

The Norfolk and Norwich – El Viejo Friendship Link

Registered Charity No. 11567878

Founded 1986

Norfolk &
Norwich



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To: Members of the Executive Committee,
Link Members and Representatives of
Affiliated Organisations.

17th June, 2015.

Dear Member/Representative,

Link Executive Committee,

You are invited to attend the next meeting of the Link Executive Committee which will take place on **Wednesday, 24th June, 2015**, in the Wymer Room at City Hall, Norwich, commencing at 6.00pm. The agenda for the meeting is set out below.

Access to City Hall is by way of the Bethel Street Entrance and the committee rooms are on the first floor. Car parking is available at the St. Giles and Forum multi-storey car parks and on-street parking is available on St. Giles Street.

I remind all of you that we are continuing our search to fill two vacancies on the Committee. It is important that we do have a full complement on the Committee to help with our activities on behalf of the people of El Viejo, so if you can spare a couple of hours or so on about 10 occasions each year please let us know

I remind you that all members and representatives may attend meetings of the Executive Committee and take part in discussion but that voting is restricted to the elected members of the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Link Secretary.

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 24th June, 2015. (Copy attached)

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3. CORRESPONDENCE REPORT.

To receive a schedule of correspondence with the Link Representative in Nicaragua since the last meeting. (Copy attached)

4. TREASURER'S REPORT.

To receive the Treasurer's financial report for the period since the previous meeting. (Copy attached)

5. LINK WEBSITE - UPDATE.

6. CONTACT WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS

To consider contacting local schools in Norwich for support of the Link's involvement with Primary schools in EL Viejo – ideas and suggestions welcome.

7. FUNDRAISING EVENTS – UPDATE

To receive a report on the 'Ukulele Riverboat Shuffle' which took place on 14th June and a report on the arrangements for a Quiz and Chips Charity Night event at the Micawbers Tavern on 26th June aid of Link funds .

8. FUTURE ACTIVITY IN EL VIEJO

To give preliminary consideration to possible future medium to long term activity in El Viejo

9. Date of next meeting

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Norfolk & Norwich - El Viejo Friendship Link

Registered Charity No 1156787



Minutes of a meeting of the
Executive Committee of the Norfolk
and Norwich – El Viejo Friendship
Link held at City Hall, Norwich, on
Wednesday, 20th May, 2015.

Present: Anthony Bailey Dr. Rhys Jenkins
Ralph Gayton (Secretary) Hilary King
Brenda Gayton Sue Thomas (Treasurer)
David Trevanion (Chairperson)

In attendance: Andrew Garrod

1. CHAIRPERSON

In the absence of the Chairperson at the Commencement of the meeting, Dr. Rhys Jenkins was appointed as temporary Chairperson.

Dr. Rhys Jenkins in the Chair

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2015 were confirmed by the meeting and signed by the Chairperson.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

The Committee noted that the Secretary had sought information about the future of graduates from the scholarship project and a report on the state of toilets at the scholarship schools.

Hilary King reported that she had not yet contacted the Leon Rotary Clun about Carmela's membership.

4. CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

The Committee noted the reason given by the Secretary for the lack of a correspondence report on the agenda.

David Trevanion in the Chair

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Committee received the treasurer's report.

The report showed income of £1,774. During the month of March and the Treasurer explained that the item under HMRC gift aid return related to gift aid amounts for the previous two years. There had been no payments during the month.

Income during April amounted to £197.30. No payments had been made in April but the sum of \$5,000 had since been transferred to the Nicaragua account for the purchase of uniforms for the scholarship pupils.

The Treasurer gave notice that she would be unable to continue as Treasurer after the end of 2015. The Committee expressed their thanks to the Treasurer for her services to the Link and appreciated the early notice given of her resignation from the office. The committee agreed to consult the membership to seek a replacement.

6. REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVE

The Committee received Carmela's reports for March and April 2015.

It was noted that the distribution of schoolbags and education materials had taken place on 24th March and, during the event, a representative of the City Council had laid emphasis on the link between the Mayor's office, the Ministry of Education, and Norwich, and the ties of brotherhood and gratitude was expressed for all that the Link does for the inhabitants of the municipality of EL Viejo.

The report also included an account of the programme of the distribution of the satchels and their contents.

The report for April included the programme for the taking of measurements for the making up of the school uniforms for the scholarship pupils. It also included a report of a meeting in the Mayor's office to discuss the delivery of the record of academic performance in the schools, the schedule for the measuring for uniforms and the formal delivery of the new laptop computer to the school at Francisco Morazan.

Issues raised in report arising from comments by teachers included difficulties for children in getting to school, problems arising from lack of textbooks as the Government had only provided for the First Grade.

Other issues raised by teachers included shortage of training and cleaning materials with most teachers having to dip in their own pockets to make good the deficiencies. Teachers also subsidised provision of photocopies, teaching materials and cleaning.

Teachers also expressed concern about children being negative and not wanting to study which caused problems of stress for teachers. Teachers are unable to impose any form of discipline because of the children's protection law. Students had no respect for the teachers.

