

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE PENDLE TWINNING ASSOCIATION
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL, NELSON
ON 7TH AUGUST, 2019**

PRESENT –

Mr J. Starkie (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair)

*Mr I. Graham
Mrs J. David
Mr P. Clegg
Mrs C. Clegg*

*Cllr (Mrs) K. Shore
Mrs J. Starkie
Mr R. Rostron*

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K. Hartley, Mrs J. Mills, Mr D. Carter, Dr B. Evans, Mr E. Myers, and Ms M. Chapman.)



1. MINUTES SILENCE

On behalf of the Committee, the Vice-Chairman expressed condolences at the recent death of former Borough Councillor and Mayor Tony Beckett and paid tribute to his many years of service to the people of Pendle.

The meeting stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect.

2. MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Ordinary meeting held on 19th June 2019 be approved as a correct record.

3. TWINNING UPDATE

An update on twinning events had been circulated with the agenda. The main discussions focussed on the arrangements for hosting 6 visitors from Creil and Marl for 4/5 nights for the Walking Festival. Judith David, Ian Graham, Alison Gander and Rodney Rostron were hosting the walkers. The provisional plan for the weekend (weather permitting) was to go to the Festival launch at 10.00am on Saturday at Pendle Heritage Centre followed by one of the walks around Barrowford, and do the Beating the Bounds walk on Sunday. On Monday the guests could go on another walk of their choosing. The Rostrons had invited hosts, guests and other twinning members to their house on Monday evening. The Creil guests were returning on Tuesday whereas the Marl guest were staying for an extra day.

Members were asked if they wished to make a grant to enable 5 young swimmers from Colne Swimming Club to take part in a swimming competition in Creil from 27-30 September. It was noted that the Pendle Youth Choir had been given £500 towards their 70th anniversary trip to Paris and Creil in October. The former Mayor and Mayoress, Mr and Mrs J. Starkie, said that they would be willing to contribute £250 towards the swimming trip from the Mayoress' Charity.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Pendle had been invited to Marl in October for the Volksparkfest. Twinning members would also be invited to this event in due course.

Rodney and Aileen Rostron had kindly donated a further £500 to support a language learning based project at secondary school, bringing the total amount for this project to £1,500. A French teacher at Colne Primet Academy was in touch with a teacher at a school in Creil and had said it was very interested in organising an exchange.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Council's appointed representatives on the Committee be invited to the meet-up on Monday evening, 12th August.
- (2) That £25 be given to the Rostrons as a contribution towards the costs of hosting the get together on Monday evening.
- (3) That the kind offer of £250 from the former Mayor and Mayoress be accepted and £250 be match funded from the Twinning Association for the Colne Swimming Club as a contribution towards the travelling costs of the 5 young swimmers taking part in the Creil Swimming Competition.
- (4) That David Wilkinson be asked if it had been possible for the Pendle Youth Choir to have a joint concert with the C4 choir in Creil.
- (5) That Rodney and Aileen Rostron be formally thanked for the further generous donation of £500 for the language project.

4. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Honorary Secretary reported that the current balance in the Twinning Account was £4,684.18 including a grant of £1,500 from Pendle Council, £130 subscriptions and a recent further donation of £500 from the Rostrons for the language project which now totalled £1,500.

5. FUTURE OF PENDLE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Mrs J. David circulated some thoughts on current activities and the future of the Association to start discussions on shaping the way forward.

The main problem was the age of current members, lack of new members and the limited amount of funding for projects, which was coming mainly from Pendle Council. However, the Honorary Secretary pointed out that the annual grant of £1,500 could not be relied upon going forward, with the Council having to make so many savings.

The Member Twinning trips, which Twinning Associations organised but were paid for by individuals, had been popular, and still seemed to be popular in Creil and Marl. However, it was noted that only one person from Pendle was going on the October 2019 trip to Bavaria which had been organised by Marl Twinning Association. Whilst Pendle had hosted successful trips to Edinburgh and Liverpool, there had not been enough interest from Pendle members in the 2016 trip, based around Carlisle. So this had not gone ahead.

The Constitution stated that the aims of the Association were to promote international friendship and understanding by strengthening the links between Marl and Creil. The Association was to further its aims by stimulating and fostering mutual exchanges at all levels between the towns with particular emphasis on young people up to the age of 25.

The Association had given the Pendle Youth Choir grants for trips to Marl and Creil and this had enabled lots of young people from the area to visit Pendle's twin towns and no doubt some lasting friendships had been made. Young people from Colne Swimming Club had had a brilliant time in Marl in 2017, and other young people from the Club would benefit from taking part in the Swimming Competition in Creil in September. It was hoped that Pendle would be able to host a similar event in 2020 or 2021.

In the past, there had been annual international youth events organised by the Huls Foundation in Marl, and when funding ceased Creil then organised them. Young people from Pendle had always taken part in these events. Pendle had also hosted it a couple of times with funding from the Huls Foundation – the last time in 2008.

Michelle Chapman was a welcome new addition to the membership. It was noted that she worked for the Fire Service, with responsibility for the Prince's Trust Team project - a 12 week programme, run twice a year, for young people in Pendle.

There was discussion about the possibility of establishing links with other towns based on the local population. However, it was agreed that funding another link would be difficult without increased income.

Mr J. Starkie offered to publicise Pendle Twinning Association on Facebook to try to stimulate some interest and attract new members in 2019/20 and said he would keep members updated.

AGREED

That this issue become a standing item for consideration at future meetings, and in the meantime that Members do what they can to increase awareness and involvement in twinning.

6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for 23rd October 2019 at 5.30p.m. at Nelson Town Hall.