



Twinning committee

16:00 to 17:10

14 June 2018

Present: Councillors Fullman (vice chair in the chair), Brociek-Coulton, Huntley, Lubbock (substitute for Wright) Maxwell, Peek, Raby and Thomas (Vi): and Ralph Gayton (El Viejo), Waltraud Jarrold and Jill Noble (Koblenz); Peter Beckley MBE and Wendy Quinn (Novi Sad) and Ann and Chris Rowe (Rouen)

Apologies: Councillors Schmierer and Wright, and Sandra and Doug Underwood (Novi Sad)

1. Appointment of chair

Three nominations for the chair were received for Councillors Fullman, Raby and Schmierer.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Schmierer as chair for the ensuing civic year

2. Appointment of vice chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Fullman as vice chair for the ensuing civic year

3. Public questions/petitions

There were no public questions or petitions.

4. Declarations of interest

Councillor Brociek-Coulton declared an other interest in item 6 (below) as she was a member of the Friends of Norwich in Bloom.

Councillor Fullman declared that he was a member of the Norfolk and Norwich / Rouen Friendship Association, the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association and the Norfolk and Norwich/Koblenz Friendship Association.

Councillor Lubbock declared that she was a member of the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association and the Norfolk and Norwich/Koblenz Friendship 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.

Councillor Vivien Thomas declared that she was a trustee of the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link.

5. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2018

6. Norwich in Bloom – Proposal for a Twinning Garden in Norwich

(Councillor Brociek-Coulton had declared an other interest in this item)

The chair invited Beryl Blower to give a presentation to the committee on the possible installation of a twinning garden.

Beryl Blower said that in 2016, she had been looking for a site to set up a twinning garden and identified the All Saints church on Westlegate as a suitable site. A grant was given by the Royal Horticultural Society to purchase plants for the garden and the theme was agreed to be 'the medieval church' which mirrored a twinning garden installed in Koblenz. The proposal was subject to planning permission.

A gothic window structure would be included in the garden design which would echo those in the All Saints church. Herbaceous planting would be extended to the surrounding areas within the churchyard.

The churchyard had disabled access and would also be visible from Westlegate. There was already a bench in the churchyard but another would be installed. The gate to the churchyard would be locked at night.

Funding was being sought from the Geoffrey Watling Trust and a response was awaited from John Lewis to secure funds for a ramp into the churchyard.

She was asking for the twinning committee to be involved in planning the garden and suggested that it would be nice to have national or local flowers from each of the twinned cities being included in the design of the garden.

The chair commented that older residents from the Ber Street area needed somewhere to break their journey into the city so an additional bench in All Saints church would be welcome.

In response to a member's question, Beryl Blower said that hopefully a plaque would be included on the existing sign in the churchyard describing the gardens. She would also like some of the smaller windows in the display to be pertinent to the twinned cities but had to be respectful of the churchyard area.

Waltraud Jarrold said that she was pleased that the idea of a twinning garden was being continued after the success of a similar garden in Koblenz. She offered to raise the issue with the John Jarrold Trust for potential further funding.

Members discussed the possibility of including flowers that were significant to each of the twinned cities and the need to ensure that plants chosen were suitable for the climate.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) thank Beryl Blower for her presentation on the possibility of a twinning garden in the All Saints Church on Westlegate; and
- (2) ask twinning committee members to send information to Beryl Blower on local or national flowers of each of the twinned cities.

7. Reports of the Twinning Associations

Norfolk and Norwich/Rouen Friendship Association

Chris Rowe presented the report. He said that the City of Ale celebrations included whiskey and beers produced at the Northmaen brewery in Rouen. The Rouen brewers would be attending the 2019 City of Ale celebrations and would be sailing to the festival on a schooner to moor at Riverside.

The 60th anniversary would be in 2019 and he would be visiting Rouen for this event. He hoped that there would also be a civic presence for this visit and an invitation would be extended to the Lord Mayor.

Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Peter Beckley MBE presented the report. He said that it was a very busy time with follow up work from the civic trip to Novi Sad. An invitation had been extended to the Mayor of Novi Sad to visit Norwich to see how problems were solved here. There had been some visa issues with the visit but he was hopeful that this would be resolved and the visit would take place in October.

Norfolk and Norwich/Koblenz Friendship Association

Waltraud Jarrold updated the committee on the activities of the Norfolk and Norwich/Koblenz Friendship Association. Forty years of twinning had been celebrated and some work would possibly be taking place with the Sainsbury's centre to mark the occasion. The association would be the host for Triorca orchestra this year and grants were being sought for accommodation.

She highlighted the sponsored cycle ride from Koblenz to Norwich taking place in August and said that Koblenz would be accommodating the group in a city hotel.

The German conversation group was going well

Norfolk and Norwich – El Viejo Friendship Link

Ralph Gayton presented the report. He said that there had been violence in Nicaragua and that he had not heard from the local representative since the violence began, despite repeated communications. He would continue trying to make contact and would report back at the next meeting.

Peter Beckley MBE thanked Ralph for the report and said that the work of the twinning associations transcended politics, but it was important to be aware of these complex situations.

The twinning committee expressed their concern for the local contact in El Viejo and welcomed an update on the situation at the next meeting.

RESOLVED to receive the reports from the twinning associations.

8. Twinning committee budget

The democratic and elections manager presented the report. He said that there had been no expenditure so far this year. He reminded the committee to fully complete applications for grants and send these through to the democratic services team. He suggested that any grant applications received between meetings should be agreed by the chair and vice chair.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the twinning committee budget report; and
- (2) agree that any applications for grants received between meetings of the twinning committee would be delegated to the democratic and elections manager in consultation with the chair and vice chair.

9. Annual grants for the twinning associations

The democratic and elections manager presented the report.

RESOLVED to approve the annual grants of £200 to each of the associations.

10. Application for grant – Paul Cross Memorial Concert

Wendy Quinn presented the application. She said that the Paul Cross Memorial concert was a great event to raise public awareness of twinning. The funding would be spent on advertising and covering other costs.

RESOLVED to grant £250 to the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association for the Paul Cross Memorial Concert.

11. Application for grant – Triorca

Peter Beckley MBE presented the application. He said that the Triorca Trust was formed to manage the finances for the orchestra and was headed by three directors.

The democratic and elections manager informed the committee that the application received was incomplete and that the senior committee officer had asked the Triorca Trust for additional information.

RESOLVED to note that an application for a grant had been received from the Triorca Trust and the completed application would be circulated to the chair and vice chair for agreement once received.

CHAIR