

Rotary Club of Canterbury

Minutes of the Community Service Committee held on 9th June 2015

Attendance: , Rtn Mark Rosen (Vice Chairman and Acting Secretary), PP John Hill, PP Robin Vickers, PP Sidney Denham , Rtn Andrew Barchi, Rtn Marjorie Lyle, Rtn Gill Dixon, Rtn David Lewis, Rtn Deborah Connolly

Apologies: PP David Barton (Chairman), Peer Le Fleming, Rtn Colin McKone

1. Minutes of meeting 12th May 2015 were approved.

2. Matters arising: None

3. Charitable Funds available: £4,976.92

4. Try Angle Awards 2015: Presentation Evening Monday 20th July at 6.30 for 7 finger buffet, dress code smart casual 2 invitations for Forest of Blean and 2 for us. One other member needed to attend with Chairman. SD has already volunteered to join our Chairman.

5. Riding for the Disabled: proposal for a new truck rather than a hoist presented by Marjorie Lyle. ML reported that Riding for the Disabled has not replied back to her after trying to contact them. And since our new Lady Mayoress has chosen Riding for the Disabled as her charity CSC should now withdraw their donation of £500 and wait till the charity contacts us. The committee agreed that we should wait till Riding for the Disabled requests further assistance.

6. 139 Club request for help: Our Chairman suggested that the 139 Club request for help be deferred until next meeting when GD is able to attend.

From Joanna Grant: I am the CEO of a Registered Charity called The 139 Club we provide Antenatal Classes and support the families up until the children turn 21 years old. We started in Medway nearly 5 years ago and have branched out in Canterbury from October last year. We are currently running our 3rd Antenatal Course in Canterbury. We are looking for support to train one of our volunteers to be a Baby Massage Instructor which is £545 for a four day course. Baby Massage has been shown to be very beneficial for babies and parents as it helps with bonding and relaxation. I would love to show you the benefits we are seeing by building communities and providing classes and courses to supports parents on the parenting journey. Best wishes Jo

JD suggested that the committee could not help the 139 Club. The rest of the committee agreed. Action: Chairman write back to the 139 Club and say that we cannot help.

7. Committee Party 2nd July 2015: Update on arrangements by Andrew Barchi. AB reported that the deadline to let him know if you are coming will be the Monday 29th June. The party will start 7:00 for 7:30. Cost £8.00 per person and bring your own bottle.

8. Littlebourne Scouts : Cheque for £399 for camping equipment has been given to Mark Rosen to give to Littlebourne Scouts to purchase a portable Domestic RF60 3-way fridge and 20 Gopack “Big Foot” sets. MR reported that he is meeting Derek Whittaker from Littlebourne Scouts Thursday 11th June to present him with the £399 cheque. Action: MR

9. Demelza House: Invitation to Rotary evenings 7 to 9 pm on 23rd June at Demelza House, Sittingbourne or 30th June at Demelza, Eltham . Action: Volunteers who want to attend to contact the Chairman

10. Canterbury Food Bank; A trolley Dash to be proposed by Mark Rosen. MR reported that he has approached the Food Bank with the idea of another trolley dash but the Food Bank cannot at this time find a trolley dash team. Also Morrisons has not got back to MR with a date for the trolley dash. Action: MR to report back next meeting with any progress.

11. Waymark Trust: Letter received from new Chairman of Trustees requesting help with several projects:

Further to our recent conversation, when you expressed sympathy for Waymark, I would like to advise you of several projects that are outstanding for us.

1. We would like to set up a grant that more explicitly subsidises people with minimal means who cannot offer any significant contribution towards their counselling. Donations currently received average around £20, the cost to us since reducing our management structure is around £35 a session. Although we have never turned anyone away for lack of funds, the viability of our service is threatened as the proportion of those of minimal means increase. Our funds fluctuate significantly from month to month in relation to this. If you were able to contribute to a grant to support such clients £400 would fund:

- around 20 sessions

- two people for 3 months counselling

- one person for 6 months counselling.

