

## BRIDGWATER-MARSA TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting on 30/04/2018

Held in the Mayors Parlour.

**Present-** Mike Grabner, Pat Morgan, Ivor Butt, Barbara and Gordon Taylor, Ian Tucker and our President Graham Granter.

**Apologies-** Chris Tottle, Malcolm Burge, James Morgan, Di Grabner, Sonia Tucker.

**IT** pointed out that Heather Powell felt that she did not want to continue as there seems to be a problem connecting with the Guides in Malta. We all expressed our sorrow as she had been born in Malta and had much to offer.

Minutes had all been received and there were no matters arising.

**Chairman's Report-MG** thanked **GG** and the Town Council for allowing us to use the room. Not much to report but we had received an invite for the Mayor Making on 11<sup>th</sup> May at the Town Hall, not taking place in a church as there will be no Chaplin for the new Mayor Councillor Diogo Rodrigues. **BT** and **GT** will represent us and **PM** will let Alan Hurford know as requested before 2/5/2018.

**MG** is reading a book based in Malta by Paul Vincent Lee, it is a crime novel and **MG** had sent an email to him about our link but unfortunately it was not the correct address, apparently he is on Facebook so **MG** will get **DG** to contact the author as **MG** not on Facebook. The book is called The Maltese Orphan and there are other books in the series. **PM** has ordered them.

**GG** expressed his concern that Joseph Abela was not present, **PM** explained he missed the last meeting due to illness but had not seen him recently and others had not.

**Secretary's Report-PM** had finally contacted Visit Malta.com as there had been a personnel change and received a reply today, they will send a large amount of literature for our stand in the Library the week before the Twinning Event on 2nd June The next Forum meeting will be on 14<sup>th</sup> May when we will know more about plans for the Twinning Event and when we can set up in the Library, **MG** unable to go to meeting but **PM** will and let everyone know..**PM** had been in contact with a friend who is involved with Guides in Cospicua Malta and also sent the names and contacts of the Leaders here at St John's but although could send emails **PM** was not getting anything back despite them being sent so resorted to Messenger on Facebook but not sure if anything happening, was hoping Heather would know.**GG** explained the sad news that our Town Clerk Alan Hurford is retiring and it is his birthday tomorrow, he is older that we all thought!! The post has been advertised with closing date 15<sup>th</sup> May and interviews on 24<sup>th</sup> May. We all expressed birthday wishes and sadness at his retirement.

**PM** was able to give **IT** information about the person in charge of the Sea Cadets Band; she asked if when **IT** had been able to make contact to see if she contacts Denis Grech who is from The Marija Regina Band in Marsa as many of the musicians are younger people, they take part in Malta's carnival and have travelled before if remember rightly at their own expense. Again it was voiced

about the worries of children travelling but wondered if they stayed at Model Farm with their own adults that would solve a problem.

The question was asked will there be problems for our partner towns for funding when we leave the EU as it appears that they can access monies for Twinning but we do not. **MG** pointed out that when we visited several years ago we met several NGO who were able as their job to access monies. **PM** pointed out that our Vice President Joseph Muscat was in London for the Heads of the Commonwealth Conference and was sat next to our PM and one away from the Queen. He was thanked in several speeches by the Queen and our PM for his very good work as Leader of the Commonwealth in his time in charge.

**Treasurers Report- BT** Thanked those for the subscriptions received .On 6<sup>th</sup> April in account £625.77 and 3 subscriptions to pay in .**BT** suggested we have a Group Visit to Malta and unanimously agreed.**GG** says he has seen some good deals in weekend papers, some 9-10 people expressed an interest. PM will write to Marsa (Executive Secretary to the council, Francis (Mayor) and Dominic (councillor for twinning)) to ask their advice when would be a good time to visit (not too hot!) for any special events locally or in Malta. If any others members are interested to let **PM** know.

**PR Officer-IT** has been in contact with Brian Smedley about the Kavalliere Rugby Team that is coming on 13-19 September from Malta. They will be staying at Cheddar Youth Hostel and will be free most evenings. They are playing games around Bristol and Taunton as far as we know. It was suggested that it would be nice if we could meet them and possibly host an evening with some refreshments. We don't know the numbers yet and if the new Mayor would support us .**IT** is awaiting details from **BS** who is out of the country at the moment. **IB** offered to do the catering as that is his trade, when we know more.

The Sea Cadets –**GT** was a member when younger and then went on to a career in the Navy so may be a good person to talk to the young people if needed.

**IB** would love to talk to Joseph Abela as he has family ties with Malta and we felt that as **JA** is Maltese he would be a very good person to help **IB**.

**PM** will also contact Helmi Holder Wolfe as had been very ill but no one has heard from her for a while.

**PM** will also write to Councillor Diogo Rodrigues to invite him to become our President for the year he is in office. There is great interest as Diogo will be our first Portuguese Mayor so there is going to be some media interest.

Next Meeting

**PM will contact our new mayor .**