



TWINNING COMMITTEE

4.00 pm – 5.10 pm

5 March 2009

Present: Councillors Blower (Chair) Gledhill (Vice Chair), Collishaw and Jeraj, Ralph Gayton, Jill Noble, Canon David Sharp, The Lord Mayor, Doug Underwood, Waltraud Jarrold and Christine Wilson

Apologies: Councillors Lay and Sands, Claire Alban, David McKay, Peter Beckley and County Councillor Northam (Chairman Norfolk County Council)

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2008 subject to:-

- (1) item 3d resolution 2 amended to read to thank Peter Beckley and Doug Underwood for their report;
- (2) item 3c amended to read Norwich Philharmonic Choir would be visiting Koblenz on 22-25 April 2009.

2. TWINNING FUND – FINANCIAL POSITION

The Twinning Officer presented the report. He advised the Committee that the annual grant of £2060 would be available from April 2009.

RESOLVED to note the Twinning Fund balance (in-hand) at 23 February 2009 of £973.27.

3. GRANT MADE TO NORFOLK AND NORWICH NOVI SAD ASSOCIATION

RESOLVED to note, under delegated authority the Twinning Officer in consultation with the Chair granted £200 to the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association.

4. GENERAL REPORTS

4 (a) Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link

Ralph Gayton presented the report and advised members that a new initiative had been set up in schools in El Viejo called the 'Link Corner' to help children learn about life in another country as well as provide them with information relating to the 'Link' and the assistance this provides.

The Link had been invited to submit a nomination for the Civic Award for Voluntary Services for the 2008/09 Civic Year. Following a conversation with the Civic Office, Ralph Gayton was advised that the award scheme was limited to the voluntary services and support to the community of Norwich and international activity did not qualify. Ralph Gayton said he would ask that an additional category be added to the scheme to recognise the international voluntary service.

Ralph Gayton said the Link had approved his visit proposed visit to El-Viejo and circulated a programme of activity. Members discussed a grant towards the cost of the visit.

RESOLVED to:–

- (1) grant £500 towards costs associated with Ralph Gayton's visit to El Viejo;
- (2) thank Ralph Gayton for the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship report.

4(b) Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association

Waltraud Jarrold presented the report and referred to the Council's A to Z of services which had resulted in several enquires for links, the Association continues to get requests for assistance from students and young people wishing to come to Norwich for work experience or for exchanges or pen pals.

Several activities had been arranged for 2009 along with the Association's visit to Koblenz 22nd to 27th September, a large coach had been booked and anyone who wished to join the group would be welcome.

RESOLVED to thank Waltraud Jarrold for the Norfolk and Norwich Friendship Association report.

4(c) Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Doug Underwood presented the report and thanked the Lord Mayor for attending the festivities including 'Celebration of the Day of the City' in Novi Sad. He reported that the Novi Sad Friendship Bridge plaque had been moved to a more prominent place and the maintenance had been completed. Members discussed the signage of the bridge, which Norfolk County Council had agreed to maintain.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) agree to the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association investigating stencilling and the sign on the Novi Sad Bridge;
- (2) thank Doug Underwood for the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association report.

4(d) Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association

Christine Wilson presented the report and said there were doubts regarding the continuation of Association as both the Chairman and herself as Vice Chairman along with four other members had decided to stand down. No one at the

Extraordinary General Meeting had expressed an interest to become a member of the committee. The Twinning Officer offered the Twinning Assistant's support.

Christine Wilson outlined the events which would take place during the 50th Anniversary celebration weekend 22-24 May 2009.

The Twinning Officer announced this would be Christine's last time attending the Committee as Vice-Chair of the Association.

RESOLVED to thank Christine for the enormous amount of work she had contributed to the Twinning Committee and wished her well and thanked her for the Norfolk and Norwich Friendship Association report.

5. ROUEN 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The Twinning Officer explained the 14 May would be the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Twinning agreement between Rouen and Norwich. An invitation was sent to the Mairie in Rouen and the weekend of 22-24 May 2009 was agreed. Although the Council would contribute towards the cost of the weekend, there could be shortfall and a contribution may be required from the Twinning Committee budget.

Following discussion it was -

RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Twinning Officer in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair to make a contribution from the Twinning budget if needed.

6. APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM NORWICH TWENTY GROUP

RESOLVED to grant £100 to the Norwich Twenty Group to assist with costs associated with sending work to Rouen for an exhibition.

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED to note the next meeting would be held on 2 July 2009.

CHAIR