

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CIVIC LINKS COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KING'S HOUSE, THETFORD,
ON WEDNESDAY 11th JUNE 2104 AT 4.00 p.m.

Present
The Mayor Councillor Mrs S J Armes

Councillors:

Mrs B J Canham
B J Skull

T J Lamb

Officers in attendance:

Emma Patrick Deputy Town Clerk
Chris Crimmen Committee Secretary

Also present:

Graham Sigley – Twinning Association
Chairman

200/14 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN
FOR THE MAYORAL YEAR 2014/15

Chair

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs S Armes be elected Chairman of the Civic Links Committee for the Mayoral year 2014/15.

Vice Chair

RESOLVED that Councillor R Kybird be elected Vice Chair of the Civic Links Committee for the Mayoral year 2014/15.

201/14 DECLARATIONS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS
None.

202/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received from Councillor R Kybird.

203/14 MINUTES
Resolved the minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 18th September 2012 as received by the Council on the 25th September 2012.

204/14 REPORT FROM SKAWINA TRIP
The Chairman Councillor Mrs S Armes reported on a very successful trip to Skawina accompanied by the Town Clerk. The Mayor stated that their Polish hosts were very hospitable providing hotels, food, and transport at no cost to their guests. The Mayor addressed a meeting on unemployment in Thetford as unemployment in all the attending EU countries attending was the main theme. Countries attending were:

- Great Britain
- Poland
- Italy
- Czech Republic
- Slovakia
- Germany

- 205/14 VISIT FROM LES ULLIS 22nd JUNE 2014
It was reported that this is a visit organised by the Town Twinning Association with no Council involvement.
- 206/14 REQUEST FROM SPIJKENISSE 9th – 11th OCTOBER 2104
The Chairman reported that there were few details available regarding this visit to Spijkenisse. It is believed that there will be an invitation to visit and celebrate the opening of a new theatre.
- 207/14 VISIT FROM SKAWINA 26th – 28th SEPTEMBER 2014
The Chairman reported that she had tried to arrange this visit during the “Thetford’s Great Festival” but unfortunately the dates clashed. There are no firm details yet but the main events are as follows:
- Friday 26th September 2014 – Civic Reception
 - Saturday 27th September 2014 – Afternoon trip to the whiskey distillery, in the evening a social event.
 - Sometime during the weekend the visitors from Skawina would also like to visit London.
- 208/14 REPORT FROM THE TWINNING ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN
Graham Sigley, the Chairman of the Twinning Association reported that he had also enjoyed the visit to Skawina. He had attended the opening of a new trial and cycle track that was opened to commemorate the 650 years of Skawina. Alongside the very long cycle track a very large high quality ceremonial gate led to the new trial and there were areas that commemorated the twinning towns in areas containing six trees. With a band playing, all invited guests including Thetford’s Mayor, climbed aboard a cycle and rode around the new track. The Mayor planted a tree to mark 10 years of twinning with Skawina. He finished by reporting all this was paid for by EU grants.
- 209/14 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS
a) TOWN COUNCIL GIFTS
The Chairman felt that it would be appropriate to have a civic gift that could be presented to guests/visitors of Thetford Town Council. She particularly liked the ceramic/porcelain plate in a velvet box presented to the town at the Skawina visit by the Italian delegates. The Deputy Town Clerk will investigate and report back to the Committee
- 210/14 PRESS RELEASES
Graham Sigley, the Chairman of the Twinning Association is preparing an article for the “About Thetford” magazine about the Skawina visit and will include some details of the Council’s involvement.
- 211/14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING
The date of the next meeting was arranged for Wednesday 10th September 2014 at 4.00 p.m.

Chairman:

ACTION POINT	BY WHOM	BY WHEN
To investigate a suitable civic gift to present to guests/visitors of Thetford Town Council.	Deputy Town Clerk	10/09/2014

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