



West Lothian & Grapevine Twinning Association

Minute of AGM

Held on Wednesday 6th June 2012 at 5.30pm
In Almond Valley Heritage Centre

In Attendance: Robin Chesters (Chair), Pauline Connor (Secretary), John Aitken (Treasurer), Cllr Tom Kerr, Cllr John McGinty, Cllr Harry Cartmill, Cllr Andrew Miller, Alistair Shaw, Peter Kerr, David Tait, Bob Prentice (WL College), Tommy Smith (WL College)

Apologies: Cllr David Dodds, Cllr Dave King, David Innes, Guy Hunter, Ann Hunter

1. Chairman's Welcome

After welcoming those present, Robin reflected on the past year and gave an update on the various exchanges that had taken place including School Student & Teacher exchanges, Golf Exchange, Culinary Exchange and Professional Exchange. Robin also spoke about the successful internship and gave an update on Eva's time in Grapevine and working for Visit West Lothian.

2. Approval of AGM Minute from 2011

The minute was proposed as an acceptable minute by Tom Kerr and seconded by John Aitken.

3. Matters Arising

John brought up the fact that we had once again had to bid for funding and although we had asked for £9,000 due to the forthcoming official visit and the various exchange visit's that the association were supporting, we only received £1,500.

At the last AGM John had presented unaudited accounts - these have now been examined by Robert Preston.

4. Treasurer's Report

John presented the meeting with the Accounts for the past year which have been issued but not yet independently audited. The current balance is just over £9,000. Accounts were approved subject to being audited. John noted that we had received £3,000 in funding from the Council last year but had spent around £6,000. He again raised his concerns about the apportionment of funding that we had received this year and does not understand why we were granted such a small amount, it seemed that we were being penalised for being prudent. Robin said that he had spoken to Gordon Connolly and he confirmed that we received a smaller amount because of the reserves we had in the bank.

Tom Kerr noted that Hochsaureland received a sizable portion of the funding due to the official visit to West Lothian taking place this year, however, he was more concerned that the Bathgate Twinning was becoming an official West Lothian Council Twinning organisation.



Annual fee of £1 collected from all members present plus Lyn Aitken.

4. Appointment of Auditor

John proposed that Robert Preston be approached again to act as Examiner this was seconded by Peter Kerr

5. Election of Executive Committee

Council Nominated Committee Members:

The members from West Lothian Council following the recent election will be:-
Councillor John McGinty, Councillor Tom Kerr, Councillor Dave King, Councillor Harry Cartmill,
Councillor David Dodds and Councillor Andrew Miller.

Election of Office Bearers:

Chair - Tom Kerr was nominated by John McGinty and seconded by Robin Chesters

Vice-Chair - Robin Chesters was nominated by Harry Cartmill and seconded by Tom Kerr

Secretary - Pauline Connor was nominated by Robin Chesters and seconded by John Aitken

Treasurer - John Aitken was nominated by Tom Kerr and seconded by Peter Kerr

Election of other Executive Committee Members:

The following members are to remain as part of the Executive Committee:

Peter Kerr, Bob Prentice, Guy Hunter, Ann Hunter, David Tait.

Lyn Aitken would like to remain as an ordinary member.

Alistair Shaw will continue to be the link officer for the Council.

John Aitken thanked Robin, on behalf of the Committee, for his hard work over the past 3 years as Chair and was delighted that he was going to stay on the Committee as Vice Chair.

This concluded the AGM