

# **TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **TWINNING COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, 23rd April, 2009**

**Present:** Cllr M J Dobson (Chairman), Mr D Still (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs J A Anderson, Cllr Ms V Branson and Cllr N J Heslop; Mr Atkinson (on behalf of Ditton Twinning Association), Mr Bisson, Ms Levett and Mr Packer.

In attendance were Ms Saunders (Assistant Secretary) and Mrs Shenton (Committee Administrator).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Miss Sergison, Mr Brooks, Mr Brooks-Johnson, Mrs Jones and Mr Young and from Ms Beilby (Secretary).

### **PART 1 - PUBLIC**

#### **TWC 09/001      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

#### **TWC 09/002      MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Twinning Committee held on 30 September 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **TWC 09/003      SECRETARY'S REPORT (1) HEUSENSTAMM (2) LE PUY (3) GRANTS**

Ms Saunders advised that the Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling would be attending the 50th Anniversary celebrations in Heusenstamm over the weekend 29 May to 1 June 2009. She advised that the pupil exchange would take place during the summer term and that a reception at Tonbridge Castle had been provisionally scheduled for 29 June.

She reported that Elisabeth Raffier had been appointed as Chairman of the twinning committee in Le Puy and had advised that Emmanuelle Faure and Marc Jousserard had been nominated to provide 'day to day' links with Tonbridge and Malling. The Committee noted that Le Puy was hoping to establish an exchange with the newly formed Aylesford Youth Group. The Committee further noted that the Le Puy Twinning Committee was able to provide contacts for the

Little Bridge Theatre Company of Tonbridge to assist with the production of a drama based on a visit to Tonbridge Castle by Edward I.

The Secretary's report provided an update on the situation of grant aid in view of the current global financial situation.

**TWC  
09/004**

#### **REPORT OF TONBRIDGE FRENCH CIRCLE**

In the absence of Mr Brooks, Ms Levett provided a brief outline of the Circle's future programme of activities.

**TWC  
09/005**

#### **REPORT OF HEUSENSTAMM FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE (1) NACHRICHTEN NOVEMBER 2008 (2) NACHRICHTEN JANUARY 2009 (3) NACHRICHTEN APRIL 2009**

Mr Packer commented on the content of the editions of 'Nachrichten' which had been circulated with the agenda. He circulated copies of recent press cuttings relating to twinning activity in Heusenstamm and presented a detailed report on the Circle's recent activities and future programme of events. Particular reference was made to the fiftieth anniversary of Heusenstamm's status as a town and to the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Borough's twinning with Heusenstamm.

**TWC  
09/006**

#### **REPORT OF MALLING/AUCHEL ASSOCIATION**

Mr Bisson reported on the Association's recent activities and events and he provided an outline of its future programme. Particular reference was made to the effect the current financial climate had had on twinning organisations within Europe and the need to encourage and develop family based exchanges.

**TWC  
09/007**

#### **REPORT OF SNODLAND/MOYEUVRE GRAND TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

In the absence of Mr Hickmott no report was submitted.

**TWC  
09/008**

#### **REPORT OF BURHAM AND L'EPINE TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

In the absence of Mr Young no report was submitted but it was noted that, in submitting his apologies, Mr Young had indicated that this association was 'dormant'.

**TWC  
09/009**

#### **REPORT OF DITTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

In the absence of Mrs Jones, Mr Atkinson provided a brief outline of the Association's recent activities and events together with an outline of its future programme.

**TWC  
09/010**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Committee was advised that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday 24 September 2009.

**MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE**

**TWC  
09/011**

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

No matters were considered in private.

The meeting ended at 2032 hours