



Twinning committee

16:00 to 17:20

3 March 2016

Present: Councillor Gayton (vice chair)(El Viejo) Councillors Brociek-Coulton, Bogelein and Maxwell:
Mary Corbould (Rouen), Waltraud Jarrold and Jill Noble (Koblenz); and Doug Underwood and Sandra Underwood (Novi Sad)
Andy Emms (Twinning officer, Norwich City Council), Andy Futter (Senior committee officer, Norwich City Council)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from the Lord Mayor, councillors Jones and Bremner.

2. Questions from the public

No questions were received from members of the public.

3. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were made.

4. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2015.

The democratic services manager took this opportunity to explain that, at the council meeting held in November, councillor Judith Lubbock had put a motion with the intention of increasing the annual twinning budget. This did not pass, however, it was agreed that up to £1,000 of a council grants fund would be ring-fenced for Twinning projects within civic year 16-17.

5. General reports (reports of the twinning associations)

(a) Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

The report was presented by Doug Underwood, with attention being drawn to the following points:

- The association annual lunch took place at the Park Farm Hotel on 16 October.
- The Paul Cross Memorial Concert has proven a big success with the largest audience to date.
- A €650 grant had been made to the Milan Petrović School.
- The annual visit had taken place which Peter and Diana Beckley had attended and represented Norwich.

RESOLVED to note the report.

(b) Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association

The report was presented by Mary Courbold with attention being drawn to the following points:

- Visitors from Rouen were to arrive on 13 April from the biannual visit.
- A number of trips had been arranged including a visit to Somerleyton Hall and a smokehouse.
- Mary explained that she would be moving away from Norwich and as such she would be resigning at the following week's AGM. She explained that Chris Rowe would be taking on her role.

Ralph Gayton thanked Mary for all her hard work on the Rouen association.

RESOLVED to note the report.

(c) Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link

The annual report of the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link was presented by Ralph Gayton with attention being drawn to the following points:

- He spoke of the untimely death of Hilary King and gave grateful thanks for all her hard work.

- Carmela Hernandez would be continuing as the link's local representative in El Viejo.
- Following the publication of the report and survey into School Latrines, he explained that the link was investigating ways to assist, although finding funding was proving difficult.

In response to a member's question, Ralph explained that schools normally have a well and a pump for water supply – or occasionally an electric pump. He said that this was the only source for hand washing.

RESOLVED to note the report.

(d) Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association

The report was presented by Waltraud Jarrold with attention being drawn to the following points:

- The association AGM was to be held on 11 March.
- The most recent book fair had raised £1,500 and this year's fair was to be held on the 8 June.
- Discussion had taken place with Nikki Rotsos regarding the move of twinning items and the next step was to be a visual display.
- The German conversation group was still taking place on Wednesday mornings and it had been successful for 35 years.

Discussion was ongoing with the council's twinning officer to arrange a visit Oberbürgermeister of Koblenz to Norwich between the 27 and 29 of May. Andy Emms explained that the Oberbürgermeister had held that position for a number of years and finally had the opportunity to visit Norwich. He said that the city of Koblenz had played host to civic visitors from Norwich on many occasions, that the cost would be in the region of £600 and recommended that twinning funds be used to facilitate this.

Doug Underwood suggested that – in light of the **agreement that up to £1,000 of a council grants fund would be ring-fenced for Twinning projects – the council could be approached to fund the visit.**

RESOLVED to:

- a. note the report; and,
- b. approach the city council to fund the visit of the Oberbürgermeister of Koblenz (and if this was not permitted, to agree to fund the visit from twinning monies)

6. Twinning fund – financial position

The twinning officer presented the report.

RESOLVED to note the balance of the twinning (£3,577.55) as at 3 March 2016.

7. Application for a twinning committee grant

Andy Futter presented the report, explaining that Norwich Cathedral Choir had applied for £500 to help fund a visit to Germany which would include a public concert in Koblenz.

He then explained that The Garage Trust Ltd had applied for £500 to assist in costs for young adults to travel to Rouen to participate in workshops being held in the city.

RESOLVED to agree the payment of a grant of:

- a. £500 to Norwich Cathedral Choir; and,
- b. £500 to The Garage Trust Ltd.

8. Date of the next meeting

RESOLVED to confirm that the next meeting of the committee will be held on Thursday, 7 July 2016 at 16:00.

CHAIR