



NOTICE OF MEETING

TWINNING ADVISORY GROUP

WEDNESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2013 AT 11.00 AM

LADY MAYORESS'S PARLOUR, THE GUILDHALL, 2ND FLOOR,
PORTSMOUTH

Telephone enquiries to Peter Smith-Parkyn (023) 9268 8361
Email: Peter.smith-parkyn@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Membership

Councillor Hugh Mason (Chair)
Councillor Lynne Stagg (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Peter Eddis
Councillor Terry Hall

Councillor Frank Jonas
Councillor Lee Mason

Plus one representative from each of the Twinning Committees

(NB This Agenda should be retained for future reference with the Minutes of this meeting.)

Please note that the agenda, minutes and non-exempt reports are available to view online on the Portsmouth City Council website: www.portsmouth.gov.uk

AGENDA

- 1 **Apologies for Absence**
- 2 **Declaration of Members' Interests**
- 3 **Minutes of Previous meeting - 25 September 2013 (Pages 1 - 6)**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2013.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4 Communications from the Chair

To receive any communications or updates from the chair of the Twinning Advisory Group.

RECOMMENDED that the group notes the updates

5 Financial Summary to 19 November 2013 (Pages 7 - 8)

Summary of grant payments made.

RECOMMENDED that the summary be noted.

6 Portsmouth City Council's international contact officer

A summary issues log advising the Twinning Advisory Group on the status of activities via the Council's contact officer.

To follow.

RECOMMENDED that the group notes the summary log.

7 Sister City Links update

To note any updates.

8 Updates from the Twinning Representatives and grant proposals

To receive updates from the representatives from the link committees and to consider grant applications received.

RECOMMENDED that the Twinning Advisory Group

(1) notes the updates and;

(2) agrees the details and amount of any grant bids it wishes to recommend to the Resources portfolio.

9 Date of the Next Meeting

As agreed previously the next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday 15 January 2013 at 11am.

20 November 2013

Agenda Item 3

TWINNING ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF A MEETING of the Twinning Advisory Group held on Wednesday 25 September 2013 at 11am in Lady Mayoress's Parlour, The Guildhall, Portsmouth.

(NB These minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda and reports for the meeting.)

Present

Councillors Hugh Mason (Chair)
Lynne Stagg
Peter Eddis
Lee Mason
Frank Jonas
Terry Hall

Representatives of the twinning committees

Rev. David Stephen Butler (Caen & Duisburg & Haifa Committee Member)
Honorary Alderman Robin Sparshatt (Caen Committee Chair)

Also in attendance

Peter Smith-Parkyn (Local Democracy Assistant)

17 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

18 Declaration of Members' Interests

No interests were declared.

19 Minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Twinning Advisory Group meeting held on 3 July 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

20 Communications from the Chair

Councillor Hugh Mason informed the group that with limited resources available and the likelihood of fewer resources being available in the future, a change to how twinning matters are dealt with will be taking place. Claire Looney will be the main contact for the Council, for both current and future international links. Claire Looney will take ownership of activities that match the Council's priorities of economic development and tourism. The Lord Mayor's Office will continue to deal with requests and matters involving the Lord Mayor.

Councillor Hugh Mason reported that following contact with Priory school and their expected cessation of teaching German, the school is considering its curriculum. Reverend David Stephen Butler added that Sabine Behrens had been very active through the school with Duisburg and has proven very useful for the twinning link over many years. Councillor Hugh Mason agreed to send a letter to the school asking them to give due consideration to the teaching of German in their school.

The matter of European Funding was discussed, with the representatives commenting on the lack of clear guidance, the Council's position and issues with bank accounts. The City Council's Financial Services and European Funding Officer will be asked to help the committees with European Funding streams, bank accounts and related issues.

Concern was raised over the limited funds available, particularly the pressure on the Lord Mayor's budget.

