

Rotary Club of Canterbury

Minutes of the Community Service Committee

10 May 2016

Attendance: PP David Barton (Chairman), PP Sidney Denham, , PP Harry Cragg, PP Robin Vickers, Rotarians Marjorie Lyle, Colin McKone, David Lewis, Rosemarie Morton, Gill Dixon

In Attendance: President Elect Martin Ward, Rotarian Wendy Jones (Items 1 & 2 only)

Apologies: PP John Hill, Andrew Barchi

1. Funding Strategy. MW requested the committee to review its funding strategy with a view to possibly supporting larger needs in the local community – for example the nursing support requirements for Catching Lives - perhaps for periods of 1 to 3 years. He would be exploring the possibility of joining with our cluster club group members on suitable projects. Although the size of funding needed for projects might indicate that they should be club as opposed to committee projects, he felt that they should be managed by our committee. The committee agreed to review this matter at its next meeting. Before leaving the meeting MW drew attention to the Pentangular grant of 2000 euros, which is made to each host nation and would thus be made to us next year. He asked the committee to try to identify a suitable project for this money.

ACTION: For discussion in next Rotary Year

2. Catching Lives. WJ added to the information on the agenda about the nursing arrangements/requirements for Catching Lives by stressing that any involvement by our nursing trained members could only be of an organisational advisory nature and that she and the other members were happy to help in this way. Whilst the possible funding support for a part-time professional nurse for the charity was under consideration, RV drew attention to the charity's significant funding surplus (c£67K) at the end of the last financial year. Further investigation would be needed before the club committed itself to any major venture with the charity.

ACTION: For discussion in next Rotary Year

3. The Minutes of meeting held on 12 April 2016 were agreed and there were no matters arising.

4. Charitable Funds Available: Approximately £1751.(**Plus £2,000 grant by Council**)

5. St Nicholas School Kids Day Out. GD reported that she had received a very nice thank you letter from the school in respect of the fun day event in March and that she had now agreed that the visit to the Wingham Wild Life Park would be on 22 June. There will be 12 children from the school, plus teachers, and GD suggested a maximum of 4 or 5 rotarians would be sufficient to help on the day. The opportunity to attend would be offered to all club members. A budget of up to £200 to support the event was agreed by the committee.

ACTION: Organisation delegated to Gill Dixon

6. New Wheelchair for a 16 year old boy. Further information still awaited.

7. **Alstrom Society UK.** Further information from the Society was still awaited.

8. **Website Request to Sponsor a Child on a Trip to Lourdes.** AB had managed to get some information about possible costs and fund raising from the originator of the request but the committee agreed that it did not have sufficient concrete information upon which to consider a grant. AB is requested to investigate further.

ACTION : Further investigation by Andrew Barchi

9. **Kent Association for the Blind.** A letter of thanks has been received for the £550 donation and ML will be invited to present the Voice Activated Iphone at a suitable occasion in the near future.

ACTION: Presentation by Marjorie Lyle in due course.

10. **John Graham Trust /Centre** SD reiterated his concerns about the lack of sufficient financial information available in respect of the operations of the Trust (a registered charity) and the Centre, which is a business. The Trust does not need to publish accounts as its stated income is only c£14K, which is below the level at which the Charity Commission requires accounts. MW undertook to obtain a copy of recent accounts of the Centre from Companies House.

ACTION: For discussion in next Rotary Year

11. **Website Requests.** Requests had been received from 2 students at UKC for a donation of £50 each to help with their target of £2990 each, in respect of a charity climbing event on Mount Kilimanjaro. The funds raised would be in aid of Meningitis research. The committee agreed to pledge £50 each subject to them raising the remainder of their target amount and them participating in the climb.

ACTION: Pledges to be honoured in due course

12. **Website Request – Additional Wheelchair Equipment (see attachments to the meeting agenda).** The Chairman expressed his support for the request from a Canterbury wheelchair bound 16 year old girl (Sophia Naylor) for whom the additional equipment would make a significant life enhancement. It was agreed to make a donation of £540 to purchase the Spinerg Spox wheels for her wheelchair.

13. **St Nicholas School: Website Request: *I am writing to request if you would consider helping four students at our school. At the beginning of July, these students have the opportunity to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award in Finland. They will be travelling to Helsinki on 4 July and returning on 8 July 2016 to visit the Olympic Stadium to carry out some activities. We are the first special school to have students attempt to complete the Gold Award and the Head of Kent D of E will be accompanying them also. The total cost of trip will be £2,567. So far the school and the students have raised £1,500.***

This request was received the day after the meeting and Chairman proposed a pledge of £500 as funds have been increased by £2,000 by Council. This proposal was carried by email voting *nemine contradicente*.

ACTION: Pledge to be honoured in due course

14. **Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 14 June 2016**