

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TWINNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 28th November, 2013

Present: Mr M Dobson (Chairman elect), Cllr P J Homewood (Vice-Chairman elect), Cllr Ms V M C Branson and Mr D Packer.

In attendance were Mr D Lanes and Ms L Bennett (Leisure Services)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Anderson, Balcombe, Chartres, Edmondston-Low, Mrs Gale, Jessel and King; and from Mr D Still (Vice-Chairman elect), Mr M Atkinson, Mr P Bisson, Mr N Brooks-Johnson, Mr B Buck, Mr G Haycock, Mr P Hickmott, Ms S Levett and Mr D Young.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

**TWC
13/01 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**TWC
13/02 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

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

**TWC
13/03 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMEN**

RESOLVED: That Councillor P Homewood and Mr D Still be appointed as Vice-Chairmen of the Twinning Committee for the current municipal year.

**TWC
13/04 MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Twinning Committee held on 13 December 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**TWC
13/05 UPDATE ON TWINNING COMMITTEE**

Mr D Lanes, Head of Leisure Services, provided an update on the administrative changes to the twinning function within the Borough Council and advised that twinning had been moved to Street Scene and Leisure Services which also dealt with tourism, arts and events. The Committee welcomed Lyndsey Bennett, Senior Leisure Services Officer, to the role of twinning officer.

The report provided an update on recent and forthcoming activity with Heusenstamm and Le Puy-en-Velay and set out details of the Committee meetings to be held in 2014.

The low turnout at the meeting was noted by members and Councillor Homewood suggested that consideration be given to the Mayor becoming a member of the committee during their year in office.

The Committee noted the new arrangements for twinning under the Street Scene and Leisure Services directorate and requested that Ms Janet Saunders be formally thanked for her support of the Twinning Committee over a number of years.

**TWC
13/06**

REPORT OF TONBRIDGE FRENCH CIRCLE

In the absence of Mr Buck, no report was given.

**TWC
13/07**

REPORT OF HEUSENSTAMM FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

The November 2013 edition of Nachrichten was attached to the agenda and Mr Packer provided an update on the Circle's recent activities.

He expressed concern that Tonbridge Girls Grammar and Hayesbrook schools did not teach German and suggested that awareness of the benefits of twinning needed to be raised. He advised that the Circle was trying to establish links with Slade Primary School.

He advised that the Circle was keen to engage young people in twinning activity and had liaised with Jeni Ashmore to raise the benefits of twinning with the Council's Youth Forum. Mr Packer hoped that an exchange between representatives of the Youth Forum and Heusenstamm, similar to that held with Le Puy en Velay, could be arranged. Councillor Ms Branson encouraged the Circle to explore the use of Twitter to engage others in twinning.

Mr Packer thanked the Council for printing the music and programmes for the joint concert given by members of the Evangelische Kantorei and the Tonbridge Philharmonic Society at Tonbridge School on 22 June 2013.

The Committee was advised that the 41st exchange between Judd School and the Adolf-Reichwein-Gymnasium had taken place in June and Mr Packer commended the German teacher at Judd for her support and commitment in co-ordinating the event.

Finally Mr Packer highlighted that Tonbridge will have been twinned with Heusenstamm for 30 years in 2014 and advised that guests from Heusenstamm would be visiting Tonbridge over the weekend of 13/14 September. He requested whether it would be possible to fly the Heusenstamm flag at Tonbridge Castle during the weekend.

**TWC
13/08**

REPORT OF MALLING/AUCHEL ASSOCIATION

Although Mr Bisson was unable to attend and had submitted his apologies, he provided a written report, which is attached to these minutes.

**TWC
13/09**

REPORT OF SNODLAND/MOYEUVRE GRAND TWINNING ASSOCIATION

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

**TWC
13/10**

REPORT OF BURHAM/L'EPINE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

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

**TWC
13/11**

REPORT OF DITTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Although Mr Atkinson was unable to attend and had submitted his apologies, he provided a written report, which is attached to these minutes.

**TWC
13/12**

REPORT OF EAST PECKHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Mr Haycock, in submitting his apologies, had advised that he was unable to attend future meetings and that the Association would be represented by the new Chairman, Mr Peter Street. In the absence of a representative, no report was submitted.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

**TWC
13/13**

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

No matters were considered in private.

The meeting ended at 2015 hours