

Rotary Club of Canterbury

Minutes of the Community Service Committee

13 September 2016

Attendance: PP David Barton (Chairman), PP Sidney Denham, PP John Hill, PP Harry Cragg, Rotarians Marjorie Lyle, Colin McKone, David Lewis, Deborah Connolly, Gill Dixon, Andrew Barchi, Rosemarie Morton & Jo Nolan

Apologies: Rotarians Bob Anderson, David Lewis

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Jo Nolan as a new member of the committee, after which he introduced Sari Sirkia-Weaver from Canterbury & Coastal Home Start. Ms Sirkia-Weaver then gave a short, interesting presentation on a new project (Big Hopes Big Future) being launched by her organisation, for which she was seeking donations. After her presentation she agreed to furnish the Chairman with specific funding items within the project, which the committee could consider in due course. The meeting then continued as follows.

1. **Minutes.** The Minutes of meeting held on 12 July 2016 were agreed.
2. **Charitable Funds Available:** £2470, which includes a donation of £965 from the Red House BBQ. Rosemarie Morton was warmly thanked for her generosity.
3. **St Nicholas School.** GD confirmed that the headmaster had been asked to include a report of the D of E expedition when he addresses the club on 27 September. She and CE would be visiting the school on 19 September.
4. **New Sports Wheelchair for a 16 year old boy. (See minute 7 of the June meeting).** The Chairman informed the meeting that with our £300 pledge and a further donation of £500 from a Sports Trust administered by Roger Power, the boy (David Barber) was now able to purchase the required wheelchair.
5. **Headway.** A one-off donation of £200 to help with running a new minibus service was agreed.
ACTION: Charman will send a cheque.
6. **Homeless Charities Initiative.** The Chairman reported that the President had taken over this project but he (MW) was keen to retain the committee's input and where appropriate, our agreement to funding. DC reported that she had at last had contact from Laura McCourt of the City Council and that she was meeting her with MW on Friday 16 September.
ACTION: Await further progress by the President.
7. **Request for Wheelchair Equipment.** A request for help to purchase additional motorised equipment for her wheelchair by Andrea Beasley from Chartham was not agreed.
ACTION: Chairman has informed Andrea Beasley
8. **Sleep Out for the Homeless.** GD informed the meeting that her fundraising for the event had passed the £600 mark for her charity. The committee reiterated its agreement to pay the entrance fee (£25) for the event and congratulated her on her successful fundraising. Much advice on her actual participation in the sleep out was forthcoming from committee members.
ACTION: Gill will Sleep Out.

9. **Support for Autistic Boy.** JN outlined the problems faced by this boy and his family, who reside in Whitstable. After much discussion and professional input from DC, it was decided not to offer any financial support at this stage but to suggest that Whitstable Rotary Club may be able to help.

ACTION: *Chairman will inform Applicant with assistance of Jo Nolan.*

10. **Circle Housing.** DB reminded the committee that we had agreed to fund the purchase of 3 bicycles for use by residents. He had now heard from the organisation that the cycles had been purchased and were in regular use. They had offered a photo-op and the committee agreed that as a keen cyclist himself, MW should be invited to take this invitation.

ACTION: *Chairman will arrange Photo Opportunity with the President.*

11. **Items deferred for detailed discussion at the next meeting:**

11.1 RYLA – volunteer needed to organise

ACTION: *Seek a volunteer to organise the March 2017 RYLA Awards at the next Committee meeting.*

11.2 Food Bank - general feeling that we should discontinue the collections in the club.

ACTION: None.

11.3 Detailed budget discussion. The breakdown of past expenditure provided by SD reflected the general view of the committee that the larger part of our funding should be to organisations but that we should still consider each application from individuals on a case by case basis.

ACTION: *For further discussion at Club Council.*

12. **Date of Next Meeting. Tuesday 11 October 2016**

Community Service Budget Notes

1. Fund distribution for 2014-2016 has totalled £20,287.00 (47 separate grants)
An annual average of £6,762.33

2. This distribution has been to organizations and individuals, the latter being sub-divided into three main categories: disabled, youth and others. The total grants made in each of the 3 years in the various sub-divisions is as follows:

	<u>Organisations</u>	<u>Disabled</u>	<u>Individuals</u> <u>Youth</u>	<u>Other</u>
2013-14	5175	200	1114	
2014-15	4238	701	300	600
2015-16	4584	2040	550	780
Totals	£13997	£2941	£1964	£1380

Notes Being able to respond positively to such a wide range of requests does enhance Rotary's reputation locally, encouraging people to contribute when we are collecting.

The organizations could be sub-divided into categories similar to those above for individuals were we to wish to prioritize youth for example in any one year.