

# **Rotary Club of Canterbury**

## **Minutes of the Community Service Committee**

### **10<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

**Attendance:** PP David Barton (Chairman), PP John Hill, PP Robin Vickers, PP Sidney Denham, PP Andrew Barchi, PP Harry Cragg, Marjorie Lyle, David Lewis, Colin McKone (Secretary)

**Apologies:** Mark Rosen

**1. Minutes of meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October** Minutes read and approved.

**2. Matters arising:** None

**3. Charitable Funds Available:** £4058 including further allocation by Club Council of £1,000.

**4. Parkinson UK:** Colin McKone reported that a cheque for £500 has been issued by the Treasurer and Beatrice Shire ( Vice Chairman, Parkinson's) has requested that it be formally presented by Colin McKone at the refreshments to be served at 4.0pm after the Carol Service which takes place at 3.00pm St. Dunstan's Church on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Rotarians Marjorie Lyle and Harry Cragg will also attend.

**ACTION:** Presentation of cheque by Colin McKone supported by Marjorie Lyle and PP Harry Cragg on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**5. Roper House:** (residential home for severely deaf people with additional disabilities) Colin McKone has received an email request for funds to assist with a visit to a Christmas Market with transport including some with wheelchairs. Details are being prepared by the staff and will be forwarded with approximate costs. A grant of up to £500 was approved subject to be implemented by an ad hoc sub-committee of David Barton, John Hill and Sidney Denham.

**ACTION:** To be taken forward by ad hoc sub-committee with delegated power.

**6. TryAngle Awards 2016:** The Chairman has agreed with Forest of Blean that this year Alan Marriott will make the arrangements with the Kent Youth Service on behalf of both Clubs. Each Club agreed a matching contribution of £250 and this has been formally approved by the Committee.

**ACTION:** To be taken forward by Chairman

**7. RYLA Awards October 2016:** Lewis Franks will give a Power Point presentation to the Club at a date to be arranged.

**ACTION:** To be taken forward by Mark Rosen with the new Speakers Steward in the New Year

**8. St. Nicholas School Kids Day Out:** Report on progress by Gill Dixon will be deferred to the next meeting.

**9. Catching Lives:** A Sub-committee consisting of the Chairman with David Lewis and PP John Hill investigated the need for an urgent storage unit for bedding at Catching Lives. John Hill was able to arrange a carpenter who erected a suitable enclosure costing £400 and the sub-committee gave the go ahead. Photographs of the installation were viewed by all members of the Community Service Committee and the expenditure was approved with thanks to John Hill.

**ACTION:** Further work on Nursing Support to be carried out by the Chairman

**10. Alstrom Syndrome UK:** A request has been received from Catherine Lewis of the Alstrom Syndrome UK. Society on behalf of a sufferer (23 yrs of age) who resides in the Canterbury area. The full text of the application is shown in the Agenda document for the meeting and all members had an opportunity to study it. The request was for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year training costs for a Diploma in Counselling (£1,848.55 plus fees for a residential training session of £150) at Canterbury College. Members felt that more information was needed including where the applicant lived, what progress the applicant was making on the course and whether they had a realistic opportunity of using the qualification to help other sufferers. Members appreciated her inspiration in wishing to help others. It was clear that the amount requested was too large for the CSC to fund in total. Although the application states that she does not qualify for further funding, it would be helpful to know what progress has been made in raising financial support for year 2. The Chairman will make further contact with the applicant and the College to try and get a better picture of the situation. A decision was deferred until the next meeting when more information should be available.

**ACTION:** The Chairman has written for further information.

**11. John Graham Centre:** Marjorie Lyle had met the Project Manager (Virginie Pinard) from the Trust who was charged with raising a large sum of money (unspecified) to prepare an outdoor site for exercising and games. She showed members the details of a Fund-raising day planned for December 19<sup>th</sup>. As well as financial support the Trust has requested the Rotary Club of Canterbury to help with the running of the event. It had been agreed that Virginie Pinard would address the Committee at the meeting, but unfortunately she was delayed and could only speak briefly. The Chairman asked Marjorie Lyle to address the Club Members to see if any of them could help out on December 19<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed that the Committee would donate £250 to the project and in doing so become a "Silver Sponsor".

**ACTION:** Further information would be sought by Marjorie Lyle on the project to enable a fuller discussion at the December meeting. The Chairman has written and a cheque for £250 will be sent.

**12. Request for help in funding an Oasis client:** This application concerned the financing of a security system to help protect a woman client who was at very high risk of further assault following breaches of a restraining order placed on her assailant. The cost of the equipment to be fitted by Crimefighter Alarms was £683 plus VAT for a simple installation. Members asked if Geoff Goodban had been consulted about this installation because he may be able to help if he knew the circumstances. The Chairman agreed to discuss the matter with GG. and see if there was an opportunity to take some action as the situation was very urgent. Full details of the quotation from CF Alarms were available.

**ACTION:** Security quotation to be discussed with PP Geoff Goodban by the Chairman, who was delegated to proceed with purchasing the security equipment if a satisfactory solution could be agreed.

**13. Rotary Social Mobility Questionnaire from District 1120:** Members asked what was the definition of Social Mobility used in the questionnaire. Sidney Denham said that he would study it and fill up the form detailing any work done by the Committee on helping those with mobility problems etc.

**ACTION:** Questionnaire already completed by PP Sidney Denham

**14. Porchlight:** A Newsletter from Porchlight had been received from that organisation. It was available for members to read to see if any action or further support could be considered by the Committee.

**ACTION:** For discussion at December Committee Meeting

**15. Multiple Sclerosis Centre:** A letter of thanks for our long term support had been received from the organisation together with an invitation to visit the centre. Some members had already visited and found it to be a very impressive building that was well equipped to support the members of Parkinson UK. It has a coffee shop open to all during the morning and opportunities to see the facilities. The Chairman suggested that members telephoned the organisation before visiting to see if it was a suitable time.

**ACTION:** Individual Committee Members to visit if they wish

**16. Canterbury Kids:** A long and detailed but poorly prepared application from an individual that is requesting funds to set up an entirely new organisation in Canterbury to help children in the 7 to 11 year age group. The application is set out in full in the Agenda. It mentions a few running costs and the need for the person concerned to obtain CRB approval. It talks about a certain amount of self-funding undertaken by the applicant for the start -up. The majority of members felt that the application was too vague to identify any opportunity for funding by the Rotary Club of Canterbury. There was no information on the background of the applicant and their skills/suitability to work with children. It was agreed that the Chairman would write a letter to the applicant mentioning that we had very limited funds but would like to be kept informed of progress with the development of the organisation.

**ACTION:** Chairman has written

**17. Battersea Dogs Home:** The question of animal charities has already been considered by the Committee at a previous meeting and was found to be outside the usual criteria for funding by the Community Service Committee. This policy was confirmed.

**ACTION:** Chairman has written.

**18. AOB:** None

**19. Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>. December 2015