



Minutes of a GTA Council meeting held on Monday 29th May 2023. Meeting was held at the GTA premises in Gorg Borg Olivier Street Victoria Gozo. The meeting started at 15.00hrs.

Present:

Loporto Mario	Council member
Mercieca Joseph	Council member
Muscat Sammut Joe	Council member
Scicluna Konrad	Council member
Scicluna Paul	Council member
Spiteri Pauline	Council member
Veranneman Amand	Council member

Apologies:

Borg Marvic	Council member
Busuttil Mark	Council member
Farrugia Daniela	Council member
Grech Ryan	Council member
Magro Chris	Council member
Gatt Ludgard	Council member
Mifsud Ivan	Council member
Xerri Gatt Charlene	Council member

Absent:

Sillato Samuel	Council member
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In Attendance:

Joe Muscat	Chief Executive Officer
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The meeting started with the approval of the minutes of the last meeting which was held on 10th May, 2023. Since minutes were circulated earlier to the meeting these were taken as read. Furthermore, as no amendments to minutes were requested these were approved by Council members present

Then council passed on for the first item on the agenda which was an update on meetings held and attended by GTA **between 10th May and 29th May, 2023**. The following update of these minutes was given by GTA CEO.

Meetings held by and attended by GTA representatives between 10th May and 29th May, 2023

Wednesday 10th May 2023

- GTA Council meeting

Monday 15th May 2023

- GTA CEO attends MCESD Meeting
- GTA Chairman Vice-Chairman and CEO attends a meeting with Infrastructure Malta Ivan Falzon on the Ghadira Road

Tuesday 16th May 2023

- GTA CEO is interviewed by Luke Azzopardi for his dissertation

Wednesday 17th May, 2020

- GTA CEO and Vice Chairman meets Director for Tourism and Economic Development Ronald Sultana

Friday 19th May 2023

- GTA CEO and Council Member Konrad Scicluna attends a meeting with CEO Sky Tink Tank Alexander Esslinger

Saturday 20th May 2023

- GTA CEO and Council Member Amand Veranneman attends a half day seminar on the Gozo Gastronomy Award application by the Regional Council

Tuesday 23rd May, 2023

- GTA Chairman and CEO alongside other members of the Ghal Ghawdex Group meets the Minister for Gozo Clint Camilleri

Wednesday 24th May, 2023

- GTA CEO attends MCESD meeting. This meeting was also attended by GTA Chairman and Council Member Konrad Scicluna
- GTA Chairman CEO and Council Member Konrad Scicluna together with other members of the Ghal Ghawdex Group meets the Minister for Finance Clyde Caruana
- GTA CEO is interviewed during Net Live on the 8-point plan

Thursday 25th May 2023

- GTA CEO meets Mr. Peter Zabell prospective investor in a boutique hotel in Gozo

Friday 26th May, 2023

- GTA CEO attends the National Productivity Board Meeting addressed also by the Prime Minister
- GTA CEO interviewed on the National Productivity Board on One TV.

Monday 29th May 2023

- GTA Council Meeting

Arising from update of meetings held

GTA CEO then gave a brief on the various meetings held. With regards to the meeting held with Director for tourism and economic development CEO reported that he together with GTA Vice-Chairman Mr. Mario Loporto, explained the GTA's position and concern with regards the consultancy agreement. It was explained to Mr. Ronald Sultana, that if the request for funds to the Ministry for Finance is going to be based on the basis of employing a person, GTA is concerned that the Ministry for Finance might revert back to Ministry for Gozo to deploy one of its many employees. Director for Tourism reiterated that the consultancy agreement with GTA was already approved by MGOZ for the amount of 10k. However, MGOZ will be still making the request for the Ministry of Finance for 25K for GTA to employ a person in the grade of a manager.

Then council member Konrad Scicluna gave an update on a meeting that he together with GTA CEO had with Mr. Alexander Essinger regarding another type of air connectivity. Mr. Scicluna stated that Mr. Essinger is an aviation expert apart from being a pilot himself and who together with other stakeholders set up a company here in Malta. Mr. Essinger being aware of the Ministry for Gozo land strip extension at the Lambert is proposing the introduction of electric aircraft to service the MIA/Xewkija route. However, Mr. Scicluna stated that this concept is not feasible since this type of aircraft is still in its infancy and it is limited to carry the pilot and one passenger. Mr. Scicluna continued that is maybe why the Ministry for Gozo gave a cold shoulder to Mr. Essinger when he asked for a meeting. Konrad Scicluna stated that on behalf of GTA, Mr. Essinger was encouraged to present this concept parallel with the conventional twin engine airplane, otherwise it is not feasible from all angles for the touristic sector. Nonetheless, Mr. Scicluna concluded that Mr. Essinger was informed that still GTA supports such an idea of an electric airplane.

