



## TWYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of organisations interested in finding out more about twinning with Quincy held at 7:30pm, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017 at Loddon Hall, Twyford.**

**Present:** Councillors: Mr David Fergusson (Chair), Mr Merv Boniface, Mr Malcolm Bray (also representing TRHA), Mrs Bridget Ditcham (also representing The Colleton School), Mr John Bowley, Mrs Lesley Jarvis, Mr John Jarvis (also representing the Youth Centre), Mr Roy Mantel, Mr Richard Morris & Mr Charles Smith. Members of local organisations: Mr David Bates (Sonning Twinning & Sonning Parish Council representative), Mrs Jacky Crossman (High Voltage Singers), Mrs Audrey Curtis (The History Society & Age Concern), Mr Malcolm George (Snooker Club), Mrs Lesley Green (Sonning Twinning representative), Mrs Anne Helmore (Guides), Mrs Jan Kendall, Mr Steve Green (Twyford Comets), Mr John March (Scouts), Mr Gordon Storey (Twyford Together), Mr Steve Walkland (Cricket Club), Mr G Wise (History Society & Bowling Club), Mrs Lynn Woodhouse (Sonning Twinning representative), Mr Keith & Mrs Valerie Woods,

**Apologies:** Councillors - Mrs Teresa Ramsden, Mr David White & Mr C Wickenden. Members of organisations - Mrs Emma Donald, Mr Gordon Holmes (Age Concern), Mrs Kathy Peck (Youth Centre) & Mrs Annette Stain (Bowling Club).

### **1. Welcome**

Twyford Parish Council Chairman – Mr Roy Mantel welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mr David Fergusson, Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee who chaired the meeting.

### **2. Background to the idea**

Mr David Fergusson thanked everyone for attending and reported that Quincy approached Twyford Parish Council early last year with a view to forming a twinning relationship with Twyford. This has been discussed within the Parish Council and over the last months there has been correspondence between the Parish Council and the Quincy Council.

He reported that Quincy is located between Arras and Lens and is quite close to Lille in eastern France. Google says that it takes 2 days and 13 hours to walk there plus a short swim. Otherwise it is an 18 hour cycle ride including a train through the Channel

Tunnel. Or it will take around 4.5 hours to drive there. Cuincy is similar in size to Twyford at around 7,000 people and their objectives of twinning include pairings and possibly exchanges between schools, sports clubs and senior citizen clubs. It is important to highlight that next year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the First World War and it would be good to be in a position to join this celebration with Cuincy. Overall the Parish Council is happy to support a twinning but it is our feeling that for this to be a success it needs to be driven by the community and the community associations. This is the reason for tonight's meeting; what we would like to know is the level of interest within the community and also who is interested in volunteering to help make this twinning a success.

Mr Fergusson introduced Mrs Lesley Green, Mrs Lynn Woodhouse, Mr David Bates all members of Sonning's Twinning association and Mr Bates is also a serving Parish Councillor.

### **3. Sonning's twinning relationship with Ligugé**

The Sonning Twinning Association was created by charter in September 1995. Its purpose is "to promote and foster friendship and understanding between people of Sonning and those of Ligugé in la Vienne, France". The start of the bond began as part of a university project and the two villages were matched due to demographic similarities. The Sonning Twinning Association have a committee of 6 plus representatives and charge a £10 annual membership fee. They produce a joint newsletter up to three times a year. They fundraise and need £2,000 per annum to run. They have a joint brainstorming meeting with the Ligugé committee every two years to plan forthcoming exchanges and ideas. They have a bursary scheme and each year a bursary of £250 is granted to an under 18 year old to travel to Ligugé. Exchanges have been particularly successful in Sonning successfully fostering long term friendships. The two villages exchange artwork and gifts, recently celebrating their 21<sup>st</sup> 'twinning' anniversary. Ligugé now have a park called 'Sonning Park' and Sonning have a road called 'Ligugé Way'.

Mrs Green read the Twinning Charter: "We representing the people of Sonning in the Royal County of Berkshire, England, gladly enter into a twinning bond between ourselves and the people of Ligugé in La Vienne, France.

We will encourage our citizens to foster friendship and mutual understanding with the people of Ligugé, believing in the principles of international peace and accord.

We especially wish to promote cultural exchange between our two schools and between the families of our two communities. We hope that contacts between our young people will develop into lifelong friendships and strengthen the bonds between us. We also seek to forge sporting, social, cultural and professional links between our citizens of all ages."

### **4. Purpose of the meeting - to gauge support and enthusiasm to twin**

A discussion took place on how Twyford might be involved in a Twinning bond. Mr Gordon Storey suggested that businesses could be engaged through sponsorship of social events that might be organised. He suggested the Christmas Fayre and advent calendar events that might appeal to visitors from Cuincy. He thought that Robertsons Languages might like to be involved in running French language classes.

John March said that there was a model already in place with Twyford Comets already having an exchange that has been running for 36 years with Ullestraton, Holland.

Audrey Curtis suggested that we establish something about Cuincy to tell people about. It was agreed that we need to know what clubs and activities we have in common that may be able to foster an exchange with. A discussion took place on funding activities and how the twinning might work in practice.

## **5. Way forward**

It was agreed that the Cuincy leaflet and website details will be circulated along with the minutes of the meeting. A resume of the meeting will be reported at the Annual Parish Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> April. A meeting will be held in 4 weeks time and this will be opened up to all interested individuals and representatives of organisations. At this point names could be put forward to start a Twinning Association. Agreed for the clerk to make Cuincy aware of the interest.

**Date of next meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7:45pm in the Ruscombe Room, Loddon Hall.**

**The meeting closed at 8:50pm**