

# **Rotary Club of Canterbury**

## **Minutes of the Community Service Committee 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

**Attendance:** PP David Barton (Chairman), PP John Hill, PP Robin Vickers, PP Harry Cragg, Marjorie Lyle, Gill Dixon, Wendy Jones, Charles Evans, David Lewis, Rosemarie Morton

**Apologies:** Andrew Barchi, PP Sidney Denham, Colin McKone, Mark Rosen

The Chairman recorded the Committee's Congratulations to Marjorie Lyle on the recent celebration of her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday and the Committee serenaded her accordingly.

1. **The Minutes of meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 were agreed and there were no matters arising.**
2. **Charitable Funds Available: £3,201**
3. **Cherished Memories:** A cheque for £200 has been sent to this charity.
4. **OASIS:** A letter of thanks from OASIS and their client had been circulated to Committee members.
5. **St Nicholas School Kids Day Out:** Gill Dixon confirmed that this would take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> March and volunteers to help would be sought shortly.

**ACTION:** Delegated to Gill Dixon to implement.

6. **Committee Policy on use of funds:** A show of hands at the last Committee meeting had indicated that the majority of members supported the continuation of providing grants to individuals as well as organizations. However it was agreed that it would be helpful if a Policy could be established setting out the proportion of available funds to be allocated to individuals and groups; the financial limits which might apply; and the principle of non-recurring grants or time lapse between new applications. Proposals would be brought forward for discussion at a future meeting.

**ACTION:** Agenda item for March Meeting.

7. **Alstrom Society UK:** The Chairman had now received a response from the Alstrom Society to his further enquiries regarding their approach for support for a 23 year old client to help with funding for her second year of her Counselling Diploma at Canterbury College (£1,848.50 plus residential training session of £150). It was agreed to offer a pledge of £500 subject to the balance of funds being raised elsewhere; confirmation that any 'volunteer' Counselling would be subject to Supervision; and a possible further enquiries to be made by Robin Vickers.

**ACTION:** The Chairman will write with the pledge.

8. **Catching Lives:** The Chairman reported that he was awaiting news from the Charity as to whether any input regarding possible nursing advice to their clients was needed. *Following the meeting ,an email from James Duff confirms that Catching Lives cannot progress this matter at present as their "nursing adviser" has been admitted to hospital.*

Gill Dixon expressed her concern that Catching Lives were only able to provide overnight accommodation in the City Church Halls for 15 people per night meaning that a number of rough sleepers had no winter time provision. It was agreed to seek an opportunity to establish the position with the Charity and to enquire whether any volunteer manpower from the Club would be of assistance.

**ACTION:** The Chairman will find an opportunity for a meeting with Catching Lives.

9. **New Wheelchair for a 16 year old boy:** Wendy Jones reported on email exchange and telephone conversations with the physiotherapist for this boy. Whilst the NHS might provide a wheelchair it would not be suitable for enabling mobility outside the home or for him to pursue his ambitions of wheelchair rugby. However there is a wide range of possible costings and the boy's mother had not yet decided what would be the most appropriate chair.

**ACTION:** It was agreed that Wendy should advise that the Club would only be able to consider this application when the family had made a decision and the full cost was known.

10. **Circle Housing:** Robin Vickers reported that Centra Care and Support formed part of Circle, a significant Housing Association. Circle's turnover for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 was £m 411.8 and their operational surplus was £m 45.5. Within this it appears that Circle Care and Support (the name which comes up under the provided Charity number) had an operational surplus of just over £m 3. It seemed puzzling, therefore, that the local staff were seeking charitable support for the cycling activity they are seeking to start and it was agreed that further enquiries should be made as to the reasons for this.

**ACTION:** Further clarification by the Chairman.

11. **Committee Structure in next Rotary Year:** The Chairman re-iterated the President Elect's note to members regarding any change of Committee that they might wish to make for the forthcoming Rotary year. There was also a need to consider a Vice Chairman of the committee to stand in for the Chairman when he was unavailable although it was noted that the committee could appoint an Acting Chairman for any meeting if required.

**ACTION:** To be noted by all.

12. **Any Other Business:**

a) Marjorie Lyle kindly agreed to look into recent correspondence from the Kent Association for the Blind.

**ACTION:** Marjorie Lyle will clarify the needs of this organisation.

b) It was agreed that a donation of £50 from Lord Carey should be applied to the donation to Cherished Memories already made.

- **ACTION:** *The Treasurer confirms that the cheque from Lord Carey is written in favour of a charity, so this £50 donation must be in addition to our donation for £200. The Chairman will pass the cheque to Cherished Memories.*

c) Apropos earlier discussion regarding the plight of the homeless and rough sleepers, the community continues its indebtedness to the Salvation Army for their daily interventions and support.

13. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016