Is-Swieqi
LOCAL COUNCIL

MINUTI

LAQGĦA TAL-KUNSILL LOKALI S-SWIEQI

IT-TMIEN LEĠISLATURA 2019

SEDUTA NUMRU 62

Il-Kunsill Lokali tas-Swieqi iltaqa f'seduta nhar it-Tnejn 4 ta' Diċembru 2023 fil-16.18.

Din il-laqgħa qed issir ukoll online.

Preżenti:

Noel Muscat	-	Sindku
Mary Anne Abela	-	Viċi Sindku
Anna Pisani	-	Kunsillier
Theresa Valentino	-	Kunsillier
Rowena Scicluna	-	Kunsillier
Edgar Rossignaud	-	Kunsillier
Matthew Bonello	-	Kunsillier

Uffiċjal Preżenti: Clarissa Buhagiar – Segretarju Eżekuttiv

Il-Kunsillieri P. Fenech u A.Chetcuti talbu sabiex jiġu skużati minħabba li kien jinsabu indisposti.

Is- Sindku qal it-talba.

Noel Muscat
Sindku

Clarissa Buhagiar
Segretarju Eżekuttiv

62.1 APPROVAZZJONI TAL-MINUTI

62.1.1 Il-Minuti tas-Seduta Nru 61 ġew approvati. Il-Kunsillier A.Pisani ipproponiet u l-Kunsillier E.Rossignaud ssekonda.

Is-Sindku talab sabiex ssir sospezzjoni tas-Seduta sabiex l-Accountant tal-Kunsill jkun jista' jispjega ir-rapport finanzjarju għax-xhur bejn Lulju u Settembru 2023. Il-ħin kien 16.30.

Dan ir-rapport finanzjajru ġie preżentat lil kull Kunsillier minn qabel. L-Accountant tal-Kunsill spjega li għalkemm dan il-kwart tas-sena partikolari ma ingħalaqx b'deficit wieħed xorta irrid jibqa' kawt fl-infiq tiegħu peress li l-qagħda finanzjajra xorta hija waħda pre-okkupanti.

Is-Sindku informa wkoll li parti minn Triq il-Qasam (bejn Triq is-Sejjieħ u Triq l-Imgħażel) qiegħda fi stat ħażin ħafna tant li ntalbet stima lil Perit tal-Kunsill sabiex tiġi stabilita l-ispiża involuta. Wara diskuzzjoni, ġie deċiż li hekk kif nirċievu din l-istima, ninfurmaw lil Dipartiment għall-Gvern Lokali.

Il-Kunsillier E. Rossignaud ippropona li dan ir-rapport finanzjajru jiġi approvat. Il-Viċi Sindku ssekondat. Kien hemm qbil unanimu minn dawk preżenti.

Il-Kunsillier T. Valentino kienet preżenti. Il-ħin kien 16.48.

62.2 PUNTI LI JOĦORĠU MILL-MINUTI

62.2.1 Il-Kunsillier T.Valentino staqsiet jekk għadx hemm il-possibilta' li xi residenti jiġu jagħmlu l-affidafit rigward il-kwistjoni tal-Bitmac. Il-Kunsillier R.Scicluna nfurmat li nhar is-16 ta' Diċembru se jerġa' jkun hemm in-Nutar Fenech għad-diżpożżizjoni ta' residenti.

62.2.2 Il-Viċi Sindku staqsiet jekk hux possibli li tiġi esplorata l-possibilita' li tiġi installata CCTV Camera fi Triq l-Inġinier, Madliena sabiex din isservi wkoll ta' diterrent u forsi ma jerġgħux jsiru l-atti vandali li saru iktar kmieni dis-sena. Hija infurmat li xi residenti lesti li jħallsu huma l-ispiża relatata max-xiri ta' din il-camera. Wara diskuzzjoni, ġie deċiż wkoll li niċċekjaw mal-Melita plc jekk hux lesti li jiffinanzjaw l-provista' ta' l-internet. Is-SE ħadet l-inkarigu li tagħmel kuntatt mal-Melita.

