

ROTARY CLUB OF ROMSEY TEST
COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST 2020

ATTENDEES

26 in total, including the following for Council:

- Bryan Rickett - President
- Keith Cameron
- Brian Davies
- Sandy Dunn
- Steve George
- Bill Gidley
- Graham Hollier
- Nicki Jones
- Gren Lamb-Hughes
- Jon Livingstone - Secretary
- Stewart Mitchell
- Roger Shepherd

Apologies: Nick Bellamy, Nigel Budd, Clive Collier, Shaun O'Brien

1. INTRODUCTION

Bryan welcomed members to what he expected would be a busy meeting. Bryan advised that Martin Harman wished to say a few words.

Martin thanked members for their support and the many kind words and messages expressed towards him and Sarah in recent days. Martin will continue to attend meetings and remain involved as his health permits. Warm appreciation was expressed by everyone in the meeting.

2. COUNCIL REPORTS

Club Treasurer

Nick had advised that at the end of July, with all bills settled the Club had **£8,990** in its bank account. The bank account additionally contained a **£490** positive balance on members' dinner accounts.

The following proposal was passed by all present, to update signatories on the Club bank account:

It was resolved that "The Authorised Signatories in the current mandate for Account 601846 69608601 detailed in section 1.3 be changed in accordance with section Authorised Signatories, i.e. Messrs B Rickett, J Livingstone, N Bellamy, R Shepherd and W Gidley."

Trust Fund Treasurer

Graham circulated accounts as at 31 July 2020 ahead of the meeting. Graham noted that July had understandably been a quiet month. Graham also advised that the change of signatories for Trust Fund Bank Account has been completed. Bryan expressed the Club's thanks.

Club Service

Roger shared enquiries Clive has made regarding how and when to re-commence face to face meetings. The Town Hall have advised maximum of 30 and no service of refreshments or beverages, plus other requirements. White Horse as expected is too expensive.

Roger indicated that with the Club age profile and present Government Guidance it would not be feasible to meet in person as Rotary, for the foreseeable future.

Bill agreed; his view that now is inappropriate and too risky, in view of latest numbers of cases.

Roger proposed to form a group to consider this and related aspects of future planning. This is likely to include a questionnaire to ensure all members are consulted and the widest possible input.

Bryan: this could include considering what criteria need to be in place, to re-commence face to face meetings.

Communications

Keith gave an update on a meeting, that members of the Communications team had had with Kerry Daley in the Lunchtime Club. Notes of this are below. Kerry is a communications and media specialist, with up to date business contacts. This involves joint working as set out in Keith's notes of the meeting. Keith requested confirmation of the proposed approach, which all approved. Keith and the Communications team will keep the Club advised.

Communications Meeting with Romsey & Romsey Test Rotary Clubs

Zoom Meeting 27th July 2020

Summary and way forward

Attendees

Kerry Daley, Ed Holmes, Bill Gidley, Shaun O'Brien, Peter Stuckey, Paul Grainger, Keith Cameron

Apologies

David Sutton, John Gould

An excellent meeting covering a wide range of views and topics that were very helpful in focusing on the role and actions of communications within the two Clubs.

Recommended Actions

Facebook and social media inputs

Shaun and Kerry will combine inputs into Rotary in Romsey activities. Confirmation of this will be requested from both Clubs Councils.

Media inputs

Both Clubs will generate their own material and this will be co-ordinated into the various outlets through Kerry supported by David and Keith

Newsletters

A newsletter using all our distribution avenues will be used. This will include business links which Kerry has a good handle on. Kerry has offered to take the lead on this, supported by a member of the Romsey Test Communication Team.

Websites

Each Club will maintain its own website but will link to events of both Clubs.

Other points covered, relevant to both Clubs

- Business advertising/promotion should be considered for inclusion in newsletters and websites.
- More focus with asking for help with events as a way to get people interested in joining Rotary.
- Consideration of an advertising campaign.

Communications cont.

Terry Proctor has kindly volunteered to take over the RCoRT newsletter from John Gould, who has produced all issues since this was introduced.

Keith requested all Committee Chairs review their pages of the RCoRT website and recommend changes to him and Paul Grainger. Keith has requested input from Council on wording on the website under 'About Our Club'.

