

MACCLESFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

SILK FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION WORKING GROUP

Minutes for the meeting held on **Thursday 24th May 2018** at **9:30am** in **Macclesfield Town Hall**.

In attendance: Cllr Gareth Jones
Cllr Beverley Dooley
Harriet Worrell
Pete Turner

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING 12TH MARCH 2018

Minutes approved

2. REQUEST FOR INVITATION

It was noted that Mrs Bentley Smith has informed the council that she is working with contacts in Zhanzou.

3. SCHOOLS LIAISON

Work is ongoing and tasks were identified associated with this item (see meeting resultant task list below). The focus was school engagement and projects

4. BUSINESS LIAISON

Work is ongoing and tasks were identified associated with this item (see meeting resultant task list below). The focus was business engagement

5. PROJECT OPTIONS

5.1 Silk/Chinese artwork exhibition

HW – developing the idea of a Silk Friendship Wall as a School Project, along with projects to potentially develop a Tree like the yarn tree and/or a silk moth theme.

HW – has also been looking at developing a logo – potentially engage with Cllr Schofield

5.2 Chinese New Year Celebration 5th February 2019

Areas to be developed include a kids' craft aspect, street food, Chinese dragon from Artspace; display the school arts projects; HW – to check for best date;

6. CHINESE WELCOME TRAINING

It was noted that the training was very positive and helpful

7. THE SOCIETY FOR ANGLO CHINESE UNDERSTANDING (SACU)

It was agreed that the council should join SACU

8. XI'AN INVITATION

Whilst the invitation stands, it was suggested that the contacts in Xi'an are asked for a photo and details of the Silk Road Statue in Xi'an to consider the delivery of a reflective piece in the public realm in Macclesfield

9. DATE/TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed Work Programme

- Communication with agencies and contacts within Xi'an state government remains positive and ongoing
- An invitation to the Xi'an government tourism agency to visit Macclesfield has been extended and details are awaited from our contacts in Xi'an
- There is an open invitation to Macclesfield Council to visit Xi'an
- Schools are being contacted to seek to start an arts project to create a silk friendship wall.
- All schools will be contacted to see what work they are embarking on with regard to China within their curricula as well as to seek their engagement with regard to ongoing cultural links with schools in China
- Work has commenced with regard to creating a Chinese New Year event in the town centre (the date for CNY is Tuesday 5th Feb 2019, but the best date for the event is being researched and will be confirmed).

- Members of the working Group attended Chinese Welcome Training session in May. This was offered widely to businesses and partners.
- Membership of the Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (SACU) will be secured (£22)
- The Manchester China Forum has been contacted for greater involvement and will be invited to hold its next meeting in Macclesfield as the guests of the council.
- Proposals for a public installation representing a reflection of an existing structure in Xi'an which recognises that city's status as the Eastern end of the Silk Road were raised. The group will seek images of the installation in Xi'an and see how this might be progressed to have an identifying structure in Macclesfield recognising the cultural and heritage links.