

From: [Bill Gidley](#)
To: bill.gidley@sky.com
Subject: Bill's epistle to the Romsey Test Lost Boys (and girls)
Date: 02 April 2020 18:55:10

Sent BCC to all active members of RCRT

Dear All,

On Wednesday evening we held a Council meeting using the 'WHYPAY' free telephone conferencing system. This is very simple to use and we found it very successful. The minutes of the meeting will be distributed to all very shortly.

This is a brief summary of the decisions that were made:

1. Whilst the CV crisis prevents us from holding physical meetings, Council will act as the 'governing body' of the Club. The purpose of this is to enable us to make rapid decisions where this is necessary during the emergency period. Where feasible and time is not of the essence, the opinions of Club Members will be sought within a short time window, so please keep an eye on your email.
2. We will keep the Club Membership informed of Council matters via a briefing email (like this) and by distribution of the Council Minutes sent out by Secretary Jon. Committee reports will be available from Jon on request. Please note that any issues which Club Members would like Council to consider will be welcomed and should be submitted preferably by email to Council at least a couple of days (unless this is impossible) before the Council meeting on 1st Wednesday of each month.
3. The AGM and Assembly will be held in the usual format but all communications will be via email.
4. A minor point of practicality, there will be no formal physical sign off of minutes.
5. The major discussion topic was our finances. Trust Fund Treasurer Graham has carried out an extremely useful analysis of our spend and supplied an excellent working paper clearly laying out our options. With 3 months of the Rotary year remaining and several committees now unable to spend their budgets as planned, we have identified £12k of uncommitted funds. It is appreciated that WTW2020 is very much in the balance due to the uncertainty of social isolation restrictions applying at the end of September. For the purposes of planning we need to take a pessimistic view that WTW has to be cancelled. It was agreed that WTW2019 income should be equally split between the 2020/21 and 2021/22 budgets. A review will be held in January 2021 when income from WTW2020 is accurately known. The decision currently under consideration by Council is how to split the £12k excess between current emergency charitable giving and passing forward to support future committee budgets.
6. International Chairman Gren asked that as a future intention the international budget should return to the minimum of 20% of the total annual budget which the Club has supported in the not too distant past. Gren accepted that the current emergency trumped international aid and kindly offered to surrender his remaining budget to the excess fund mentioned above. It was agreed that on return to normality then the aim should be to allocate a minimum of 20% of total budget to International
7. Sandy asked Council to consider match funding a £250 donation that Sandy was intending to make to the charity HoneyPot. HoneyPot is a charity well known to many of us and they propose to use the donations to support young carers at home during the lock down period by sending drawing materials, books and other such items to keep the young carers entertained. It was agreed that this was an excellent initiative and was supported

unanimously.

Support of local good causes during the emergency period:

In spending any of our available charity funds, Council concluded that strong preference would be given to local good causes and ideally genuine personal need. The larger charities will all be seeking funds in order to survive but it is felt that our small funds will make little significant impact. Peter Stuckey and Graham Lee remain in contact with the Romsey Food Bank (Many congratulations to Graham Lee on his brilliant initiative to enable us to donate personally our dinner monies to the Food Bank)

Should any member hear of a local good cause worthy of Council's consideration for a donation, please do not hesitate to make Council aware of your recommendation.

Mayor's Picnic:

Peter Hurst has contacted all members by email to seek opinions on his suggestion to hold the Mayor's Picnic at short notice should emergency restrictions be sufficiently relaxed. Peter has been asked to report back to Council in May and a decision will be made regarding the event.

Other general points:

- Club communications: A Facebook page has been set up and is proving successful for general chit-chat. However Facebook is fundamentally poor from a privacy and security viewpoint, so is unsuitable for Club discussion which we would want to ensure are not seen by non-members. Council are currently piloting a message board system called 'Slack' which is showing considerable promise.

Zoom: a lot of mention is being made of Zoom live video. This is under consideration but is unlikely to be taken up by all members. Nevertheless it could prove useful for a speaker to address the Club at a virtual meeting. So nothing intended now but if something suitable comes up we could give it a try. Can anyone think of a speaker who could fit the bill?

Correction to my previous email:

The amount that we donated to the Corona Virus Test Valley Helpline was £500 (not £250 as I said) making a total of £1000 from the two Rotary Clubs.

Finally I hope that you are all keeping well and coping with living like birds in a cage. We are lucky in that at least our cages are golden ... we have a decent amount of space and gardens to sit in. I can imagine being stuck in a flat or small house with a posse of small bored children might be a different kettle of fish. So take care, keep in touch via phone, email and Facebook. If you have any bright ideas don't be afraid to make a suggestion, however if it involves more work for me keep it to yourself!

Yours in Rotary

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