

**DORSET TWINNING ASSOCIATION**  
**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

**Purbeck School Wareham at 1900 hrs**

**Present:** John Pounder  
Jeremy Read  
David Warhurst  
Tony Watts  
Ruth Parker

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies were received from Terry Piper, Philip Sharp, and John Wilson.

JP welcomed Ruth Parker who is now the nominated Officer of the DCC responsible for twinning matters in place of David Kenyon. She is the Lead Consultant for the DCC for modern languages in schools.

Geoffrey McDonnell had also sent his apologies and said that he didn't wish to be co-opted again for another year due to work commitments.

JP proposed, and the members present agreed that we should co-opt Tony Watts, he was willing to be co-opted.

**2. Minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> August Meeting**

These were accepted without correction.

**3. Matters arising not covered by Agenda items**

**(a) Secretary position**

JP reported that as yet no one had accepted the position of Secretary, there had been one enquiry and there was a possibility in Shaftesbury which Terry was following up, if unsuccessful, Terry would repeat our request on his letter/e-mail which he was sending out requesting annual subscriptions.

JP agreed to circulate to Committee members a draft of a brief "job spec" for the Secretary's position.

**(b) Twinning Brochure**

Terry is proposing to circulate sample pages of the Twinning Brochure with the letter/e-mail requesting subscriptions. The possibility of a DTA brochure of a few pages was also discussed. This to be available on the website and kept up to date, any Association requiring copies could download the few pages themselves. It was agreed to take no action on this until we knew the outcome of Terry's communication to Associations.

#### **4. Finance**

As noted above the Treasurer would send out requests for payment of the annual subscriptions.

It was recalled that at the previous meeting, it had been agreed that in addition to paying some of the costs associated with Phillippe Villaine taking part in the Coutances visit, the ferry costs of JR and JP, should also be reimbursed in view of the few people taking part and the key role they had played in the event.

The Treasurer had reported that the bank balances currently stood at £997-98 in the current account and £518-67 in the deposit account. It was noted that the current cheque signatories were Stephanie Sainsbury and David Kenyon in addition to the Treasurer, and it was agreed to continue with this arrangement for the time being.

#### **5. Website**

PS had sent a report setting out the statistics of web usage over the last month. The "hit counter" had been changed to a more accurate one which also provided much more detail. PS would be asked if it was possible to analyse the "hits" by country of origin\*. Another invitation to join the Google calendar had been sent out. A new photo gallery had also been added at <http://photos.twinning.org.uk>.

Phillip would be asked to submit his costs to date (JR).

*\*Since the meeting Philip has said that information on the country of origin of hits can be obtained by clicking on "See our stats" in the top left hand corner of the home page and then selecting the appropriate item in the table to the left of the general record..*

#### **6. Visit to Coutances 18/19 September**

It was agreed that this had been an interesting and worthwhile visit. JP distributed copies of minutes prepared by the French Secretary of the La Manche Jumelage Committee, the points recorded were essentially the same as in our version. Since the meeting, good news had been received to the effect that the "Barfleur" was likely to return in April next, albeit with reduced capacity for passengers and private cars.

The problems arising from school exchanges were discussed and the Committee felt that by closer links between Twinning Associations and schools on both sides of the Channel the quality of school exchanges might be improved. This was a complex issue and to make a start RP was invited to let the Committee (via JP) have a list of links between Dorset and la Manche schools.

#### **7. Future activities Dorset/La manche**

The nature of future activities was discussed. Any joint activities ought to try to provide experiences beyond those which could be readily achieved by individual Twinning Associations. Possible areas could include sport, musical activities, co-operation in areas of mutual interest, such as the fire brigade, and to facilitate travel arrangements it might be possible to arrange for groups of twin towns to make their cross channel visits at the same time. TW reported further progress with the fire cadet links Dorset/La Manche/ Bremmerhaven.

It was also agreed that since the purpose of these activities was to “assist in developing the link created by the twinning of the County of Dorset with the Département of La Manche”, we ought to ask the DCC what it would like to see done (JW and RP).

#### **8. Date and venue of next meeting**

It was proposed that the next meeting be arranged for Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm at the Purbeck School if available.