



Twinning committee

16:00 to 16:45

4 October 2018

Present: Councillors Schmierer (chair) Fullman (vice chair), Huntley, Maxwell, Peek, Raby and Wright; and Ralph Gayton (El Viejo), Waltraud Jarrold MBE and Jill Noble (Koblenz); Doug Underwood and Sandra Underwood (Novi Sad) and Ann and Chris Rowe (Rouen)

Apologies: Councillors Thomas (Vi) and Brociek-Coulton

1. Declarations of interest

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

2. Minutes

Subject to noting that Waltraud Jarrold should be referred to as Waltraud Jarrold MBE it was:-

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2018

3. Reports of the Twinning Associations

Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Doug Underwood presented the report. He said that the Triorca concert, held at Open in Norwich, had been fantastic.

The annual lunch would be happening soon and the Lord Mayor would be in attendance along with some previous Lord Mayors.

The trip to Novi Sad had gone well. They had visited the Milan Petrovic school and part of the building had been named after Diana Beckley who had sadly passed away in Novi Sad the previous year.

The delegation from Novi Sad had been delayed in their visit to Norwich due to issues obtaining visas. The visa process had been outsourced to another country which meant that in order to obtain a visa; passports had to be sent away for up to a month. This was not possible for the Lord Mayor of Novi Sad due to the amount of travel he had to undertake in his role. It was hoped that this issue would be resolved soon.

Norfolk and Norwich/Koblenz Friendship Association

Waltraud Jarrold MBE updated the committee on the activities of the Norfolk and Norwich/Koblenz Friendship Association.

The annual lunch had been held on 16 September which was the inauguration date of the association. The event had been enjoyed by all and the linking of the different civic offices had continued to strengthen the relationships between the offices.

The bi-annual visit to Koblenz was scheduled for September 2019 to coincide with the food and wine festival. Twenty six guests had already signed up for the visit.

The cycle ride from Koblenz to Norwich had been a success raising money for the Community Sports Foundation.

Norfolk and Norwich/Rouen Friendship Association

Chris Rowe presented the report. He said that the sixtieth anniversary celebrations were gathering pace. He had been contacted by the Museum of Norwich and a local photographer to put on an exhibition around Norwich and Rouen.

The Norwich Rowing club was going to Rouen to take part in a race on the Seine.

The Rouen film festival was taking place in November and included short films made by young British filmmakers.

In early July 2019, a group from Sussex would be visiting Norwich and Chris would get in touch with the civic office to see if the group could be welcomed to Norwich.

Norfolk and Norwich – El Viejo Friendship Link

Ralph Gayton presented the report which was circulated at the meeting. He said that the representative in Nicaragua had resumed contact with the link and would be visiting El Viejo soon. Recent military action in Nicaragua had halted the growth of tourism in the country, especially in the south west.

The annual bike ride had been a successful event and had raised in excess of £600 to support the work of the link.

The link had also been approached by the Slow Theatre Company around the possibility of working with art students and connecting with artists in El Viejo.

RESOLVED to receive the reports from the twinning associations.

4. Twinning committee budget

The democratic and elections manager presented the report. He circulated updated figures as due to an administrative error, the grant of £250 to the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association had not been deducted from the balance. The balance of the twinning committee fund was therefore £1904.07

RESOLVED to note the amended twinning committee budget report

5. Twinning fund – Grant applications to the Triorca Trust and the Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Association

The chair presented the report.

Jill Noble raised concerns that the application from the Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Association included driver's expenses in the description of the grant. Members of the committee agreed that driver's expenses should be covered by the association and not the grant.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the grant of £500 to the Triorca Trust; and,
- (2) approve the grant of £250 in principle to the Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Association, provided that an updated application was received removing any reference to driver's expenses.

CHAIR