Then GTA Chairman Paul Scicluna reported on the meeting that he together with GTA Vice-chairman and CEO, Mario Loporto and Joe Muscat respectively had with Mr. Ivan Mifsud CEO infrastructure Malta. GTA chairman stated that CEO Falzon was irritated with the media release by GTA on the Ghadira single lane road. He even had the perception that GTA's position was politically motivated as CEO Falzon never thought that this road was going to affect GTA and its members. However, GTA Chairman stated that it was explained that connectivity for the Gozitan tourism sector means from Mgarr harbour to the Malta International Airport. Mr. Scicluna stated that then CEO Infrastructure Malta started explaining even by means of various maps the reasons behind the decision to have a single lane. Mr. Falzon also explained in detail the obstacles encountered to implement this road as well as the hinderances that exists that makes it practically impossible to construct this road in a different way. CEO further emphasized that the main motivator on this road was the safety of the public since this is a very visited touristic area.

Therefore, the parking on the North bound lane was eliminated and created on the south bound lane. Due to lack of space the double lane in certain parts of this road had to be changed into one lane. Mr. Scicluna concluded that GTA made its position clear that all type of connectivity to and from Gozo needs to be upgraded and never restricted in any manner.

The council member Amand Veranneman gave an update on an information session that he together with GTA CEO attended at Vini & Capricci organised by the Regjun Ghawdex on the European Region of Gastronomy 2026. Amand stated that Gozo has officially entered a bid to be named as the 2026 European Region of Gastronomy to promote the island as a destination for food lovers. The Gozo Regional Council, which is spearheading the bid, officially signed a formal agreement with the International Institute of Gastronomy, Culture, Arts and Tourism in Greece earlier in April, essentially entering the race for the prestigious title. Gozo does not yet know which other countries or regions it will be competing against, but it must now impress the judges with its traditional dishes, cheeselets, sea salt and pastries, among other delicacies.

Therefore, the regional council will be drafting a 'Bid Book' that will present the characteristics of the region's gastronomical identity and has called on the public's feedback and ideas. This meeting Mr Veranneman. stated was held in order to have the views of all stakeholders involved in order to have a comprehensive bid book.

Then GTA CEO gave an update of the correspondence sent and received by GTA.

Correspondence sent and received by and at GTA between 10th May and 29th May 2023

- Various exchange of correspondence from MCESD regarding meetings during the period
- Circular to GTA members regarding info session on foreign workers
- Correspondence from the new General Manager at Kempinski
- Letter of appointment for the MCESD post from Parliamentary Secretary Andy Ellul
- Exchange of correspondence with Ghal Ghawdex group on the various planned meetings
- Correspondence from Director for Tourism and Economic Development regarding the extended stays
- Circular to GTA members in the accommodation sector regarding the extended stays
- Circular to GTA members announcing the Jobs Bank being initiated by Jobs Plus for the summer season
- Correspondence with Paul Portelli regarding an issue with the GTA website
- Correspondence from Frank Fabri
- Correspondence from Michael Grech regarding the setting up of a meeting
- Correspondence with Alexander Essingler to set up a meeting and follow-up
- Exchange of correspondence with several GTA council members on the survey questions
- Exchange of correspondence with Claude Zammit Trevison regarding the IFTM Top Resa and GTA participation

- Exchange of correspondence with Ester Tamasi regarding the TTG Rimini and GTA participation
- Correspondence with CVC media on the Munxar EU Funded Project
- Correspondence with Munxar Local council on the EU funded Project

Survey

Then council passed on to discuss the next item on the agenda which was the survey amongst its members. GTA Chairman Mr. Paul Scicluna introduced the subject and stated that the questions of this survey were ready and circulated to the Council members for their feedback. GTA CEO stated that several members sent in their comments and modifications which were all catered for. This survey includes a total of 12 questions aimed at the tackling the listed topics

- Shortage of human resources
- Issues and difficulties encountered in employing foreign workers
- The state of the Gozitan Product both the negative and positive side
- The increase in operating costs due to inflation
- The performance of the establishments up to date
- The forecasted outlook for the remainder of the year.

The circular with this online survey was circulated to all GTA Members earlier today Monday 29th May, 2023. GTA Chairman urged all council members to participate in this survey.

The issue of double pay on Sundays for the catering establishments

GTA CEO introduced this topic whereby he referred to a sectoral meeting for the restaurants held earlier this year and during which it was agreed that GTA is to prepare, circulate and send a petition to the competent authorities with regards to double pay on Sundays for employees in the catering establishments other than Hotels.

However, in order to carry out a petition in a professional way GTA needs to seek legal advice in order to prepare proper wording that will hopefully and eventually change the Legal Notice. Yet before taking that step it was proposed that GTA should seek also the advice of ACE, the Association of Catering Establishments in Malta. GTA Chairman Mr. Paul Scicluna will be making contact with the President of ACE in order to get more information and feedback on this topical issue

No other matters were raised by members present and therefore the meeting rounded up at 17.30hrs and was adjourned for another date to be communicated shortly.

Mark Busuttil
Secretary

Paul Scicluna
Chairman