

Bridgwater-Marsa Twinning Association

Minutes of Meeting 02/05/2017 held at the Mayors Parlour.

Present-Alex Glassford (Mayor) Ian Tucker, Tricia Brown, Joseph Abela, Margaret Evans, Dave and Jean Gibbs, Barbara and Gordon Taylor, Di and Mike Grabner, Pat Morgan.

Apologies-Steve and Stella Austen, Helmi Holder Wolffe, James Morgan, Sonia Tucker, Pat and Jenni Parker.

Chairman's Report- we had new people present so we all introduced our selves. **MG** thanked **AG** for all his support as President, for joining us for the 10th Anniversary celebrations in Marsa and for the use of the premises to hold our meetings. **MG** recapped for those not at the last meeting on our very busy time in Marsa and Malta.

He pointed out that Steve Morgan had resigned the post of Treasurer – thanked him for his work and the post needed to be replaced, this has to be recorded in the minutes and taken to the bank to enable a new treasurer to be instated up to the next AGM.**BT** had agreed to take the post of Treasurer and was nominated by **MG** and seconded by **JA**. **BT** explained she was happy to take over and she and **MG** will arrange with the Nat West Bank so sort the matter out.

On 22nd April was the Annual Twinning Event –**MG** thanked all who had helped **B** and **GT**, **JA**, **MG** and **PM**, it was a good day and there appeared to be more interest from people passing as it was held in Angle Place Shopping Centre. **PM** did a live interview on Sedgemoor FM (which is based in the YMCA centre and broadcast every day) in the evening we went to the Arts Centre where **MG** thanked **PM** for the presentation on Stage of the celebrations that took place in Marsa. The Italian band After Dark with the Mayor of Priverno Peppe joining them was brilliant. The French Students and the Belly Dancing were also very good, a really enjoyable evening with others who took part also.

In March we gave a presentation to the Civic Society, it was an overview of the association with a power point presentation (the first we have done) There were some challenging questions, one about bird Hunting/shooting which **MG** found difficult as we have never had anything to do with it or heard much about it **JA** pointed out that the season has been shortened but still causes great debate in Malta. **PM** thanked **JM** for all the work he had done in helping to prepare and came and helped with the evening. We are also doing another presentation to the Senior Citizens Forum in October.

On 12th May is the Mayor Making when **AG** will hand over to Graham Granter with Kay as Lady Mayoress. We have an invite for 2, **PM** is free, and **MG** asked if anyone else would be interested, **B** and **GT** went last year. **MG** will join her. This year as ST Mary's Church is still under renovation and the Baptist Church has something booked the actual Mayor Making **AG** explained will be held in the old Council Room in upstairs in the Town Hall which is very limited for space so many will meet after in the main hall of the Town Hall to join in the celebration.

The Mayor of Marsa Francis and his wife Carmen are coming to Bridgwater we believe the 18-22nd August. We need to think about what we can do. **PM** will email him for exact dates and times.

Secretary's Report- **PM** explained that the Skittle Evening on the Friday evening when all the 5 twinned towns got together for a fun evening was not as organised as last year! It was a different venue in Bar 27, a lovely room and wonderful food but as a large area and with many students we were unable to collect much money for the young man "sticking up" the skittles. The French students enjoyed themselves as a novelty game for them! As did the band and Martin from Prague. The money raised by the raffle was for the Mayors Charity Alzheimer's Society but **AG** did not know the exact total. **PM** thanked all for their help during the day for the twinning event- there were 50 bags that her daughter had sorted out with information from Visit Malta .com in London given out her previous contact has left but the lady she is now in contact with was very helpful. There were also people who showed an interest including Dave and Jean- thanked them for coming.

PM thanked all for their support after her husband left her and the major surgery she had, has now at last typed up the AGM minutes and sent them out, life seems to be more on track!. We had some very constructive criticism from the Civic Society talk which we have taken on board.**PM** would like to thank **JM** for all the time he spent helping with the preparation of the talk and for maintaining the web site.

Treasurer Report- Unable to have.

Membership Report- **TB** has nothing to report at the moment.

Any Other Business-**JA** suggested that would be a good idea to take Francis and Carmen to Cannington to see the Maltese plant as at the moment it has a bud and **JA** has never seen one in flower, he has also planted a Salt Tree in the same greenhouse with the blessing of the team who had offered help in any way. **JA** is going to Malta to vote and will stay for his village feast in early August.

AG expressed his pleasure in meeting us all this year and thanked us for his role as President for his year of office. He was thanked by all.

IT explained he had trouble in trying to contact the Sea Cadets and will try to contact Bill Monteith as he is involved, he and Adam have tried to obtain some badges from Chilton Trinity school but had met with obstacles and no luck. **IT** also pointed out that Brian Smedley will be having many guests to Bridgwater and wondered if we could link up with them.

The post Christmas meal that did not happen was discussed and it was suggested we all went out when **F and CD** were here ,this was agreed and after discussion it was decided on the Green Olive **BT** will get a menu and **PM** will send it to all as it was felt that they would like a list of main meals to help the chef. It was decided that about 20 would attend with guests of honour **AG and Liz, F and CD**, to invite Graham and Kay Granter as well. **BT** has booked for Saturday 19th August.

DG wondered if **FD** may like to visit some of our churches as different from Malta also a cheese and wine party.

There were other suggestions by many, a visit to Bridgwater Museum a trip on the West Somerset Railway (no railways in Malta), Clarkes Village for shopping, and the Shoe museum, SS Great Britain (**BT** pointed out that next year there will be an Isambard Kingdom Brunel centre where many articles will be on display) the Tropiquaria, Bakelite museum, or Fish and Chips!

There was another discussion about the Twinning Day and **JG** felt that the music was too loud to have a good conversation. There was a general agreement that perhaps the room was large and empty which did not help. There was no signage outside Angle Place to alert people to the event, **JA** was disappointed as there was no power point to plug a laptop in to advertise Malta. It was asked what other advertisement had been done **PM** explained that **BS** had done most through social media but it was also pointed out that a few weeks prior to the event there had been a small piece in the Bridgwater Mercury.

Date of next meeting

Provisional as need to ask new Mayor

Tuesday 25th July 2017 at 7.30pm.