

TOWN TWINNING NETWORK

WEDNESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2017

PRESENT:- Councillors Mary Martin (Chair for the meeting) and Junab Ali and Mrs Cristina Bennett (Swindon Ocotal Link)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Claire Ellis, Nick Martin, Derique Montaut (Vice-Chair) and Kevin Small (Chair) and from Hassan Nur, Cecilia Olley, Nazma Ramruttun and Mark Sarnowski

11. Appointment of Chair

Resolved - That, in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Councillor Mary Martin be appointed as Chair for this meeting of the Town Twinning Network.

12. 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.

13. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

14. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2017, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

15. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links

The Network received a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services inviting the representatives of the Town Twinning Associations and Links present at the meeting to provide updates on twinning activities undertaken since the last meeting.

Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)

Mrs Bennett, representing SOL, reported that SOL at its last meeting had amended its constitution to terminate its charitable status, due to the administration required, and the time and effort in maintaining a membership base. The remaining SOL budget had been distributed as bursaries by the Links contact within Ocotal.

The Network noted that the Link had also changed its name to Swindon Ocotal Link Association.

Mrs Bennett explained that relationships with friends in Ocotal remained strong and the Link found that this had been enhanced by using WhatsApp to communicate between the groups.

General Twinning Links

The Network considered ways in which it could be modernised and also the future development of a statement about the role and benefits of a friendship link. Suggestions included a possible name change of the Network, linking to the Swindon City of Sanctuary and developing informal friendship links with the numerous communities in Swindon.

Resolved: (1) That the Network, at its next meeting, consider the development of a statement about the role and benefits of a friendship link.
(2) That a representative from the Swindon City of Sanctuary be invited to the next meeting of the Network to explain how the organisation promote a culture of welcome, inclusion and support for everyone in Swindon.