

TOWN TWINNING NETWORK

WEDNESDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2010

PRESENT:- Councillors Doreen Dart, Eric Shaw and Kevin Small; Derrick Gustafson, Councillor Doreen Dart, John Mayell (Swindon Ocotal Link), Councillor Eric Shaw and Councillor Kevin Small Nazma Ramruttun (potential link with Mauritius) and Stephen Taylor (Director of Law and Democratic Services).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Raymond Fisher and Stan Pajak; Hassan Nur, Tom Wilkes, Andy Lane, Bruce Clarke and David Martin.

1. Appointment of Chair

Resolved – That Councillor Doreen Dart be Chair of the Town Twinning Network until December 2011.

(Councillor Dart took the Chair)

2. Appointment of Vice - Chair

Resolved – That Andy Lane be Vice-Chair of the Town Twinning Network until December 2010.

3. 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.

4. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

5. Minutes

Resolved – That, subject to the inclusion of Nazma Ramruttun in the apologies list, the minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

Minute 21 (c) review of constitution – following comments from members of the network, the membership section of the constitution was amended and is included as an appendix to these minutes. Members also requested that the Deputy Chief Executive and Group Director Environment and Leisure, or a representative, should be invited to attend the network meetings as they had overall responsibility for Economic Development within their Directorate.

Minute 21 (e) International Youth Festival in Swindon – David Martin submitted information that he was still waiting for a response from Salzgitter and a discussion with Swindon Youth staff who were waiting on decisions concerning their future. He

would circulate information to members as soon as he had any details.

6. Reports from the 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 the Town Twinning Associations and Links:

Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

Councillor Kevin Small reported that he was in the process of trying to arrange an exchange between football referees in Salzgitter and those in Swindon either at the end of this season or at the start of next season.

The Chair added that a letter had been sent out to all those people who had been involved with the Adult Twinning Group to encourage their involvement in the group otherwise it could disappear. Following this, a committee meeting was held at which John Hamilton become President and a new Chair appointed to the Salzgitter Adult Twinning Group. A small working group would be making the arrangements for the next visit from Salzgitter and would present their ideas to the Committee. Councillor Small welcomed the progress made by the group but felt that the letter should have been sent out to a wider audience in order to encourage new people, and possibly young people, to get involved with the group. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Robert Pean outlining the Network's suggestion that contact be made with a wider audience, including local media, and that the local schools also be encouraged to participate.

Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)

John Mayell reported that the Nicaraguan Ambassador would be visiting Swindon from London on 7th December and would be meeting with the Mayor and attending their monthly meeting.

Swindon Torun Link

Stephen Taylor (Director of Law and Democratic Services) reported that a motion had been submitted to and agreed by Council that Torun would be added to the signposts at the entrance to Swindon as a Friendship Link when they were to be replaced.

Highworth Twinning Association

Derrick Gustafson reported that 60 people had visited Pontorson in October, including the Choral Society. As a result of this visit a number of people had become involved with the Twinning group. There would be another visit to Pontorson during the first week of June.

A successful quiz evening had taken place to which about 80 people attended. A visit from Pontorson to Highworth was arranged for May and visitors from Wassenberg would be visiting Highworth in August.

Derrick reported that he would not be standing for re-election and that a new committee had been elected at the AGM.

Nova Hreod School

Tom Wilkes submitted information to the Network outlining a very successful visit by a team from Nova to Harold Cressy in October. One highlight of the trip was a tour of Robben Island by Sedick Isaacs (imprisoned with Mandela) and gift of his book "Surviving in the Apartheid Prison" to each of the team. They plan to have two teachers from Harold Cressy visiting Swindon during the last two weeks of January 2011.

Potential Link with Mauritius

Nazma Ramruttun reported that she had visited Mauritius in September/October and had met with the current and previous Mayors and that she would be visiting again in January. It was agreed that Nazma would develop a proposal outlining the benefits of developing a link between Swindon and Mauritius, to include potential economic links, and that this proposal be brought to a future meeting of the Network.

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 16th March 2011.

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Constitution of Town Twinning Network

1. Mission Statement

The Town Twinning Network seeks to promote co-ordination and co-operation in the development of Twinning Links with the Twin Towns of Swindon (currently Salzgitter and Ocotal) and in other existing Twinning Links with towns in the Borough. It will also encourage the development of other international friendship links between the people of the Borough of Swindon and communities in other Countries.

2. Objectives

The Town Twinning Network will act as a co-ordinating body for interested groups and individuals seeking to promote twinning links with the Twin Towns of Swindon (currently Salzgitter and Ocotal).

The Town Twinning Network will seek to co-ordinate fund raising and publicity in relation to Town Twinning but will not itself undertake these activities.

The Town Twinning Network will seek to encourage the development of international friendship links and commercial links between the people of Swindon and communities in other Countries by the provision of a forum for discussion and the exchange of information.

The Town Twinning Network will receive and consider applications for Town Twinning Grants, and make recommendations to the Council.

3. Membership

Membership of the Town Twinning Network will comprise:

Two representatives of Salzgitter Adult Group

Two representatives of Swindon Ocotal Link

One representative from each Twin, Link and Friendship Group in the Borough of Swindon

One representative of Swindon Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Six Members of Swindon Borough Council

Such other persons as the Town Twinning Network shall from time to time co-opt to membership, together with the following ex-officio not voting members:

A representative of the Director of Law and Democratic Services, Swindon Borough Council

The Deputy Chief Executive and Group Director Environment and Leisure, or their representative

A member of the Wiltshire Police

David Martin, representing Geminid

4. Meetings and Annual Meeting

The Town Twinning Network will meet at least three times in each calendar year.

The Chair shall be elected at the Annual Meeting and serve for one year regardless of changes in his/her nomination status to the Network (ie the election to the Chair is incontrovertibly personal for one year).

The Vice - Chair shall be elected at the Annual Meeting and serve for one year regardless of changes in his/her nomination status to the Network.

Nominating bodies shall inform the Network of changes in its nominees. Such information shall appear as an item on the agenda of the Network, at which time the Network shall decide if it wishes to take its own action in the light of such information.

The quorum for meetings of the Town Twinning Network shall be five, or such other number as the Network shall from time to time determine.

The Borough Solicitor, Swindon Borough Council, will be Hon. Secretary and will arrange for the despatch of notices of meetings and for the keeping of minutes.

At least three clear days notice of the time and place of an intended meeting of the Town Twinning Network shall be given. Failure to give such notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at any meeting of the Network.

Voting at meetings will be by a show of hands and a simple majority of those members present and voting shall suffice. The Chair shall have a second or casting vote.

The proceedings of the Town Twinning Network shall not be invalidated by any failure to appoint or any defect in the appointment or qualifications of a member.

5. Financial Arrangements

The Town Twinning Network shall not hold funds or enter into any financial transactions.

6. Amendment of Constitution

This constitution can be amended by notice of motion to be proposed at one meeting and voted on at the next by the Town Twinning Network and passed by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting.

7. Attendance by the Press and Public

Attendance by the Press and Public at meetings of the Town Twinning Network is welcomed subject to the Network having the discretion to ask those persons to leave when any item marked 'private and confidential' on the agenda or a report is

considered.

November 2010

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