



Twinning committee

16:00 to 16:25

6 July 2023

Present: Councillors Wright (chair following appointment), Sands (M) (vice chair following appointment), Galvin, and Kendrick (substitute for Peek) and Bob Young (Koblentz), and Carole Kenney (Novi Sad).

Apologies: Councillors Catt, Peek and Thomas (Vi) and Bert Bremner (Rouen), Isabelle Savage (Rouen), Alan Waters (Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau), Doug Underwood (Novi Sad) and Sandra Underwood (Novi Sad)

1. Appointment of chair

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

2. Appointment of vice chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Mike Sands as vice chair for the ensuing civic year.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2023.

5. Twinning fund – financial position and update

The head of legal and procurement presented the report. She highlighted the twinning fund and the ability for the twinning associations to submit grant applications to the democratic and elections manager.

RESOLVED to note the twinning fund financial position.

6. Update on the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Friendship Link

The chair introduced the item. The representative was unable to attend the meeting but a written report had been included. Members commented that they were looking forward to future updates to committee.

RESOLVED to note the update on the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Friendship Link

7. Reports of the twinning associations

Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association

As representatives from Rouen were unable to attend the meeting, the Lord Mayor provided an update. He had been invited to visit Rouen to sign a new memorandum of understanding. This would extend the existing links with the city. Rouen was on the shortlist to be European Capital of Culture 2028.

Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association

Bob Young updated the committee on the activities of the Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association. Membership numbers were remaining fairly stable but unfortunately some members had passed away. The association was still looking at ensuring that the link in Koblenz would remain, as the current group would wind up by 2025. In response to the Lord Mayor's question, Bob Young said that a joint letter to Koblenz signed by the Lord Mayor would be appreciated. A member suggested contacting the local press in Koblenz to highlight the issue.

The Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association and the Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association had been contacted by Cringleford Junior Football Club who were looking to hold an international football tournament in the summer 2024. Bob Young had reached out to school in Koblenz to find out if they would be interested in joining.

The association had hosted another Southern Comfort boat trip on the Norfolk Broads as it had done in the previous year. This had been well attended and had received positive feedback.

Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Carole Kenney provided an update. As the widow of Paul Cross, she highlighted that the reception for the Paul Cross memorial concert had been hosted in her home, however as she no longer lived in Norwich the association was looking for an appropriate venue. As previously reported to the committee the association was also looking at moving the concert to a date in the summer. A new member had recently joined the association who was involved with the arts in Novi Sad.

The Lord Mayor said it was positive to see links with Novi Sad continuing to develop.

RESOLVED to note the updates of the associations.

CHAIR