



Twinning committee

16:00 to 16:50

13 June 2019

Present: Councillors Thomas (Va) (chair following election) Thomas (Vi) (vice chair following election) Grahame, Kendrick and Oliver,; Ralph Gayton (El Viejo), Waltraud Jarrold MBE and Jill Noble (Koblenz); and Doug Underwood and Sandra Underwood (Novi Sad)

Apologies: Councillors Peek, Sarmezey and Utton (other council business)
Ann and Chris Rowe (Rouen)

1. Appointment of chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Vaughan Thomas as chair for the ensuing civic year.

2. Appointment of vice chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Vivien Thomas as vice chair for the ensuing civic year.

3. Declarations of interest

Councillors Vaughan Thomas and Vivien Thomas declared that they were members of the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link.

4. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2019

5. Twinning fund – financial position

The democratic and elections manager presented the report. He reminded members of the grant application process. Applications would be considered at the next available committee but if a decision was needed between meetings, the chair and vice chair would be contacted by email.

RESOLVED to note the twinning fund financial position.

6. Annual grants for the twinning associations

The democratic and elections manager presented the report. Doug Underwood said that the grant of £200 was invaluable to the associations.

RESOLVED to grant £200 to each of the twinning associations, El Viejo, Koblenz, Novi Sad and Rouen.

7. Twinning fund grant applications

The democratic and elections manager presented the report. The committee would be considering two grants, one to the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link and one to the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association.

Ralph Gayton (El Viejo) said that the grant for £550 could be subject to change as it included a flight but the claim would not be for more than £550. A member commented that the council had a policy of trying to find alternative transport other than flights but the committee noted that other forms of transport were not feasible in this case.

RESOLVED to approve the grant of:

- (1) Up to £550 to the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link to reimburse the chair's flight expenses to Nicaragua for a ten day visit in June 2019 and the purchase of a gift for the association's representative; and
- (2) £250 towards the Paul Cross Memorial Concert to promote the friendship between Novi Sad and Norwich.

8. Reports of the Twinning Associations

Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Doug Underwood presented the report.

Repairs had been completed on the Novi Sad Friendship Bridge and the contractor had replaced the plaque.

Paul Billing had passed away and Doug Underwood said a few words in remembrance. Paul had been actively involved with the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association for many years and would be sadly missed.

A visit to Novi Sad was being planned for September 2019 and the annual concert would be held in January 2020.

The online system for requesting the Lord Mayor to attend an event was found to be difficult to use. The form often timed out before all the details could be entered.

Norfolk and Norwich/Koblenz Friendship Association

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

The Feed the Minds book fair had been moved to July.

The twinning garden was progressing and plants had been chosen to represent the twinned cities. The weather had prevented planting from taking place but it would start imminently.

Waltraud paid tribute to Roy Blower who had recently passed away. Roy had been a great support to the twinning associations and many other organisations.

The twinning centre was no longer available at Dragon Hall and there were concerns that tourists and visitors should be able to access the twinning information easily.

Norfolk and Norwich/Rouen Friendship Association

Chris and Anne Rowe had sent apologies to the meeting and a written update was circulated.

Norfolk and Norwich – El Viejo Friendship Link

Ralph Gayton presented the report. The chair of the Friendship Link had visited El Viejo and Nicaragua and a full report would be brought to the next meeting. The association was looking forward to a n optimistic outcome of talks around the situation in Nicaragua.

RESOLVED to receive the reports from the twinning associations.

CHAIR