62.2.3 Il-Kunsillier M. Bonello staqsa jekk kienx hemm xi żvilluppi dwar l-advertising panels. Is-SE infurmat li se tkun nqed terġa' tagħmel kuntatt mal-Garden View sabiex terġa' isaqsihom għadhomx interessati l jikru 20 board. Il-Kunsillier M.Bonello informa li Corner Food Store huwa interessat li jikri xi boards.

Noel Muscat
Sindku

Clarissa Buhagiar
Segretarju Eżekuttiv

62.3 RAPPORT MIS-SINDKU

62.3.1 Minħabba li m' għaddiex ħafna żmien mill-aħħar Seduta ta' llum, is-Sindku ppreżenta rapport ta' xogħol kollu li sar matul is-sena li għaddiet li se jiġi ppreżentat wkoll waqt il-laqgħa annwali ġenerali li se ssir iktar tard illum. Dan ir-rapport se jkun anness ma' dawn il-Minuti – App. A.

62.4 RAPPORTI MILL-KUNSILLIERA

Mill-Kunsillier A. Pisani

62.4.1 Il-Kunsillier staqsiet jekk kienx hemm xi żvilluppi dwar meta se jitkomplew ix-xogħlijiet fi Triq il-Miżura. Is-Sindku nforma li skont l-aħħar informazzjoni jidher li dawn ix-xogħlijiet se jitkomplew wara l-festi tal-Milied dan minħabba x-xogħlijiet ta' infrastruttura li għaddejjin bħalissa fi Triq Sant Andrija.

Mill-Kunsillier E. Rossignaud

62.4.2 Il-Kunsillier flimkien mas-Sindku irringrazzjaw li dawk kollha li għenu fl-orginazzjoni ta' Swieqi Christmas ta' dis-sena. Kienu 3 ijiem mimlija attivitajiet interresati għal etajiet varji. Jidher bi ċar li l-attendenza qed tkompli tiżdied sena wara sena.

Mill-Kunsillier R. Scicluna

62.4.3 Il-Kunsillier staqsiet jekk sarux l-arraġamenti neċċessarji sabiex jitranġa l-WIFI fis-sala. Is-SE infurmat li diġa' sar kuntatt ma' l-ARKAFORT Ltd dwar dan il-ħsarat.

62.4.4 Hija fakkret ukoll sabiex kemm jista' jkun jsiru x-xogħlijiet ta' tiswija fuq il-bankina fi Triq l-Għamad. Is-SE infurmat li saret site-inspection mal-Perit tal-Kunsill u l-kuntrattur ikkonċernat imma jidher li hemm problema minħabba l-aċċess ta' garage li hemm fil-viċin. Hija infurmat li sar kuntatt mas-sid, u se ssir laqgħa miegħu flimkien mal-Perit.

Mill-Viċi Sindku

62.4.5 Il-Viċi Sindku issuġeriet sabiex meta jkun possibli s-sala tista' tibda' tintuża/tinkera għal xi seminars jew attivitajiet simili. Bħala possibilta hija indikat li Reġjun Lvant ta' spiss jkollu diffikulta sabiex issib postijiet adattati fejn itella' dawn l-attivitajiet. Wara diskuzzjoni, fejn is-Sindku fakkar li sfortuntament fis-sala m'hemmx kċina u bħala toilets wieħed irrid juża ta'fuq. Il-Viċi Sindku rrimarktat li llum l-kumpaniji tal-catering kapaċi jġibu l-apparat kollu meħtieġ huma f'każ li jkun hemm il-bżonn. Ġie deċiż li jinġabru 3 kwotazzjonijiet għall-imwejjed sabiex din is-sala tkun iktar atrezzata.

Noel Muscat

Sindku

Clarissa Buhagiar

Segretarju Eżekuttiv

60.6 APPROVAZZJONI TAL-PAGAMENTI U ĦLAS IEĦOR

L-iskeda tal-pagamenti nru.53 ġiet approvata minn dawk preżenti. Il-Viċi Sindku pproponiet u l-Kunsillier R.Scicluna ssekondat.

Din is-seduta spiċċat fis-18.00 u s-Seduta li jmiss hija skedata għal nhar il-15 ta' Jannar fl-16.30.

Kien hemm qbil unanimu minn dawk preżenti.

