

## **Rotary Club of Canterbury**

### **Minutes of the Community Service Committee held on October 14<sup>th</sup>. 2014**

**Attendance:** D Barton (Chair), J Hill, R Vickers, S. Denham, A Barchi, M. Rosen, Gill Dixon, Marjorie Lyle, D Lewis, C McKone (Act. Secretary), Rosemarie Morton (new member will attend for the next 3 months as part of her induction training).

#### **Presentation on Kent Early Years Project**

Jennie Thompson and colleague from Kent Early years Project attended to discuss their need for funding a new computer system. They made a presentation and submitted a list of computer equipment costing £7600. The Chairman advised that this amount was beyond the capability of the Committee to fund. He said that there may be a way of providing this equipment at a lower price and offered to ask R Hendy, a member of the Club with computer skills, to look at their requirements and make some recommendations to assist them. They thanked him for this offer and the Committee awaits the results of this survey. Deferred to next meeting.

*Since the CSC meeting Robin Hendy has reported favourably on these computer proposals and suggested several areas which need to be explored. PP Robin Vickers has reported on the financial position of the Early Years Project and recommends them as a worthy charity to support. Several areas of their financial situation need clarification. The Chairman will oversee these discussions and come back to the committee before the next meeting, if necessary.*

#### **1. Minutes of the Meeting 9<sup>th</sup>, September 2014**

The minutes of the meeting were approved

#### **2. Matters Arising**

Covered in the Agenda

#### **3. Funds Available:**

£1549.49 (less pledges of £450 to Cruse and £510.50 to POW Youth Club)

The Chairman said that a further tranche of charitable funds would be available to the Committee shortly.

#### **4. Homestart**

Presentation of a cheque for £175 has been made by the President. A speaker from Homestart is being invited to address the Club.

#### **5. Hi-Kent**

Presentation of a cheque for £600 to Sophie Jackson to pay for her training as a Sign Language teacher will take place at the Lunch meeting on 18<sup>th</sup>. November

#### **6. Prince of Wales Youth Club**

MR said that an application for District Grant had been prepared by him and AB. and submitted before the deadline. The application is likely to find favour and a question was raised as to whether we could pay the grant to them or at least the Club's portion of the total. After discussion it was agreed to pay the grant only after it had been

approved by District. As camping equipment was involved it was considered unlikely that this would be needed until next year and was thus not urgent.

## **7. Parkinson UK**

CM reported that he had not presented the cheque to the Parkinsons UK for support of the Skylarks and the hydrotherapy as Richard Bond had been travelling and but a meeting for tomorrow was arranged for the handover. John Hill raised the question of why it was necessary for the Skylarks to meet in a room for which payment was required as his wife attended a choir conducted by Grenville Hancox at the Salvation Army Church which was rent free. CM stated that he had already asked why they had to pay and was awaiting an answer. It was agreed that the £450 part of the cheque should be withheld until an explanation was forthcoming. A cheque for a lesser amount covering the Hydrotherapy could be issued if the Committee were not satisfied with the answer.

*Colin McKone wrote following the meeting "I had a meeting this afternoon with Richard Bond, the Chairman of Parkinson's UK Canterbury Branch. I raised the question of why they were paying room hire at Age UK in Canterbury for the Skylarks singing therapy. He said that considerable time had been involved in finding a venue where there was adjacent car parking and wheelchair ramps. The Salvation Army rooms in Canterbury although may be free were not adjacent to a car park, and the nearest car parking would be an impossible journey for the members and their carers.*

*Although there was a necessity to pay Age UK for room hire, the building has wheelchair ramps and an interior design which allows easy access for those in wheel chairs. Those without wheelchairs have limited mobility. The Age UK building has the benefit of an adjacent paying car park which makes the venue absolutely ideal for members and carers. 30 to 40 sufferers (their word) including carers with a mix of about 50/50 attend the choir twice a month because of its popularity. Richard Bond was not certain of the hourly rate that they pay for the singing and social activity of about 2 hours at the present time, but it was £4.50 per hour when they started using the facility 3 or 4 years ago and it has probably risen since then. He will check the rate and advise me. The £450 requested for support of the Skylarks includes mainly rent for a year but also the costs of having a proper recording made of the songs performed by the choir. This will be copied onto 25 to 30 CDs so that each member can have one at home to practice with. Grenville Hancox believes that if he can persuade them to sing whilst they are doing other tasks it will help the brain to begin multi-tasking again which is one of the functional losses for those with dementia.*

*I felt that the intended use of our grant is more than justified and I had no hesitation in handing over the cheque for £950 which includes 450 for the singing therapy. At the same time I thanked Richard for the work he is doing in helping to maintain a high level of support for those suffering from Dementia."*

*Following this an email vote authorized the payment of £450 for venue hire*

## **8. Worthgate Scouts**

CM reported that he had been handed a letter addressed to the Chairman thanking the Committee for £500 towards the replacement of the kitchen windows and which described the current use of the Scout Hut. (New playgroup starting) At the same time she mentioned further work on window replacement and that they were in the process of fundraising. She asked if the Club could help.

CM said that he thought that it would be appropriate to defer this consideration until next Rotary year as other demands on the available funds will arise, and they had already benefitted from assistance this year. Members supported this and the Chairman will reply to them on that basis.

**9. Cruse** – The Chairman reported that no training course for counsellors will take place in the immediate future and our pledge will be held over until next Rotary year.

**10. Community Service and Club Website.** The Chairman said that the website needs updating and he was collecting pictures of our endeavours to put in a report. All information and pictures welcomed.

**11. Porchlight Homeless Conference**

The Chairman asked if any members would like to attend. DL will attend and ML said that she may be able to go.

**12. Riding for the Disabled**

ML reported that money raised by Riding for the Disabled for the trailer has had to be diverted by them for urgent repair to their access road. So this project is now on hold.

**13. Stepping Stones Nursery**

A letter of appreciation and photographs have been received from this project and shared with the Committee.

**14. New use for Rotary Tabards**

JH described a new use that he has observed for a type of Rotary Tabard at primary schools. AB said that there was a Forestry Group at Stelling Minnis and the children might like to wear Hi Vis tabards so that they were readily seen by teachers when foresting. It was noted that smaller size tabards would need to be supplied. AB will come back with a specific project idea when he has discussed with the school.

**15. Chartham Youth Club**

The Pledge of £250 to Chartham Youth Club is no longer required

**16. Littlebourne Village Defibrillator Project**

Bob Anderson had advised the committee that Littlebourne Village is raising money for a defibrillator. However, Sidney Denham informed the committee that the County Council had a supply of Defibrillators for community use at greatly discounted prices and Bridge Village hall had already got one. This is to be clarified with Bob Anderson on his return from holiday. There may be opportunities to help other communities to acquire one.

***17. Date of next meeting 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014. The Chairman decided to cancel the November CSC meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November, because the Club Supper Meeting that night is being cancelled.***