

GUILDFORD – FREIBURG ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 18 May 2017 in the Guildford Borough Council Chamber, Millmead House

Present: Outgoing Chairman Peter Slade, Incoming Chair Barbara Ford, Treasurer Michael Gorman, Hon. Secretary Hilary Perry and approximately 20 members.

Chairman's Introduction: The Outgoing Chairman, Peter Slade, welcomed all members to the meeting, held in the Council Chamber for the first time. Peter advised that the Council now charges a fee for use of the Guildhall but had offered us use of the Council Chamber free of charge. Committee meetings are also held at the Council offices.

1. Appointment of Mayor as President: Mayor Nigel Manning was unfortunately unable to attend the AGM but as provided in our Constitution he was duly appointed as our new President for the year. In his absence Incoming Chair Barbara Ford took the chair.

2. Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Anne Milton MP as our Patron, The Mayor Nigel Manning, The Deputy Mayor Mike Parsons, Pauline Azizi, Brenda Bentley, Frauke Burge, Sonia Coombe, Andrea & Günter Dombrowe, Alison & Chris Farara, Julie Francis, Michael Jeffery, Tessa Johnson, Trevor Jones, Jennifer Jordan, Jennifer Margrave, Cllr. Nikki Nelson-Smith, Veronica Plested, Ian and Ann Stewart, David and Marie Watts and Joan Wrenn.

3. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting 25 May 2016. These were circulated at the meeting. No points were raised so the minutes were approved.

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 2017 were distributed at the AGM by Michael Gorman, Honorary Treasurer.

Michael firstly reported that as at 1 May 2017 the association had 151 members. With 100 different addresses this equates to 51 couples and 49 singles, just a slight change from the previous year.

Membership remains very healthy and subscription reminders sent out in May had resulted in a good number of renewals. Michael thanked members for their continued support.

Michael then presented his Treasurer's Report, the audited figures having been signed off by David Barr, our honorary auditor.

Assets at 1 April 2016 £5,529; assets at 31 March 2017 £5,285; deficit (i.e. payments minus receipts) 2016/17 £244

- Michael was not unduly worried about the deficit as a healthy balance is held at the bank and expenditure had been on worthwhile projects. Income included the annual grant from Guildford Borough Council.
- The net surplus on all social events was £159, some having made a surplus and some a deficit.
- Secretarial expenses amounted to £380; this includes postage and telephone calls.
- £370 was spent on the 200 copies of the 16-page, full colour newsletter, ie each copy cost under £2. The editor was congratulated on finding an efficient printer.

- A donation had been made to George Abbot School to help with twinning activities.
- Two public lectures were held in the Guildhall, the hire of which had to be paid for.
- The German dinner at Guildford College made a small loss of £50, the total turnover being approx £1,000. This was an excellent event with good attendance.

A deficit is expected next year as we will pay travel costs of the two people manning the Guildford stall at the Freiburg Partner Cities Fair 2017 and those of two musicians who will perform for us at the Fair, an accordionist and a violinist.

Postscript: the Partner Cities Fair after the June 2017 Fair will now take place in 2020, the 900 year anniversary of the founding of Freiburg.

After his report, the Treasurer answered questions.

Q: Why is the Guildford Borough Council grant showing as £840 for 2015 and £420 for 2016?

A: The £840 shown in 2016 covers 2015 and 2016, the 2015 payment having been delayed. Future payments are expected to continue at the level of £420. Some town twinning groups in South East England receive generous funding from their local councils, and others receive nothing at all from councils, so we are somewhere in between.

Michael commented that we would want to ensure we keep a sum of money in hand for the right causes.

Q: Is the Churches Together group a separate organisation?

A: Yes. Although we collaborate to some extent, finances are separate. They look after their own expenses and we do not pay any money to or for them. The Churches Group was established a few months before our association was founded.

Michael Gorman thanked all those present.

