or boroughs of Guildford and Freiburg are participating directly in the forthcoming Olympic Games and if so, might it be appropriate to send them our best wishes. Mayor Jennifer Jordan advised that four members of the Wey Kayak Club are competing and Peter Slade advised he would make enquiries at Freiburg City Council.

Peter Slade asked people to contact him if they had any ideas for activities that we are not already doing.

The official business of the AGM ended at 8.01 p.m.

The meeting was followed by an extremely interesting talk by Christine Clarke, a member of the Guildford Vox Choir which had recently enjoyed an extremely successful visit to Freiburg and she thanked the GFA for the donation they made towards the costs of the trip. The choir sang at various venues and also performed with the Freiburger Senior Salon Orchester. Sightseeing opportunities were much appreciated and the visitors were very impressed with the attractions of Freiburg and the Black Forest.

In her lively and entertaining talk Christine commented on the wonderful hospitality the choir members were shown throughout their stay.

An article written by a choir member will be published in the 2013 newsletter.