

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TWINNING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 30th September, 2008

Present: Cllr D J Aikman, Cllr Mrs J A Anderson, Cllr Ms V Branson, Cllr M J Dobson, Cllr Miss J L Sergison and Cllr Ms S V Spence: Mr Bisson, Mr Packer and Mr Still.

Councillor Mrs Murray was also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 15.21.

In attendance were Ms Beilby (Secretary) and Ms Saunders (Assistant Secretary).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Heslop and Thornevell, from Mr Brooks, Mr Brooks-Johnson, Ms Levett and Mr Young and from Mrs Shenton (Committee Administrator).

PART 1 - PUBLIC

**TWC
08/001 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**TWC
08/002 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED: That Councillor M Dobson be appointed Chairman of the Twinning Committee for the current municipal year.

**TWC
08/003 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED: That Mr D Still be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Twinning Committee for the current municipal year.

**TWC
08/004 MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Twinning Committee held on 5 November 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**TWC
08/005**

SECRETARY'S REPORT

(1) HEUSENSTAMM

(2) LE PUY

(3) MALLING AUCHEL 25TH ANNIVERSARY CIVIC RECEPTION

(4) GRANTS

Ms Saunders reported that a reception had taken place on 30 June for a group of Fire Brigade Cadets from Heusenstamm and that a further reception had taken place on 2 September for pupils of the Gymnasium in Heusenstamm participating in the annual exchange with The Judd School and Tonbridge Girls Grammar School. She also advised that the Mayor, Councillor Chris Smith, had been invited to attend the Nikolausmarkt in Heusenstamm over the weekend 6-7 December 2008.

Ms Saunders reported that in 2009 Heusenstamm would be celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of its status as a town and that the Mayor had been invited to attend the ceremony over the weekend 29 May - 1 June 2009. The committee noted that the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Twinning with Heusenstamm would also be celebrated next year and that further information about the proposed ceremony to be held in Heusenstamm was awaited.

Ms Saunders reported that a reception had been held for pupils from the Lycee Charles et Adrien, Le Puy during an exchange visit with The Judd School. She also advised that the elections in Le Puy earlier this year had resulted in a change of administration and, in addition, there had been changes to the Twinning Committee in Le Puy. The Committee noted that Jacques Banvillet had retired as chairman and that his successor was Elisabeth Raffier Cauvin.

The Committee were advised that the Little Bridge Theatre Company of Tonbridge were producing a medieval drama based upon the 1270s (when Edward I visited Tonbridge Castle) and hoped to link this drama to life in Le Puy at that time. The Borough Council had offered to assist the theatre company by providing contacts to enable the necessary research.

Ms Saunders reported that a reception had been held on 26 April 2008 to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Malling Auchel Twinning Association. English members and French guests as well as members of the Twinning Committee had attended.

The Committee was advised that, in May 2008, twinning grants had been made to the Snodland-Moyeuve Twinning Association, Le Puy Exchange-The Judd School, the Heusenstamm Friendship Circle and the Le Puy Charity Cycle Ride. It was noted that Mrs Marcia Sargison had advised that the grant to the Judd School had been used to hire a coach for an excursion by the German and English pupils.

Mr David Packer reported that the grant to the friendship circle had been used to hire a coach to transport the group of twenty-eight Heusenstammers from Heathrow to Tonbridge at the beginning of their

trip to Stratford in June.

In the absence of Mr Brooks-Johnson the Chairman read a report on the charity cycle ride from Tonbridge to Le Puy and circulated cuttings taken from french and english newspapers.

In the absence of any report from the Snodland-Moyeuivre Twinning Association the Chairman instructed the Secretary write to the Snodland-Moyeuivre Twinning Association to request the submission of a written report.

Ms Saunders reminded the Committee that the deadline for submission of applications for grants for next year was 31 January 2009.

**TWC
08/006**

REPORT OF TONBRIDGE FRENCH CIRCLE

In the absence of Mr Brooks no report was submitted.

**TWC
08/007**

REPORT OF HEUSENSTAMM FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

(1) NACHRICHTEN MAY 2008

(2) NACHRICHTEN AUGUST 2008

(3) MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 4 MARCH 2008

Mr Packer commented on the content of the editions of 'Nachrichten' and the notes of the Friendship Circle's Annual General Meeting which had been circulated with the agenda. He presented a detailed report on the Circle's recent activities and outlined its future programme of events. Particular reference was made to the fiftieth anniversary of Heusenstamm's status as a town and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the twinning with Heusenstamm, both of which would be celebrated in 2009.

**TWC
08/008**

REPORT OF MALLING/AUCHEL ASSOCIATION

Mr Bisson reported on the Association's recent activities and events and outlined its future programme. Particular reference was made to the 25th Anniversary celebrated in early 2008.

**TWC
08/009**

REPORT OF SNODLAND/MOYEUVRE GRAND TWINNING ASSOCIATION

In the absence of Mr Hickmott no report was submitted.

**TWC
08/010**

REPORT OF BURHAM AND L'EPINE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

In the absence of Mr Young no report was submitted.

**TWC
08/011**

REPORT OF DITTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

In the absence of Mrs Jones no report was submitted.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

**TWC
08/012**

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

No matters were considered in private.

The meeting ended at 2029 hours