2. We have a crucial need to invest in a new PC and would greatly benefit from an additional laptop. The anticipated costs of these are £450 each.

3. Our website is in great need of updating. We have recived a quote for this of £500-£700, which though reasonable could not be our first priority at present. We are hoping to find someone who could volunteer support and if you are aware of anyone with appropriate skills we would greatly welcome an introduction.

Thank you again for your interest,

With all good wishes,

Louise

Dr M Louise Vogel

Chair of Trustees

Waymark Trust,

DC offered to make contact with Dr M Louise Vogel and report back to the committee.

Action: DC

12. Know your BP Day: To discuss the rescheduling of Know your BP Day.

Gill Dixon reports *“Regarding K Y B/ P event, I have spoken to the Stroke awareness organisation , and they are completely happy for us to go ahead taking our own Blood Pressures, with current or past Health Service workers used to taking Blood Pressures, on a future day, just signing a form that they will enclose with the usual paper work that gets sent to me. This will cover those doing the B/P's with the Stroke organisation's insurance. So all we have to do is find suitable and willing B/P takers and the Sphygmomanometers required and then plan a date. I hope this is helpful.”*

JD reported that BP day will be the 26th September. She needs up to 34 helpers.

13. Homelessness Project by Aaron Thompson:

While being in Canterbury I have noticed that there is a very big homeless problem and I want to do something about it. I plan therefore to raise as much money as I can and then I will go out to the homeless people, spend some time with them, get to know them and their story and then I will ask them what they need to get them out of homelessness. Instead of buying generic things and then giving them to them and hoping they help, I want to actually meet them at their need and give them what they need. In January I completed a night of outreach with New Life Church, Canterbury during a cold night filled with hailstones. One homeless man we met said he would love a day to get himself cleaned up and then get the train to his mum who he hasn't seen in 19 years as she would be able to get him out of his homelessness “ but he could not afford the train ticket. This is an example of how I want to use the money, as I would like to actually see people come out of this poverty trap. Having said that though, I understand not everyone has a solution like that, and so if they did not have a way of getting out of homelessness I would try and make their situation more comfortable by buying them sleeping bags, clothes, tents, whatever they need. I have found some other interested people who also believe in my mission and so will be helping me in terms of the outreach. I have also set up a fundraising website to help on this project: <http://www.youcaring.com/help-a-neighboraaron-s-poverty-to-prosperity-challenge325724>

Because I believe in this project so much and I want to see a change, as well as fundraising I am personally going to donate Â£600 to the cause. However I desperately need more funding and was wondering if the Rotary Club of Canterbury could donate some money towards my project at all?

The committee agreed that the Chairman write back to Aaron Thompson and tell her we cannot assist her but that she contacts Catching Lives to offer her help. Action: Chairman

14. Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research: Request for volunteers to help with Street Collection in Canterbury on Saturday 5th September 10 am to 3 pm.

The committee agreed that helping other charities with street collections are not part of the committee's remit.

15. Any Other Business.

15a. JH reported that the request for help from the Greenhill Gymnastics Club to buy new training bars was still outstanding. AB proposed that JH write back to the Gymnastics Club and offer a £250 donation if they can raise funds as well. Also for JH to bring to there attention that there are 3 other Rotary clubs who can help them. Action: JH

15b. Request from PDG Denis Spiller, our President and President elect for the resuming the 2010/11 project of planting Purple Crocus Corms (bulbs). The committee noted the request with interest but decided it was a whole Club event.

15c. JH proposed that CSC meetings start at 6:00. The committee agreed.

15d. JD reported that the kids day out from St. Nicholas school was a success due to the help from DC and SD and that another day out sponsored by our Club should be investigated. Action: JD

15e. AB requested a cheque for £52 from the Treasurer for the high visibility Rotary Tabards that he bought for Stelling Minnis school. Action: Chairman to contact Club Treasurer.

16. Date of next meeting: 2nd July 6:30 at AB house before the Committee Party.