

TOWN TWINNING NETWORK

WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

PRESENT:- Councillor Maureen Panny (Vice Chair in the Chair), Mark Sarnowski (Swindon Torun Link), Councillor Andrew Bennett, Nazma Ramruttun (Swindon Mauritius Friendship Twinning), Councillor Junab Ali, Cristina Bennett (Swindon Ocotal Link), Councillor Teresa Page and Councillor Maureen Penny

Apologies for absence were received from Richard Pearce, Hassan Nur, Roger Gower, Mike Ide, Councillor Kevin Small, Councillor Michael Bray and Cecilia Olley

22. Appointment of Vice-Chair

Resolved:

That Councillor Maureen Penny be appointed Vice-Chair of the Town Twinning Network for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

23. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

24. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

25. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

26. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links

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

Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

In the absence of Roger Gower the Clerk reported that the Association had now received the Town Twinning Grant.

Councillor Bennett reported on the visit to Swindon by a number of Twinning Association members from Salzgitter from 18th – 25th June 2015. He explained that the programme was designed to allow for organised visits, informal gatherings and free time when hosts could entertain their guests as they wished. It was noted that the places visited were chosen as being as local to Swindon as possible.

The Network noted that a civic visit would be taking place by Swindon members to Salzgitter from 23rd – 27th October 2015.

Swindon Torum Link

Mark Sarnowski reported that an artist from Torun had been commissioned to design a memorial for Queens Park. The memorial would commemorate the contribution of the Polish people through the years towards the development and culture of Swindon. Mark spoke about the funding issues and explained that a book of dedication would be available for people to sign and also make a contribution towards the memorial.

Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)

Cristina Bennett reported that SOL had held their last meeting on 1st September and appointed a new treasurer. Their AGM was scheduled for 5th November 2015. The annual duck race had recently been held and raised £1300. This event was followed by a BBQ. SOL would be holding a curry night to which an invitation was being extended to all members of the Network.

SOL were considering making arrangements to have a visitor from Ocotal in 2016, however this was dependant on the available finances.

Highworth Twinning Association

Councillor Maureen Penny reported that a tree planting ceremony would be taking place to mark the friendship between Swindon and Pontorson.

Swindon Mauritius Friendship Link

Nazma Ramruttun reported that she had been to Mauritius in July 2015 and met with the Mayor. She explained that the former Mayor was visiting Swindon on 12th October 2015 and would be meeting the Mayor of Swindon, the Chair of the Town Twinning Network and would be speaking at the Broadgreen Community meeting.

Resolved: That the Activities of the Twinning Associations and Links be noted.