



TWINNING COMMITTEE

4pm – 5pm

15 March 2012

Present: Councillors Lay (Lord Mayor and chair), Bremner (vice-chair), Gayton Gledhill and Thomas, Peter Beckley, Mary Corbould, Waltraud Jarrold, Jill Noble and County Councillor Hutson.

Apologies: Councillors Ackroyd, Fisher and Offord, Doug Underwood and Claire Alban.

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2011 subject to –

- (1) the second paragraph of item 2 being amended to read – “Doug Underwood said he and Diana Beckley had held a constructive meeting with Nicki Rotsos”;
- (2) the 4th paragraph of item 2 being amended to read “Mary Corbould, Waltraud Jarrold and Jill Noble had attended”; and
- (3) asking the twinning officer to check progress and timescale on the new welcome to Norwich signs.

2. GENERAL REPORTS

Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association

Mary Corbould circulated her report and apologised for it not being available in time to be distributed with the agenda.

She commented on the problems of the french and english school years not being coterminous. A team of young female footballers from England had obtained special permission to attend a regional football tournament in France during the whit weekend holiday because this was a prestigious event. A 16 year old boy from Rouen who was a chorister and a student at The Conservatoire where he is studying the organ, wanted to come over and stay with a family with a boy of the same age. However, this was during the GCSE exam time and it was proving difficult to match his request. There was a general discussion on the difficulty getting english families to agree to host visits and to visit foreign families themselves.

Andy Emms said that youth rugby players from the Stade Rouennais Rugby Club would be visiting Wymondham in April 2012. He was investigating the possibility of providing a blue badge guide for a walking tour of Norwich during the weekend of their visit and suggested that the twinning committee might wish to support this if there was a cost involved.

Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link

Ralph Gayton presented the annual report of the Link. He commented particularly on the school project. Some work had been undertaken to the school by volunteers from America but further work would be required to bring it to the appropriate standard.

He referred to the financial position of the link and highlighted that yet again expenditure had outstripped income. However, all the money spent had been put to good use and the general financial position was healthy.

Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association

Waltraud Jarrold presented her report and commented on some of the highlights including the annual advent evening which again had been a success with the traditional performance by representatives of the cathedral choir; the attendance by Koblenz Rotarians at the Norwich Rotary Club's 90th year celebrations and the continuing success of the ecumenical link.

She said that the Norfolk Youth Orchestra would be participating in a music project near Koblenz in July and it was hoped that young musicians from Novi Sad would also be involved. She welcomed this link as music was an excellent way to bring people together and unite them in the best possible way.

In early May, five Aviva employees would be doing a charity bicycle ride from Koblenz to Norwich in aid of the Community Sports Foundation.

A new website was being developed for the association by two students at City College Norwich. Andy Emms said that, once the website was completed, he would put a link to it on the twinning pages of the council's website.

Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Peter Beckley said that the annual Paul Cross memorial concert had been very successful and attendance by a representative of the Serbian Embassy showed that the link was recognised as being very active and successful. It was estimated that £900 would be raised which would be used to support the development of a darkroom at the Milan Petrovic School.

A facebook page for the association had been set up by some young supporters and this had already brought in one new member.

Initial plans were underway for an association visit to Novi Sad in the spring 2012.

RESOLVED to –

- (1) note the report to the Twinning Associations/Link; and
- (2) make a grant of up to £50 to support a guided tour of the city for the Rouen youth rugby team in April 2012.

3. TWINNING ACTIVITIES

Andy Emms presented his annexed report.

Councillor Bremner said that he had visited Dragon Hall and found the Norfolk and Norwich Heritage Trust to be most helpful. He said that the trust was obviously struggling to develop sufficient income to maintain the building and considered that the education room was a reasonable room to hold the twinning memorabilia. He understood that when the room was used as an educational facility access would not be possible but otherwise he considered access would be reasonable. He suggested that Dragon Hall would continue to be the best place for the memorabilia as few people came into City Hall.

Jill Noble said that memorabilia was only accessible if an entrance fee was paid to enter Dragon Hall. Andy Emms suggested that he could write to the trustees asking them to confirm that association members could take guests to the memorabilia without paying the entrance fee.

The trustees had indicated that information about twinning would be included in the 2012 leaflets and they would be happy to include any news the association had in appropriate publications. Peter Beckley said he hoped this would be the case but he did not have confidence as the trustees had not responded to letters he had written to them asking for information on cost of hire and special rates etc.

RESOLVED to –

- (1) note that the twinning fund balance is in credit of £791.47;
- (2) ask Andy Emms to write to the Norfolk and Norwich Heritage Trust asking for confirmation that association representatives could have free access to the twinning memorabilia for members and guests;
- (3) note that Andy Emms would report to the next meeting if more information could be obtained regarding the sign on St Augustine's Steward House.

4. DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2012-13

RESOLVED to agree the following schedule of meetings –

Thursday 28 June 2012 at 4pm
Thursday 25 October 2012 at 4pm
Thursday 28 March 2013 at 4pm

CHAIR