

SWIEQI LOCAL COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING 05.01.26

Welcome to the first Council Meeting of the New Year. I wish my fellow councillors, council staff and residents a Healthy, Serene and Successful year.

MEETINGS HELD/ATTENDED

11.12.25 – CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

A full house sang and danced to the tunes of the Maltese rock legend Freddie Portelli. Heartfelt thanks to the organisers and to the council staff for helping out during the activity

12.12.25 – COUNCILLORS & STAFF GET TOGETHER

Councillors and staff met at a local cafe to exchange Christmas Greetings.

13.12 & 14.12.25 – CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

During these two days Christmas activities were held in Gnien Mons Victor Grech. I wish to thank the organisers and the helpers for the varied and various activities that were organised, including the decorations in the garden. The addition of the wooden hut used by father Christmas during these two days and turned into a crib during the following days was a welcome addition.

I was particularly impressed with the successful initiative whereby children presented presents to father Christmas which were distributed to Puttinu Cares. A very large number of gifts were donated.

The stands manned by NGO's that participated added to the Christmas spirit and offered quality products.

I suggest that a post mortem should be held so as to prepare for next year's activities.

14.12.25 – PRESENTATION OF TOKENS TO THE WINNERS OF THE CHILDRENS' ART EXHIBITION

Heartfelt thanks to Asha Caruana and the Art Committee for organising this event. The amount of children who participated was very encouraging. Tokens were presented to the winners of each age group.

14.12.25 – CONCERT IN AID OF CARITAS

A concert in aid of Caritas was held at the Ibrag Church.

15.12.25 – MEETING AT CRPD

In attendance, Perit Dieter Falzon and the Executive Secretary, Ms Clarissa Buhagiar. Together with Ms Barbara from CRPD we discussed the issue of the Chair Lift and the urgent need to have this Chair Lift installed.

I am pleased to inform you that CRPD have accepted that the Chair Lift be installed subject to confirmation the Chair Lift is suitable of outdoor use and that we insert a canopy. We shall be meeting the supplier so as to confirm the way forward.

15.12.25 – GNIEN DR MARIO TABONE

A meeting was held with Perit Dylan Spiteri and other officials from Project Green so as to finalise matters re development of a new garden in the corner of Triq il Mizura/Triq il Kartocc. Works should be starting during mid February and they will be carried out by Catbros Ltd, the councils' contractor, and it is going to be financed by Project Green.

I am pleased to inform that the Street Naming Committee has accepted to name the garden in honor of Dr Mario Tabone, a popular Ophthalmologist, historian and the founder of Heritage Malta. Dr Tabone lived in the locality.

15.12.25 – MEETING RE CCTV CAMERAS

In attendance Mr Mark Scerri from MTA, technicians from Strand Electronics and the Executive Secretary.

A work plan was designed for the replacement of the old security cameras with modern ones.

Hopefully works will be completed by Tuesday 13th January '26.

The costs are being financed by MTA and the cameras will be monitored by Lesa.

15.12.25 – MEETING AT IM

In attendance Perit Rossignaud, Ms Karen Farrugia Schembri and another two architects from IM.

We presented and discussed a report which outlines the outstanding works in the locality, vis a vis road works, patching works, accessibility and other issues. The report is attached.

16.12.25 – SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The annual Christmas Lunch for senior citizens was organised at the Odyssey Hotel in Qawra. A large number of residents attended this pleasant activity which was very well organised by Councillor Teresa Valentino who was ably assisted by councillor Anna Pisani and Miriam De Celis.

Before the lunch, the participants attended Holy Mass at the Church of St Paul, in St Paul's Bay which was celebrated by Rev, Fr Tony Agius.

17.12.25 – WALK WITH MINISTER DALLI AT WHITE ROCKS

We were informed about this meeting at short notice and due to work commitments i couldn't attend.

17.12.25 – MEETING WITH FREDERICK STIVALA RE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IN ST ANDREWS ROAD

In attendance Perit Valentino, Mr Stivala and his advisor. The Stivala's plan to build a hotel on the site where the Top Line stood. We had objected to this project due to the fact that the project did not cater for traffic issues caused by loading and unloading of visitors to the hotel. The developers agreed to take the necessary measures and introduce a receded loading and unloading bay which would not obstruct the flow of traffic in the main road.

19.12.25 – AKL CHRISTMAS GALA NIGHT

The Christmas Gala Night was organised by AKL at the Westin Dragonara. Unfortunately i could not attend this activity since i had to attend the staff party organised by my office.

