NORWICH City Council

Twinning committee

Date: Thursday, 23 June 2022
Time: 16:00
Venue: Mancroft room, City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH

Committee members:
Councillor Maguire (Lord Mayor)
Councillor Catt
Councillor Hampton
Councillor Mike Sands
Councillor Schmierer
Councillor Vaughan Thomas
Councillor Vivien Thomas
Councillor Wright

Ralph Gayton (El Viejo)
Bob Young (Koblenz)
Jill Noble (Koblenz)
Sandra Underwood (Novi Sad)
Doug Underwood (Novi Sad)
Isabelle Savage (Rouen)
Chairman (Norfolk County Council) (ex officio)

For further information please contact:

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For information about attending or speaking at meetings, please contact the committee officer above or refer to the council's website

IN TRAN communication for all

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Agenda

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1 Appointment of chair

To appoint the chair for the ensuing civic year.

2 Appointment of vice chair

To appoint the vice chair for the ensuing civic year.

3 Apologies

To receive apologies for absence.

4 Declarations of interest

(Please note that it is the responsibility of individual members to declare an interest prior to the item if they arrive late for the meeting)

5 Minutes **3 - 4**

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2022.

6 Twinning fund financial position **5 - 8**

Purpose - To note the twinning fund financial position.

7 Reports of the twinning associations

7(a) Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association
7(b) Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Association
7(c) Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association
7(d) Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link

Date of publication**: Thursday, 16 June 2022**

NORWICH City Council

Item 5

MINUTES

Twinning committee

16:05 to 16:35 **10 March 2022**

Present:	Councillors Maguire (chair), Hampton Oliver, Schmierer and Thomas (Vi); Ann and Chris Rowe (Rouen) Jill Noble (Koblenz); and Ralph Gayton and David Raby (El Viejo)
Apologies:	Councillors Brociek-Coulton, Grahame and Thomas (Va) and Waltraud Jarrold MBE (Koblenz) and Doug Underwood and Sandra Underwood (Novi Sad)

1. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2022.

2. Update to the twinning committee

The democratic and elections manager presented the report. He highlighted the recommendations made at the previous meeting and confirmed that these had been approved by the executive director of corporate and commercial services.

The reported balance of the twinning fund was £3489.97 but this did mot take into account the grant payments made following publication of the report..

Although there had been a break in committee meetings, with events and activities taking place again, the democratic and elections manager assured committee members that communication channels were open and any grant applications could be sent through.

RESOLVED to note the update report.

3. Reports of the twinning associations

Chris Rowe gave an update on the Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association. Although events were still quiet, the association remained buoyant which was promising. Monthly online meetings continued to take place with counterparts in Rouen and the online AGM in October 2021 had seen committee members staying in post until the March 2022 AGM.

Some French friends intended to visit in July for four days which would be a chance for everyone to reconnect.

Chris Rowe would be standing down as chair which meant that the representative on the committee would change. He had had a successful and enjoyable time as chair and thanks the committee and the other associations for their kindness and friendship over the years. Members of the committee gave a unanimous vote of thanks to Chris for all his work in forming links between Rouen and Norwich over the years.

Jill Noble updated the committee on the activities of the Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Association. The association had been fortunate to be able to hold three events in 2021 between lockdowns. The summer outing had been to Aylsham on the Bure Valley Railway and a birthday lunch was held in September for the associations 41st year. The advent evening, which was usually held at the Great Hospital, was instead held at the Norwich Cathedral refectory due to price increases.

The AGM would be held in March and it was hoped that there would be interest in the summer outing, potentially to a stately home, and a visit to Koblenz at the end of August, subject to travel restrictions. Jill would be stepping down as chair. Members gave a unanimous vote of thanks to Jill for her work as chair of the association and for the activities and links that the association had formed.

The representatives of the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association had sent apologies for the meeting.

Ralph Gayton gave an update to the committee on the work of the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link. The government in Nicaragua had required full legal arrangements with the association which would be very costly and the association was having to consolidate its position. David Raby confirmed that the Nicaraguan government had put together a requirement that NGOs with foreign links needed to register formally, and legally, with the government and the foreign office. This meant that there was a need to have a legal representative in Nicaragua, complex documentation to be completed and registration fees.

The Lord Mayor said that he hoped the situation would improve and looked forward to an update in due course.

RESOLVED to note the updates of the associations.

CHAIR

NORWICH City Council

Item 6

Committee Name: Twinning
Committee Date: 23/06/2022
Report Title: Twinning fund – financial position

Portfolio: Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources

Report from: Democratic and elections manager

Wards: All wards

OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

Purpose
To provide a financial update to the twinning committee

Recommendation:

To note the twinning fund financial position

Policy Framework
The Council has five corporate priorities, which are:

- People live independently and well in a diverse and safe city.
- Norwich is a sustainable and healthy city.
- Norwich has the infrastructure and housing it needs to be a successful city.
- The city has an inclusive economy in which residents have equal opportunity to flourish.
- Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city.

This report helps to meet the corporate priorities of Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city and people live independently and well in a diverse and safe city.

Report Details

Financial Position 2021 -22

1. The balance of the Twinning Fund in January 2022 was **£3489.97**, there were no transactions up to this date for the financial year.

2. Expenditure transactions in January 2022 were as follows

Date	Transactions	£
January 2022	Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association	200.00
January 2022	Norfolk & Norwich Rouen Friendship Association	200.00
January 2022	Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association	200.00
January 2022	Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association – Paul Cross Memorial Concert	250.00

3. These grants concern the 2021-2022 financial year. The twinning committee will need to consider how grant funding to the associations is taken forward to the next financial year 2022-23. The committee would need to recommend any future grants to the executive director of corporate and commercial services for approval.

4. The closing balance at the end of the of the 2021-22 financial year was **£2639.97.**

Financial Position 2022-23

5. The opening balance for the financial year 2022-23 is **£2639.97.**

6. The Twinning Fund will be allocated an additional **£2060** for the current financial year.

7. Members of the committee are reminded that applications for grants for twinning related activities can be made by completing a form and contacting the democratic and elections manager.

8. The Twinning Associations are encouraged to submit applications to the committee for consideration.

9. Any grants recommended by the committee would need to be approved by the executive director of corporate and commercial services

Consultation

10. There has been no consultation on this report.

Implications

Financial and Resources

Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the council's stated priorities, as set out in its Corporate Plan and Budget.

11. The report sets out the financial position of the twinning fund. Any grant applications will be considered within existing budgets.

Legal

12. There are no legal implications within this report.

Statutory Considerations

Consideration	**Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:**
Equality and Diversity	None
Health, Social and Economic Impact	None
Crime and Disorder	None
Children and Adults Safeguarding	None
Environmental Impact	None

Other Options Considered

13. No other options are recommended.

Reasons for the decision/recommendation

14. The twinning committee is invited to note the financial position to enable grant applications to be considered throughout the year.

Background papers: None

Appendices: None

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