



**Twinning committee**

**16:00 to 17:25**

**15 March 2018**

Present: Councillors Fullman (Lord Mayor and chair), Bremner (vice chair), Brociek-Coulton, Kendrick (substitute for Councillor Peek), Raby and Wright: and Ralph Gayton (El Viejo), Waltraud Jarrold and Jill Noble (Koblenz); Sandra and Doug Underwood (Novi Sad) and Ann and Chris Rowe (Rouen)

Apologies: Councillors Maxwell, Peek, Ryan and Schmierer, and Councillor John Ward (Chairman of Norfolk County Council)

**1. Public questions/petitions**

There were no public questions or petitions.

**2. Declarations of interest**

Councillor Bremner said that he was a member of the Norfolk and Norwich / Koblenz Friendship Association and the Norfolk and Norwich / Rouen Friendship Association and was in the process of joining the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association.

Councillor Raby declared that he was a member of the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link and the Norfolk and Norwich / Rouen Friendship Association.

**3. Minutes**

**Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link**

Ralph Gayton said that he was disappointed that the minutes could not be amended as he considered that he had moved, seconded by Councillor Raby that the twinning committee was in solidarity with Nicaragua rather than, as minuted, noting the effect that the withdrawal of foreign investment could have on Nicaragua as a result of the United States' Nicaraguan Investment Conditionality Act 2017. The senior committee officer said that that the motion was not admissible and that the monitoring officer's advice had been sought. The Lord Mayor advised members to liaise with democratic services before the committee meeting if they wished the committee to agree an action arising from their reports.

**RESOLVED** to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2017, subject to item 6, Reports of the Twinning Associations, The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association noting the formatting issue in the first paragraph and deleting the partial sentence.

#### **4. Twining Fund – Financial Position**

The democratic and elections manager presented the report. The report set out a proposal for twinning associations and members to make detailed bids for funding with detailed information about the event which would then be considered by the committee at the next available meeting.

During discussion the Lord Mayor pointed out that funding should be set aside for events to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of twinning between Norwich and Rouen in 2019.

Discussion ensued on the allocation of funding for civic visits. Members were advised that Councillor Waters, Leader of the Council, had travelled with the Lord Mayor to Novi Sad in February and as a guest of the City of Koblenz. The cost of travel for the civic party had been taken out of the twinning fund. Members were reminded that the city council also had agreements with the twinned cities which were separate from the agreements between the associations. A member pointed out that the twinning fund was fortunate in that any surplus in the budget was carried forward year on year and that the Leader's visit had furthered the aims of twinning. Members were also advised that the purpose of the report was to report transactions in the twinning fund to the committee.

The committee noted that an enquiry had been received from the TRIORCA Youth Orchestra but it had been too late to submit an application for consideration at this committee meeting. Members noted that as an educational charity it was likely that there were other sources of funding which could be open to it but an application form would be sent for consideration at the next meeting.

#### **RESOLVED to:**

- (1) note the balance of the twinning fund is approximately £2,001.50;
- (2) ask that twinning associations and members to submit requests for funding for twinning events to be funded from the 2018-19 budget as soon as possible so that these can be considered at the June meeting of the committee.

#### **5. Reports of the Twining Associations**

##### **Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association**

Doug Underwood presented the report on behalf of the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association. This included a report on the Paul Cross Memorial Concert which had raised £14 for the Milan Petrović School in Novi Sad. The guest performers were Milica Stojadinović and her son, the outstanding pianist, Boško Stojadinović. The remainder of the report comprised from Mr Peter Beckley, MBE, on the visit to Novi Sad for the Celebration of the Day of the City. Members of the committee were welcome to attend the association's annual general meeting on 12 April 2018 at 19:30 and the annual lunch on 14 October 2018 at Park Farm.

