

Minutes of Rotary International District 1070 Council Meeting Held on Tuesday 22 October 2013

District Governor Margaret Morley chaired the meeting which was held at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel on Tuesday 22 October 2013 commencing at 7.30pm.

There were 149 Rotarians present from 71 Clubs (Area A 10; B 12; C 9; D 12; E 11; F 7; G 10 Clubs represented).

C. 13/14.17 Welcome and Apologies

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

Apologies were received from:

Past District Governors: Dan Connan, Martin Bridge and Barry Hasdell.

District Officers: Alan Faulkner (Membership, Development & Retention) for late arrival.

Clubs: St Neots St Mary and Shepshed Charnwood.

Presidents: Mark Chamberlain (Bedford), Peter Dodworth (Stamford), Trevor Hancock (Wellingborough Hatton), David Lawrence (Wellingborough), Peter Legg (Kettering), Wendy Martin (Stamford St Martin), Neil Rowbotham (Loughborough Beacon), Michael Smith (Kibworth & Fleckney) and Martin Stephenson (Huntingdon Cromwell).

Individuals: Barbara Jenney (Rushden), Zelda Gunn (Kimbolton Castle), Pam Spokes (Leicester Novus), Richard Wharton (Loughborough Beacon) and Derek Wingrave (Wellingborough Hatton),

C. 13/14.18 Act of Remembrance

DG Margaret advised that the names of Rotarians known to have passed to higher service since the previous Council Meeting were displayed on the screen: John Clark (Oadby), John Hurst (Ashby De La Zouch, Honorary Member), Stuart King (Kettering), Malcolm Jones (Sleaford, Former Member), Jack Tingey (Ramsey), John Walton (Shepshed) and Frank Whiting (Grantham). DG Margaret advised that the Book of Remembrance was available for to which memorandum could be added. All present stood in an act of remembrance.

C 13/14.19 Minutes of the last District Council Meeting

Approval of the minutes of the last Council Meeting was proposed by DG Margaret, seconded by AG John Dehnel (Melton Mowbray), and agreed unanimously.

C 12/13.20 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

C 13/14.21 District Governor's Report

DG Margaret referred to her message to Club Presidents which had also been circulated to Club Secretaries. She highlighted the Bus Advertising Campaign which promoted Rotary and encouraged donations to Polio eradication; the new modern Rotary branding which she hoped Clubs would start using. She thanked those who had attended and helped organise the District Conference in York, which had been a great success. She wished to emphasise the RI representative's comments concerning enthusiasm displayed by 1070 Rotarians. This was a reflection on us as a District. She hoped the success of York would encourage others to attend future Conferences as this sort of event made us all stronger Rotarians.

C12/13.22 District Secretary

District Secretary Dick Parsley advised that the second round of nominations for District posts for 2014/15 had been completed and the remaining position of Independent Accounts Examiner had now been filled with the appointment of Robert Gibson (Rushden Chichele). AG John Dehnel thanked those present for his election to serve as DG 2016/17.

With regard to nominations for candidate for RI Director 2015/17, the qualification was to have served a full term as a DG and as no expression of interest had been received from within the District, the Executive had authorised DS Dick to nominate Past RIBI President David Fowler.

In addition to his report, he announced that the Rotary Club of Soar Valley would now meet at the Red Lion, Rothley.

John Steedman (Health & Safety Officer) and David Brown (Protection, Equality & Diversity Officer) had nothing further to add.

C 13/14.23 District Treasurer's Report

District Treasurer Eric Lennox referred to his financial report which had been circulated. There were no questions.

C 13/14.24 Matters from District Executive

DS Dick advised that owing to a clash it was necessary to change the date of the District Council meeting on Thursday 24 April 2014 and he was currently trying to find a suitable venue. The proposed date would be submitted to the January District Council Meeting for approval.

DG Margaret referred to the discussion at the last DC meeting concerning changing the January meeting to a Saturday. No proposal from a Club had been forthcoming so situation would remain the same for 2013/14. However it had been suggested by Clubs that we could reduce numbers of DC meetings as many preferred to meet on an Area basis.

DGE Ken Billington said that at the January meeting of the District Executive consideration would be given to reducing the annual number of District Council meetings from four to three (which is the minimum permitted) with implementation from 1 July 2014. With a similar reduction in Team and Executive meetings this would provide a significant reduction in costs. His view was that as January was the least well attended, the meetings would be at the beginning of March (budget), end of June (incorporating handover) and October. Comments and questions were invited. In response to a question from PDG Roger May (Lutterworth Wycliffe), DT Eric said that early March would allow sufficient time for the budget to be revised if necessary.

Bob Seery (Thrapston & Raunds) said that he was against the change and believed that four meeting was the optimum number. He offered to prepare a report on how Clubs could play a more effective part in the management of the District.

PDG Ken MacKellar said that June was already too busy with other Club commitments. DG Margaret thanked those who had commented and said these would be taken into account before any proposals would be made. She hoped District Council meetings gave an opportunity for all Clubs to express their views.

DG Margaret thanked all for very informative reports and restricting to a page.

C 13/14.25 Assistant Governors' Reports

There were no additions or questions concerning the written reports which had been circulated.

C 13/14.26 Rotary Foundation

Foundation Chairman, Trevor Davis announced the results of the per capita funding for Foundation for 2012/13 and IPDG Chris Chew presented banners as follows:

1st Ashby de la Zouch (\$179 per member)

2nd Oadby Launde

3rd Corby Phoenix

Following the Successful Peacejam presentation at Conference Trevor advised that Jean Best (District 1020 Peace Officer) had agreed to participate in a schools training day on Saturday 1 February 2014 at Corby and advised further details would be circulated. He also advised that Rotary Scholar Megan Michelle Grime and Peace Scholar Adedoyin Ogunyemi were available to speak to Clubs.

