



## **PEMBROKE TOWN COUNCIL, TWINNING COMMITTEE.**

### **Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024.**

**Present:** Councillors A Brinn (Mayor and Committee Chairman), Jonathan Grimes, Clive Collins, Rose Blackburn.

**In attendance:** Ian Jones (Hon Secretary and Treasurer)

**Apologies for absence:** Councillor Ann Mortenson (Deputy Mayor).

**To sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

It was proposed by Councillor J Grimes and seconded by Councillor Clive Collins that the minutes be approved. All were in agreement

**Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the minutes.**

Nothing was mentioned for discussion.

**Finalisation of the “hosting” arrangements / itinerary for the visit from representatives of Bergen, Germany from 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 including the purchase of an appropriate gift for the Burgermeisterin to mark the visit.**

A copy of the finalised programme is attached to these minutes. Councillors Grimes and Blackburn would join the Bergen party on their visit to Castlemartin Camp / Armed Forces Firing Range.

The Mayor circulated a proposed menu for the Twinning meal to be held at the Kings Arms Hotel on the evening of 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The Hon Secretary / Treasurer was requested to circulate the menu to all Town Councillors. It was proposed by Councillor J Grimes and Seconded by Councillor Aden Brinn that former Town Councillor Mr Keith Nicholas and his wife Mrs Karen Nicholas who had supported the previous twinning arrangements over many years to be asked to attend this meal to thank them for their work in organising past events to / from both Pembroke Malta and Bergen, Germany. All were in agreement.

The cost of the meal was £25 for two courses and £30 for three courses. Coffee at the end of the meal would also be included. The closing date / time for replies from Councillors was midday on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

It was decided that a visit to the Pembroke Museum within the Town Hall would be visited by the Bergen party immediately following the welcome at the Mayor’s Parlour on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

All those attending the meal, other than the Twinning Committees guests would be asked to pay for the meal. All were in agreement to these arrangements.

The costs associated with the hire of a car to collect the Bergen guests from Cardiff International Airport were discussed and it was unanimously agreed that the car hire from Enterprise in Milford Haven provided better value for money (£150 for 3 days, unlimited mileage, insurance cover) but there would also be a refundable deposit of £200 provided there was no damage to the vehicle etc on its return. (Proposed by Councillor Rose Blackburn Seconded by Councillor C Collins.)

There was then a discussion on what type of gift should be presented to the Bergen guests. It was Proposed by Councillor C Collins and Seconded by Councillor J Grimes, that a framed A4 size photograph with a suitable inscription be presented to the Burgermeisterin at the dinner. All were in agreement.

The Secretary / Treasurer of the Committee requested that receipts be obtained where possible for all expenditure associated with the visit (including fuel for the hire car).

### **Financial Report from the Hon. Secretary / Treasurer.**

The Hon Secretary / Treasurer reported that the new Town Council Twinning Committee bank account had been opened with Lloyds Bank. The transfer of the balance in the old Pembroke / Pembroke Dock Town Councils Joint Twinning Committee had been completed last week. The necessary cheque and paying in books had been despatched by the bank and would be received shortly together with the necessary passwords etc. to operate “online banking”.

### **Twinning Agreement with Bain-de-Bretagne (Update).**

The proposed twinning agreement and other documentation had been sent to Bain-de-Bretagne by e mail for their consideration and it was hoped that this would be agreed within the next two weeks. We had requested that Bain-de-Bretagne would kindly translate the agreement into French which we would then have checked on its return.

### **Discussion on the names of possible Co-opted Members to the Committee.**

There was a discussion of who and what organisations should be approached to see if they would like to have a person co-opted to the Committee. Discussion centred on a representative of the school who was thinking of pupil involvement with the Anne Frank Peace week which is held yearly in Bergen (this year the event will be virtual), The Heritage Centre in Pembroke Dock who were interested in having a link with the Armed Forces Museum in Malta and Warren Church which was renovated by the German army when they were using the base for training in the 1960s / 70s and may have more general interest. The Secretary / Treasurer reminded members that the Twinning Committee involved 2 towns with a further town to be added this year and that having co-opted members who wished to have links with only one of the twinned / proposed twinned towns could restrict the “across towns” approach which this Committee should be fostering. The Secretary was asked to write to these three organisations to see if there was interest in proposing a person to be co-opted to the Committee.

### **Forward Planning for the 2027 arrangements to mark: -**

- (a) 25 years Twinning with Pembroke Malta.**
- (b) 50 years Twinning with Bergen, Germany.**

It was understood that a band from bergen were interested in visiting Pembroke as well as a Swimming Club and a Football Team. It was agreed that members would think about these suggestions in time for the next meeting and would also take the opportunity of speaking to our two Bergen guests when they visit next week. Members were asked to think about how we can strengthen our ties with Germany, Malta and France over the next few weeks and to bring their ideas to the next meeting. Ideas involving young people were something to consider especially on the education, employment, recreational activities fronts. No doubt issues surrounding heritage, youth unemployment, disabilities, anti-social behaviour issues were to the fore in all countries at present together with dealing with the changes within town centres following the building of out-of-town shopping centres and the ways to solve problems associated with unemployment.

**Any other business.**

It was agreed that the Bergen visit should be publicised as much as possible and appropriate entries would be made on the Town Council Facebook page.

**Date of Next Meeting.**

The date of the next meeting was fixed as Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 1000hrs.

The meeting closed at 1050hrs.