



## TWINNING COMMITTEE

4.00 pm – 5.10 pm

2 July 2009

Present: Councillors Hooke (Chair for this meeting), Peter Beckley, Mary Corbould, Ralph Gayton, Waltraud Jarrold, Jill Noble and June Perkins

Apologies: Councillors Blower (on council business) and Lay, Claire Alban, Canon David Sharp, Lord Mayor, Chairman Norfolk County Council, Doug Underwood

### 1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

**RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor Blower as Chair for the ensuing civic year.

### 2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

**RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor Gledhill as Vice Chair for the ensuing civic year.

### 3. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2009.

### Novi Sad Bridge

The Twinning Officer said as he was unsure what it was that the Association was asking for in respect of signage, he suggested that the Association takes this up direct with Norfolk County Council.

### 4. GENERAL REPORTS

#### 4 (a) Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association

Waltraud Jarrold presented the report and said this had been a very busy time with various visits taking place among those were the Norwich Philharmonic Choir's visit to the Rhein-Mosel Halle where they were joined by the Musik Institut choir. During May the Norwich Rotary Club visited Koblenz, also during May there were the 'Twin Lens' exhibition in both Norwich and Koblenz. Several activities had been arranged for the summer.

**RESOLVED** to thank Waltraud Jarrold for her report.

#### 4(b) Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Peter Beckley presented the report and informed members that the group from Norwich had taken books to Novi Sad in May for the 'English' section of the Novi Sad public library, which had been started by the British Council. Many of the books had been obtained through the 'Feed the Minds' book fair.

A Heritage Open Days would be taking place at City Hall from 10 -13 September 2009, which would include an exhibition of photographs of Vojvodina and an illustrated talk given by Diana Beckley entitled 'Novi Sad – Norwich's Serbian Twin'.

Next year would be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of twinning between Norwich and Novi Sad, which would involve a series of activities throughout the year.

**RESOLVED** to:

- (1) ask the Twinning Assistant to speak to the Communications team to arrange advertising the Heritage Day;
- (2) ask the Twinning Officer to arrange a meeting with Peter Beckley to discuss the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations;
- (3) thank Peter Beckley for his report.

**4(c) Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association**

Mary Corbould presented her first report as Chairman of the Rouen Association and said following their AGM and the election of their committee members the association would now continue to prosper.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend had rejuvenated goodwill and friendship, which would be followed by a return visit to Rouen in October.

**RESOLVED** to welcome Mary Corbould and thank her for the report.

**4(d) Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link**

Ralph Gayton presented the report and asked members to support his request to recommend that the Council consider an additional category to the 'Civic Award Scheme'. An international section would recognise the work by individuals and voluntary organisations in Norwich who carry out a wide variety of activities on behalf of disadvantaged people and communities in many parts of the world. This voluntary work gave a valued international perspective to activities within the City of Norwich and should be recognised within the Award Scheme.

He informed members that his visit to Nicaragua had been very successful and had achieved most of the objectives he had set out. He made reference to a Nicaragua Conference in Bristol on 12 November 2009, which was aimed at local authority councillors, officers and twinning organisations involved with Nicaragua.

**RESOLVED** to:

- (1) thank Ralph Gayton for his report;
- (2) ask the Twinning Assistant to arrange for Councillor Hooke to attend the Nicaragua conference in Bristol on 12 November 2009.

## **5. TWINNING FUND – FINANCIAL POSITION**

**RESOLVED** to note the Twinning Fund balance (in-hand) at 23 June 2009 of £2433.27.

## **6. ROUEN 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

The Twinning Officer presented the report and said the Rouen 50th Anniversary weekend had been very successful, not just the celebrations but the bringing together of young people, some of whom had not been out of France before. There had been good media coverage in the Eastern Daily Press and the Twinning Officer's radio interview, which promoted twinning in general. He thanked the Association for hosting the evening event at Blackfriars Hall and organising activities. He also thanked the rowers, footballers, Norwich City Council for their support and the hosts for hosting the visitors.

Mary Corbould commented on the success of the weekend and was particularly pleased that the twinning link had been re-established and the bringing together of the rowing clubs had been so successful with a return visit to Rouen already being planned.

**RESOLVED** to note the success of the Rouen 50th Anniversary weekend.

## **7. ANNUAL GRANT TO THE TWINNING ASSOCIATIONS**

The Twinning Officer presented the report. Peter Beckley said how valuable the £200 contribution was to the Associations.

**RESOLVED** to –

- (1) grant £200 to each of the three Twinning Associations, Koblenz, Novi Sad and Rouen;
- (2) the El Viejo Friendship Link to retain support in kind including photocopying etc.

## **8. APPLICATION FOR GRANT FROM THE NORWICH ROWING CLUB**

**RESOLVED** to grant £320 to the Norwich Rowing Club to assist with costs associated with their visit to Rouen in October.

## **9. CANON DAVID SHARP AND COUNCILLOR JENNY LAY**

**RESOLVED** to record the Committee's best wishes to Canon David Sharp and Councillor Jenny Lay following their recent illnesses.

## **10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** to note the next meeting would be held on 8 October 2009.

CHAIR