

# MACCLESFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

## SILK FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION WORKING GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018** at **9am** in **Macclesfield Town Hall**.

In attendance      Cllr Gareth Jones  
                             Cllr Janet Jackson  
                             Cllr Ainsley Arnold  
                             Cllr Beverley Dooley  
                             Harriet Worrell  
                             Pete Turner  
                             Mr Graham Burrows  
                             June Williams of Ash Grove Academy

### **1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

**RESOLVED:** The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting

### **2. GOVERNANCE**

#### **2.1 Terms of Reference**

The Terms of Reference was noted

#### **2.2 Working Group Strategy**

The Working Group Strategy was noted

### **3. COMMUNITY CO-OPTION**

#### **3.1 Mr G Barrow**

Mr Graham Barrow provided some background on his involvement in previous discussions and projects to develop a relationship between Macclesfield and Xi'an. Due to unknown circumstances the projects did not come to fruition.

He believes there is now a revival in interest following the broadcast of a TV programme, by a Chinese production company, featuring Manchester airport, in which the Silk Road was referenced. Following the programme, Graham was contacted by Mr Gongzheng Ren, the General Manager of the Shaanxi Tourism Group Co Ltd, with a view to exploring if links between Macclesfield and Xi'an/Shaanxi could be developed.

Mr Ren is hoping to facilitate a visit Macclesfield in spring 2018 and is seeking an invitation from Macclesfield Town Council.

### **4. PROJECT OPTIONS**

#### **4.1 Submitted suggested projects**

The projects were noted.

#### **4.2 Noting of other proposed projects**

So Cheshire are organising a Chinese New Year celebration in February 2018.

#### **4.3 Prioritisation of projects**

The following projects were noted as being prioritised:

1. A Silk/Chinese Artwork exhibition

A framework will be designed for a cohesive exhibition and schools invited to contribute

2. Chinese New Year Celebration 2019

### **5. SCHOOLS LIAISON**

#### Tytherington School

The school is promoting education links with China - Mandarin will be added to the curriculum next year and exchange visits have taken place. Mr Botwe, the Head of Tytherington School, was invited to this meeting but he had a prior commitment.

### Ash Grove Academy

June Williams, representing Ash Grove Academy, is interested in supporting a Silk/Chinese Artwork project although stated that funding may be required to procure resources.

June Williams also expressed an interest in “twinning” with a school in Xi'an. Graham Barrows will liaise with Ash Grove Academy with a view to progressing this.

## **6. DATE/TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 9:30am at the Town Hall