20.12.25 – CHRISTMAS PRESENTS DELIVERED TO PUTTINU CARES

Together with Councillors MaryAnne Abela and Teresa Valentino we delivered the numerous presents donated by children during the Christmas Activities to Puttinu Cares.

20.12.25 – JOY GOSPEL CONCERT AT IBRAG CHURCH

I attended this very enjoyable concert that was organised by the Ibrag Parish. I wish to thank and congratulate the Parish Priest, Fr Brian Gialanze for his hard work and for collaborating with the Local Council.

23.12.25 – MEETING RE BREAST CANCER MEMORIAL

In attendance councillors MaryAnn Abela and Teresa Valentino, the Executive Secretary, Surgeon Mr Gordon Caruana Dingli and afforestation specialist Dr Charles Grech. We discussed the final points and requirements for the activity that was to be held on 04.01.26.

03.01.26 – MADLIENA CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY

A sizeable crowd turned up for an enjoyable Christmas activity that was held at the Madliena Chapel. Fr Brian Gialanze celebrated Holy Mass with the participation of the Amadeus choir directed by Maestro Brian Cefai. Congratulations to MaryAnne for organising this event, cleaning and setting up the Chapel and for providing the mulled wine and the goodies. I also thank Teresa, Asha and Mario Caruana and for helping out.

04.01.26 – INAUGURATION OF THE ST AGATHA BREAST CLINIC MEMORIAL

So as celebrate the 25th Anniversary since its foundation, the St Agatha Breast Clinic teamed up with the Swieqi Local Council to plant 200 indigenous trees in Madliena. This grove forms part of the Madliena afforestation project and as the commemorative plaque states, 'it offers a place of remembrance, healing and reflection for those affected by breast cancer, their families and friends and those who seek connection with nature'.

The trees were sponsored and planted by patients and relatives of patients who experienced this terrible cancer.

We heartily thank surgeon Mr Gordon Caruana Dingli and his Team of specialists for successfully chairing this Clinic for several years and for choosing to collaborate with the Swieqi Local Council to commemorate this milestone.

We also thank Lady Marina Marks and Martin Royalton-Kisch for their handsome contribution to finance the costs incurred, as well as the Action for Breast Cancer Foundation and Europa Donna.

OTHER MATTERS

Planting of trees

During December 21 Cipress trees were planted in the new planters situated in triq il Qatta, whereas 9 Etna fire were planted in 4 new planters situated in triq il Hawt x 3, and another in Triq il Qasam corner with St Andrews road. A 'Frangipani' (Plumeira), was planted in a planter situated in triq il Qasam close to Swieqi road.

All of these trees were donated by Project Green and for this we thank them very much.

ROAD WORKS

Triq il Bramel and Triq il Hemel

During December the road works in triq il Bramel and Triq il Hemel (from Sirk to Gwielaq), were completed. The road markings will be paintewd in the coming days.

Triq ix Xiber

Works on triq ix Xiber commenced too and the first layer of tarmac was laid in the section Siegh to Pulzier.

Shortly works will proceed in the section Pulzier to Madliena road. This time only resurfacing works will be carried out since new water mains were installed recently and so was the pavement.

Other road works

During the coming days repairs in triq l-Gharbiel and Gwielaq should commence followed by reconstruction works in Triq il Ghajn, triq il Ktajjen and triq id Dris.

New planters

Planters in the corners of triq il Ghajn / triq il Ktajjen

I am pleased to inform that TM have accepted our application to construct two planters in the corners of triq il Ghajn corner with triq il Ktajjen. These will be constructed by IM once works in triq il Ghajn will commence.

Planters in the corner Qasam / Wizna

TM have also accepted our application to construct two new planters in the corner of triq il Qasam / Wizna.

These planters form part of the project to turn triq il Wizna one way in from Qasam to Ratal/Terz and triq il Qantar one way in from Keffa to Qasam.

Works on the boundary wall of Gnien Maurice Caruana Curran

Works on the construction of the wall are meant to start during the first week of January.

Embellishment works in triq is Swieqi

Works on this project are expected to commence during mid January.

New Garden – Dr Mario Tabone

Works on this garden that is situated in the corner Mezza/Kartocc are expected to start during mid February. This project is financed by Project Green.

Memorial Mons Victor Grech

On 5th February we will celebrate one year since the passing of Mons Victor Grech.

I suggest that on the day together with Caritas and the Ibrag Church we organise a moment of prayer / a memorial in front of his monument in Gnien Mons Victor Grech.

Noel Muscat

05.04.21