

Minutes of meeting

Thursday 28th February 2013

Held at the West India House

Apologies- Di Grabner, James Morgan and Helmi Holder Wolfe.

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

Minutes from last meeting- All had received and agreed.

Matters arising- with our and the scouts visit to Malta on the horizon it was suggested that we try and find out what the Marsa council have planned as it was with great disappointment that **PM** informed the meeting that due to the Mayors recent surgery and the Mayoress continuing problems with her knee and mobility that they will be unable to escort us on this visit. We need to find out if there is a programme planned so we can work around it.

Chairman's report- **MG** suggested we ask our Mayor Graham Granter if he could write a letter of greeting from one council to another possibly on headed paper and laminated so it could be displayed in the council offices. **MG** also explained that the last time we tried to take part in Marsa local radio that **JA** had problems trying to get through via Facebook. Luckily **JA's** cousin spoke to him and phoned the radio station and there was a power cut in Marsa so we were unable to take part in the broadcast. **MG** had also been able to get some Bridgwater plates. **BT** asked if the shop had anymore but **MG** thought they were the last in the shop.

Correspondence- **PM** explained she had had contact with Dominic Spencer in Marsa to find out who was going to be in the party and when they were going. We did not know until recently that the council party would not be going. She was able to give numbers in the Scout group and that **SM** and **PM** were travelling on the same flight as them and that **MG** and **DG** were going a few days later. **JA** told us that he is travelling a day prior to us and leaving a day after **M** and **DG** return.

She also apologised for not sending Mayoral invite to a Bridgwater Town football match but it was felt that it had not taken place as the pitch has been waterlogged.

Report from Secretary- **PM** reported that the Mayor and the party are still interested in going to Malta in the future. **PM** had asked our Town Clerk Alan Hurford if he would contact Marsa Council as there had been an official invite from them. It was pointed out that most of the committee will be going to Malta! **PM** and **SM** had met with Scout Leader Lorna Walker at Morrison's where the scouts going to Malta were packing shoppers bags and had a tombola where we were informed after they had raised about £450. Lorna had shown them a photo of a lovely picture of Bridgwater that they will present to Marsa scouts with a plaque on it. They were asked if someone could attend a troop night on 12th March to teach the young people some basic Maltese words. **JA** is happy to.

PM explained that Marsa council and Dominic are very busy as there is a General Election on 9th March. **TB** had printed out an email from Joseph Muscat our honorary Vice President who is leader of the Labour Party.

Treasures report- SM would like to thank our council of our £300 core grant which they have given us. **PM** was asked to send a letter of thanks. He has just paid out for gifts to take to Malta with us so at the moment we have £1,155. It was discussed that when we take people out for a meal in Malta that money from this can be used to pay for it.

Membership Secretary- TB has been in contact with Margaret Mead a teacher at St Mary's School and she and the children have been in contact with Marsa School and she is very keen. **TB** has given her the membership application form and explained that we could (as we have done in the past) take anything the class would like to send to Malta. **TB** thinks that Margaret has visited Malta before and would appreciate any advice when she next visits. **TB** had obtained the polo shirts for us.

Any other business- the visit to Mata. **JA** suggested it would be a very good idea if a social meeting could be arranged which included our scouts and our members that will be there which will mean the beginning of the week-the weekend would be better but **MG** and **DG** do not arrive until Sunday afternoon so it would have to be an evening event. **JA** suggests we invite the Marsa Mayor and councillors, The Marsa Cultural society and **PM** suggested Marsa Scout GSL and leaders not camping as Marsa Scouts are camping at Rinella. The Scout HQ where Bridgwater scouts are camping would be a suitable venue as there is a large hall. We will need to discuss with our scouts and find out when would be convenient for them.

JA has contacts with the wine makers Marsovin and wonders if a visit could be arranged ,**TB** wondered if it would be suitable for the scouts but apparently they are also makers of soft drinks but thought it may be of interest especially as the premises are in Marsa. **JA** will contact them.**PM** pointed out we must discuss it with our leaders. **JA** also says he has contacts to help with catering.

PM will contact Dominic Spencer when the General election is over to find out if Marsa council has a programme and to find out if we will be met at the airport.**PM** said that as far as she knew Marsa council were arranging the Scout transfer. **S** and **PM** have not arranged their transfer? **JA** can do it.

TB has donated a teaspoon with the Bridgwater crest on it (**PM** wondered if it is now a collectors piece) There was a discussion as to whom it may be given to. We hope that perhaps our Vice President Joseph Muscat may have time to visit us but as was pointed out by the time we visit he (if the election permits) may be Prime Minister of Malta.

TB informed us that Wembdon Ladies Annual Quiz night is being held on Saturday 16th March at 7.30hrs at the Parish Centre, **G** and **BT** need another pair to make up team cost £2.50. There is also a concert at St Georges School on Friday 22nd March at 7.30 hrs cost £3.

It was suggested that the members should meet on the Sunday evening in Malta to share information.

Date of next meeting.

This will just be a meeting for those going to Malta to finalise arrangements

I will inform you of the next meeting in April for feedback.