

ROTARY CLUB OF CANTERBURY

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Community Service Committee held on 29th April 2013 at the Kent & Canterbury Club

Attendance and Apologies

Present:

Pres R Boyd-Howell
PP D Barton (Chairman)
PP J Hill
PP D Naumann
Rtn A Barchi
Rtn G Dixon
Rtn G Dussart
Rtn P Le Fleming
Rtn M Lyle
Rtn L Norris
Rtn R Vickers

Apologies:

None

Also present

Pres Elect G Goodban

There was one item on the Agenda namely the decision made by the Community Service Committee on 12th February 2013 *"that £350 should be made available to support the expense of EKIDS for one year and consideration given to further support"*.

1. AB raised as a preliminary issue his disagreement with the procedure that had led to the Extraordinary Meeting of the Committee being called. He expressed his view that the Committee had decided the issue previously and such decision should stand. The Committee noted his objection.
2. The Chairman invited the President to open the Meeting:

The President reminded members of the four principles of Rotary which he suggested should guide the Committee in its decision making. The President confirmed that although the issue had been considered by way of a report at Club Council the decision was one to be made by the Community Service Committee.
3. The President invited PE G Goodban to set out his concerns about the EKIDS organisation which had led DB to put on hold making the grant, previously agreed by the Committee, pending the outcome of the Extraordinary Committee Meeting.

GG then outlined the background history and both his involvement and his wife's involvement in EKIDS as detailed in the Minutes of the Club Council held on 23rd April 2013.

In summary, the concerns raised by GG which were relevant to the Committee's decision to make a grant were:

- (a) A lack of information about the activities of EKIDS and Minutes of its Trustee or Committee Meetings and a lack of proper accounts for the organisation.
- (b) The high ratio of administrative expenses for the organisation against its income, including apparently paying wages to its secretary and unnecessary expenditure on laptop computers.

GG reported that he had attended at the EKIDS AGM to raise his issues either before the AGM or at the AGM. The Chairman of the Trustees at the AGM had refused to allow him to raise these issues and had abandoned the meeting.

4. The Committee noted the following additional information:

- (a) EKIDS is a charity which was registered at the Charity Commission in August 2012. It is not yet required to file its Returns with the Charity Commission.
- (b) The EKIDS accounts to which GG had access would not comply with the accounting information required to be filed with the Charity Commission. The accounts cover the period both prior to, and post, its registration with the Charity Commission.
- (c) EKIDS' budget for the forthcoming year included provision for payment to its secretary (without specifying whether by way of wages or an honorarium).
- (d) That RIBI through REPoD supported meeting the needs for people with dementia and in particular the use, inter alia, of memory cafes such as those run by EKIDS at the Kent & Canterbury Club on a monthly basis. District 1120 is keen to support the aims of REPoD and had been put in touch with EKIDS by REPoD.
- (e) The Chairman of the Committee had previously written to EKIDS to advise of the Committee's decision to make a grant to EKIDS.
- (f) The Committee considered that it would not incur any liability should it make a grant to a registered charity in good faith if subsequently the registered charity conducted its affairs contrary to the requirements of the Charity Commission and its charitable registration.

5. The Committee discussed the issues arising, seeking to find "*on honourable way out*" (per DN) applying the four-way tests of Rotary.

After full discussion, DB put forward a proposal (seconded by ML) that "*the Committee should confirm its decision to make an award of £350 to pay the Kent & Canterbury Club room hire and refreshment charges at £35 per*

session for the Memory Cafes run by EKIDS each month at the Kent & Canterbury Club with such payments being made directly by the RC Canterbury to the Kent & Canterbury Club” thus, in effect, underwriting the costs of the EKIDS Memory Cafe for ten months.

The proposal was carried unanimously.

6. GG confirmed that he would commission and pay for a suitable plaque to be displayed at the Memory Cafe to record the fact that the RC Canterbury had sponsored the Memory Cafes which plaque would then be displayed at each Memory Cafe meeting.
7. The Committee subsequently considered the terms of the email received from Tessa Reid Chairman of EKIDS which was universally deprecated. The Committee considered how the Club should respond to the email. After discussion it was agreed that the President would write to Mr Roger Newman the Chairman of the Trustees of EKIDS to express disappointment at the tone of the email received from Tessa Reid (as being inappropriate/unhelpful) and confirming the decision of the Committee to use the grant previously agreed by the Committee to underwrite the costs of the Memory Cafe which had been the Committee's original intention.

The Meeting concluded at 7.15pm

Additional Notes

The Charity Commission website shows EKIDS as a charity (number 1148528) with standard registration and a constitution adopted on 20th July 2011 and amended on 18th July 2012. The trustees are:

1. Mr Roger Newman MBE
2. Mrs Janet Britt
3. Mr Dominic McCully

The contact trustee is shown as Mr Roger Newman MBE of 64 Westbrook Avenue, Margate, Kent CT9 5HD.