The Committee were concerned about the issues raised by the teachers and agreed to ask Carmela to pursue them with the MINED representative and to convey the Committee's concern about these matters.

7. REPRESENTATIVE'S ACCOUNTS – JANUARY TO MARCH 2015.

The Committee received the representative's accounts for the period 1st January to 31st March 2015 for the funds held in Nicaragua.

The accounts showed an opening balance of US\$ 4980.50 and total expenditure over the period of US\$ 2,481.72. leaving a balance of 2498.78 plus US\$ 145.00 held in petty cash.

The Committee noted the accounts.

8. LINK WEBSITE

The Chairperson welcomed Andrew Garrod to the meeting. Mr Garrod had agreed to assist with updating and improving the Link website.

Andrew said that he had helped Poppy Buller with the recent Gig at the Norwich Arts Centre and was willing to help with the Website.

Andrew said that he would help to fill in gaps in the site and bring it up to date with information about developments and outcomes. Pictures were always welcome. It might also be possible to introduce the use of Facebook and Twitter for wider publicity about the Link in due course. Information about the contents of the schoolbags was an example that could be used.

Following a discussion the Committee thanked Andrew for his interest and welcomed the opportunity to make the website more relevant. It was agreed to provide Andrew with information, particularly photographs and to keep him informed about Link activities.

9. FUTURE FUNDRAISING EVENTS.

- (a) The Committee noted the arrangements made by Tony Bailey for a 'Ukulele Riverboat Shuffle on Sunday 14th June. The Committee thanked Tony for organising the event.

Tony also reported that the 'Quiz and Chips' pub quiz at the Micawbers Tavern had been postponed due to a clash with a football match. The quiz would now take place on Friday 26th June.

- (b) The Committee received a report from the Treasurer about organising a sponsored bike ride.

The Committee thanked the Treasurer and agreed to support the proposal for a sponsored bike ride on a date to be agreed and that second route set out in the report be adopted.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that, subject to availability, the next meeting of the Committee should take place on 17th June. 2015.

Chairperson
24th June, 2015

NORFOLK AND NORTWICH – EL VIEJO FRIENDSHIP LINK

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 24th June, 2015

TREASURER'S REPORT

meeting

Jun-15

Community Direct Plus Account 08-92-99 65425620 00

	Balance c/f	15,795.59	
	Receipts		
1 May to 26 May	SO	125.50	
05/03/2015	interest	2.02	
10/03/2015	fee	50.00	
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	177.52	
	Payments		
11/05/2015	*Transfer to Nicaragua including £23 fees	3,329.00	
	TOTAL PAYMENTS	3,329.00	
	Balance	12,644.11	Statement 57
30/03/2015	c.f.		12,644.11

Notes

- * \$5,000 - exchange rate 1.5124
- 3306-23 = 3329
- cash still to pay in
- £100 - performance by Himazas 28/03/15
- £7.50 (5ps from P Thomas)

NORFOLK AND NORWICH – EL VIEJO FRIENDSHIP LINK

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 24th June, 2015.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

The following exchanges of correspondence with our representative in Nicaragua have taken place since the last report made to the meeting on 18th March, 2015.

(a) From Carmela received 13th March 2015.

Hello Ralph.

Replies to your questions in capitals

4. Members of our Committee of have questions about sanitation facilities in schools, especially for adolescent girls. From my observation during my visits the latrines in some of the schools are in a very bad state and our Committee has asked about the effect that in adequate latrines may have in the care of children, especially adolescents. Please ask teachers at each school to make a report on this matter to our Committee.

I WILL DO A REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT. PENDING SEND IT

5. The Committee noted that the schools had made comments in some of their reports about the difficulties of coordination with the municipal Council. As you know, this is something that worries us. I mentioned it in my message 14-03 of 21st January. This is of increasing concern for us and it could affect the future of our relationship with the old we want to avoid. Perhaps you could ask Julia if she can say nothing about why happened. Do you have any ideas about what you can share with us?

THIS ISSUE CAME OUT EVALUATION. THE SCHOOL OF EVEMILDA BUT DID THE COMMENTARY OF THE PROFESSOR IS THAT IF THERE WERE BETTER OPENING BY THE COUNCIL AND OTHER AUTHORITIES COULD BE BEST THINGS ALTOGETHER. E.G. MORE SCHOLARSHIPS SAID. BUT THERE IS NO WORRY ABOUT IS ONLY A REMARK IN THIS RESPECT AND NOT WITH THE TWINNING.

a greeting.

Carmela

(b) Message 15-07 to Carmela sent 12th May, 2015.

Dear Carmela,

I apologise that I have not contacted you for for some weeks. I have been unwell and also very busy with our National and local elections. I have also been in a car crash so it has been an eventful month!

However, I think we have returned to normal now!

I know that you have been very busy with the mochilas and are now organising the new uniforms. I asked our Treasurer to send you a transfer and I hope you can confirm that it has arrived.

I will write again soon

Your friend,

Ralph

(c) Message 15-08 to Carmela sent 13th May, 2016

Dear Carmela,

Further to my message 15-07 sent yesterday, the next meeting of our committee is now due to take place next Wednesday, 20th May. I shall be most grateful if you can send me your report for April by this weekend so that I can present it to the Committee next week.

