

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE PENDLE TWINNING ASSOCIATION
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL, NELSON
ON 17TH OCTOBER, 2018**

PRESENT –

*His Worship the Mayor – Councillor J. K. Starkie
Mr D. Carter - Chairman*

Mr I. Graham

Mr R. Rostron

Mrs J. David

Mrs A. Rostron

Councillor (Mrs) K. Shore

Mrs J. Starkie (the Mayoress)

(Apologies for absence were received from Mr and Mrs Clegg, Ms S. Large, Ms A. Melton and Dr B. Evans.)



1. MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of the AGM and the ordinary meeting held on 13th June 2018 be approved as a correct record.

2. TWINNING UPDATE

An update on twinning events had been circulated with the agenda. A further update was given at the meeting.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Pendle and the Honorary Secretary had visited Marl earlier in the month for the Volksparkfest. The Mayor showed photographs of the visit and some of the civic gifts received, including a bottle of wine from Creil which was shared at the meeting. The trip had included a twinning evening on arrival; on the following day a visit to the Volksparkfest and an exhibition at the Gasometer in Oberhausen called “The Call of the Mountains,” returning to Marl for dinner; and on the final day a visit to the Chemical Park. It had all been very interesting and an opportunity to meet the officials and twinning members from Marl and its twin towns.

The Mayor wondered if it was possible for the Council to reciprocate some of the wonderful hospitality they had received by inviting the Mayors plus guests to Pendle in March for the Mayor’s Ball. It was agreed that it would be courteous to return some hospitality and a pleasure to have them, but that there were cost implications, which needed to be explored. The cost of hosting a civic visit would include accommodation (probably for two nights), transport, Mayor’s Ball tickets and generally entertaining them for the remainder of the weekend.

The Mayor of Creil had invited the Mayor to visit in November to mark the 100 anniversary of the end of WW1. However the Mayor had decided to remain in Pendle so that he could attend remembrance services here that weekend. When they both met in Marl they agreed to exchange their country’s respective commemorative flowers so that Pendle Councillors laying wreaths would wear blue cornflowers and people taking part in the commemorative service in Creil would wear poppies.

At a previous meeting it was reported that a donation of £500 from the sale of Aileen Rostron's paintings would be used towards funding exchanges for young people from Pendle to improve their languages. Rodney reported that he had since met with the Head of Languages at Park High School about supporting individual exchanges and also talked briefly with the Head Teacher. Park High School was twinned with a school in a town in the Black Forest and was keen to arrange an exchange there soon.

Aileen had exhibited her paintings at the Matisse Gallery in Creil in June to coincide with the Creil Festival and had raised a further £500 for the school language project, which was handed over at the meeting. Rodney said that it was their intention to donate the same amount the following year. If the project didn't get off the ground then the funding could be used for other twinning projects. However, if successful, then he would approach some of the larger companies in the area to see if further funding could be raised for this project.

Marl was organising a holiday to Bavaria in October 2019, departing from Marl after the Volksparkfest which was on 3rd October. There was no more detail at present. Judith David was the only person from Pendle who went on the last social twinning holiday to Brittany. She thought it was a shame because it had been so well organised and well supported by Marl and Creil twinning members. She suggested that, in the event that there was little interest from Pendle Twinning members in the Bavaria trip, that details be advertised more widely to groups such as the Rotary Club or WI group. This could also attract new Members to the Twinning Association which were badly needed.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Honorary Secretary have discussions with relevant officers and budget holders of the Council and the Mayor regarding hosting the Mayors of Pendle's twin towns in March with 4 guests each, including members of the twinning associations.
- (2) That Aileen Rostron be thanked for her further generous donation of £500 for the school language project.
- (3) That Rodney Rostron continue his discussions with Park High School about funding a school exchange to their twin town in Germany and to keep the twinning committee informed of developments.
- (4) That twinning members be emailed to gauge how much interest there was in the Bavaria trip and whether to open the invitation up to other groups.

4. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Honorary Secretary reported that the current balance in the Twinning Account was £2,651.58, including £500 set aside for a foreign language project. The further donation of £500 from Aileen Rostron would bring the balance to £3,151.58.

5. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for 13th February 2019 at 5.30p.m. at Nelson Town Hall.