



**Twinning committee**

**16:00 to 16:45**

**2 March 2017**

Present: Councillors Maxwell (Lord Mayor/chair), Bremner , Malik, Raby, Schmierer and Thomas (Vi), and Ralph Gayton (El Viejo) (vice chair), Waltraud Jarrold and Jill Noble (Koblenz; and Sandra and Doug Underwood (Novi Sad)

Apologies: Councillors Wright (other council business), Brociek-Coulton and Woollard; Chris Rowe (Rouen) and the chairman of Norfolk County Council (ex officio member)

**1. Public questions/petitions**

There were no public questions or petitions.

**2. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to note that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2016 were not available and would be circulated to members and considered for approval at the next meeting of the committee.

**4. Twinning officer**

The Lord Mayor reported that Andy Emms, democratic services manager and “twinning officer” had left the council after 40 years’ of service.

Members of the committee joined the Lord Mayor in praising Andy Emms for his support of the twinning associations and the committee, and considered that he had been a good ambassador for the city.

**RESOLVED** to:

- (1) record the committee’s gratitude to Andy Emms for his contribution to twinning and support of the twinning associations and friendship link and the committee;
- (2) note that the contact for twinning will be Andy Futter, senior committee officer and committee officer to this committee.

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

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

Councillor Bremner referred to “La Amitie” the newsletter of the Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association and said that he was a member of the association and although not its official spokesperson would be happy to speak on its behalf in Chris Rowe’s absence. He referred to the two tragic events that had happened in Rouen last summer and said that the association had sent its condolences to the people in Rouen. The association would be holding its annual visit to Rouen from 10 May to 14 May 2017. There were still spaces and everyone was welcome.

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

Doug Underwood said that the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association was preparing for its annual general meeting which would be held on 6 April 2017 and chaired by the Lord Mayor as its president. Novi Sad was proud of the success of its Baltic Indoor champion and Olympic prize winning long jumper, Ivana Spanovic, and had hopes for further success at the European Indoor event at the beginning of March. The Paul Cross Memorial Concert had been a success despite artistes’ flights being delayed due to bad weather and extending the introduction to allow for one of the artiste’s dresses to be collected from her lodgings. Novi Sad had been selected as European City of Culture for 2021. Two senior city council officers had provided advice and support to a visiting member of the Novi Sad bid team and shared the city council’s experience of making a bid. Members of the association had visited Novi Sad last month.

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

Ralph Gayton presented the annual report of the The Norfolk and Norwich – El Viejo Friendship Link and displayed photographs. Copies of the survey results into the state of school latrines was circulated at the meeting. The link was focussing on providing and improving latrine provision. Many schools did not have separate provision for boys and girls. Poor families without their own latrines used the school latrines. The link had discontinued the school uniform project and resources were being focussed on providing educational material and equipment for the upper grades of the school population.

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

Waltraud Jarrold gave a detailed presentation of the Norfolk and Norwich / Koblenz Friendship Association’s “Kontakt Newsletter” (February 2017) and highlighted recent activities which included the association’s thirty-sixth anniversary lunch at Park Farm Hotel and the Advent Evening at the Great Hospital. Wensum Junior School had approached the association to find out more about people in Koblenz and Norwich who died in the First World War and contacts had been made. She also took the opportunity to speak generally about twinning and the friendships which have grown out of cultural activities and events, exchange visits and between the associations over the years. Arrangements were in hand for the Lord Mayor’s civic visit to Koblenz on 23 March 2017. The association’s next visit to Koblenz would be in September 2017.

**RESOLVED** to:

- (1) note the reports from the twinning associations;
- (2) record the gratitude of the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association to Nikki Rotsos, director of culture and communications and Helen Selleck, events manager, for their assistance with the Novi Sad European City of Culture 2021 bid;
- (3) endorse the message from the His Excellency Ross Deny, Ambassador to Nicaragua, to the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign Twin Towns Meeting on 11 February 2017, and: congratulate the Norfolk and Norwich – El Viejo Friendship Link for its contribution to community development projects;
- (3) note that the Lord Mayor and civic party will be undertaking a civic visit to Koblenz on 23 to 25 March 2017.

**6. Twinning Fund – Financial Position**

The committee considered the report and noted that there was a healthy balance but there was a discrepancy in the figures.<sup>1</sup>

During discussion, Waltraud Jarrold said that an application should have been made for the Triorca visit from 25 July to 1 August 2017. The committee officer said that no application form had been received but any applications that needed settling before the next meeting could be considered by the officers, in consultation with the chair and vice chair, and ratified at the next meeting. She reminded members that applications for grants for twinning related activities could be made by completing a form and contacting the city council. These would normally be considered at the next meeting.

**RESOLVED** to:

- (1) note that the twinning fund balance (in-hand) at 2 March 2017 is £2,359.74;
- (2) ask the officers to add the date of transactions to the list of movements in the financial statement..

**7. Meeting Dates for 2017-18**

The committee considered the schedule of meetings for the civic year 2017-18 and suggested that the meeting on 29 June 2017 was moved forward a week because of the Royal Norfolk Show.

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<sup>1</sup> The balance in hand b/f 6 October 2016 had been transposed incorrectly in the report and should read £1,577.55

**RESOLVED** to hold meetings of the committee at City Hall on Thursdays at 16:00 on the following dates:

15 June 2017  
5 October 2017  
15 March 2018