Rev. David Stephen Butler reported that the committees were not as efficiently run as they once were, with both the Haifa and Duisburg links suffering. Particular emphasis was given to the basic administration of the committees, communicating with their members, the standard of the minutes and website presence. Councillor Hugh Mason agreed to look into the possibility of a simple website for the committees to use and update, along with helping committees develop the necessary skills. It was suggested that committee minutes could be clearer if bullet points were used and that all minutes should be typed.

A general discussion continued about the lack of understanding of twinning activities. It was unanimously agreed that the committees should produce reports to counter the perceived negative view of twinning and related activities.

Councillor Hugh Mason reported that for the second year running the Lord Mayor and Portsmouth has been approached by the city of Ningbo (China) for official invitations to the City? with overtures to establishing a link. Whilst an invitation has been issued to facilitate travel to the UK for the delegation, it is not felt that Portsmouth can sustain a third Chinese link. The Lord Mayor, Councillor Lynne Stagg agreed to write to Ningbo, explaining Portsmouth already has two links and perhaps offer a few alternative suggestions, such as Felixstowe.

21 Sister City Links update

Councillor Hugh Mason reported that the total cost incurred by the City Council in support of the Zhuhai (China) delegation was £141.75, which had proved to be excellent value for money. Further that the University of Portsmouth has developed a link, with students expected to visit in 2014. It was suggested that perhaps the visitors could have tea with the Lord Mayor. Councillor Lynne Stagg welcomed this idea and said she would bring this up at her meeting with the Lord Mayor's Office.

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Lynne Stagg and Councillor Lee Mason reported

on their visit to Portsmouth Rhode Island (USA) earlier in the year. The purpose of the visit was to celebrate Portsmouth's (Rhode Island) 375th anniversary of their settlement. The group were amused with their welcoming banner reading "The British are coming".

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Lynne Stagg shared with the group her time with meeting the two Mayors and one president of three Portsmouth cities in USA (Virginia, New Hampshire and Rhode Island). The Lord Mayor commented on their desire to visit Portsmouth for Mayor-making in 2014. Particular interest in our Navy and marine history was expressed, most notably Nelson with his naval tactics and man-management. Further that plans are being made to link up schools from each of the four Portsmouth cities, focusing on the title of "My Portsmouth" with photos, art and music etc.

The Lord Mayor expressed her surprise and pleasure at being part of a procession (in a red BMW) with onlookers expressing their gratitude for her being there. The group were also informed of a signed poster, which will be framed and placed on display in the Lord Mayor's area in the Guildhall.

22 Updates from the Twinning Representatives and grant proposals

Caen Committee

Honorary Alderman Sparshatt reported that Portsmouth will be competing in the Great South Run with an expected 25 runners against a team from Caen. Given Portsmouth's success in winning the Courants de Liberte 10k run earlier in the year, Portsmouth was hoping to win the Brittany Ferry trophy. Peter Smith-Parkyn explained that all of Portsmouth's runners have been strongly encouraged to raise sponsorship money for the Lord Mayor's Appeals.

The first of the Caen Committee's grant applications is to assist with the provision of hospitality in the form of a pasta party for the Caen team, with Portsmouth's team paying for themselves. Comments were made about the Portsmouth Cultural Trust, who will be providing the meal.

Honorary Alderman Sparshatt and Councillor Terry Hall declared an interest at this point as both are Council appointed members to the Board of Trustees. The grant bid was considered by the group and approved.

Honorary Alderman Sparshatt also reported on the "blue light" services day, where the Committee had arranged for French fire and rescue service personnel to attend. The Lord Mayor commented that she was also in attendance and the event was very good, with a sharing of both practical and working processes taking place. It is hoped that links between the fire services, police and ambulance will continue to be forged with future cooperation and expertise being shared. Honorary Alderman Sparshatt commented that events like this are a prime example of the beneficial work of twinning and should be reported. It was agreed that the report by Kevan Chippindall-Higgin be forwarded to the Council Communications team. A retrospective grant bid was submitted to cover the costs of modest hosting for the French visitors and was agreed.

Councillor Peter Eddis reported on the preparations for Caen's International (solidarity) day taking place between 14th and 17th November. He explained that David Cooper from the Kings Theatre with Groundlings youth theatre group will be attending, with street theatre being performed with lindy hopper dancers and a pantomime dame. Further that Jean Barrow was coordinating the Portsmouth stall, with promotional traders' literature being provided by Barry Walker. Brittany Ferries are also expected to be on the stall, with the possibility for travel bookings being able to be made there promoting, among other things, Christmas shopping trips to Portsmouth. The Port commercial manager, Martin Putman has indicated that he would be happy to provide bus services from the port, if needed.

It was also reported that Holly Sanders (explain who she is please) will also be in Caen with two young people from Miltoncross School.

Councillor Eddis further reported that the City Council's presentation vehicle will be taken, which may have an opportunity to play DVDs, including promoting the Mary Rose Museum.

Peter Smith-Parkyn reported that the members of the formal delegation to accompany the Lord Mayor have not yet been identified. A request for expressions of interest will be published in the Members' Information Service (MIS) item, and the group leaders will be notified.

A third grant application was submitted, as it was identified that in previous years the delegation had no small gifts to give. The Lord Mayor suggested that some Portsmouth branded handmade mugs could be bought for this at low cost and this was agreed by the group.

Haifa Committee

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Lynne Stagg and Reverend David Stephen Butler reported that the Haifa link is encouraging closer ties between the University of Portsmouth and Haifa. It is expected that Peter Brook from the University of Portsmouth will be going to Haifa to promote this goal next month. In addition, Stella Mbubaegbu from Highbury College is planning a visit to Haifa to establish stronger links.

Reverend David Stephen Butler also reported that the Haifa Committee is continuing to promote business between our two ports, with Mr Harry Eames, of MMD Ltd. who is still keenly involved.

Duisburg Committee

Rev. David Stephen Butler reported that Duisburg Committee has not met to report anything. He reinforced the earlier point that lack of assistance with twinning committees by PCC and their administration is having an effect. Councillor Hugh Mason offered to contact the Committee Chair to find out what is happening. Councillor Frank Jonas indicated that he might be willing to help out, if needed.

RESOLVED that;

- (1) the grant of £100 be recommended to Resources for the Caen Committee for the Caen à l'International weekend provision of small gifts.
- (2) the grant of £115 be recommended to Resources for the Caen Committee for the Great South Run 2013 hospitality of the Caen team.
- (3) the grant of £300 be recommended to Resources for the Caen Committee for the reimbursement of the French fire service visit to Portsmouth.

24 Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 27 November 2013 at 11am.

The meeting concluded at 12:22pm.

Chair

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RESOURCES PORTFOLIO - TWINNING BUDGET**SUMMARY****BUDGET****EXPENDITURE****TOTAL**

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT : 1 APRIL 2013 - 31 October 2013

£

£

£

Balance brought forward - 1 April 2013

-

-

-

Portsmouth City Council contribution for 2013/14

(8,000.00)

-

(8,000.00)

Expenditure - Grants for Mayor Making

Transport - USA Delegation

176.00

Hospitality - USA Delegation

28.10

Hospitality - Caen Delegation

43.95

Japanese Delegation - Car parking

3.25

Holiday Inn Accomodation

37.50

Hospitality - Japanese Delegation

107.05

Hospitality - Japanese Delegation

197.83

Holiday Inn Accomodation

487.50

Guide - Rhode Island Delegation

63.00

Abarbistro - Hospitality

229.25

Expenditure - Grants

Hospitality - Zhuhai International Delegation 19/07/13

141.75

Hospitality - Zhuhai International Delegation 19/07/13

175.00

International Fair - Caen

1,800.00

International Fair - Caen (Gifts)

100.00

Great South Run 2013 hospitality - Caen

115.00

French fire service (Caen)

300.00

4,005.18

Commitments

Nil

0.00

Balance at 27 June 2013**(8,000.00)****4,005.18****(3,994.82)**

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