



Minutes of the District Council Meeting

Thursday 5th July 2012

**Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel
Corby**

District Governor Chris Chew

Rotary International District 1070 Council Meeting, Thursday 5th July 2012

District Governor Chris Chew chaired the meeting which was held at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel on Thursday 5 July 2012 commencing at 7.30pm.

There were 181 Rotarians present from 70 Clubs (Area A 11; B 11; C 8; D 11; E 12; F 8; G 11 Clubs represented).

C. 12/13. 01 Welcome and Apologies

District Governor Chris welcomed all who were present, in particular asking those attending their first Council meeting and members of the newly chartered Club of Kettering Tresham, to stand to be recognised.

Apologies were received from:

Past District Governors: Barry Hasdell, Terry Watts, Ron Watson and John Butcher

Officers: Geof Nichols (Assistant Governor Area A), Eric Lennox (Assistant Treasurer), Peter Brearley (LDTC Chairman) and John Cookson (Webmaster).

Clubs: Ashby Hastings, Boston, Hinckley, Kempston, Kimbolton Castle, Leicester Novus, Peterborough Minster, Stamford and Towcester.

Individuals: Les Aldrich, Paul Barns, Malcolm Mann, Hilary Painter, Bob Skinner, Keith Smith and Stuart Silby.

C. 12/13. 02 Act of Remembrance

DG Chris named the following Rotarians known to have passed to higher service since the previous Council Meeting: Geoff Beardsley (Melton Mowbray), Marc Coleman (Brackley), Phil Denny (Biggleswade), Geoff Halliday-Pegg (Bourne), Mark Howe (Bedford Park), Hasse Marrum (Northampton Becket) and Tony Scott (Kimbolton Castle). All present stood in an act of remembrance.

C 12/13. 03 Minutes of the last District Council Meeting

AG Garner Roberts proposed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 17 April 2012 should be agreed as a true record. This was seconded by PDG Roger May, unanimously agreed, and signed by District Governor Chris.

C 12/13. 04 Matters Arising

DG Chris announced and congratulated Geoff Blurton (Kettering) on his election unopposed as District Governor for the year 2015/16.

C 12/13. 05 Awards Presentation by Immediate Past District Governor

District Photographic Competition Awards. At the invitation of DG Chris, Immediate Past District Governor Linda May announced the winners of the photographic competition and presented certificates to Graham Walker (Peterborough Werrington) as winner and runner up in the Transport Section and to Jim Steel (Blaby Meridian) as winner of the Seasons category.

RI Presidential Citations 2011-12. IPDG Linda announced that as a result of the very careful checking by RI of information against the RI Database on 31 March 2012 no Club

within Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland had been awarded a Citation. She believed that some Clubs in our District may have achieved the requirements including personal donations by each member to the Annual Programme Fund and Club average contribution of at least US\$100 but these had not been recorded in the database by the required date.

The District Governors within RIBI had agreed that Clubs, who had achieved the membership criteria according to the RI database, and the per capita giving according to the District figures at the end of March, should be recognised. She therefore presented District Governor Club Recognition Awards to Grantham, Grantham Kesteven, Peterborough Werrington and Ramsey.

C 12/13. 06 District Governor's Report

Re Districting. DG Chris referred to his written report and said that RI requested RIBI to review geographic boundaries and membership with a view to an ideal District having 65-75 Clubs and 2,500 members. He had been appointed to the RIBI committee which would start the review process on Friday 13th July 2012.

Patrick Boylan (Leicester) said that the situation had been of concern for a long time and that the current boundaries made no sense. He considered Districts should be based on administrative boundaries.

Bob Seery (Thrapston & Raunds) said that this was a sensitive matter which could be controversial. He urged that this was addressed very carefully with the full agreement of Clubs.

DG Chris said that the geography of where people worked and lived was more important than administrative boundaries. He had obtained a place on the committee in order to ensure that any changes were agreed with Clubs and Districts rather than imposed.

Social Media. DG Chris referred to the importance of social media and that a presentation was scheduled for this meeting.

DG Chris then made the following statement to the meeting:

“An incident has occurred involving a former member of the District Executive.

At the moment we are liaising with the Police.

We ask for your patience and trust at this time.

Further information will be provided as and when it is available and appropriate to share.

Be assured this matter does not affect the public in any way.

As you will appreciate we cannot give you more specific information.”

No further comment was made at this point in the meeting.

C12/13. 07 District Secretary

District Secretary Dick Parsley referred to the report circulated by his predecessor Barry Hasdell.

He thanked Club Secretaries for the work they had done on updating the District Database and reminded them that details of any members as at 30 June not shown in the database must be advised to the District Treasurer.

He added his congratulations to Geoff Blurton (Kettering) on election of as DG 2015/16 and drew attention to the fact that this would create another Assistant Governor vacancy for next

year bringing the total to four. New blood was welcomed and anyone interested should discuss this with DG Elect Margaret Morley or DG Nominee Ken Billington.

The President of Stamford Burghley would now be Tony Palmer in place of Paul Johnson.

DS Dick asked that each Club ensure they take home their new District Directories.

Protection, Equality & Diversity. David Brown (Wreake Valley) said that after three years he had now relinquished his position of RIBI Protection Officer but DG Chris had added Equality and Diversity to his portfolio; he noted that DGN Ken Billington was now the RIBI Equality & Diversity Officer. The long awaited introduction of the Independent Safeguarding Authority was now scheduled for November.

He drew attention to the importance of each Club confirming adoption of the Health & Safety, Protection, and Equality & Diversity policies at the first Club Council meeting of the year and this being confirmed by the signature of the new President. This would ensure the maximum help from RIBI and the insurers in the event of a problem.

