

Bridgwater-Marsa Twinning Association

Minutes of Meeting 25/07/2017 held at the Mayors Parlour.

Present-Ian Tucker, Jennie Parker, Barbara and Gordon Taylor, Pat Morgan, Mike and Di Grabner, Tricia Brown, Kay and Graham Granter (Mayor of Bridgwater)

Apologies- Jean and Dave Gibbs, James Morgan and Helmi Holder Wolffe.

Chairman's Report –MG welcomed all and thanked the Mayor and Mayoress for the use of the room, their hospitality and their presence. He also thanked **GG** for accepting the President's position for the year.**MG** also thanked the Town Council for the £300 core grant that was received at the Town Twinning Forum the previous week as this will help sustain the Association. He explained that Helmi was not at the meeting due to health problems and had sent a card from us "Thinking of you"

MG reminded us that on 18th August the Mayor of Marsa Francis Debono will be visiting with his wife Carmen and two others Charlie and Pauline Formosa who we met when we were there in October/November unfortunately we could not remember as we met so many lovely people.**PM** will find out. On 19th August there is a table booked at the Green Olive for dinner.**GG** and **KG** will not be able to attend as their granddaughter is getting married that day. **MG** explained it is a late/ early Christmas meal as we had not been able to arrange one. We have invited our previous Mayor who came to Malta with us Alex Glassford and his Mayoress Liz Leavy and **GG** had seen him and he is looking forward to it. **BT** needs the orders for our main meal so the chef can prepare as it makes it easier for a large party.

Twinning Forum feedback, GG and **KG** had attended the celebrations in France and Germany for their anniversaries 60 years for La Ciotat and 25 for Homberg. Both events the hospitality, entertainment and visit were wonderful. It is also the UH 25th anniversary this year so **GG** has personally invited the 3 Mayors and groups for carnival he can only invite the Mayors to the Parlour to watch the carnival from the windows as not much room.

Each twinning group had a message from Brian Smedley to ask if we needed to change the advert in the new Town Guide. The link to our association needed updating so **MG** will do after discussion with the meeting.

Francis Debono and group plans were discussed as we are not sure exactly what time they will be coming on Friday 18th August so nothing planned as yet. Saturday 19th suggested a walk around the town using the Blue Plaques put up by the Civic Society, the afternoon to Cannington Walled Garden to see the Maltese plants there and maybe a cream tea.**PM** will contact them. Sunday 20th **GG** and **KG** will entertain them to Sunday Lunch at the Tudor at 12 MD followed by a Band Concert in Blake Gardens. Monday 21st possibly a visit to local radio studios Sedgemoor FM at the YMCA, **PM** to try and arrange. Possibly lunch in the

cafe by the canal and possibly a walk along the canal. In the evening a Buffet at our Chairman's at 5 pm as not sure time of departure from Bristol on Tuesday.

Secretary's Report- **PM** has contacted Francis to find out about the couple who are coming .There are several people unable to attend the evening meal when our guests are here Jean and Dave Gibbs, Graham and Kay and Tricia. She had emailed Alex Glassford but not heard back but **GG** had seen him and he is looking forward to coming, Liz Leavy who was his Mayoress last year when he visited Malta with us has also been invited, **BT** will need to know numbers and menus, **PM** will send out reminders. **PM** asked **MG** when they were doing their next talk the morning of 19th October for the Senior Citizens, **PM** also mentioned that Wembdon Ladies did have an empty slot and if still available we could offer to be able to make ourselves know to more people.

Treasurer Report-**BT** has taken over but needs to sort out signatures so she and **MG** sorted out visit to the Bank. The Balance sheet remains the same .**MG** thanked **GG** for £300 Core Grant.

Any Other Business- **PM** will contact Walled Gardens of Cannington about visit and Cream Tea now we have sorted out a programme.**MG** asked if the website had been updated and **PM** felt sure it had but she needs to add the 10th anniversary in Malta.**MG** thanked **JM** for looking after it for us. **TB** as Membership Secretary had sent email about meeting to teacher Christine but when she contacted school she was told they were on holiday and not contactable. Her neighbour loves going on holiday to Malta but not interested in our association. **IT** had been trying hard to contact Sea Cadets and finally managed to contact the Commanding Officer by phone who appears keen about contact in Malta but has to put it to his committee , it was maybe a good idea that he meets Marsa's Mayor.**MG** asked about the Sea Cadets ,a youth organisation that does feed into the Navy **PM** explained that Malta does have Navy ships but the uniformed staff are called the Armed Forces of Malta.**GG** spoke to **IT** and suggested that a person he knew could help so gave the name.

GG and KG were again thanked for their hospitality

Date and Time of next meeting

Wednesday 4th October 2017at 7-30 pm

At the Mayors Parlour.