



Twinning committee

16:00 to 16:40

14 March 2019

Present: Councillors Schmierer (chair) Fullman (vice chair), Huntley, Peek, Raby and Thomas (Vi): and Ralph Gayton (El Viejo), Waltraud Jarrold MBE and Jill Noble (Koblenz); Doug Underwood and Sandra Underwood (Novi Sad) and Ann and Chris Rowe (Rouen)

Apologies: Councillors Brociek-Coulton, Maxwell and Wright

1. Declarations of interest

Councillor Fullman declared that he was a member of the Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association, the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association and the Norfolk and Norwich/Koblenz Friendship Association.

Councillor Raby declared that he was a member of the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link and the Norfolk and Norwich / Rouen Friendship Association.

Councillor Thomas (Vi) declared that she was a member of the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link.

2. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2018

3. Twinning fund – financial position

The democratic and elections manager presented the report.

RESOLVED to note the twinning fund financial position.

4. Application for Twinning grant

The chair presented the report which outlined a grant application made by Stefan Ebelewicz to assist with the cost of an exhibition at the Museum of Norwich, marking the 60th anniversary of twinning between Rouen and Norwich.

A member commented that the exhibition would be on display during the period that the Freeman of Norwich make the Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell free, which would make the exhibition accessible to more visitors.

Members agreed that the grant application was well written and detailed and that they were pleased to support the grant.

RESOLVED to approve the grant of £500 to Stefan Ebelewicz to assist with the cost of an exhibition at the Museum of Norwich, marking the 60th anniversary of twinning between Rouen and Norwich.

5. Reports of the Twinning Associations

Norfolk and Norwich/Koblenz Friendship Association

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

She paid tribute to Brenda Woods who had recently passed away and said that she had made significant contributions to twinning.

The German conversation group had made a £250 contribution to 'Feed the Minds' and had made a similar contribution to 'Meningitis Now'. There had been a change of date for the 'Feed the Minds' book fair which would take place from 10 – 13 July at St Andrews Church in Norwich.

The Musik Institut Choir were due to arrive on Norwich on 14 March and would stay until Sunday 17 March with a performance of Verdes Requiem taking place on Saturday 16 March at St Andrews Hall.

The Koblenz Cycle Link had raised over £6,000 so the association was looking to do another cycle ride with the Sports Foundation.

Norfolk and Norwich/Rouen Friendship Association

Chris Rowe presented the report. He said that arrangements were being made for visits in the summer with a visit to Rouen in June and a party of visitors would make the trip to Norwich in July. The visitors would meet the Lord Mayor and take part in the Lord Mayor's procession. Following the parade there would be a garden party hosted by Beryl Blower.

The City of Ale would launch in May and boats with beer from the Northmaen Brewery would be sailing from Rouen to Norwich. They would be mooring at the Waterfront on King Street and would be open to the public from 5:30pm on Thursday 23 May, with tickets available from the UEA.

Norfolk and Norwich – El Viejo Friendship Link

Ralph Gayton presented the report. He said that unfortunately he had to report that violence had broken out again in Nicaragua. A peace process was in progress with talks between the representatives from the government and the private sector. The next few months would be crucial to the process and he was receiving regular updates on the negotiations.

Councillor Raby added that the AGM had taken place on 21 February 2019. The Nicaraguan ambassador had been present and had given an enlightening appraisal of the situation in Nicaragua.

Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Doug Underwood presented the report. The annual lunch had taken place with a consort from the Serbian embassy in attendance.

The Paul Cross memorial concert was held in January and a profit of £300 had been raised which would be sent to the Milan Petrović school to go towards a special educational project.

The Novisad Friendship bridge was being repaired which was scheduled to take around a week to complete. There had been assurances from the contractor that the plaque would be kept safely and put back onto the bridge.

He added that he had recently been contacted by a journalist from the Guardian newspaper who was interested in twinning and Norwich's links with Novi Sad.

RESOLVED to receive the reports from the twinning associations.

CHAIR