

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE PENDLE TWINNING ASSOCIATION
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL, NELSON
ON 17th APRIL, 2024**

PRESENT –

Mr I. Graham - Chairman (in the Chair)

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

1. *(Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. J. David and Mrs. C. Clegg).*



2. **MINUTES**

AGREED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2024 be approved as a correct record.

3. **TWINNING UPDATE**

An update on twinning events had been circulated.

Re. International Youth Event 2024 in Marl (15th – 21st July 2024), the requirements for participants were 4 young people (2 boys, 2 girls/aged 15 – 18) and one adult group leader. Participants had to be interested in other countries, cultures and languages. A good level of English was required as the overall project language was to be English.

An introduction video had to be prepared in advance of this Youth Event. It had to be 1 – 2 minutes' long. The 4 young people and their group leader were to be in the video and it was to be filmed outdoors in a recognisable location. The video was to include where the group was from, the name and age of each participant and one or two interesting details about each of themselves.

The "Spectacle of Cultures" was to be one highlight of the Youth Event in Marl. It would be a cultural show consisting of short performances on stage by each group of young people presenting their home culture. It was to be prepared in advance of the Youth Event. It was to be 3 – 5 minutes' long and to be a cultural performance eg. song, dance, acting, not a Powerpoint-style presentation. The 4 young people had to participate in the performance. The group leader's involvement in the performance was optional. Costumes could be used, as could music or a background video, especially music. A title or headline of the performance was to be chosen. Around 250 people were to be in the audience, including the sponsors of the Youth Event, the official delegates from Marl's twin towns, representatives from Marl Council and members of Marl's twinning committees. It was not possible to include the audience in the performance due to the layout of the event hall and for

safety regulations. The morning of the “Spectacle of Cultures” was to be dedicated to the show’s preparation. All groups would have time for a final rehearsal. The programme of the Youth Event included workshops such as drumming, yoga, martial arts and German, social events (barbecue, karaoke, bonfire etc.), swimming, an excursion to the Ruhr area (including a visit to the “Planet Ocean” exhibition), sports’ day (cycling and canoeing) and a reception at the European House of Peace.

A. Gander had kindly offered to find Pendle’s participants, with support from J. Kelly, who would be the adult group leader. A. Gander had issued an invite for applications, which included the requirements, the objective and the programme, for example.

Re. Official Twinning Meeting in Marl (19th – 21st July 2024), this was being combined with the International Youth Meeting. The programme of the Official Twinning Meeting included a Mayors’ twinning conference, a reception at the European House of Peace with official delegates, the planting ceremony of a Ginkgo seedling from Hiroshima and the “Spectacle of Cultures”, the highlight of the International Youth Meeting.

Re. Marl-Pendle staff exchange, a press release had been done. It outlined the visit by two Marl Council staff – R. Lankeit, Arts and Culture Officer and B. Anders, Town Planning Officer – to look at current regeneration projects in Pendle. Accommodation and airport transfers were provided by two Pendle twinning members. Trainee Engineer J. Kelly and Engineering Project Co-ordinator T. Wilson from Pendle Council had previously visited Marl to exchange information on urban development. R. Lankeit and B. Anders were shown the Accessible Nelson scheme and Northlight, for example. They also visited Colne’s newly-formed Heritage Quarter and also Colne Market to discuss the refurbishment work that was going to take place there. Their visit finished with a drive around the Masterplan areas of Barnoldswick and Earby and then a walk up Pendle Hill, to give the visitors a full overview of the borough. T. Wilson advised, “We feel Rene and Bjorn had a full and informative visit, replicating our visit to them in Marl, looking at different approaches and solutions and sharing knowledge.”

Re. Creil Festival and 50 years of twinning between Creil and Pendle, Creil Festival would be taking place on 16th June 2024. On Saturday 15th June 2024 a special time would be set aside by Creil Council along with Creil Twinning Committee for marking the 50 years of twinning between Creil and Pendle, by signing the renewal of the twinning charter in Creil.

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Committee Administrator reported that the current balance in the Twinning Account was £7, 714.18.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Twinning members welcomed R. Lankeit and B. Anders to a Spring get-together of Pendle Twinning Association at Banny’s in Colne. It was agreed that the get-together of Pendle Twinning Association had been successful and enjoyable and that it should be repeated.

It was proposed that Nelson Town Council be contacted re. the 50th anniversary of twinning with Creil. It was advised that the original twinning oath was between the Mayors of Creil and Nelson in 1974 so Nelson Town Council could be interested.

The Chair provided an update re. the trip to Pendle by Twinning members from Creil and Marl in September 2024. 6 – 8 people from Creil were due to attend and 15 people from Marl.

There was potential interest from Girl Guides in Colne re. contact with any similar organisations in Marl and Creil. It was agreed that Marl and Creil be contacted re. this.

5. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

Members agreed that the AGM followed by the next Ordinary meeting should be held at 5.30p.m. on Wednesday 5th June 2024 at the Town Hall, Nelson.