Photographs of Club Members are out of date, and missing for newer members. Keith will send an email request for people to renew these and send new pictures to himself and Paul Grainger to update on the website.

Membership & Recruitment

Apologies received from Shaun.

Fundraising

Sandy: Registrations for Walk the Test *Another* Way 2020 are now being accepted up to the 30th September when registrations will close. This an extension from the original closing date of 31st July. We are seeing a small number of new registrations since distributing the posters (thank you to those members who distributed the posters for us). Some sponsorship money is still coming in and Walk Treasurer Brian's latest numbers are below.

Brian Davies: Extension is more to allow those who have registered to complete. Now on 75 Walkers. With registration fees of £579, Just Giving sums for Charities of £20,192, total = £20,771. Anticipated funds raised for RCoRT will be in the region of £3k.

Thanks to all and a great result in the present climate.

Walk the Test Way Committee

Bryan, as President, wished to make Club Members aware that Sandy is standing down as Walk The Test Way Chair and Steve Beasley as Registrar. The roles are essential for the highly successful fundraiser to continue and the Club cannot hold the event without.

Nikki requested a list of what the roles involve. Sandy confirmed that the focus is the need for a volunteer to replace Steve Beasley. The experienced team know their own roles; one option would be for the Chair to rotate during the year. A new Registrar is though essential.

Steve volunteered to update the job description for his role as Walk Registrar.

Graham expressed the view this was a general issue for the Club. This though was the most pressing example of the Club facing the need to manage activities in line with its capability.

Jon later expressed that Walk the Test Way makes possible virtually all RCoRT Youth, Community and International activities. Sandy will arrange a meeting of the existing WTTW Committee to consider options.

Bryan: replacements for the Walk Committee are vital and important for the Club to be aware. Look for volunteers and review again next month.

Community Service

Nikki proposed £300 towards Romsey Abbey School for cookery teaching, with six stations and outlined the initiative. Nikki will volunteer twice a month.

Approved. All members in favour.

Nikki has also looked into the question of financial support for Lockdown Radio, along with Shaun; investigating areas where we might be able to support. Bill: it is not clear how RCoRT can help; the Club raises money for charity; this is not a charity. Desire to stay in touch and maintain the relationship.

Foundation

Nothing to report on Foundation.

Stewart thanked sponsors and supporters for his innovative Walk the Test *Another* Way tram fundraising for Youth In Romsey. Stewart liaising with the paper and YIR regarding publicity/ press coverage.

International

Gren reported that the Club's donation of £750, agreed at Club Assembly, towards the cost of improving the very rudimentary audio/visual facilities at the school in Mulpani, Nepal will be paid to the Rotary Club of North East of Kathmandu, who are managing this donation on our behalf, on 17 August.

Shoeboxes: Gren updated on the guidance from District that this could go ahead; adverse reaction received from Southampton Clausentum; and Martin Radford's guidance; who coordinates this activity within the Club. Martin feels strongly it is not right to invite Wellow School (our main participant) to take on this additional activity this year. Agreed. Martin and Gren will liaise and communicate with reasons to the school.

Youth

Dictionaries for Life will go ahead. These are given to all Year 4 pupils in SO51 Post Code Primary Schools each year. Stuart Wineberg is looking to widen the distribution scope.

Any Rotary Youth events that require children to congregate have been cancelled centrally for this year. Individual events such as writing and photography can go ahead. Our Club has not run these previously, so unfortunately now is not the year to commence these either.

Sports & Social

Apologies received from Clive.

3. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Bryan spoke concerning Paul Harris Fellowships. For newer members, this is the leading Rotary recognition award, presently agreed upon within RCoRT by existing Paul Harris Fellows. Bryan advised of difficulties of the existing holders arranging a quorate meeting and the need to agree an approach. Bryan is liaising with John Burgess as present Chair. Mike Thorne suggested invite suggestions from the existing group to help resolve. Bryan will consider approaches.

4. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Next meeting is a talk by David Pantling 19 August. David has requested no internet research before his talk, to maintain the element of surprise.

APPROVAL OF TRUST FUND EXPENDITURE

The Trustees approved the following item of expenditure:

- £300 Romsey Abbey School