Minutes of AGM of the Essex and Suffolk Joint Twinning Congress
October 10th 2020. Zoom.

1. Mary Dunk and Richard Allen welcomed participants to this first-ever online meeting. Present - Lowestoft Plaisir, Beccles, Felixstowe, Haverhill, Bury St Edmunds Compiegne, Sudbury, Stansted Mountfichet, Chelmsford, Brentwood Montbazon, Great Waltham, Colchester, Ongar, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk Association of Twin Communities.

2. John Stephens was introduced as the host, he explained how the technology would be used to create break-out rooms, a poll, and also the use of the mute button. Participants were able to add on-screen names of the association they represented.

3. The minutes of the 2019 meeting, and the financial statements, were approved and members voted to accept them. David Whiteing was thanked for preparing the statements.

4. Britta Schluter, Political Counsellor at the German Embassy, was introduced and spoke eloquently of the opportunities offered by Town Twinning. She had taken part in twinning exchanges in Yorkshire whilst at school and retained many fond memories. She explained that the German Embassy team is very keen to reach out to areas outside London, and that they would help with any twinning project where appropriate. Her contribution was much appreciated.

5. Break-out room discussion - How can we keep the spirit of twinning alive? (Separate notes are attached.) Participants were divided into groups for discussions and reported back. It was noted that the tone was very positive, and many useful suggestions for online and social activities were suggested.

6. General discussions ensued, into which the other 2 questions on the agenda were subsumed. Mary made an appeal for material for the website.

7. A.O B. Nothing raised.

Mary thanked John for his skill in organising the meeting, Britta for her inspiring contribution and Richard for hospitality on behalf of Lowestoft.

8. Date and venue for the next meeting

The Seagull Theatre, Lowestoft. Saturday October 9th 2021.
Meeting closed 11.35.