

Minutes of meeting

21st January 2013.

West India House, Durleigh Road, Bridgwater.

Present- Mike and Di Grabner, Joseph Abela, Tricia Brown, Gordon and Barbara Taylor, Steve and Pat Morgan, Helmi Holder-Wolff.

Apologies- James Morgan.

Minute of the last meeting- Had been received by all and **MG** agreed they were a true account. **TB** had enjoyed our Christmas get together and all agreed. **DG** thanked **TB** for providing the quiz which was enjoyed by all. Several asked for a copy to enjoy with other groups, **TB** will email them. **MG** pointed out that our Mayor and Mayoress attended as did another councillor who plans to go to Malta. **MG** thanked **PM** for organising the evening.

Chairman Report- **MG** thanked **JA** for organising radio interviews with Triniteri FM 89.3 which is a local radio station in Marsa. The first was with **JA** to do some translation with **MG** and **PM**, the second was with **JA** and **PM**. **JA** explained the link was via Facebook and it was used to send greetings and information about ourselves and what we have been doing. **JA** had suggested that we send a photo and information about the Scouts and group going to Malta in April. **PM** organised with Scouts for a photo shoot unfortunately **JA** was unable to attend as was the Mayor due to civic duties. **PM** sent the photos and written article to **JA** who sent it to the Maltese High Commissioner (as we now have official status with them) for publication in the next newsletter.

MG had sent Christmas cards to the Marsa Mayor and the council and enclosed a note to say we were going in April and had a positive reply. He also thanked those who were involved in organising and decorating the Christmas tree that we had been invited to provide for the Christmas tree Festival at the Methodist church.

It was discussed who would be going in April unfortunately **B** and **GT** will not be able to due to many other holidays! **SM** and **PM** are going on the same flight as Scouts on 4th April and **M** and **DG** going on 7th. **JA** is waiting to hear from son if he will be in Malta. He explained that it is the centenary of the older church in Marsa around April and wondered if any celebrations will happen during our visit. Also a query if it would be possible that Bridgwater and Marsa Mayor's and councillors could meet up at the Scout HQ where our Scouts will be camping. Also to invite our Vice President Joseph Muscat.

Correspondence- **PM** had written letters to our Honorary Vice Presidents to ask if they would like to continue in the post. She had delivered one to our MP Mr Ian Liddell Grainger but had no reply so email a copy and request- a reply had been sent but must have got lost in the Christmas post. He would like to continue- unfortunately **PM** had been unable to bring copies of replies as problems with printer. It had been more difficult to contact Joseph Muscat in Malta as at first had wrong address and after contacting him on Facebook he sent correct address which in fact Dominic Spencer had given her. Finally after 3 emails I finally heard yesterday to say he confirmed the request. **JA** pointed out that there is an election in March so in fact he may become Prime Minister.

There is a new magazine called LocalReach Bridgwater which replaces Town Reach.**PM** saw the announcement on Facebook so contacted the Editor who will put a piece about us in the March issue .Several members said they do not receive a copy so email address given to them as the first issue is due in February.

As above work done for Maltese High Commissioner and sent to **JA**. **PM** and **SM** had personal cards from many friends in Marsa/Malta. The Scouts had one from the Marsa group.

PM thanked those who had helped them when they bought the tree with Lights and lovely handmade decorations; she had had some positive feedback.

SM got information about hotels and packages to Malta and has given it to Town Clerk Alan Hurford to discuss with councillors as there appears to be 8 people interested? If they have done anything about it as they will need to pay at once as so near.

The Mayor had told **PM** he was due to go into hospital for surgery on 23rd of January. She suggested we as an Association should send a Get Well card, it was agreed so she will sort. Also Nigel son of Dominic and Claudette has been in for emergency surgery also, he was wished well by all.

JA reported that Michael Salibo chair of the Marsa Cultural and Historical association is still in hospital .He had an email from their secretary Raymond Montebello- he will forward the address to **PM**.

Treasurer Report- SM reported that the last bank statement showed we had £997 but the Christmas get together had cost £95.40; **MG** asked if we had had the core grant from the council but despite giving the Audited Balance Sheet a while ago we have not received it.**SM** will follow it up and find out if the councillors have booked .**MG** explained we need to firm up dates so he can let Mayor Francis Debono know.

Membership Secretary-TB reported that Penrose school still want to be involved and have paid their subscription .She has not had much response from St Mary's school after emails and telephone calls. She will go and visit the school personally and try and see the teacher Margaret Mead. Dominic Spencer had asked if contact had been made as it is his daughter's school but **PM** was not sure.

Any other business- SM wondered if we take some polo shirts to use as gifts,? for Joseph Muscat.**TB** said the shirts cost £14 so will order 2.To also remind Scouts that the gift we gave them was to include a gift for Marsa group.

JA suggested we give a special gift for Joseph Muscat if he meets us, he suggests a Maltese Falcon which would be quiet expensive. It was suggested that a gift from Bridgwater would be more appropate. **MG** had taken before a type of crested china so would see if anything like that was still produced. **HHW** suggested if there was anything associated with carnival-**BT** will see Dave Stokes from Carnival and see what was available. **HHW** thinks she has a hand carved sailing ship in her loft that ties with out sea- faring history.**MG** asked if she would donate it and she was positive.

Next meeting-Thursday 28th February at 7.30hrs

West India House Bar, Durleigh Road, Bridgwater.