

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TWINNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 11th December, 2014

Present: Mr M Dobson (Chairman), Cllr P J Homewood (Vice-Chairman), Mr D Still (Vice-Chairman), Cllr S M King, Mr N Brooks-Johnson, Mr P Hickmott, Ms S Levett and Mr D Packer.

Councillors J Atkins and Mrs S Murray were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

In attendance was Mr S Gregg (Leisure Services)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J A Anderson, J A L Balcombe, V M C Branson and Mrs C M Gale; and from Mr M Atkinson, Mrs L Kirk and Mr D Young.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

TWC 14/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

TWC 14/15 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Twinning Committee held on 3 July 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

TWC 14/16 REPORT OF TWINNING OFFICER

The Leisure Services Manager (Development), Mr S Gregg, presented the twinning officer's report on recent activity with Heusenstamm and Le Puy-en-Velay and made particular reference to an Anglo-French tournament hosted by Tonbridge Tennis Club with a group of players from Le Puy over the weekend of 23/24 August and to the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the twinning between Tonbridge and Malling and Heusenstamm over the weekend 13-14 September 2014. Further to Minute TWC 14/5 of the previous meeting, Mr Gregg advised that a sign detailing the history of the Heusenstamm Friendship Wood was being progressed in liaison with the Heusenstamm Friendship Circle.

In the absence of Mr Bisson, Mr Gregg set out details of the Malling Auchel Association's celebration of its thirtieth anniversary of twinning with Auchel which had included the installation of a tree and commemorative plaque in Macey's Meadow, near to the cricket pavilion in West Malling, which had been attended by the Mayor. Regrettably,

Mr Gregg also advised that, due to the depletion of membership in both the associations, a decision had been taken to end the formal twinning arrangement between the two towns on a 'high note' following the celebration of the anniversary.

TWC 14/17 REPORT OF TONBRIDGE FRENCH CIRCLE

In the absence of Mrs Kirk a written report provided by the Tonbridge French Circle was circulated at the meeting and Ms Levett provided a verbal update on the Circle's proposed programme of activities to April 2015.

TWC 14/18 REPORT OF HEUSENSTAMM FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Mr Packer presented details of recent and proposed activities of the Heusenstamm Friendship Circle and circulated copies of recent editions of 'Nachrichten'. Particular reference was made to the Torbau Celebrations held in July and to the recent Nikolausabend and Nikolausmarkt held in late November and early December.

TWC 14/19 REPORT OF SNODLAND/MOYEUVRE GRAND TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Mr Hickmott provided details of recent and forthcoming activities and made particular reference to a recent exchange with Holmesdale school involving six and seven students. In addition, he anticipated that a football exchange visit would be undertaken in May 2015.

TWC 14/20 REPORT OF BURHAM/L'EPINE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

In the absence of Mr Young, no report was submitted.

TWC 14/21 REPORT OF DITTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

In the absence of Mr Atkinson his written report was presented by Mr Gregg. Particular reference was made to the proposed celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the twinning between Ditton and Rang-du-Fliers, the celebration of Bastille Day and the annual cross-channel petanque match. It was noted that Mr Atkinson had advised that he had recently retired from the post of Chairman of the Ditton Twinning Committee.

TWC 14/22 REPORT OF EAST PECKHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION

In the absence of Mr Street no report was submitted.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

TWC 14/23 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

No matters were considered in private.

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm