

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL**TWINNING SUB-COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Twinning Sub Committee was held at the Medway Centre, Medway Road, Huntingdon on Thursday 10th November 2011.

Present: Councillors A Blackwell; S Hassell; P Kadewere; and C MacKender-Lawrence.

In Attendance: Co-opted Member Malcolm Lyons and Councillor T Sanderson.

10. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Patrick Kadewere as Chairman to the Sub Committee for the remainder of the local government year.

Clerk's Note: The position of Vice Chairman now remains vacant on this Sub Committee.

11. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Forster, C Hyams & J Skerry.

12. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

13. **PUBLIC ADDRESS/ADDRESS BY OTHER COUNCILLORS TO SUB COMMITTEE**

There was none.

14. **MINUTES**

Copies of the minutes of the meeting of the Twinning Sub Committee held on 15th September 2011 (M1) had been circulated following their informal approval by the Chairman. It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED that these were a correct record and that they were duly signed by the Chairman.

15. **ESTIMATES OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

Members had before them a budget of income and expenditure, showing predicted outcomes for the year ending 31st March 2012 and proposals for 2012-13. It was pleasing to note that predicted expenditure of £6,963 was well within that budgeted of £9562.

Proposed budgeted expenditure in the amount of £5426 for 2012-13 included allocation for an award of grant to the Huntingdon & Godmanchester Twinning Association and the travel costs of sending representation to the annual Business Meeting, in Szentendre. A list of planned activities to be organised by the Twinning Association during the year was available for Members, together with a copy of the Associations planned expenditure and income for the next four years. .

In response to a question about external funding availability, Mr Lyons said that an application for EU Funding had been awarded substantial points, but had been unsuccessful due to tough competition. The Freeman's Charity had awarded funding for the transport of young people from local secondary schools to take part in the annual Youth Festival. Members proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to recommend the budget of income and expenditure as presented for approval to the Council's Finance Committee.

16. **TWINNING AGREEMENT – GUBBIO, ITALY**

Mr Lyons referred to the Council's acceptance at this time the year before to work towards a twinning agreement with Gubbio in Italy, which was already linked with Wertheim am Main and Salon de Provence. Members heard that there were increased financial opportunities resulting from eventual twinning with Gubbio. Despite Italy's economic problems of the time, developing links would result in both cultural and language benefits.

Members heard that the cost of hosting civic guests from Gubbio and sending civic representation to Italy was currently being met by the Twinning Association and it was proposed that the Council should fund these during the next financial year.

A Member asked whether there was a planned date by which an agreement would be concluded and heard that although there was a willingness, there was no defined timescale. It was therefore proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to recommend that the Council fund the cost of civic delegation visits from and to Gubbio in Italy on the same basis as that for other twinned towns.

Mr Lyons went on to say that Szentendre had secured European funding to make good rooms in one of its historic buildings and suggested there might be European funding availability for Huntingdon Town Council Council to develop the Town Hall. It was therefore

RESOLVED to investigate funding availability in partnership with the Twinning Association.

17. **DATE & AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING**

To be confirmed.

CHAIRMAN