



TWINNING COMMITTEE

4.00pm to 5.05pm

3 March 2011

Present: Councillors Blower (chair), Councillor Gledhill (vice chair), Councillors Brociek-Coulton, Collishaw, Hooke, Lay and Offord, Peter Beckley, Mary Corbould, Ralph Gayton, Waltraud Jarrold, Jill Noble, and Doug Underwood

Apologies: Clare Alban, June Perkins, Lord Mayor and the Chairman, Norfolk County Council

1. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chair reported that Canon Sharp had resigned from this committee, as he was not longer chair of the Diocesan European Group, and that Valerie Hay, committee officer and twinning assistant had retired from the council.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note Canon Sharp's resignation and to record the committee's gratitude to him for his contribution to the twinning committee;
- (2) record the committee's gratitude and thanks to Valerie Hay for her help and support to the committee and the twinning associations and to wish her well in the future.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Ralph Gayton declared a personal and prejudicial interest and Councillor Lay in item 6 below, applications for grants, as members of the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link. Councillor Offord declared a personal interest in item 6 as a supporter of the Norwich Twenty Group.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2010.

4. GENERAL REPORTS OF THE TWINNING ASSOCIATIONS

Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link

Ralph Gayton presented the report. There had been over 300 graduates of the scholarship project since its commencement 8 years' ago. The cost for each pupil was around £35.

Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association

Waltraud Jarrold presented the report and circulated a copy of the association's latest newsletter. Jill Noble had been elected Chairman of the association for the twelfth year running. There was a possibility that a radio link with Koblenz would be established from outside the Forum on 1 May in connection with the BUGA 2011 garden show.

Councillor Brociek-Coulton referred to BUGA 2011 and said that the stained glass window incorporated into the Norwich-in-Bloom garden would become a lasting memento of the event.

Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Doug Wilkinson and Peter Beckley presented the report. The annual concert had become a tradition and, despite making a financial loss this year, it was proposed to hold it again next year with an excellent pianist performing. The global economic situation meant that the most disadvantaged people in Serbia and Croatia were relying on help from the Red Cross soup kitchens.

Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association

Mary Corbould presented the report which was circulated at the meeting. She pointed out that regrettably the annual visit to Rouen coincided with the BUGA 2011 event in Koblenz. This was unavoidable because the trip needed to be held in school holidays but was causing a dilemma for members of both associations.

The twinning officer, said that rugby players from Rouen would be making an exchange visit to Wymondham Rugby Club in a few weeks' time. Mary Corbould said that there was an ongoing exchange of activities between Rouen and Norwich and that the association was actively encouraging young people to become members.

RESOLVED to note the reports.

5. TWINNING FUND – FINANCIAL POSITION

The twinning officer circulated a revised report and explained that the outgoings related to payments for the Novi Sad anniversary event and a grant and that the balance in hand was £976.32. Council had approved a grant to the twinning committee of £2,060 for the financial year 2011-12.

The committee was also advised that the City of Koblenz had offered a grant of up to €20,000 to enable the city to participate in the BUGA 2011. Norwich in Bloom was working on the Norwich garden display and the twinning officer was working with local groups to perform at the event in Koblenz on 1 May 2011. The total expenditure on the preparations for BUGA so far was £3,300 which had been paid out of the twinning fund, and would be reimbursed by the City of Koblenz after the event.

RESOLVED to note that

- (1) the twinning fund balance (in hand) was £976.32;
- (2) £3,300 had been spent on preparations for BUGA 2011 and that the City of Koblenz would reimburse this after the event.

6. APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Link

(Ralph Gayton and Councillor Lay having declared an interest left the meeting at this point.)

RESOLVED, following discussion, to grant £1,000 towards the costs of sending a delegation to El Viejo to celebrate the Link's 25th anniversary.

(Ralph Gayton and Councillor Lay were readmitted to the meeting and informed of the committee's decision.)

Norwich Twenty Group

(Councillor Offord had declared an interest in this item.)

RESOLVED, following discussion, to grant £250 to the Norwich Twenty Group for costs towards taking an exhibition to Koblenz in April 2011.

7. REPORT OF THE TWINNING OFFICER

The twinning officer said that work on the preparations for the BUGA 2011 garden show in Koblenz and the visit of rugby players from Rouen had already been discussed early in the meeting and therefore he had nothing further to report. He had not yet received confirmation from the Lord Mayor on who would make up the civic party to attend the BUGA 2011 garden show in Koblenz.

RESOLVED to note the report.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The chair took the opportunity to thank members of the committee for their friendship and support over the years as he would not be seeking re-election in May 2011.

RESOLVED to confirm that the next meeting will be on 2 June 2011 at 4.00pm.

CHAIR