

Rotary Club of Canterbury

Minutes of the Community Service Committee 8th September 2015

Present: Mark Rosen (Acting Chairman), Andrew Barchi, PP David Barton, PP John Hill, PP Harry Cragg, Gill Dixon, Marjorie Lyle, PP Robin Vickers, Michael Leadbeater, Deborah Connolly, Colin McKone.

1. Minutes of meeting 14th July 2015 were approved.

2. Matters arising: None.

3. Charitable Funds available: £4,976.92

4. Try Angle Awards 2015: MR and SD accompanied by Alan Marriott and Richard Field from the Forest of Blean Club attended the awards. MR and Alan Marriott presented awards for Personal Achievement in the Arts, Music, Sport and Young Careers. Alan Marriott has suggested that the Clubs should donate £250 again for next year Awards. It was agreed unanimously to donate £250 again in 2016 and to continue the collaboration with RC of Canterbury Forrest of Blean.

ACTION: The Chairman will write to Forrest of Blean and the organisers of the TryAngle Award Scheme.

5. Canterbury Food Bank Trolley Dash: Trolley Dash is on 27th September at Morrisons. A preliminary meeting to agree the details with the Food Bank will be arranged by Mark Rosen.

ACTION: Mark Rosen will issue final details to the Club and Gill Dixon will be responsible for obtaining tabards.

6. Waymark Trust: Letter received from new Chairman of Trustees requesting help with several projects. Dr Vogel was due to address the committee at this meeting, but withdrew because Waymark Trust is ceasing to operate.

7. Know your BP Day: Gill Dixon reported that the BP Day scheduled for the 26th September has had to be cancelled due to continuing lack of nurses and equipment this year. The future of this event was discussed at length and the general feeling was that a BP Day is less relevant now than in previous years, as there is more provision of this service within the NHS and store based and home BP monitors are widely used. It was proposed by PP John Hill and seconded by PP David Barton the Rotary Know Your BP Day should be discontinued. This proposal was carried unanimously.

Prostate Awareness Day: The future of this event was discussed at length and it was felt that little is being achieved as public awareness has risen and the NHS is coping with this need. It was unanimously agreed to discontinue the annual Prostate Awareness Day. The committee thanked Gill Dixon for her hard work in organising this service for six years.

ACTION: Chairman will arrange for Club members to be notified by email.

8. St. Nicholas School Kids Day Out: The Committee confirmed that there should be two Kids Days Out involving St Nicholas School each year; a Summer Event and a Winter Event. Deborah Connolly reported that she went to the Wyevale Nursery at Chartham to enquire about soft play area there. The Nursery is happy for about 10 children from the school to use the play area there with supervision. Costs are £1.50 per child for 1 hour. A kids lunch is approx £5 in cafe next door.

ACTION: Further investigation of this venue a risk assessment by Gill Dixon & Marjorie Lyle is required.

9. QEQM hospital in Margate New Bereavement Suite: Emmeline Powell, Bereavement Lead Midwife has requested help for new bereavement facilities for families who have suffered a loss of their child. The cost of the suite is £70,000 and will offer the comfortable, home from home, relaxing environment that these parents need to ensure their experience is as good as it can be during their difficult time, with a double bed allowing partners to stay, en-suite bathroom and kitchenette facilities. Action: MR to contact Emmeline Powell to report on the progress of fundraising for their new Bereavement Suite. The Committee considered that this project is too large for us to become involved at this stage, but could be looked at again when the time comes to provide equipment for the completed unit.

ACTION: The Chairman will write a reply.

10. Visits to the elderly: Marjorie Lyle asked the Committee to consider sponsoring visits to the elderly. The Committee agreed that visits are a good idea but that Age Concern UK already provided this service.

ACTION: The Chairman will report to Club Council drawing attention to this need in the community and suggesting that members of the club who are interested should offer their services to Age UK.

11. The Young Lives Foundation (YLF): Past Rotarian Keith Dimond addressed the committee. This organisation provides support for young people and vulnerable adults when they are being interviewed in Police Stations in the Kent & Medway Area; in addition they work with young people who have had very challenging lives – abuse, bullying, deprivation etc. They run a range of activities:-

Weekly group – this is for youngsters who, because of their backgrounds have very low social skills – so they can't join cubs, scouts etc. This group provides activities for them to build their confidence. To support this would cost £25 per person per week.

Day trips – youngsters coming from a deprived background who have never been away before. Examples might be day trips to a theme park etc. To support this would cost £125 per person per trip.

Residential Trips 2 nights – extend the confidence building for youngsters who haven't been away from home before. Participants undertake relevant activities during their time away. To support this would cost £350 per person.

The Committee felt that this organisation does not have a clearly defined Canterbury connection and is not suitable to be supported as a Club project.

Action: Chairman will report to Club Council requesting a decision on whether to draw this to the attention of the Cluster Group of Rotary Clubs or refer it to Area for consideration. Colin McKone will investigate the financial status of the charity. YLF will be re-considered for a possible donation at the next committee meeting.

12. Hockey Goalie Equipment: Aurora Mears has requested through David Naumann if Rotary could help her with the purchase of replacement hockey goalie equipment. Aurora has been helped on two previous occasions by the Club. Aurora has achieved BA Hons in Sport and Exercise Science. The cost of leg pads and kicker comes to £645 but does not include the 40% discount that Aurora gets from obo UK. With the discount the equipment should come to £350 - £400. The Committee decided that no further grant could be made.

ACTION: The Chairman will notify PP David Naumann.

13. Any Other Business: Mark Rosen reported that there are two candidates for RYLA Awards. *Subsequent to the Committee meeting in view of time pressures a Chairman's decision has been taken for them to be interviewed on 16th September at Kent & Canterbury Club by PP David Barton & Mark Rosen.*

14. Date of next meeting: 13th October 2015