6. Elections:

Peter Slade and Wolfgang Pietrek resigned as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

a) **Appointment of Patron - Anne Milton MP.** Agreed as in the Constitution.

b) **Election of officers:** The following officers were unanimously elected:

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| Chairman: | Barbara Ford (proposed by Peter Slade) |
| Vice chairman: | Peter Slade (proposed by Barbara Ford) |
| Hon. Treasurer/Membership Sec: | Michael Gorman |
| Hon. Secretary: | Hilary Perry |

c) **Election of Committee:**

The following members of the committee were all elected or re-elected en bloc:

Pauline Azizi (Minutes Secretary), Irene Black (Newsletter Editor), Frauke Burge (Social Secretary), Rosamund Calow, Patricia Grayburn (University Liaison), Ald. Bernard Parke. Councillors Nikki Nelson-Smith, Mike Piper and David Goodwin.

Michael Gorman advised the accounts have been audited this year by Hon. Auditor David Barr, who is happy to be elected for next year.

7. Any Other Business

- Michael Gorman advised that with the appointment of a new Chair, the bank requires new signatories.
- Peter Slade advised that the Council have offered us the use of the Council Chamber for our public meetings, free of charge, instead of the Guildhall, as used hitherto and for which we now have to pay. Acoustics are better in the Chamber and it could seat more people

comfortably. Bernard Parke offered to check where parking would be permitted. Barbara suggested we should postpone a firm decision while we consider the offer further.

- Barbara Ford then thanked Peter Slade on behalf of the Committee and all the members for all he had done for the Association and for the cause during his time as committee member for 16 years, and Chairman for 11 of those years. She spoke of his enthusiasm for Freiburg and in particular for the environmental initiatives it espouses and adopts, and of the new members' activities he had initiated such as the public lectures and the group trips to Freiburg. She cited the recognition his efforts had been granted by the civic authorities of both towns, with a formal Certificate awarded by Freiburg City Council in 2014, and in 2015 an Award for Community Service given by the Mayor of Guildford. Our patron, Anne Milton MP had sent an email, which was read out, thanking Peter "for his devoted and unstinting service". Barbara then presented to Peter, on behalf of the Committee, the gift of a potted Japanese maple.
- Peter thanked Barbara for her kind words and the Committee for the gift. He had very much enjoyed the chairmanship and the contact with the splendid city of Freiburg and he wished Barbara all the best for the future.
- Barbara advised that printing of the newsletter had been postponed until the new Committee members had been confirmed and that copies would be sent out in due course.

Peter Slade then referred to several suggestions which had arisen at the 2016 AGM as well as subsequently concerning issues that might be raised with the Council:

- The Freiburg Baroque Orchestra had expressed interest in performing in Guildford. Peter assumed the venue would be GLive; the manager has expressed interest and has said she will look into this further. The orchestra can be split into sections and it was believed such a smaller section would be suitable for Guildford. The entire orchestra would also be performing at the Proms on the afternoon of 3 September but tickets were now hard to obtain. The similar-sized EU Baroque Orchestra had performed at GLive but the audience had been rather small.
- It is hoped a 'Freiburg Street' will be allocated in Guildford fairly soon, it is likely to be on the university campus.
- The Freiburg mosaic will probably be relocated to the new widened pedestrian bridge over the River Wey, near the Odeon. Barbara suggested this could be called 'Freiburg Bridge', Peter Slade felt there should be either a Freiburg Road or Freiburg Bridge but not both. Barbara Ford said she would suggest this anyway.
- As reported in the newsletter, another exchange had taken place between Freiburg and Guildford tennis clubs. It is hoped this will become a regular event.
- The Christmas market will take place in the Guildhall. We are granted one free use of this venue a year and this was the event chosen.
- Road signs had been discussed at the last AGM, Peter Slade confirmed this has been discussed on several occasions with the Council and he believes there is a commitment to change them, making Freiburg feature more prominently.

The AGM finished at 9.10 pm.

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Prior to the formal business of the meeting, a wine-tasting presented by Association member David Pêche of Petersfield Wines was enjoyed by a good number of appreciative members.

Notes prepared by Hilary Perry