

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TWINNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 24th September, 2009

Present: Cllr M J Dobson (Chairman elect), Cllr D J Aikman, Cllr Ms V Branson and Cllr Miss J L Sergison, Mr Brooks-Johnson, Ms Levett and Mr Packer.

Councillor Mrs Murray was also present.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Anderson, N Heslop and Thornewell and from Mr Brooks, Mrs Jones, Mr Still and Mr Young.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

**TWC
09/012 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**TWC
09/013 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

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

**TWC
09/014 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

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

**TWC
09/015 MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Twinning Committee held on 23 April 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**TWC
09/016 SECRETARY'S REPORT
(1) HEUSENSTAMM
(2) GRANTS**

The Committee noted that details of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the twinning with Heusenstamm were set out in the report of the Heusenstamm Friendship Circle.

The Secretary advised that a request received from the Snodland/Moyeuivre Grand Twinning Association to 'roll forward' the grant allocated towards a visit from Moyeuivre to Snodland had been agreed in consultation with the Chairman. She advised that the original event, planned for 2008, had been postponed due to unforeseen circumstances and that it had taken place in May 2009.

**TWC
09/017**

REPORT OF TONBRIDGE FRENCH CIRCLE

In submitting his apologies for absence Mr Brooks had provided a brief report on the Circle's recent and forthcoming activities and events. This was circulated at the meeting and the Committee noted that Mr Brooks would be stepping down as Chairman at the Circle's forthcoming Annual General Meeting. The Chairman expressed an interest in attending the AGM and it was noted that details would be sought from the Circle.

**TWC
09/018**

REPORT OF HEUSENSTAMM FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE (1) NACHRICHTEN JULY 2009

Mr Packer focused his report on the recent visit to Heusenstamm and advised that a contingent of sixteen people, including the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Sue Murray, had visited the twin town over the weekend of 19-20 September to join the celebration of the twenty-fifth Anniversary of Twinning between Heusenstamm and Tonbridge and Malling. He advised that, to mark the occasion, the Freundschaftskreis had presented the Friendship Circle with a symbolic oak tree, to be procured locally when a suitable planting site had been identified.

The Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling, Councillor Mrs Sue Murray, reported that she had signed a Charter confirming the twenty-five years of twinning between Heusenstamm and Tonbridge and Malling. The Committee unanimously congratulated Councillor Mike Dobson and Mr David Packer on being awarded the honour of the Ehrenbrief Des Landes Hessen, equivalent to the MBE, in recognition of their contributions to twinning over many years.

**TWC
09/019**

REPORT OF MALLING/AUCHEL ASSOCIATION

In the absence of Mr Bisson no report was submitted.

**TWC
09/020**

REPORT OF SNODLAND/MOYEUVRE GRAND TWINNING ASSOCIATION

In the absence of Mr Hickmott no report was submitted.

**TWC
09/021**

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 advised that this association 'remained dormant'.

**TWC
09/022**

REPORT OF DITTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

In submitting her apologies for absence Mrs Jones had provided a brief report on the Association's recent and forthcoming activities and events.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

**TWC
09/023**

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

No matters were considered in private.

The meeting ended at 2020 hours