

TOWN TWINNING NETWORK

WEDNESDAY, 27 APRIL 2016

PRESENT:- Councillor Kevin Small (Chair), Councillors Junab Ali, Teresa Page and Maureen Penny
Cristina Bennett and Cecilia Olley (Swindon Ocotal Link)

An apology for absence was received from Mark Sarnowski

31. Declarations of Interest

Cristina Bennett and Cecilia Olley made declarations of interest in respect of agenda item no. 7. and did not vote in respect of this item.

32. Public Question Time

There were no public questions

33. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 2015 be confirmed and signed.

34. Exempt Items - Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved – That, in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in agenda item no 7, (“Application for a Town Twinning Grant”) on the grounds that they involve the likely discussion of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

35. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links

The Network considered a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services listing the Town Twinning Associations and Links in and around Swindon and verbal reports from the following Town Twinning Associations and Links present at the meeting.

Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association (SSTA)

The Chair advised the Network that no progress had been made on the possibility of the SSTA continuing to operate. He advised that the Mayor of Salzgitter was visiting Swindon in early October 2016.

Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)

Cristina Bennett advised that two visitors were arriving from Nicaragua on the 28th April. She circulated a timetable of events that had been planned for the visitors and

extended an invitation to members of the Network to attend any of the events, in particular the Civic Reception organised for the 6th May and the Spanish Evening to be held at the Arts Centre on the 9th May.

Cecelia Olley circulated a copy of “A Taste of Nicaragua” cookbook that was due to be launched on the 7th May and would be available for purchase at the Arts Centre.

It was noted that Councillors had already been invited to the Civic Reception and it was agreed that, deadlines permitting, an item promoting the event be placed in the Members Bulletin.

36. Application for a Town Twinning Grant

On consideration of a report of the Director, Law and Democratic Services, concerning an application for a Town Twinning Grant from the Swindon Ocotal Link.
Resolved – (1) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Twinning and the Chef Executive be recommended:

- (a) That a Town Twinning Grant of £1000 be made to Swindon Ocotal Link towards the costs of a cultural visit to Swindon by two guests from Ocotal Nicaragua from 29th April until 17th May 2016.
- (b) That a further grant of £250 be made to Swindon Ocotal Link from monies unspent from the Salzgitter funding.

(2) That future copies of the “Report from the Town Twinning Associations and Links” report include a brief paragraph outlining the amount unspent in the Town Twinning Fund.