

Rotary International District 1070 Council Meeting, Tuesday 25 November 2014

District Governor Ken Billington chaired the meeting which was held at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel on Tuesday 25 November 2014 commencing at 7.30pm. There were 101 Rotarians present from 59 Clubs (Area A 8; B 11; C 12; D 9; E 8; F 8; G 3 Clubs represented).

C. 14/15.16 Welcome and Apologies

District Governor Ken welcomed all those present, and asked those Rotarians attending a District Council Meeting for the first time to stand to be recognised. Past District Governors were also asked to stand to be recognised.

Apologies were received from:

Past District Governors: Martin Bridge, Barry Hasdell, Dan Connan, Richard Hyde, Iain Vernon and Terry Watts.

Vocational Team Leader: John Clayton

Clubs: Bedford De Parys, Grantham Kesteven, Loughborough Beacon, Oadby Launde, Ramsey, St Ives and Sleaford.

Individuals: Roger Bowden (Secretary, Leicester), Anne Dear (President, Huntingdon), Zelda Gunn (Secretary, Kimbolton Castle), Adrian Harrison (President, Towcester), Bob McKinlay (Grantham Kesteven), Eoin Morgan (Secretary, Towcester), Garner Roberts (President, Loughborough Beacon), David Ward (Secretary, Melton Mowbray), Hugh Watson (Secretary, Corby) and Derek Wingrave (Secretary, Wellingborough Hatton),

C. 14/15.17 Act of Remembrance

All those present stood in remembrance of those Rotarians who had passed to higher service since the previous Council Meeting and DG Ken read out the following names:

Bill Clifton (Rushden), Joe Cornish (Honorary Member, St Ives), Jack Dark (Honorary Member, Loughborough), Peter Legg (Kettering), Alan Marvin (Leicester), James (Jim) Thacker (Peterborough), Will Warner (Wreake Valley), and PDG Ronald Watson (Bedford).

C 14/15.18 Minutes of the last District Council Meeting

Approval of the minutes of the last Council Meeting held on Monday 21 July 2014 was proposed by Roger May (Lutterworth Wycliffe), seconded by John Saunders (Leicester) and agreed unanimously.

C 14/15.19 Matters arising

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

C 114/15.20 District Governor's Comments

DG Ken referred to his written report and said that the request by Kempston to not move to District 1260 with the other Bedfordshire clubs had been agreed by RIBI General Council.

C14/15.21 District Secretary

District Secretary Dick Parsley referred to his written report concerning the **Election of District Governor for 2017/18** in that it had been agreed at the July District Council meeting to suspend Standing Orders for the election process when it was anticipated that some Lincolnshire clubs would be joining 1070. In order to meet the RIBI deadline for election, the process had been reinstated when these additional Clubs voted against the change. This had resulted in the election of AG Chris Davies (Market Harborough). He asked whether District Council was happy with this process and there were no objections.

With regard to the **District Membership Database** following change of ownership of the provider, he asked Club Secretaries to continue to keep the system up to date although some of the reporting facilities were no longer available. DG Ken said that General Council had agreed for a new system to be programmed and this would have the advantage of linking with the RI database removing the necessity for double entry of membership details.

Following the issue of new **RIBI Policy Documents** on Protection, Health & Safety and Discrimination, the Executive felt that Clubs should sign a new compliance certificate and return it to the District Secretary in order to provide protection in case of a future insurance claim. A steady flow of forms was being received.

DS Dick reminded Rotarians that the **Directory is for Rotary use only** and he should be advised if anybody suspected that the information had been used by a third party so he could take appropriate action.

He reminded Clubs that annual **Special General Meetings** should be held before the end of December to elect Presidential succession for the coming years; Secretary and Treasurer for 2015/16; and Voting Delegates for the RIBI Conference. He also added a reminder that club accounts for the year 2013-14 should be independently examined and approved by the club by the end of January and the completion of the process reported to district treasurer Eric.

C 14/15.22 District Treasurer's Report

District Treasurer Eric Lennox thanked those involved in meeting the tighter time scale for preparation of accounts necessitated by the reduction in number of District Council meetings, and in particular Independent Accounts Examiner Robert Gibson.

There being no questions, DT Eric proposed approval of the **District Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2014**. This was seconded Bill Martindale (Sleaford Kesteven) and agreed unanimously.

DT Eric proposed the approval of the **District Trust Fund Accounts** for the year ended 30 June 2014. This was seconded by Mike Warrington (Stamford) and agreed unanimously.

The **District Accounts for the quarter ended 31 September 2014** had been circulated and there were no questions. DT Eric said that preparation of the **Budget for 2015/16** had been started and would take account of a reduction of about 10% in membership following the transfer of Bedfordshire Clubs although this would be offset partly by the reduction in the number of Areas from seven to six.

C 14/15.23 Assistant Governors' Reports

Written reports had been circulated for each Area and the following additional comments were made:

AG John Saunders advised that the date of the next **Area D Forum** had been changed from Friday 23 January to Friday 16 January 2015.

