

Bridgwater-Marsa Twinning Association.

Minutes of Meeting

21/03/2018 held at the Mayors Parlour.

Present-President Graham Granter ,Heather Powell, Sonia and Ian Tucker, Barbara and Gordon Taylor, Malcolm Burge, Chris Tottle, Mike Grabner, Pat Morgan ,Ivor Butt.

Apologies -Joseph Abela, James Morgan, Di Grabner, Steve and Stella Austen.

Report from Chairman-MG thanked **GG** and the Town Council for the use of the Mayors Parlour for our meeting. Hoped we had all survived the "Beast from the East"! He thanked **PM** for providing us with the Minutes from the Town Twinning Forum held on 19/03/2018. It was noted that no one from several of our twinned towns were unable to attend the twinning event on 2nd June including both Italian Bands. The plans to hold a week's display of each twinned town in the library leading up to the 2nd June will still go ahead .There is a trip to La Ciotat for the 1720 festival open to all, just contact Keith Gilles if interested. Brian Smedley (Secretary of Twinning Forum) had contact from A Maltese Rugby Team Kavallieri who were visiting Bristol and Taunton and asked him to arrange accommodation and Transport.

Secretary Report-PM had contacted BS as she had found out (on line) that the team train at Marsa but on Contacting Dominic Spencer in Marsa he did not know of them.**PM** knew who had contacted **BS** so it was suggested she contact the team to make ourselves know as was discussed at Forum and here it would be a good idea if they were aware we have 2 teams in town and one in North Petherton. **BS** has done a lot of work to make the arrangements and was trying had to clarify but not getting a reply. **PM** had left her details at the Rugby Club to hope she would find the person in charge of the youth teams.**ST** suggested meeting the team when they visit.

We have been asked to give a talk to Wembdon Ladies at the Strawberry Supper on June 8th.

After trying for a while **PM** is now in touch with the Secretary of the George Cross Island Association who has sent the last newsletter which has been printed out for all to take away and read.

PM also advertised Wembdon Ladies Charity Night on Friday 23rd to raise money for the Beacon Centre at Musgrove Park Hospital.

PM had also tried to contact St Marys School to ask if they had been in contact with the school in Marsa but no reply. She did point out they were being inspected! She had also asked in Marsa they same question but has not heard back.

HP asked if we knew anyone in the Guiding world in Malta, **PM** does, as St John's Guides would like to be in contact as they are working on their Commonwealth and Communication Badges.**PM** will contact a Guide Leader friend and make enquires as the law has changed in the UK and the Captains have to be in contact before anything can happen.**MG** will find out full names of leaders here and if they will be happy to proceed.

Treasurer Report-BT has had 2 subscriptions so far. She would prefer cheques and asked if we could attach a tear off strip to enable people to send their subscriptions to her.

Public Relations Officer-IT asked if **PM** could contact the Mayor in Marsa Francis Debono re a long conversation when he was here in the summer about a link with the Sea Cadets, she will do .IT is still trying to establish a link with the Sea Cadets here. We discussed the fact that Marsa /Malta does not have Sea Cadets /Sea Scouts but the Cadets here and Marsa Scouts both have bands.

Any Other Business- A general discussion felt it was sad that we have no one visiting from Marsa but wonder as Valletta is the European Capital of Culture if possible it has taken money from the councils. Bridgwater has so much talent in the town with choirs, so many different clubs and associations, sports clubs, the list could go on but we are not sure what is in Marsa.

IT suggests we have another trip. **CT** asked if there were bell ringers in Malta, yes there are but different from our melodic peals.**PM** did meet some many years ago but will try and find out , **CT** rings at St Marys and felt they may be interested in a link. Apparently the 1st bell was cast in Marsa .

Next Meeting Monday 30th April at 7.30 pm

At the Mayors Parlour.