DG Margaret Congratulated District on Contributions to Foundation, this had been noted by DG's from other Districts.

C 13/14.27 Project Team Chairmen's Reports

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

Youth: Chairman Moira Bartlett reminded Clubs that registration for Young Chef closes on 31 October 2013. A new venue for the Young Musician District final on 2 March 2014 is Hinchingsbrooke Performing Arts Centre and Moira thanked Melton Mowbray for their past help with the previous venue. The date for the Youth Speaks Senior Competition at Catmose College, Oakham has been changed from 29 January to Wednesday 5 February 2014. Young Artist will definitely take place with the final on Saturday 17 May 2014 in conjunction with the Prize giving for Young Writer and Photographer – venue to be advised. Moira asked Clubs to advise if they are taking part.

The Youth Exchange Team is to speak to 20 schools including five new ones. Short term exchanges are plentiful but there may be a shortage of camp places.

A correction to the District Directory is that the Interact Club St Georges Academy Ruskington is sponsored by Sleaford Kesteven.

DG Margaret thanked the team and also Alan Jukes (Brackley) who has offered to take on the role of the District Rotaract Committee Chairman.

Community: Chairman Tony Robbs drew attention to the availability of the Community booklet. IPDG Chris thanked all the Clubs who had taken part and presented the following 2012/13 awards:

Vocational Trophy to Peterborough Werrington for their grass square creating an open space for social and educational activities.

Environmental Award to Boston St Botolph for improving the Boston town centre and their school and community vegetable gardens.

Community Shield to Spalding for their free concert for 300 from the "older age group".

DG Margaret gave congratulations to all and asked all Clubs to continue to support competitions as a good way of encouraging good practice.

International: Chairman Roger Neuberg advised that the 32 eRanger Motorbike Ambulances were currently en route by sea to Uganda. DG wishes congratulations to Roger to be recorded for his hard work on this project was noted by RI Representative at conference.

C 13/14.28 Support Team Chairmen's Reports

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

Communications: DG Margaret congratulated Team Leader Tim on conveying so much information on one page. Also emphasised in response to Clubs' requests, guidelines for the use of social media were being produced.

Vocational: Chairman Colin McCartney said that RI had not accepted the name RotaSkills and options were being considered. A system to record Rotarians' skills was being investigated further.

Conference: Conference Manager, Neville Thompson advised that the York Conference had made a surplus but that he was not yet able to advise the amount. He offered to speak at any Club which did not have members attending Conference. Registration would open for Scarborough on 1 January 2014 would be on a "first come, first served" basis and he said the limit on the Saturday evening function might be reached. Replying to a question from Colin Scott (Holbeach) he said that although some hotels were already fully booked by Rotarians, accommodation was available and any Club having problems could contact him.

C13/14.29 District Showcase

DGN Geoff Blurton announced that the previous Roadshows would be replaced by a District Showcase at Buccleuch Academy, Kettering on Saturday 21 June 2014. This is the same venue as the Young Designer competition and would provide an opportunity to publicise Rotary to non-members in addition to Rotarians. He requested each committee to support this event. DG Margaret hoped all would support

C13/14.30 Membership Initiatives and Pilot Projects

New Club Formation (Extension) Officer Roger McDermott described the RI Pilot Schemes available during the trial period 2011 and would end in 2014. These same schemes were also available under RIBI sponsorship and had as yet no determined end date.

Corporate – allowing membership for up to four delegates from local organisations

Associate – similar to Friends of Rotary allow attendance without full membership

Satellite – section of a Club meeting at a different time or day

Flexible/Innovative – different meeting formats and frequency

All the above could be operated subject to the approval of the DG and the District Executive but might be withdrawn at the end of the trial period.

In addition, following agreement at the last Council of Legislation, Satellite Clubs (not to be confused with the above of the same name) could be formed by an existing Club as a process to forming a new Club.

The success of the new initiatives was reinforced by Presidents Norry Bell (Sleaford) and Robert Shoebridge (Northampton Becket).

DG Margaret also commented on the success of the Northampton Satellite Club.

Membership

Lawrie Cooke (Huntingdon Cromwell) reported on Club Visioning and said that any Club interested should contact him.

Robert Bracegirdle (Loughborough Beacon) said the correct date for the District Quiz Final is Wednesday 27 November 2013 and will be held at the Holiday Inn, Corby

Tim Tucker drew attention to the Membership & Communications Evening being held on Wednesday 20 November 2013 at the Peterborough Milton Golf Club at 7.30pm.

DG Margaret said she would be asking AGs to phone Clubs to get an accurate membership figure for her to report to General Council. Mike Warrington (Stamford) asked for the total District Membership to be published in the Membership report. She emphasised we as a District were doing all that we could to recruit new members she could ask for nothing more but nationally numbers still falling.

AG Robin Green said that some of the enquiries received via RI indicated a need for a Rotary Club meeting on Saturday mornings.

C13/14.31 Next Meeting

DG Margaret confirmed the next meeting would be held at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby NN17 2AE on Wednesday 29 January 2014 at 7.30pm

C13/14.32 Any other business

DG Margaret congratulated PDG and District Sec Dick Parsley for being asked to represent the RI President at the District 1020 Conference in Scotland. This was only the second time this honour has been conveyed on our District. PDG Neville Hackett as represented RI Presidents over many years.

DG Margaret also emphasised leaflets had been placed in baskets concerning travel arrangements for the Sydney Convention. Eagle Travel of Bedford specialised in trips to Australia and had contributed towards the printing costs of the Conference Brochure. There being no other business, DG Margaret declared the meeting closed at 9.06pm.

District Governor _____

Date _____