

Minutes of meeting Bridgwater- Marsa Twinning Association

Monday 14 th October 2013.At The West India House.

Present- Mike Grabner, Joseph Abela, Steve and Pat Morgan, Tricia Brown, Dave Loveridge (Mayor) Steve Austen (Dept Mayor) and Stella Austen.

Apologies- Helmi Holder Wolfe, James Morgan, Di Grabner, Graham and Kay Granter. PM asked if the councillors knew how Ken and Margo Richards were progressing and it was positive news.

Minutes- Seen and agreed.

Matters Arising- **JA** reported that the High Commissioner for Malta (based in London) has changed it is now Mr Norman Hamilton .It was suggested that we send a letter of Welcome from the Association (**PM** will do a letter) and **JA** will personally deliver it when he goes to London with his brother and ? take a Bridgwater Plate. Possibly after 10 th November.

Chairman's report- **MG** had taken a letter to the Carnival Chair but it was just as they were changing and he had not had a reply .**DL** suggests that we contact the new chairperson who is Rita Jones. **MG** will write to her.**MG** explained to the meeting the idea of Dominic Spencer (the councillor in Marsa with a special interest in the Twinning) of taking the winning entry of our carnival to Marsa. Again it was pointed out that the carts are dismantled straight after carnival .**JA** was thinking about maybe a walking group or dancers, he also has the Maria Regina Band Club Present Dennis Grech and his artist wife Josette coming on 30th Oct to 4th November to see our Carnival . Dennis would love to bring his band over for carnival.

Steve A wondered if it may be worth contacting Eddie Stobart (who has a huge fleet of transport lorries) as his Dad has links with Bridgwater as he used to live here.

We will need to discuss this with Dominic when we go over in December.

Secretary report/Correspondence- **PM** reported problems with the Mercury reporting on the trip the Scouts and members made in April. She sent in a CD with all the text and photos on but they lost it .She finally made contact with Kirsty James reporter who did put a small piece in.**PM** now has her contact details so will hope for a more positive outcome next time. She had also thanked all in Marsa for their hospitality. **PM** read out a Thank you letter from Wembdon Scouts for the money received and how they had enjoyed their trip/camp. She thanked **DL** for the invitation to his Mayor making and the Civic Service held at St John's Church which was enjoyed by members who attended. She also thanked him for accepting the President's position for his term of office.

At the Mayor making Steve Austen who is the Deputy Mayor expressed his wish to visit Malta in his term of office and asked **PM** if she would contact Marsa's Mayor Francis Debono to attend Steve's Mayor making in May 2013.**PM** had sent this request to Francis personally and via Marsa's executive secretary Adrian Attard. She also explained there would be a formal invitation nearer the time but she had not received a reply. **SA** felt there was plenty of time before May.

PM showed the meeting the June edition of the Malta High commission newsletter in which **JA** had sent an article about our visit in April with photos.

It was with sadness she told the meeting of the death of Peter Braine (**TB** had sent her updates whom she thanked for them) **PM** sent a condolence card on behalf of the Association.

There is also a lady interested in the Association but she lives the other end of town with no transport but would like to receive minutes. She and her husband were going to Malta soon and they want to visit Marsa.**PM** had contacted Dominic and if he is willing to meet them and she will put them in contact.

Today **PM** had received an email about the Methodist church Christmas Tree festival but it is happening when the Grabner's and Morgan's are in Malta for the wedding of Annalise Debono so has asked if anyone would be prepared to take the tree (**PM** has it at home) and put it up to represent the Association.

Treasurer's report-SM reported that there had been no incomings or outgoings. We are in credit of £864.16p. He has all the accounts with him. It was discussed about having a 3rd person to sign the cheques .**MG** has filled in some of the form and **SM** will take them into the bank and see if any more information is needed. It will make it easier as **TB** has been able to holiday much more this year so any 2 from 3 will be able to sign a cheque, **SA** said that was a normal number.

Reports from Members-JA explained that Dennis and Josette are coming for carnival and they will be staying as his accommodation where they have rooms for visitors.**PM** will contact Chris Hocking as he is very involved with carnival.

DL invited us to the Snowflake event when the Christmas lights are turned on and all the festivities start. He is having an open house at the Mayors Parlour on Friday 22nd November starting at 2pm with the switch on at 6.30 by the Mayor and other cancer survivors. There will be Squibbing on the Town Bridgwater after, it happened last year as well which enables the young and elderly who cannot wait up until after the carnival to see Bridgwater special fireworks.**PM** asked what the Mayors Charity is this year- it is The Beacon Centre at Musgrove Hospital which is the local cancer treatment area.

DL asked if councillor Brian Smedley had contacted us about accessing funding from the EU as he is knows a lot about it-no we have not had any contact, he will mention it to him.

DL is opening the Eastover MUGA (multi use games area) at The Bowls Club area of Cranleigh Gardens on 28th-29th October and he will speak to people from youth teams to see if interested in links with Marsa.

AOB- Date decided for **Annual General Meeting Monday 18th November 7.30pm**

To take place at the kind invitation of the Mayor at

The Mayors Parlour

High Street

Bridgwater TA6 3AS.