

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE PENDLE TWINNING ASSOCIATION
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL, NELSON
ON 30TH MAY, 2023**

PRESENT –

Mr I. Graham (Chairman, in the Chair)

Mrs. J. David

Mr. P. Mousdale

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B. Newman)



1. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2023 be approved as a correct record.

2. TWINNING UPDATE

An update on twinning events had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Chairman participated in the visit to Marl at the beginning of May. Marl's twinning partners attended. Change in Europe was discussed and how to go forward, building on twinning relationships. A theme was to work to have a peaceful Europe, not segregated or disadvantaged. Pendle's pre-prepared presentation fit very well with this, given its focus on Levelling Up work.

Each twin town gave a 10-minute presentation about a future-orientated project. The Chairman introduced Pendle's presentation, which included a pre-recorded segment by Councillor Yasser Iqbal. The Chairman praised the quality of Pendle's presentation produced by the Council's Communications team and advised it was very well received.

During the visit to Marl there was emphasis on regeneration. There was a bus tour to a site where a coal mine used to be. The coal mine had been dismantled and a forest and nature reserves installed at this site officially named "Pendle Hill". The Chairman mentioned that there was a new industrial site for new factories where the pit actually was. The hope was to employ 2, 000 people at the site. It was almost hidden from the main road and in keeping with the focus on 'being green'.

As part of the Marl visit, twin towns were asked what events they had planned for the next 24 months, including meet-ups, contact and visits. It had been hoped to organise a trip to London in 2023, but due to fuel prices, interested parties were not

in a position to commit. Now that prices were now stabilising, the Chairman advised that he would attempt to do it in London for 2024. There was a meeting with Hedi and other people looking after Pendle. The request was to arrange a trip, not including air fares, for a 4-night hotel stay as part of a 5-day trip, including a couple of meals for the equivalent of 700 euros, which they felt they would be able to commit to. The Chairman confirmed he would do costings for a London trip, although he felt this would be difficult for £650. If costings for the London trip came out too high, the Chairman would look into a more local trip, based in Pendle with possible visits, for example, to York and Piece Hall in Halifax. Re. a 2024 trip, the Chairman would also establish interest from Creil.

The issue of getting younger people involved in twinning was also identified as a problem in Creil and Marl. It was difficult to get them involved in the twinning partnership.

This prompted discussion in this meeting of Pendle Twinning Association of 30th May 2023 about what Pendle could do to increase twinning membership. The Chairman advised promotional posters could be done and forwarded to colleges, schools and libraries. Developing a Pendle Twinning Association website was mentioned. In the first instance he suggested it be looked into as to whether the Association could have a page on Pendle Council's website. If not, the Chairman suggested that the Association could pay for a website to be developed. Activities from Creil and Marl could be re-posted on such a website.

The Chairman advised that the flags of each twin country which were once on signs entering Pendle needed replacing. He felt that the flags could be attached to existing signs. He stated that he would get costings and speak to the Highways Department at Lancashire County Council.

Discussions continued about how to encourage people to understand twinning. Examples suggested included a chess tournament run by a Pendle chess club and involving Marl/Creil. Stamp collectors and allotment societies, the latter contacted via Town Councils, were also cited as possible avenues for twinning activities.

The Chairman requested contact details for Building Bridges Pendle to find out about setting up online/Zoom activities.

The Honorary Secretary suggested that the Pendle Twinning member with experience in local education be contacted before promotional activities begin.

Peace Poles were gifted by Marl to all Mayors of their twin towns. A big Peace Pole had been installed outside the Council building in Marl. Smaller versions were donated to each of the twin town Mayors. Expressions of peace were written on the peace poles in the languages of all Marl's twin towns.

The importance of getting together with Europe was mentioned. This was highlighted by the fact that Marl's twin town in Poland is close to the Ukrainian border.

The forthcoming visit to Creil was referenced. Some Twinning Association members would be attending.

RESOLVED

(1) That promotional activity to increase twinning membership be done in accordance with the discussions above.

(2) That the small Peace Pole be formally presented to the Mayor of Pendle, President of Pendle Twinning Association. This should be highlighted on social media.

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Honorary Secretary reported that the current balance in the Twinning Account was £7, 569.18.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

5. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

Members agreed that the next meeting should be held on Tuesday 11th July 2023 at the Town Hall, Nelson, time to be advised.