

Bridgwater-Marsa Twinning Association.

Minutes of meeting Thursday 8/01/2015 7.30

At the Mayors Parlour.

Apologies- Di Grabner, James Morgan. Steve Austen hopes to come after meeting next door.

Present- Stella Austen, Mike Grabner, Steve and Pat Morgan, Joseph Abela, Tricia Brown and Helmi Holder Wolff.

Minutes from last meeting- All received and satisfactory.

Chairman's report- MG welcomed everyone and thanked Steve and Stella for the use of the parlour and all their help and support. He felt that all our focus should be on the Town Twinning Conference on 7 th March 2015 at the Arts Centre. **Stella** suggested we take anything /gifts from Marsa in the Parlour to exhibit.**MG** thanked her, **PM** showed the plan of the Arts Centre where our area will be.**MG** explained that the aim is to showcase the 4 twinned towns/areas/countries already linked and also Italy and Hungary. We will have an Audio visual presentation for 20 minutes and he had felt when suggested 30 minutes it would be too long, we have to decide who to do it and what format to use. **SM** suggested an official invitation to Francis Debono and Marsa council with a copy of the minutes of the last Forum meeting and to ask for a reply so we can plan. We already know that Councillor Dominic Spencer and Claudette will be attending after a conversation on Facebook!

There are beds available at several people's homes as **PM** had asked Dominic to stay. **PM** also pointed out that **Brian Smedley** had thought about a Skittle evening on the Friday evening before for all. **PM** had investigated and the Bridgwater Squibb alley was free and central so **BS** asked her to book it which she has done under **BS** name.

MG pointed out we have paid £50 for hire of Arts Centre and publicity.

Vice Chair report- JA had been to London in late December and had called at the Maltese High Commission and met the secretary of Mr Norman Hamilton the High Commissioner who unfortunately was out and his diary was full, then he was going home to Malta over the New Year. **PM** pointed out she had sent a Christmas card and letter. **JA** will contact again as **SM** pointed out that we had found out Mr Hamilton has a Travel Business in Malta. **JA** is aware of this and feels that perhaps it may help if **JA** promotes the beauty of Somerset

Secretary Report- PM explained she had sent Christmas cards from the Associations behalf to our Vice President the Prime Minister of Malta Dr Joseph and Michelle Muscat and as mentioned before the Maltese High Commissioner, she passed around the Christmas cards the Association had received from them. She had contacted the secretary of the Marsa Historical Society to ask if they could help with a small piece for our presentation and had a reply will now contact then again to explain time scale.**PM** explained she has contacted Victor Bonett at Visit Malta who has asked for numbers we are expecting- suggested 150 as **JA** still has some literature in his garage. **PM** has also contacted several holiday firms for information but no replies. We have found out where we can get small glasses for sample tasting. 40 for £1 so suggested we get 120 plus serviettes for food sampling.

PM showed an invite from the Mayor to attend the annual sports event which is a football match on Saturday 10th January between Bridgwater and Tiverton for 3 people. **SM** will be going, asked who else would like to so **JA** and **HHW** will attend.

Treasurers Report- SM said we have a balance of £843.63p after paying £50 for Twinning event plus Site master fee for the Web Site and received £ 10 from the Scouts.

Membership secretary report-TB is waiting to hear from St Mary's re fee. She has tried very hard to see the Head teacher at Penrose School. She has visited the new building and left numerous messages but had no reply.**MG** wondered if it was worth **TB's** time and effort to follow it up anymore, perhaps one more attempt. **TB** will try and make an appointment she was thanked. **TB** has 2 holiday offers which were passed around the meeting.

Ideas for the Conference- It was suggested we hold a meeting and all bring what information we have – DVD's, CD's , books, gifts, anything to formulate a program many of us have articles we have used before, including our banner. It was suggested it was held at **PM** and **SM** home with access to laptop to run things through.**PM** will ask **JM** if he could help edit things.**MG** can formulate a PowerPoint but feels we need something more interesting which will hold people's attention. We also need to focus on likenesses e.g. Marsa Way, Bridgwater Playing Field, Scouts visit.

SM is happy to arrange all the catering and ordering of this.**MG** thanked him.

Any Other Business- At the last meeting it was suggested we held an informal meal after Christmas when life not so busy! With the Mayor and Mayoress as our guests. **SM** had got a menu for the Tudor but it did not have the early birds menu which Stella had used before.**SM** will visit again and plan for Thursday 22nd January. Will then let all know as about 10-12 people interested.

Date, time next meeting

Monday 2nd February 7.30 hrs. Pat and Steve's home.

Main meeting

Monday 2nd March 7.30 hrs

Mayors Parlour.