

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CIVIC LINKS COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KING'S HOUSE, THETFORD,
ON MONDAY 5th October 2015 AT 10.00 a.m.

Present
The Mayor Councillor R G Kybird

Councillors:

Mrs S J Armes

Mrs B J Canham

Officers in attendance:

Maurice Howard Town Clerk

Chris Crimmen Committee Secretary

Minutes

- 466/15 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE MAYORAL YEAR 2015/16
Chair
RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs S J Armes be elected Chairman of the Civic Links Committee for the Mayoral year 2015/16.
Vice Chair
RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs B J Canham be elected Vice Chairman of the Civic Links Committee for the Mayoral year 2015/16.
- 467/15 DECLARATIONS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS
None.
- 468/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received from Councillor C Harvey.
- 469/15 MINUTES
Resolved the minutes of the Committee's meeting, held on 2nd February 2015, as received by Full Council on 24th February 2015, be confirmed as a true record and signed/initialled by the Chairman.
- 470/15 BUDGET
The Chairman reviewed the budget and then the Committee looked at each of the Nominal Codes to review the budget for 2016/17. After a discussion Councillor Mrs B Canham proposed and Councillor Mrs S Armes seconded that the following codes will be adjusted in the 2016/2017 budget:
- 7145 International Civic Links increase from £1,500 to £1,800.
 - 7165 Civic Gifts increase from £250 to £350.
 - 7170 Remembrance reduces to £1,800 from £2,000.
 - 7175 Battle of Britain Service increases from £500 to £700.
- RESOLVED: The following codes need adjusting:**
- **7145 International Civic Links increase from £1,500 to £1,800.**
 - **7165 Civic Gifts increase from £250 to £350.**
 - **7170 Remembrance reduces to £1,800 from £2,000.**
 - **7175 Battle of Britain Service increases from £500 to £700.**

After a discussion Councillor Mrs S Armes proposed and Mrs B Canham seconded that should there be an underspend on the following three Nominal Codes the residual amount should be shown as transferred to reserves on each of the years relative budget :

- 7115 Civic Regalia.
- 7145 International Civic Links.
- 7165 Civic Gifts.

RESOLVED: That should there be an underspend on the following three Nominal Codes the residual amount should be shown as transferred to reserves on each of the years relative budget :

- **7115 Civic Regalia.**
- **7145 International Civic Links.**
- **7165 Civic Gifts.**

After a discussion on Nominal Code 7110, the Mayors allowance, Councillor Mrs S Armes proposed and Mrs B Canham seconded that up to 20% of the Mayors Allowance, if underspent, at the Mayors discretion can be transferred to the Mayors Charity or other worthy cause.

RECOMMENDATION: That up to 20% of the Mayors Allowance, if underspent, at the Mayors discretion can be transferred to the Mayors Charity or other worthy cause.

The Chairman stated that the above proposed changes to the 2016/17 budget will be the basis for the 4 year plan.

The Mayor reported that some councils choose each year a Mayors Cadet from one of the towns cadet forces and he would like to bring this tradition to Thetford. It was agreed that this was an excellent idea. The Mayor will bring this as an agenda item to the next meeting.

After a discussion the Town Clerk was requested to obtain the current criteria for European Bids for twinning links.

471/15

MEDIEVAL SEAL FOR CIVIC GIFTS

The PPP&C Officer had passed a mould of the Thetford Town Medieval Seal to the company who will now let the Council have a quotation for the seal to be produced as a civic gift. As soon as the cost is known the Town Clerk would let the Committee know by e mail.

472/15

COMMUNICATIONS FROM SPIJKENISSE

The Mayor informed the Committee that Spijkenisse were combining three communities into one single council and an election will follow. It was not yet known if this change would affect the current twinning arrangements and the Council will await the outcome of the election.

473/15

RAISING THE PROFILE OF THE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

The Chairman led a discussion on raising the profile in the Town on the Thetford's Twin Towns. The following were discussed:

- In view of the population breakdown in Thetford should we twin with a Portuguese town?
- What aspect of twinning is the town trying to promote?
- How do we attract the next generation who continue benefiting with the exchanges abroad through sport?
- The town needs to find a strong axis to build on.
- Connections need to be forged through sport/schools/music connections.

- 474/15 THETFORD'S GREAT FESTIVAL 2016
 The Chairman reported that the Thetford's Great Festival Dates for next year were 20th August – 4th September 2016. After a discussion it was agreed that the Chairman and the Mayor would liaise with Thetford Twinning Association to sort out if they have any reason to invite visitors over to Thetford during the three weekends the Festival is running. In order to keep this initiative going forward it was agreed that a further meeting will take place at 10.00 a.m. on Monday 16th November 2015.
- 475/15 THETFORD TOWN CRIER
 The Chairman confirmed the attendance of the Town Crier at events for the remainder of the Mayoral Year 2015:
- The Mayors Ball.
 - Mayors Civic Reception.
 - Christmas Light's Switch On.
 - Mayor Making.
- 476/15 CIVIC LINKS POLICY
 The Town Clerk reported that the PPP&C Officer was looking at other Towns Civic Policies and a draft is being prepared. The matter was deferred until the next meeting. This will include any output from the Special Full Council meeting for the proposed future Mayoral Elections.
- 477/15 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS
 None.
- 478/15 PRESS RELEASES
 None.

Chairman

ACTION POINT	BY WHOM	BY WHEN
To obtain the current criteria for bids for twinning links.	Town Clerk	ASAP
The Mayor would like an agenda item on the next meeting headed CIVIC PRIDE	Committee Secretary	16/11/2015
To invite the Twinning Association to next month's meeting.	Committee Secretary	16/11/2015
To add Mayors Cadet to next month's agenda	Committee Secretary	16/11/2015
To add 2016 Thetford's Great Festival to next month's agenda.	Committee Secretary	16/11/2015

