

Subject to Approval
A MEETING OF THE CIVIC AND COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS SUB-BOARD

WAS HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2007

The Mayor (Councillor Gill)(ex-officio) (P); Councillors Allen (P), Carr (P), Carter (P), Cully (P), Dickson (P), Edgar (P), Farr (P) and Mrs Salter.

10. APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs Salter and Mr Bob Whitbread.

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

12. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Board held on 12 July 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

13. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

14. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART II

15. ROYAN TWINNING CRITIQUE 2007

Consideration was given to a critique of the Secretary of the Gosport/Royan Twinning which updated Members on the Twinning events of 2007. She advised that all the feedback she had received from those taking part had been positive.

The Chairman pointed out that Grange Farm Nursery had not been run down and would still be capable of providing flowers for future events. The Secretary said that she had been given misleading information on this point but would give Grange Farm the opportunity of quoting for the provision of flowers in the future. However, the need for the in-house provision of services such as floral decoration and printing to remain commercially competitive was stressed, and Members were in agreement that these services would not be taken up if their quotes were not competitive.

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The Mayor reported that members of the Royan delegation appeared to have enjoyed being included in the Civic Service which he had decided to hold on the Sunday of the Twinning Visit. Members agreed that this had been successful, involving more Gosport residents as well as visitors in the Civic Service.

Members also welcomed the fact that more young people had been involved in the Twinning this year. Councillor Carr indicated he would liaise with the BMX Club, Gosport Football Club who were training young people on the St George's Barracks playing field and the Boxing Club, in order to involve them in the 2009 Twinning Visit.

Members considered the Statement of Accounts 1.4.07 – 31.3.08 and, in accepting the accounts, noted that they appeared healthy.

Members thanked Honorary Alderman Mrs Whitbread for her efforts on behalf of the Gosport/Royan Twinning.

16. ROYAN TWINNING 2008: UPDATE

It was reported that there were difficulties in getting firm commitments from people before the Christmas holiday but that some forms had been returned.

It had been established that Fly B operated a flight from Southampton Airport to La Rochelle at a cost of £160.80 return. Places would need to be booked as soon as possible after Christmas as the visit in 2008 would be taking place over a Bank Holiday weekend, meaning that last minute bookings would not be available.

A request was made for ideas for suitable gifts to take to Royan that could be transported without too much difficulty. A Member said that some years ago the Royan delegation had presented Gosport delegates with a set of coasters with pictures of Royan that he was still using. He suggested that a similar gift could be made using local pictures for the Royan delegation. This idea was welcomed and would be given further consideration.

It was reported that Councillor Dickson had had a successful visit to golfing friends in Royan and was confident that up to 7 Royan golf players would be willing to take part in the 2008 Twinning weekend.

Officers were questioned on the process for applying for EU funds towards the cost of the 50th Anniversary Visit in 2009. It was reported that the necessary forms would not be available until June or July 2008. The deadline for applying would be 1 December 2008 and a response would not be given until March 2009, leaving very little time to make alternative arrangements if the application was not successful. Approximately 50% of applicants obtained some sort of funding but not necessarily the full amount applied for. The Secretary was advised that a copy of the Guidance Notes for making an application would be obtained in order that she could discuss the process with

officers prior to Easter 2008. The Chairman asked for each group to confirm their nomination to the Twinning 2009 Working Group so that the Secretary could then arrange the meetings of the Working Group.

17 MRS DOROTHY SIMPSON – FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

The Mayor outlined the many reasons for wishing to grant the Freedom of the Borough to Mrs Dorothy Simpson and advised Members that he had copies of the recommendations he had received should they wish to read them.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Carr and unanimously endorsed by Members.

RESOLVED: That, in accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in recognition of her eminent services to the people and Borough of Gosport over many years, the Policy and Organisation Board be requested to refer to an Extraordinary Council meeting, to be held on a date to be agreed, the award of the Freedom of the Borough to Mrs Dorothy Simpson.

18 CLOSING REMARKS

Members considered that a number of very successful Civic Events had taken place recently, including the 25th Anniversary of the Falklands War, the granting of the Freedom of the Borough to the Royal Marines and the extension of the rights granted to the Royal Hospital Haslar to include the Medical Defence Hospital Unit (Portsmouth). The timing of these events had been dictated by outside circumstances and Members were in agreement that the Council should not organise such events merely for the sake of it but should only act in response to similar external indicators.

Such external influences could include a desire to recognise the achievements of troops returning from Iraq or Afghanistan. The number of service personnel from Gosport Borough deployed to these two war zones was not known but personnel from Defence Medical Services, including 33 Field Hospital, were certainly involved. However, service personnel from Defence Medical Services were continually rotating tours of duty and it was not appropriate to fix a particular date for any “welcome home” event at the current time. It was also understood that Hampshire County Council was arranging a date in February or March 2008 to welcome back some Hampshire service personnel.

The Mayor said that during his year of office he had attended a number of events throughout the county and those organised by Gosport Borough Council had been of an exceptionally high standard and compared very favourably to events elsewhere in the county. The Chairman wished to record his thanks to Council officers for all the extra hard work they put in to make such events a success. This sentiment was endorsed unanimously by the Members present.

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The meeting ended at 6.35 p.m.

CHAIRMAN