

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE PENDLE TWINNING ASSOCIATION
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL, NELSON
ON 7th DECEMBER, 2023**

PRESENT –

Mrs J. David -Vice Chairman (in the Chair)

*Councillor B. Newman
Mr. P. Mousdale
Councillor M. Aslam
Mr. J. Kelly*

*Mrs. C. Clegg
Ms. A. Gander
Ms. T. Wilson*

1. *(Apologies for absence were received from Mr. I. Graham).*



2. **MINUTES**

AGREED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2023 be approved as a correct record.

3. **TWINNING UPDATE**

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

Re. Marl-Pendle staff exchange, 2 Pendle staff, T. Wilson and J. Kelly spoke about their visit to Marl. Their programme had been circulated prior to the meeting. They found the tour of “Stadthaus 1”, the temporary home of Marl Council, interesting as it contained facilities where miners had historically got changed. They learned about a “Town App” for Marl centre, which could be used for multiple purposes, eg. to book an e-bike. The 2 Pendle staff then met The Mayor of Marl, Mr. W. Arndt and had a press photo taken with him. T. Wilson and J. Kelly mentioned the similarities between Marl and Pendle. They had then attended a session about gender-sensitive urban planning, eg. safe spaces for women, looking at aspects such as lighting. The Mayor of Marl’s Christmas Breakfast involved some Marl Council staff being served a traditional German breakfast in a hotel. The programme for that day included visits to cultural institutions, accompanied by R. Lankeit. These included a music school, a theatre and a sculpture museum. A Christmas gathering with Marl’s Marl-Creil-Pendle Twinning Committee was well-attended. A cycling tour had been planned for the following day. Due to icy conditions this was walked. T. Wilson, who led on Pendle Council’s Cycle Strategy, found this very useful. She advised that many of the cyclists seemed to use electric bikes. They had then looked at town centre improvements with B. Anders who worked in Urban Planning at Marl Council. It was agreed that T. Wilson and J. Kelly’s visit to Marl should be publicised.

Possible twinning projects to arise from this visit to Marl included twinning between Marl and Pendle Scouts and Brownies. Another proposal was twinning between a Marl theatre company and a Pendle one.

The 2nd part of the Marl-Pendle staff exchange was discussed – the visit to Pendle by 2 Marl staff in March 2024. Suggestions included a visit to Northlight, Colne Heritage Quarter, Bancroft Mill, the Steven Burke Sports Hub, Accessible Nelson, and a walk up Pendle Hill.

Re. International Youth Event 2024 in Marl, J. Kelly expressed his interest in attending as the youth leader. A. Gander had previously attended an International Youth Event in this capacity and advised she would be happy to share her experiences with him. A. Gander also advised she would look into whether any Pendle schools taught German.

For Marl's envelope design project as part of International Weeks against Racism 2024, a few Pendle schools had advised they would be participating. A covering email had been sent to these schools with the offer to discuss the possibilities of twinning activities or exchanges with Creil and Marl. As a result of this, the primary school in Earby had mentioned they would like to explore the possibility of penpals. It was agreed that A. Gander would progress this.

The Mayors of Creil and Marl, a guest each and 2 Twinning members each, had been invited to Pendle in October 2024 to mark 50 years of twinning with Creil and to mark early 30 years of twinning with Marl. It was suggested that a tree planting ceremony could be incorporated as part of their visit.

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Honorary Secretary reported that the current balance in the Twinning Account was £7, 619.18.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A. Gander asked for a matter re. Pendle's twinning arrangement with Beit Leed to be discussed at the next meeting.

5. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

A date for the next meeting was proposed. However, this was changed after consultation with the Chairman following the meeting, who would have been unavailable for that date. **The new date of the meeting: 5.30pm on Wednesday 24th January 2024** at the Town Hall, Nelson.