I regret the short notice but everything here has been disjointed because of the recent national and local elections which took place last week.

In solidarity,

Ralph

(d) Message from Carmela = received 18th May, 2015.

Hello Ralph.

I hope you are better and more rested. I hope that the elections were fair and that everything has gone well.

Commented you in previous post that they have replaced the Mayor and instead of being Mauricio serving they have chosen someone else.

The volcano telica is erupting but fortunately there has been no misfortune. We are on alert but all under control at least the people who lived in the surrounding have taken them from there.

I send you the report in April.

Outstanding academic performance.

a greeting.

Carmela

(e) Message 15-09 to Carmela -- sent 28th May, 2015.

Dear Carmela,

Thank you for your reports for March and April.

1. Our Committee was pleased to learn about the support provided by the Mayor for the distribution of the schoolbags on 24th March by providing two buses for the children from Morazan, Maritza and Norwich to attend the ceremony and for providing the sound equipment. Please pass our thanks to the Mayor.

2. You indicated in one of your messages the Mauricio Rivera was no longer the Deputy Mayor. Is this correct or have I misunderstood? Please tell us what has happened.
3. In your report for February you included a request from the Evemilda School for our committee to help with the purchase of a new pump for the well. Our Committee has asked for information about the cost of the pump. Please ask the school to tell us the cost.
4. You will recall that our Committee has asked for reports about the state of the latrines in each school with particular reference to any effects on school attendance, particularly by adolescent girls, resulting from inadequate or damaged toilets.

Our committee will be most grateful if the teachers of each school will provide a report on the state of the latrines at their school and their assessment of any effect on school attendance, particularly by girls, caused by poor/damaged/inadequate latrines. It will be most helpful if the reports from the schools can be accompanied by photographs of the latrines.

5. As mentioned in a previous message, our Committee is interested to learn about what has happened to those children who have graduated and left their primary school. We shall be most grateful for any information the teachers can give about them. Have any of them continued in education at a secondary school, such as the instituto in El Viejo, or have they gone into some form of employment. Any information about the graduates will be most appreciated.
6. Finally, have you made any further contact with the Rotary Club in Leon?

In solidarity,

Ralph

(f) Message 15-10 to Carmela – sent 12th June, 2015

Dear Carmela,

I hope all is well with you and your family.

I am concerned because your last message said you would send me a report last weekend and I not received anything. Is there a problem, if so can we help?

Perhaps you have been busy organising the school uniforms which I know is a big operation.

We have our committee meeting scheduled for next week and we are very anxious to hear from you, and the teachers, about the items listed in my message 15-09 sent on 25th May. Perhaps you can send us a progress report.

Please let us know if you have any problems and we look forward to hearing from you

With all good wishes

Ralph

(g) Message from Carmela received 15th June, 2015.

Dear Ralph

Apologies for not writing before. I was ill with a swollen right arm and severe pain in the hand and shoulder. They told me at the clinic that I have symptoms of carpal tunnel syndrome. Much pain and they told me to take ten days without touching a mouse or computer. It still hurts but the pain is now controlled with medication. It is for this reason that I have not been able to answer, but yes I'm working on the uniforms and going to schools to take photos of the latrines, doing interviews with the teachers and pupils in some schools.

Also I have made progress in the purchase of materials approved for the repair of an office in which to put the computer in the Perpetual school. Money that was left over from the construction of the classroom of the Perpetual School.

Tomorrow I'm going to the Morazán and will take advantage of this visit to take photos of the latrines which are in poor condition and to do some interviews.

With regard to the Evemilda I have not got an estimate for the pump repair because another organization that supports them already did so.

Vice mayor Mauricio Rivera is still in function but the Mayor Azucena is not now, as I told you before.

I'm hoping they will ratify the new mayor so that I can go and introduce myself, at the moment she is "acting" mayor.

I request this week to recover from my arm. I hope to be fine for the weekend and send you a report on all that you have asked me for and what I have done, for your meeting.

I apologize for not writing but here I'm always working. From here onwards, I will try send you information more often.

I hope that all is well.

A greeting

Carmela

(h) Message 15-11 to Carmela – sent 16th June, 2015

Dear Carmela,

We are very sorry to learn of the painful problem with your wrist and arm. We fully understand why you have been unable to use your computer. We hope very much that you will get better very quickly.

I note that you intend to collect information from the teachers about the state of the school latrines and what affect their state may have on attendance of female pupils. We look forward to receiving the teachers' reports and any proposals/suggestions they may have for improvements.

Who is responsible for the maintenance and repair of school buildings, including the latrines? Is it the Alcaldia or the Ministry?

I am sorry that I misunderstood your message about the Alcalde and became confused with the Vice-Alcalde. Do you have any information about why Sra Acuzena is no longer in

office.

Thank you for the information about the pump at Evemilda. We note that the cost has been met by another organisation.

Please send us a photo of the computer at the El Perpetuo school when the new office is complete.

We hope your arm will quickly get better.

Ralph

C:/documents/msword/linkexecutive/corresreport15-06-24.rg