AG Robin Green said that the "**Learn to Give**" project being organised by Towcester was still work in progress. He advised that St Neots had produced a "**no jargon**" **booklet** for new members.

C 14/15.24 The Rotary Foundation

Foundation Chairman, Trevor Davies (Brackley) reported that the results of the Every Rotarian Every Year Terry Watts Salver for giving to The Foundation for 2013/14 were: 1st – Sleaford, 2nd – Corby Phoenix, 3rd – Peterborough Ortons

As no representative of the winner was present, the salver would be presented at a later date by IPDG Margaret Morley.

Referring to the system difficulties in **paying District Grants**, Trevor said that RI had advised that payments would be made within seven to ten working days.

Trevor emphasised the need to continue to support the polio eradication campaign.

C 14/15.25 Committee Chairmen's Reports

The following items were in addition to the written reports circulated by all Committees:

Project Teams

Youth Services: Moira Bartlett advised that where members of interim Rotary Clubs are involved in activities, they should be treated as Rotary volunteers for insurance purposes. As well as the new Rotaract Club of St. Ives, Corby Phoenix is looking to start one in the New Year, and there is some interest in Loughborough. For Young Chef we may have to find an alternative venue for the Leicester District Final as The Samworth Academy has an extraction problem, and any suggestions would be welcome. For Youth Speaks, cue cards on iPads or tablets are now allowed. For Young Writer entries can be either fiction or non-fiction. Young Designer will be run by a small team within the RC of Leicester. District Final of Young Artist will be on Saturday 16 May 2015.

Community: Bill Watson said that an e-mail had been sent to all Clubs with details of the Stroke Awareness Day. The World's Greatest Meal had so far raised £721 from within the District for Polio Eradication.

International: Mike Kingdon has nothing to add to his report and the presentation on Learn2Give was not yet available.

Support Teams

Communications, Vocational, Leadership Development & Training: There was nothing to add to any of these reports.

Membership Development and Retention: Chris Chew thanked Clubs for all supplying membership figures and advised that the next return was requested on 1 February 2015. He thanked Keith Cooper (Oadby Launde) for running the District Golf Competition over the last few years and Ian Martin (St Ives) for taking over. To take account of the busy period prior to Christmas, the deadline for Round 2 of Minor Sports had been changed from 19 December to 10 January 2015. He asked whether a District New Members Evening would be supported and by a show of hands, a large majority was in favour.

New Club Formation (Extension): Roger McDermott advised that following a satisfactory survey, progress was continuing for a new Breakfast Club in Grantham.

C 14/15.26 Conferences

2015 Bournemouth: Conference Manager Bill Hill said that he was aware of an hotel booking problem following the change of accommodation booking agents from the Council which had not released bookings to the new contractor but this was being rectified. DGE Geoff Burton gave brief details of the programme.

2016 Conference: DGN John Dehnel referred to his circulated report and said his intention was for the conference to be nearer to the District in order to increase participation. The analyses showed that Nottingham would be the best venue and a day registration fee would be available. Comments and questions from District Council members included: David Walker (Loughborough) said that bearing in mind nearby Clubs would not book hotel accommodation would rooms be availability for private Club meetings – Bill Hill said he would investigate; Mos Kalbassi (Grantham) commented on traffic – this was caused by the tramway construction which should be completed before 2016. Mike Warrington (Stamford) asked about car parking – 300 spaces in the car park, and campus roads would be also be available. Richard Wells (Bourn) supported the choice of Nottingham. David Burr (Grantham) asked whether the Saturday evening function could be accommodated in one

room – 450 in one room and up to 600 using an adjacent room which would meet the requirements of recent years’ with the exception of 2013 in York. Nanette Chapman (Holbeach) said the Saturday evening function was an important part of the Conference and more people might wish to attend as it was being held nearer to the District – John Dehnel will take back the comments for consideration. Graham Cooper (Soar Valley) suggest an off campus venue for Saturday evening could be considered – this will be investigated. Geoff Richardson (Huntingdon Cromwell) asked how much the registration fee would be – Bill Hill said this was yet to be determined but not likely to be less than for the last two conferences. Bill Martindale (Sleaford Kesteven) said that Clubs in Area A considered the estimated numbers very conservative and asked whether travel from other Nottingham hotels would be difficult – Bill Hill said it was not intended to provide transport. Alan Francis (Kettering) said that there was confusion between the conference and fellowship, and the fellowship evening could be held at a different venue on a different date – John Dehnel said this was an interesting point.

DG Ken asked those Clubs moving to District 1260 to abstain from voting on this resolution as they would not be involved in the 2016 conference.

DGN John Dehnel proposed that the 2016 District Conference be held at the East Midland Conference Centre in Nottingham. This was seconded by Roger McDermott (Coalville) and carried by 39 votes in favour, 26 against and 9 abstentions.

C 14/15.27 Next Meeting

DG Ken confirmed the next meeting would be held at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby NN17 2AE on Wednesday 4 March 2015 at 7.30pm

C 14.15.28 Any other business

No items were raised.

There being no other business, DG Ken closed the meeting.

District Governor Date