Noel Muscat

Sindku

Clarissa Buhagiar

Segretarju Eżekuttiv

SWIEQI LOCAL COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 15.01.2024

FORWARD

May I take the opportunity to wish fellow council members, staff, residents and service providers a Happy New Year.

During next June the Local Council Elections are scheduled to be held. This means that we have barely less than 5 months in office. During this short time we must do our best to complete those jobs that had already been planned and approved so as to transfer too much work in progress to the newly elected council.

MEETINGS HELD / ATTENDED

06.12.23 – CLEAN LOCALITIES

In attendance, the Vice Mayor, Mrs MarAnne Abela, Councillor Mrs Theresa Valentino, The Executive Secretary, Mrs Clarissa Buhagiar.

Regjun Tramuntana organised a meeting so as to present the results of a seminar that was held earlier on.

During this meeting we suggested the setting up of a working group that would monitor the situation in every council that forms part of Regjun Tramuntana and work on finding a suitable solution.

Our suggestion was acceded to and the first meeting is going to be held on 19/1/24.

07.12.23 – MEETING WITH THE COMMUNITY POLICE

The monthly meeting was held. Matters discussed involved over speeding in the locality, noisy apartments, security and the taking out of garbage on the wrong day and time.

19.12.23 – ACTIVE AGERS CHRISTMAS PARTY.

The annual Christmas Party for Active Agers was held in the council Hall. The activity was very well attended. Kindly allow me to heartily thank all those involved in the organisation of this party, particularly Councillor Theresa Valentino ably assisted by councillors Anna Pisani and Rowena Scicluna. A special word of thank goes to the Executive Secretary, Ms Clarissa Buhagiar and the council staff who assisted throughout the event and they even cleared and cleaned the hall after the event. Grazzi u bravi.

22.12.23 – MMETING WITH THE MANAGER OF J L CLEANING SERVICES.

In attendance Councillor Rowena Scicluna and the Executive Secretary, Ms Clarissa Buhagiar.

The company' s manager, Mr Marley Grech Zammit Presented us with a list of apartments that they service in the locality. He also informed us that they always take

away garbage bags and he also showed us how they monitor and control their cleaners.

03.01.24 – Meeting with TM Official, Mr Tommy Debono

We discussed the traffic system in triq il Qantar and nearby roads and our desire to turn triq il Qantar into a one way.

We also discussed the installation of a new planter in triq il Ghajn corner with triq il Horza.

09.01.24 – MEETING WITH MR BRIAN MALLIA FROM PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RE BERGA

Primary Health Care are very interested in re opening the Berga.

However, they plan to have a fully fledged Berga, offering various services. In order to do this they have asked for the utilisation of both rooms, since they will need to have a dedicated entrance and a reception. They also need to build a dedicated toilet and a kitchenette.

We need to decide whether we are prepared to give up both rooms in exchange of this very important service for the locality.

To date residents who need to make use of the Berga have to travel all the way to Gzira. Considering the importance of the service, I am of the opinion that we should go ahead with the project.

OTHER MATTERS

ROAD REPAIRS – TRIQ IL QASAM

A section of triq il Qasam, from near triq l-Imghazel to triq is Sejjieh, needs urgent repairs since the road surface is collapsing and it is particularly dangerous for motor bike riders.

I had asked IM for assistance. At first they accepted to assist, but a few weeks later there was a change of heart and they told us that it was our duty to repair this road.

I immediately asked for a quotation and the price quoted was between € 80k to € 100k.

We can barely afford to ay 10% of the cost !

We asked DLG for assistance. They did accept to assist but by providing us with a loan of € 122K payable over a period of 5 years, a repayment of circa € 24K per annum. The money will be withdrawn from our quarterly allocation.

The money was transferred to our account on 18/12/23 and an agreement has been forwarded to us for signature.

Whereas I thank DLG for their assistance, I am not of the opinion that we should accept this offer.

I am not in favour that :

1) We commit a future council with this burden and that

2) We commit future funds

As things stand we can barely make ends meet, so I am definitely not in favour o committing future funds.

If such repairs are the responsibility of local councils, then we should have sufficient funds so as to be able to pay for the expense.

What if at some moment in time we need to incur another similar expense ? will we need to borrow money again ?

