

Rotary Club of Canterbury

Minutes of the Community Service Committee

10 January 2017

Attendance: PPs David Barton (Chairman), Sidney Denham, John Hill, Harry Cragg, Rotarians Marjorie Lyle, David Lewis, Deborah Connolly, Gill Dixon, Andrew Barchi, Bob Anderson, Charles Evans, Brian Wheeler, Colin McKone, Jo Nolan Rosemary Morton & David Bailey

Apologies: Nil

1.. **Minutes.** The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2016 were agreed.

2. **Charitable Funds Available:** £4,184.50

3. **Kent Association for the Blind (KAB).** A request for further funding assistance totalling £325 had been received, to purchase a touch screen monitor, 6 pairs of lightweight headphones, a universal tablet kiosk stand and an anti-theft tablet floor stand. ML agreed to liaise with KAB to confirm the requirement for these items.

4. **Canterbury Home Start (CHS).** The Chairman confirmed that he had written to the manager pledging £500 and expressing the hope of being able to provide further funds in due course. The application for a District Grant was being pursued by AB & JN, who were also contacting Canterbury Sunrise Club to invite them to join with us in helping CHS. Since the District Grant application would take some months to process members of the Committee expressed the wish to provide some money now. AB agreed to investigate with CHS when the funds would actually be needed, with the intention to give the pledged £500 as soon as required. AB invited the Committee to agree that JN should lead on this project in future and remain with the Committee until the matter was resolved. This was agreed.

Afternote: AB has since consulted a District representative who confirmed that paying an amount before making the application for a grant would compromise the application by the amount paid.

5. **Christmas Together in Canterbury - Welcome Packs for Redbridge Families.** DL reported that he had spent the £500 allocated by the Committee and need would be providing receipts in due course. He had received a letter of sincere thanks from Major Sands of the local Salvation Army (SA), detailing the enormous effort that the SA and other organisations had made over the Christmas and New Year. For example, they had produced 190 family hampers, 451 children had been given toys, a family Christmas party had been held, etc., and Major Sands acknowledged that all this was made possible by the generosity of Rotary and other organisations.

6. **Future Projects.**

6.1 Parkinson's Group. CM felt that the local group would appreciate further help from us and agreed to contact the organiser to determine the need.

6.2 Canterbury's Homeless. Concern was expressed about the number and plight of the homeless in Canterbury and a wish that the Committee should, where possible, do more to provide assistance. Recognising that the overall responsibility lies with the Council, it was agreed that we should provide any financial assistance through those established organisations (Porchlight, Catching Lives and the Salvation Army) with whom we have had regular dealings in the past. As a first step, DL agreed arrange a meeting with Catching Lives, DB, DC and GD would also attend this meeting.

7. Website Request for Help in Purchasing a Mobility Scooter. DC reported again that having advised the lady to approach her GP for a suitability assessment, she had been unable to obtain any follow up information from the lady in question, despite sending several further emails. The Committee agreed that this item should be considered closed.

8. RYLA. JH reported that there were two candidates from the Stelling Minnis Scout Group and that he would be progressing their applications shortly. DB and DC agreed to help with the interviewing process.

9. Date of Next Meeting. Tuesday 7 February at 11.30.