

ROTARY CLUB OF LEIGHTON LINSLADE – FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR BUSINESS
MEETING ON MONDAY 7TH JULY 2025

1. As Gary will have reported the Club Account continues to look healthy. The cost of the handover is £8.50 per head for those attending and no increase in subs for the coming Rotary year will be necessary.
2. As Mike R will report the Charity Account is also looking good. We currently have the sum of £14,500.00 of non-committed funds which is available for donations. The income and expenditure in the Yes We Can Account have been about the same and there continues to be a healthy balance in that account which means that the future of the programme is secure.
3. The fact that Nat West Bank is due to close in Leighton Buzzard later this year is a cause for concern and the best way to bank cash we receive, particularly at Christmas is being investigated. If anyone can suggest a solution, please have a word with Mike R.
A better and cheaper alternative to Just Giving is also being explored for future donations.
4. As members will know an application has been made to convert our Charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The Charity Commission are proving to be particularly uncooperative. Originally all the necessary documentation was lodged with a covering letter but that was unacceptable as applications were no longer being accepted by letter or email and had to be made online.
Mike R and I spent quite some time submitting the documentation online only to receive a standard email back which takes us no further forward.
I have tried to phone the Charity Commission to discuss but the department dealing with this does not accept calls! In the circumstances I have sent an email to them in an effort to move things forward and will keep the club informed of progress.
5. I am delighted to say that the computer donations to Vandyke and Cedars Schools, the recent Friends Within Sunshine Camping Trip and the PSA testing day which were all supported by the club have proved to be a resounding success.
6. Four members of the committee are meeting with representatives of the “Helpers” Foodbank on Tuesday 8th July to discuss their needs going forward and will report back to the club in due course. As members will know we are currently donating £300.00 per month to that foodbank with one further payment due under that arrangement. The donations to the “Homeless” Foodbank have already been reduced from £300.00 per month to £150.00 per month as agreed by the club.
7. As members know the club supported the “Kids Day Out” at Whipsnade Zoo. Avis and Heather represented the club at that event and perhaps one of them would be kind enough to tell us how it went on the day.

8. Members will know we originally received a request from Frazer to support Blood Cancer Research UK. It transpired that they are already very well-funded and that any donation we could make would have little effect. I discussed the matter with Frazer to see if we could find an alternative with a local accent and by coincidence, we were approached at that time by the Leighton Linlslade Cancer Support Group who are in urgent need of funds.

We have asked several questions of the group all of which have been dealt with very fully. The group was formed in 2006 and has been established with HMRC for charitable purposes. The group is managed by six members and helps a total of 36 members in total, all of whom have a current or past cancer diagnosis. They have an urgent need for assistance with their rent which costs £1,470 per annum at present and ask whether we would be able to contribute. The committee propose that we donate £750.00 to assist the group.

9. We have received a request for assistance from The Sue Ryder St. John's Hospice at Moggerhanger. This is the one local Hospice that we have not made a donation to for some years and in the circumstances the committee propose that we donate the sum of £500.00 to assist at what is a very difficult time for them.

10. We have received a request for assistance from the East Anglian Air Ambulance which is accompanied with an offer to provide free CPR training. As the President has already declared an intent to provide community defibrillators that training could be very useful. In the circumstances the committee propose that we invite them to send a speaker to provide CPR training with the accent on defibrillators with a view to donating £500.00 subsequently with a reserve being made to cover that donation.

11. Because we are now in the middle of the holiday season it is very difficult to arrange a suitable date for a further committee meeting in July.

In the circumstance the next committee meeting will be in August on a date and at a venue to be advised in due course.

Proposals where the approval of the club is sought (All relating to the Charity Account) are as follows.

1. Donate the sum of £750.00 to The Leighton Linlslade Cancer Support Group.
2. Donate the sum of £500.00 to Sue Ryder St John's Hospice at Moggerhanger
3. Make a reserve of £500.00 for a donation to The East Anglian Air Ambulance following the talk to members which they are to be asked to give.