



# LOWESTOFT AND PLAISIR TWINNING ASSOCIATION



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## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2019

AT 7.30 PM

BROADLANDS PARK AND MARINA, MARSH ROAD, LOWESTOFT

**Present:**

Chairman	Dr R Pulham		
Secretary	Mrs C Durrant		
Treasurer	Mrs C Franks		
Mrs P Whitlow	Mr R Allen	Mr N Morris	Cllr P Lang
Mrs C Hemp			

### 1. Apologies:

Mrs P Pulham            Mr L Johnson

### 2. Minutes of October Meeting:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman..

### 3. Matters Arising:

The Film Night on 8<sup>th</sup> November was attended by 19 people; £110 was received in donations.

The Craft Fair scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> November has been cancelled and the deposit refunded; it was feared that there may have been a lack of support mainly due to other events going on in the area at the same time. It is hoped that we can organise a similar event in the coming year with good forward planning, perhaps in the Spring.

Scottish Power had said that they would like My Rock Choir to perform at the opening of their new centre in Lowestoft but this event has already taken place.



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#### 4. Treasurer's Report:

Account balances:	Current a/c	£534.52
	Savings a/c	£4,895.47
	Petty cash	£54.09

The annual subscription of £10 has been paid to the Essex & Suffolk Twinning Congress and Richard Allen has been reimbursed for his travelling expenses.

A £20 donation was made to The Royal British Legion for the wreath laid on Remembrance Day.

#### 5. Visit of Plaisirois 2020:

The dates for the visit are confirmed as Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July; Lowestoft Town Council will invite the Mayor of Plaisir and we will invite our Mayor to an event, most probably the dinner.

It was agreed that the Friday, Saturday and Monday should be days out, with the family day being on the Sunday. It was also agreed that the dinner should be arranged for the Saturday evening; ACTION: Caroline to check availability of the Masonic Hall.

Cathy has made enquiries at Sutton Hoo and was told that the group prices for 2019 were £12.80 per adult and £6.40 per child with guided tours of burial grounds, if required, an extra £2.50 per person; there is expected to be a slight increase in these prices for 2020.

Other ideas for days out include Carlton Marshes as the new visitor centre should be open; Michelle (Beccles Twinning) has suggested a river trip from Beccles - Blyburgate Hall could be used for the picnic. Poppylands Tea Rooms at Horsey was another suggestion with its 40s and Dad's Army theme. It is hoped that there can be a visit to Hamilton House, perhaps to coincide with Lowestoft Maritime Museum and the new Ness Park.

#### 6. Future Programme:

Our next event will be the Annual Dinner on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020** at the Masonic Hall. Caroline read out a sample menu which the Committee agreed covers an adequate choice. The cost is set at £17 for two courses and £19 for three courses.

#### 7. Essex and Suffolk Twinning Congress:

Richard Allen reported that he had spoken of our successes, i.e. taking My Rock Choir to Plaisir and getting new people involved.

Ideas from other twinings for fund raising include safari lunches in people's homes and auction of promises; we could mention these ideas at the AGM to get members' opinions.



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The next Congress will take place on **Saturday 10th October 2020**. Lowestoft Twinning Association has agreed to host, so a venue must be found; ACTION: Neil to contact The Seagull Theatre as this seems the most suitable. A buffet will need to be supplied and it is hoped that we can arrange a guest speaker, either to talk about Lowestoft or, as the date coincides with World Mental Health Day, we could invite Tod Sullivan, the Mental Health Ambassador for Lowestoft, to speak.

The Congress Agenda is always the same, i.e. arrival and coffee at 9.30am; speaker until 10am; each representative then talks about their own associations, successes etc, followed by lunch at 12.30pm.

Michelle from Beccles Twinning will invite Great Yarmouth, Norwich and Catton twinings as these places, although in Norfolk, are in relatively close proximity to Lowestoft.

If the Congress is held at the Seagull guests will have easy access to Pakefield and the beach if they wish after the meeting.

## **8. Publicity and Promotion:**

Essex and Suffolk Twinning Congress are willing to advertise our events and those of other twinings on their website.

## **9. Fund Raising:**

It has been agreed at our meeting that Richard Pulham will make application to Lowestoft Town Council for our grant on behalf of Lowestoft and Plaisir Twinning Association; this application is to raise money for the forthcoming visit; we will also ask East Suffolk Council if they are able to help from their locality budget. We need to send in three things with the application: Constitution (to be confirmed at the AGM), Safeguarding and Equal Opportunities policies.

## **10. Strengthening Links:**

Dominique Jenaste has emailed Richard Allen explaining that she is part of a group of around ten persons learning English who want to visit Lowestoft for a few days to help improve their skills, including meeting with Richard's French class at Sam's Café; they will need hosting but are willing to contribute towards any expenses involved. We need to establish dates as soon as possible.

A teacher in Plaisir wants an exchange visit with Lowestoft children aged between 8 and 12 years some time between next September and June 2021; ACTION: Colleen knows someone at Dell School who has a French partner and will make enquiries. There could also be a group of adolescents who wish to exchange; ACTION: Colleen to contact the Drill Hall in St Peter's Street regarding accommodation.. We must keep options open to see what response there is from schools.



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## 11. Any Other Business:

When Richard and Pat were in France recently they put a pot plant on Marie Cadoil's grave on the Association's behalf; they also saw Christiane Guilleman's grave.

Sybil Taylor who, with her husband, was a founder member of our Association recently passed away; the association will make a donation when we know to whom; Pat Whitlow will inform us in due course.

We also learnt of the passing of Nicholas Brighthouse who signed the Twinning Agreement; he was a past chairman and possibly our first treasurer, although he ceased to be a member many years ago.

When we were in Plaisir this year the long weekend of Ascension Day caused a few problems with hosting but this should not coincide again until 2025.

Committee members present were asked if they are happy to stand again for the coming year.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

## 12. Date and Venue of next Meeting:

Tuesday 14h January 2020, 7.30pm – Broadlands Park and Marina.

**N.B.** The **AGM** will be held at the same venue on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020.



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