

Rotary Club of Canterbury

Minutes of the Club Council meeting held on Monday 28th June 2021 at 18:00 Hours

Present: S. Thompson (ST), L. Norris (LN), V. Pritchard (VP), M. Ward (MW), M. McGeary (MMG), R. Kemball-Cook (RKC), P. Hermitage (PH), M. Blades (MB), K. Maunick (KM), A. Mepstead (AM).

In Attendance: C. Lees (CL) Taking Minutes

Apologies: A. Loughran (AL), N Fraser (NF), R. Anderson (RA)

Minutes of the meeting of 27th May 2021: Approved

1. Matters Arising

Vacancy for Vice President is still outstanding.

MW, RKC and CL successfully completed tests on video conferencing quality at Kent County Cricket Club. There is a workable solution for hosting hybrid Zoom/ Face to face Conferences at the venue.

Bank mandate update to authorised signatories have been completed.

Indian Covid relief not pursued.

MW awaiting update from Shabana Raman on use of Zoom conference booking system.

2. President's Business

Two members have indicated that they will not renew and one has asked for their membership to be held in abeyance.

The Awards committee will make recommendations on Honorary memberships in the new Presidential year.

Pentangular Presidents meeting took place via conference call in June. The following updates on JPP's were given.

JPP4- St Quentin-Awaiting confirmation of Global Grant application. Project will commence in Autumn 2021.

JPP5- Leiden- Payment of €4k over 2 years.

VP and International committee to investigate possible projects for future JPP's.

The next Mini Group Exchange in Canterbury will take place in 2024/5.

At the recent Club Assembly changes to the dress code, grace and loyal toast at future meetings were announced. Three members expressed concerns to ST who, after consulting members of the Regeneration Committee, sent an email to the whole Club saying that the loyal toast would remain and explaining the reasoning behind the changes. The wording of that email is included in the appendix to these minutes as a matter of record. After considering the intentions of the regeneration work and ST's email, Council unanimously concluded that no further action is needed. Progress of regeneration efforts will be considered at six and twelve months.

3. Financial Report

RKC presented his final accounts as Treasurer.

RKC still working on Dining account refunds.

The Balance of £1340 is allocated between the Innovation competition and the secondary schools writing competition.

RKS has now received authorisation to make an application for Gift Aid. He will do this asap.

4. Membership

KM and RKC reported that 25 out of 55 members have paid their fees for the next Rotary year.

5. Dining

ST and Raj Dasan(RD) met with Kent County Cricket Club catering team regarding the price and term. They have agreed a contract for 1 year. A minimum number of 20 meals will be provided. The new price for members will be £19 per meal. Club Council approved the signing of the contract.

RD and ST will investigate the option of using other venues for times when the Cricket club is not available.

6. 100 Club

Following a review with the 100 Club team ST has circulated an email detailing the new rules, payments and operational details.

Club Council approved the proposed changes to the 100 Club in advance of members approval at the next Business meeting.

7. Business Meeting

The following subjects will be included at the next meeting

- 100 Club Review
- Dining
- General update from each committee

8. Complaint

A complaint was raised with District regarding a statement on membership being by "invitation" on the Club website. MW dealing with RIBI and RI.

9. Any Other Business

AM thanked the committee for support during his presidential year.

PH thanked AM for his hard work throughout the year in difficult circumstances caused by the pandemic.

MW has completed 3 years as Membership Secretary and will remain in post for the moment.

Date of next meeting: Monday 26th July 2021 at 18:00 via Zoom

Appendix 1

From: **Stephen Thompson** <ssjlthompson@googlemail.com>

Date: Tue, 22 Jun 2021 at 12:41

Subject: The Loyal Toast

To: <members@rotarycanterbury.org.uk>

Dear All,

It has been over a year now since the Club has been progressing its "regeneration agenda." The objects of that work have been to improve our service and fellowship activities, bring greater clarity to the way the Club is run and to make the Club attractive to new and younger members. There has been considerable support for this and there is now an ambitious plan for what we will do in the forthcoming Rotary year and beyond. I do hope fellow Rotarians will agree that the actions in that plan embrace what Rotary is all about.

There are, however, detailed concerns that have been voiced about changing traditions in the running of meetings. The first concerns the Loyal Toast. I am aware from telephone conversations with some members that not having the Loyal Toast at our meetings would cause some members concern. I am very grateful to those members for taking the trouble to ring me and explain their anxieties. Equally I am aware from discussions that I have had with other members that they would rather the Loyal Toast be discontinued.

Rotary is a marvellous organisation that brings people of differing views to work together for the common benefit of international and local charitable causes. That and enjoying fellowship together, whatever our views, is after all, what Rotary is fundamentally about. Long may that last.

Since the telephone conversations I have discussed the matter with the members of the Regeneration Committee (except Martin who is on holiday). This one issue is seen by some who have telephoned me as a step too far. For that reason, it is agreed that the Club should maintain the Loyal Toast at the usual time.

I hope that those who look for the Loyal Toast to end will not now start ringing me!

Two other issues that were put to the recent Club Assembly having been considered by the Regeneration Committee are dress code and grace before a meal. On the issue of dress, many members attended meetings before lockdown in relaxed attire in a manner that reflects modern day business practices. Some may choose to wear a collar and tie and others may not. That does not seem to be over contentious. On the subject of Grace, the idea is not to abandon a moment of reflection before a meal. It is to give individual members the opportunity to say something serious within the context of their own beliefs. This we are calling, "Thought for the Day." Here a Rotarian can give either a grace of their choice or whatever they wish to say when it is their turn. This is an opportunity to enable people of all faiths or none to express considered and serious thought.

To conclude, here is my thought for the day. As I have outlined already, the Regeneration Committee seeks to attract a younger generation of Rotarians into the Club. The way in which we conduct our meetings sends a big message to prospective newcomers. Without change we could be a Club of thirty in a few years unable to support the charitable causes that you have been instrumental in helping. I end, therefore, with a suggestion. Let us get behind the plan we have for the year and as we do so, let each of us find someone that you think might share our values to come along, enjoy our fellowship and be party to the world of Rotary.

Let's all look forward to Rotary year 2021/2! Thank you.

Stephen