C 12/13. 08 District Treasurer's Report

DG Chris apologised to the meeting for the fact that the proposal to approve the District Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2011 must be withdrawn.

He had spoken to the Treasurer concerning the muddled situation in the District accounts, and at his request, the Treasurer had resigned.

In accordance with his authority to fill a casual vacancy, DG Chris was pleased to confirm that Geoff Richardson (Huntingdon Cromwell) had agreed to accept the position of Treasurer for 2012/13.

Although only in the post for five days DT Geoff advised the capitation invoices were in the baskets for Clubs.

C 12/13. 09 Matters referred to the District Executive and now referred back for District Council approval.

DS Dick referred to the revised District Standing Orders which had been circulated. The two significant items previously agreed by District Council and now included were changes to the limit on Conference Funding commencing on 1 July 2013 and the reduced provision of Distinct Directories.

DGN Ken proposed the approval of the revised Standing Orders of the District. This was seconded by PDG Richard Hyde and unanimously agreed.

C 12/13 10 Assistant Governors' Reports

The only addition to the written reports was that AG Robin Green (Area F) advised that on 23 June 2012 Northampton Apollo had passed a resolution to disband the Club. On the good side all members would be continuing their enjoyment of Rotary membership in the Northampton satellite group or Kettering Tresham.

C 12/13 11 Rotary Foundation

John Dehnel advised that the deadline for District Grant applications had been extended until the end of next week (Saturday 14th July 2012). RI had advised there was still time to put forward a bid for a Vocational Training Teams and this might be for Africa in conjunction with Mercy Ships.

In June nearly one hundred donations had been made by Clubs in the District and the total for the year was US\$231,000 with an average of US\$85 per member. He congratulated Holbeach on giving the highest with an average of US\$158 per member and runners up Ashby de la Zouch with US\$151. It was disappointing that one Club had still given nothing.

For Polio, since 2008 the District had raised £380,000 with an average of £141 per member and he expected our District to be second highest within RIBI for the Bill Gates Challenge.

C 12/13. 12 Project Team Chairmen's Reports

a) New Generation. Moira Bartlett advised that the new Rotaract District Representative (Chairman) is Clara Machell (Rotaract Club of Kettering Phoenix).

Andrew Cowling (Northampton) said he expected the Rotary Youth Leadership Award course starting on 28 July 2012 would be full although two Clubs had yet to advise their candidates for paid places. Rotarians are welcome to visit the course on Sunday 29 July between 1430 and 1630.

b) Community. Tony Robbs said that there was a vacancy for a District Environmental project leader to take over from Bill Burton (Bedford Park) who had completed a successful fifteen years in the post. Consideration was being given to setting up a Resilience plan to deal with post disaster situations and a lead member for the committee was still required.

Simon Adlam (St Neots St Mary's) reported on a successful Kids Out. 45 Clubs from our District had enabled 2,010 children to participate. The event had made a small profit and he thanked Shephed Charnwood for their financial contribution.

Tony Robbs drew attention to the joint Community and Vocational handbook available on the District website.

c) Vocational Service. DG Chris said that the intention was to give a greater emphasis to Vocational Service. Vocation Chairman Mary Whitehead advised that the joint Community and Vocational handbook included some Vocational ideas which Clubs could choose to use as part of their service. Sharing new ideas between Clubs would be important and she asked AGs to help publicise successful events..

d) International Service. Roger Neuberg said that a new Shelterbox speaker co-ordinator would be announced shortly. Only four Clubs had provided International project reports for him to pass on to RIBI and he requested that more Clubs provide reports to him.

Support Team Chairmen's Reports

e) Communications. David Morris advised that the closing date for the Club Bulletin Competition is 15 July 2012.

Jo Westwood (Melton Aurora) gave an informative talk on the importance of Social Media. With the fast advance of communications preferences this would be an important method of communicating with the public including "Rotarians in waiting". So that training could be made available, she asked each Club to complete and return the Social Media Questionnaire available on the District website.

f) Leadership, Development & Training. DG Chris advised that a Committee meeting had been held the previous day but that Peter Brearley was unable to attend this District Council meeting.

e) Conference. Neville Thompson said that the last sentence of the third paragraph of the report on Telford should be deleted. There would be no charge for those attending the Friday evening event who had not purchased a meal.

Accommodation at Telford had been booked by 750 delegates but conference registration had only been received for 250. He asked the outstanding 52 Clubs to send registration as soon as possible.

C 12/13. 13 Roadshows

DGN Ken said that District Roadshows would be held on the evenings of Monday 29 October at Orton Hall Hotel, Peterborough and on Thursday 1 November 2012 at the Best Western Wigston Stage Hotel, Leicester.

C12/13. 14 Next Meeting

DG Chris confirmed the next meeting would be held at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby NN17 1AE on Monday 22 October 2012 at 7.30pm

C12/13. 15 Any other business

- a) Robert Bracegirdle (Loughborough Beacon) advised that details of the District Quiz were in the baskets and the closing date for entries is Friday 24 August 2012.
- b) Andrea Crellin, President of Kettering Tresham expressed thanks to members of the Extension committee and all those who had helped with the formation of the new Club.
- c) DG Chris expressed disappointment that the very considerable effort put in by Rotarians within every Club had not been recognised by the award of a RI Presidential Citation. He said all should very proud of what the District had achieved and gave examples of the 2010 children who had benefited from Kids Out and the fact that this year there had been only 74 cases of Polio

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 9.18pm

District Governor _____

Date _____