

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL**TWINNING SUB-COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Twinning Sub Committee was held in The Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon; on Thursday 19th October 2015

Present: Councillors: A Blackwell; D Brown (Chairman); A Dovans; P Kadewere; B Morrell; and R Valatka.

In Attendance: Councillor A Beevor; and Co-opted Members Malcolm Lyons and David King of the Huntingdon and Godmanchester Twinning Association. (HGTA)

Absent: There were none

7. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor S McAdam.
Councillor A Beevor acted as a substitution for the meeting.

8. **MINUTES**

Copies of the minutes of the meeting of the Twinning Sub Committee held on 17th September 2015 (M1) had been circulated following their informal approval by the Chairman. A Member wished to make amendments to the minutes, to include a reference to friendship with a Town in India. It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that following this amendment these were a correct record and they would be duly signed by the Chairman.

9. **HUNTINGDON AND GODMANCHESTER TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

Mr Lyons of the Huntingdon and Godmanchester Twinning Association (HGTA) addressed Members, providing an over view of some of the upcoming events such as the Gubbio Flag Throwers who would be visiting in September 2016 and would be performing in Huntingdon and Magdalene College Cambridge.

Szentendre planned to host a Youth Festival in September 2016 which HGTA hoped to attend with groups of children from St Peters attending. As 2016 would be an anniversary of Huntingdon and Szentendre's twinning, Members of HGTA were hoping to schedule a visit from the Mayor of Szentendre, who was excited to visit Huntingdon. It was proposed that this trip happen before September 2016

A Member questioned Godmanchester Town Council's financial involvement in the association. Mr Lyons commented that Godmanchester Town Council did not currently contribute financially towards HGTA's twinning activities. No twinning activities were subsequently hosted in Godmanchester, however HGTA did have members who lived in Godmanchester. Any twinning related activities undertaken by Godmanchester Town Council would be self funded, although Mr Lyons hoped that

Godmanchester Town Council would rejoin the Twinning Association with Huntingdon Town Council in the future.

10. **SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

Members had before them a copy of the proposed Service Level Agreement between HGTA and Huntingdon Town Council. This was a formal agreement between both parties regarding responsibilities and commitments. Members who were unable to attend the previous meeting questioned the financial contribution. It was clarified that it was agreed that Huntingdon Town Council would provide a financial contribution each year, however the amount was to be set annually. It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED for the Chairman of Twinning Sub Committee and the Chairman of HGTA to sign the Service Level Agreement.

11. **TWINNING YOUTH FESTIVAL**

Mr Lyons informed Members that HGTA planned to host a Youth Festival in Huntingdon in 2018. This event was included in the HGTA 4 year financial plan which was presented at the last meeting. Local teams of youths would be invited from twinned towns to attend and would hopefully be staying at Grafham Water, as this had suitable facilities for young people.

Other Twinned Towns planned to host a youth festival in forthcoming years.

- Szentendre 2016
- Salon de Provence 2017

A Member questioned whether the Youth Town Council could be involved in the Youth Festival, however Mr Lyons and Mr King explained that this was a partnership between schools, and therefore any external body (such as the Youth Town Council) would have to finance any trips or expenditure themselves.

12. **SZTENDRE**

- i. Members had previously discussed the visit from the Mayor of Szentendre in 2016 and therefore it was proposed to move on to (ii) and discuss an EU Funding project.
- ii. Members had received prior to the meeting a copy of a presentation regarding the Progressive, Practical Pilot Project which would provide funding across all 4 twinned towns to host various events, conference and workshops. If the application was approved a sum of €130,000 for all Towns, which would equate to €17,500 for Huntingdon (The figure would be based on Number of participants). The support would be provided in two stages, 40% would be pre-financed, and the remaining 60% would be budgeted for by the Town and later reimbursed in Nov/Dec 2017.

Members questioned how the application and the use of funding would be managed by HGTA. Mr Lyons explained that should funding be approved, all income and expenditure would be disclosed to the Twinning Sub Committee, and that comprehensive record of actions and financial activity would be kept for use by HGTA, Twinning Sub Committee and the application if successful.

13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr King of HGTA wished to thank Members for the support shown to France in light of recent terror attacks in Paris. The Mayor of Huntingdon had sent a letter to the Mayor of Salon de Provence which had been gratefully received and that Salon de Provence appreciated the show of support and kindness. Huntingdon Town Hall had also flown the French flag at half mast as a sign of respect.

Mr Lyons circulated the new HGTA Leaflets and literature to Members.

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

The date of the next Twinning Sub-Committee meeting was to be confirmed.

CHAIRMAN