



Newtown Twinning Committee Meeting Minutes Elephant & Castle – 28 Feb 2019, 6.30 p.m.

Present: Kate Rayner; Richard Edwards; Alwena Gentle; Andrew Gentle; Kevin Wilson; Paul Harry Barron; Fred Mathieu; Steve Page

Apologies: Cheryl Wilson; Liz & Jon Bushell; Catharyn Edwards

[In the absence of the Minutes Secretary it was agreed that the minutes be taken by Steve Page.]

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the special meeting concerning Membership issues held on 6 February 2019 were agreed.

2. Matters arising from Minutes of 17th January and 6th February 2019

Noted: That the Individual Membership application form was still in the process of being revised.

[Action : Andrew Gentle/Steve Page]

Noted: That no further contact had been received from PicRight UK regarding the alleged infringement of copyright of an image formerly placed on the website.

3. Erasmus Sub-Committee

Noted: That preparations were on schedule for the visit by business students to Newtown between 18th – 29th March 2019. Changes had been made to the number of students and businesses originally envisaged but 9 students, 9 businesses and 7 hosts were now allocated. Letters had been sent to each residential and business host regarding the respective student. Information requested by Les Herbiers together with questionnaires for each participating student to complete in advance had been sent to Laurent. Agreed that a copy of the programme for the visit would be sent to Laurent [Action: Kate Rayner].

Noted that the weekday language classes would be held in the Town Council offices. Agreed: That photographs of the visit would be taken for publicity purposes [Action; Paul Harry Barron].

4. Policies and Procedures Sub-Committee

In Cheryl's absence, a brief verbal report was given by Kevin Wilson. Agreed: That all personal postal and email addresses for officers would be removed from the website [Action: Andrew Gentle]. Agreed: That the Town Council be asked to confirm that it was happy for its building to be used as a post restante address for Twinning Association [Action – Fred Mathieu].

5. Music Exchange Visit Sub-Committee

A request was made for a copy of the minutes of this sub-committee to be made available. Noted: That the representatives of the Schools Music Service expected to be able to recruit sufficient participants in 2020 to fill a 49-seater coach, and that no problem of capacity for transport of instruments was anticipated. The question of any additional vehicle to transport non-musicians would need to be addressed in the due course.

Noted : That an approach had been made by the Chairman of the Governors of the Newtown High School for a group of language students from Newtown and Presteigne to join the Music Exchange visit in 2020. Agreed: That a meeting be arranged with representatives of the school to discuss their objectives for this [Action : Andrew Gentle].

6. Use of residual funds from Newtown Town Council

It was reported that all the Invoices already submitted to the Town Council in order to fully utilize the available monies for 2018/9 had been accepted for payment. This would mean that almost all the allocation for twinning purposes for the year will have been used. Noted: That a further sum of £2000 had again been allocated for the financial year 2019/2020. Discussion then took place on the relative advantages of submitting a request for a grant for this sum as against the existing process of agreeing relevant expenditure and then submitting invoices for payment by Newtown Town Council. Agreed: That the Association will apply for a grant of £2000 for 2019-20 [Action : Fred Mathieu/Richard Edwards].

7. Film Evening Sub-Committee

Kate Rayner reported that she had received a briefing from Liz Bushell prior to the meeting and that all arrangements were in hand for the screening of 'Les Parapluies de Cherbourg' at the Crescent Christian Centre on Friday 8th March.

8. Presentation to College Students

Note : That the Deputy Mayor Sue Hill, of Newtown LTC will attend the ceremony at Newtown campus of NPTC on Wednesday 13th March at 12 noon, to present certificates to those students who accompanied the group to the Jum' Regal food festival in Les Herbiers on 1st December 2018. Steve Cass, Head of Site will also attend. Light refreshments will be served and Kevin Wilson will speak on behalf of the Association.

9. Annual Dinner

Despite the fact that no arrangements had yet been made, the feeling of the meeting was that the event should go ahead and that a formal dinner was preferable to a buffet. Agreed : That investigation be made of the possibility of holding the meal with a themed French menu at the Waggon and Horses on a Friday evening in late April or early May. [Action : Andrew Gentle] Agreed: An attempt to find a speaker for the dinner should also be made. [Action: Kate Rayner]

10. Food Festival

Although this would normally be the responsibility of the Policies and Procedures sub-committee, the Festival remained a separate Agenda item for the moment. Richard Edwards reported that there was now a new organization responsible for the Festival, but for this year, arrangements would continue much as in the past. Noted: That the organisers have been notified of the Association's wish to again operate the French Village from a large marquee. It was possible that sponsorship might be available to cover some of the cost of marquee hire, and it was agreed to seek this. [Action – Andrew Gentle]

In recognition of the twentieth anniversary this year of the twinning relationship, it was anticipated that a larger than normal party might visit from Les Herbiers. Agreed : That L'Association de Jumelage be asked for a ball-park indication of anticipated numbers of visitors [Action : Kate Rayner].

11. Chrono 2019

Noted : That at present it has not been possible to ascertain the likely interest of the local cycling club in attending the event in France, and that it was not likely therefore that there would be sufficient interest in attending the accompanying Trade Fair to justify an official visit by the Association.

12. Summer Events

Agreed : To take a stall at the Newtown Carnival on Saturday 8th June.

Agreed : To organize another pique-nique, if possible at Penstrowed Church Hall, one Sunday in July. Access to facilities for Archery would also be desirable. [Action: Andrew Gentle]

13. Walking Festival, 1st and 2nd June 2019

Noted : that no expressions of interest in attending have been received from walking groups in Les Herbiers. Agreed : That one final request for information about likely participants should be made to L'Association de Jumelage. [Action: Kate Rayner]

14 .A.O.B.

Suggestions for an event/activity to mark the twentieth anniversary of twinning were requested by the next meeting. [Action : all members].

15.Date for Next meeting:

Thursday 4th April 2019 at the Elephant & Castle, beginning at 6.00 p.m.

Agenda items from this meeting forwarded to next meeting: None