The Lord Mayor said that the visit to Novi Sad had been excellent. He had been presented with a copy of the Empress Maria Theresa's seal which she had used in

1748 when she granted Novi Sad its freedom from the Austro-Hungarian Empire and a book on Novi Sad. The visit to Novi Sad had been his third as he had visited it as Lord Mayor in 1989 and again in 2001, shortly after the civil war. The Day of the City celebrations had been attended not only by representatives of Novi Sad's twin cities but for the first time in many years from representatives of the other cities across the former Yugoslavia. Representatives of Novi Sad had been invited to Norwich to look at traffic management, Park & Ride, and schemes to encourage cycling and walking. The Leader of the Council's visit had been worthwhile as he was in a position to make decisions because of his position. It was important to ensure that twinning links were strengthened and to look at ways that the city could contribute to Novi Sad as European City of Culture. People in Novi Sad remembered the aid that had been provided to them.

### **Norfolk and Norwich/Koblenz Friendship Association**

Waltraud Jarrold updated the committee on the activities of the Norfolk and Norwich/Koblenz Friendship Association. Preparations were being made for the civic visit to Koblenz to celebrate 40 years of twinning with Koblenz on 22 April 2018. She referred to the programme of activities and invited members to join in the events which included the annual summer visit to Woburn Abbey, the anniversary lunch at Park Farm on 16 September and the Advent evening at the Great Hospital on 3 December. The TRIORCA concert was being held in Norwich this year at the Open on 27 July. There would also be a special celebration on 24 August.

The committee noted that Waltraud Jarrold had been appointed President of Norwich in Bloom and that Mrs Beryl Blower, former Sheriff, and George Ishmael had expressed an interest in attending the next meeting of this committee to talk about creating a twinning garden in Norwich. Waltraud Jarrold said that it was hoped to recreate the BUGA garden that George Ishmael and Chris Southgate had created in Koblenz.

The association would like to hold a celebration at the Sainsbury Centre around the time of the Lord Mayors' celebrations. The Sainsbury Centre was also celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a dinner had been held there in 1988 to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Waltraud Jarrold expressed her disappointment that following the loss of the twinning room at Dragons Hall there was nowhere to display twinning memorabilia. Members noted that Andy Emms as twinning officer had exhausted all possibilities. There might be potential to display memorabilia at the Guildhall which the Lord Mayor would explore.

### **Norfolk and Norwich – El Viejo Friendship Link**

Ralph Gayton presented the executive committee's annual report to the Norfolk and Norwich – El Viejo Friendship Link's AGM. He said that Councillor Raby had offered his services to translate documents from Spanish and that this was very welcome. Fifty grade 6 scholarship pupils had graduated in December 2017 from the eight schools in the scheme and about 200 pupils in the scholarship project. The school latrines were a disgrace. The link had held fundraising events to raise funds and it was hoped to repeat the successful music gig at Norwich Arts Centre last April and a further event at the Virgin Lounge on 28 March 2018. There had been no casualties

in El Viejo from Tropical Storm Nate which had caused devastation in Nicaragua and Honduras in early October.

### **Norfolk and Norwich/Rouen Friendship Association**

Chris Rowe presented the report. The sixth film festival of British films with French subtitles had been held in Rouen. A photographer, Stefan Ebelenicz, who was born in Norwich and based in London, was carrying out a project where he was visiting the twinned cities of Norwich and taking photographs. The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary coincided with the biennial visit of the Armada of tall ships and was likely to take place 7 to 11 June 2019. It was hoped that the Lord Mayor would attend. He also asked members if they would be interested in a float to commemorate twinning in the 2019 Lord Mayors Parade. The association thought it would be good fun to join in the parade to mark its 60<sup>th</sup> year.

**RESOLVED** to receive the reports from the twinning associations.

### **6. Committee Schedule 2018-1019**

**RESOLVED** to agree, subject to approval at the city council's annual council, the schedule of meetings for the civic year 2018-19, all meetings to be at 16:00 and held at City Hall:

Thursday, 14 June 2018  
Thursday, 4 October 2018  
Thursday, 14 March 2019.

CHAIR