In my opinion we need to keep pressing for the expense to be financed by the state. I have already asked for a meeting with the new Minister for IM, The Hon Chris Bonett. I also intend to inform Hon Zerafa Civelli about the matter.

Triq il Qasam has become a main road, practically an arterial road. The damage has been caused due to the very heavy vehicles that have been making use of this road since triq il Pelikan (San Gwann Valley) was widened and triq il Qasam was made accessible to St Andrews road. This

was done when the regional road bridge was being built and it served as a traffic deviation.

FINANCIAL ALLOCATION – TOURIST ZONES

Various local councils receive a 'tourism allowance' . I am of the opinion that our local council should receive a similar allowance too. We have tourism in the form of short let apartments. I have asked the Executive secretary and our accountant, Mr Daniel Galea to put forward a claim for a tourism allowance.

EMBELLISHMENT OF GNIEN MAURICE CARUANA CURRAN - UPROOTING OF TREES

As you may very well know we are embellishing Gnien Maurice Caruana Curran. This involves the repair of part of the pavement in triq is Sejjieh and the boundary wall along triq il Hemel.

The roots of the trees have uprooted the pavement in triq is Sejjieh and they have damaged the retaining wall in triq il Hemel.

According to our architect as well as the gardener, it is impossible to carry out any repairs unless the roots are removed. If we remove the roots, the trees will collapse !

We have informed ERA about this and they appointed an expert to visit the site. We met the expert on site and it is evident that the trees must be removed.

Fortunately they are not protected trees.

In triq is Sejjieh two large trees will be removed but we plan to replace them with 5 or 6 Cypress trees.

On the side of triq il Hemel about 5 trees need to be removed. Once again we plan to replace them with several Cypress trees. These will form a nice green wall. Other trees may be planted on the inside of the garden.

CONTINUATION OF WORKS – TRIQ IL MIZURA

IM plan to continue the works once the road works in St Andrews road are completed. In my opinion the outstanding road works in St Andrews road do not obstruct Triq l-Ibrag and triq il Qasam and hence I am of the opinion that road works in triq il Mizura can resume.

TRENCHING WORKS IN TRIQ IL-KEFFA & TRIQ C TROISI

More tan one year ago trenching works were commissioned by Enemalta. It so happened that the works were carried out by the same contractor who is carrying out the road works in triq il Mizura and he planned to resurface triq il Keffa and triq C Troisi once he resurfaced triq il Mizura.

Unfortunately when he resurfaced part of trqi il – Mizura, from triq tal Franciz to Keffa he did not proceed with the resurfacing of triq il Keffa and C Troisi.

In my opinion the temporary trenching repairs that were carried out are not up to standard and they are creating a useless nuisance to drivers and residents.

I have asked the Executive Secretary to write to Enemalta and ask them to order the contractor to complete the road works.

CONTINUATION OF WORKS – TRIQ IS SIRK/MIGBED/HEMEL

The first layer of tarmac in Sirk Migbed was laid about 3 months ago. We regularly queried when we could expect works to be finalised. Finally we have been informed that works should resume by 22/1/24.

FLOOD LIGHTS IN LUXOL GROUNGS

I have received various complaints from residents about the brightness of the flood lights in the Luxol grounds.

I tend to agree that they are of a nuisance to the residents who live close to these grounds. We need to ask administrators of Luxol grounds so that where possible they put up some shades so as to decrease the invasion of light onto peoples' property.

If we could ask any other entity to intervene, then we should do so too.

CHAIR LIFT

We did not succeed in obtaining special permission from DLG so as to purchase the Chair Lift by obtaining three quotations rather than having to go through the laborious tendering process.

It is important that we issue this tender ASAP.

COUNCIL VAN

A decision needs to be taken as to which van needs to be purchased

GAL MAJJISTRAL – MADLIENA ENVIRONMENTAL TRAIL - TENDERING PROCESS.

We need to urgently finalise the issuance of this tender.

PERFORMANCE BONUS

Executive Secretary

My report was distributed to all Council Members for approval. Most of the councillors have already approved this report.

Staff

The Executive secretary presented her report with regards to the Performance Bonus that should be paid to the council staff.

REFURBISHMENT OF PUBLIC TOILETS

The public toilets that are situated in the Civic Centre have been refurbished.

NOEL MUSCAT

15.01.24