

Minutes of the London Comites meeting held on 14 March 2024 in "hybrid" format: A) in presence, at the premises of the Italian Church of St. Peter located in 136 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1R 5DL; B) remotely, with the possibility for Councilors to participate in the discussion in real time, via electronic connection to the "Zoom" online platform, meeting no. 88694861441.

The session opens at 6.05 pm.

The session is chaired by President Alessandro Gaglione and

Chiara Cerovac acts as Secretary. The Councilors participate

in person:

- 1 Alessandro Gaglione
- 2 Mike Petretta
- 3 Luigi Bille'
- 4 Tony Martorana
- 5 Nicola Del Basso
- 6 Elio Alberti
- 7 Elena Remigi
- 8 Federico Lago
- 9 Rino Nola

The following Councilors are connected via zoom:

- 10 Chiara Cerovac
- 11 Vincenzo Loggia
- 12 Germana Canzi
- 13 Anna Cambiaggi
- 14 Golam Maula Tipu

Excused absences include:

- 15 Dimitri Scarlato
- 16 Luciano Rapa
- 17 Anna Li Volsi
- 18 Livia Grasso

Consul Alessandro Mignini is present.

CGIE Councilor Giannino D'Angelo is also connected remotely.

Attached to this report is a scan of the attendance sheet and one *screenshot* which shows the participation of the Directors, as specified above.

The President notes and ensures that the quorum required by law is present and, therefore, declares the meeting validly constituted and capable of deliberating on the following:

Agenda;

1 - Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting of 25 January 2024.

2 - Update from the President. Update from the Treasurer in relation, among other things, to the financial availability of Comites, in light of the financing agreed for the year 2024. Discussion on the possible raising of local proceeds.

3 – Presentation by the new director of the IIC, Dr. Francesco Bongarra'.

4 – Discussion and resolutions regarding the Press and Communication Office and the Secretariat element.

5 – Discussion and deliberations regarding the renewal of the Comites website.

6 – Update of ongoing and future projects:

- ☐ Project against gender violence;
- ☐ Webinar on the transition from pre-settled to settled status;
- ☐ Screening of a film on violence against women promoted by “Cinemaitalia UK”;
- ☐ Liberation Day organized by ANPI;
- ☐ Presentation to the Italian community of the Italian presence on the island of Tristan da Cunha;
- ☐ Musical event to promote Italian culture abroad: Sicilian singer-songwriter Roberta Giulisano.

7 - Discussion and deliberations regarding the letter of support to the Italian Church in Clerkenwell regarding the proposed changes to the road network.

8 – Update from the Working Group on consular services.

9 – Update on the issue relating to the failure to register the birth certificate of children before the age of eighteen.

10 - Any other business.

The President then opens the discussion on the items on the agenda for the day.

1. Regarding the first item on the agenda, it is unanimously approved the minutes of the previous meeting (25 January 2024).
2. Subsequently, we move on to discuss the second point on the agenda.

The President informs us that ordinary financing for 2024 amounting to £32,811.97 (38,386 Euros) has been approved.

At this point the treasurer Vincenzo Loggia informs the assembly about the current and future availability, also in light of the ordinary financing just approved and of which Comites will probably receive an advance in the coming weeks.

In particular, after a detailed financial report, the assembly asks the Treasurer, given all the other expenses of Comites, how much it is possible and prudent to allocate to the Communication Office and, specifically, to pay the two consultants A. Allocca and G. Ciccomascolo. Vincenzo Loggia, in response, proposes to allocate around £1000 per month to the communication project, starting from 1 April 2024 until 31 December 2024.

We therefore proceed with a show of hands vote.

In favor: unanimity

Secretarial element: the President asks those present to be able to express an opinion on whether to maintain the Secretary's employment contract on a part-time basis or whether to bring it back to full-time.

N. Del Basso proposes delegating this discussion to the Executive. Voting is done by show of hands.

In favor: unanimity

R. Nola actually reminds the assembly that the Executive had already decided on a line to follow, namely to maintain the contract of the part-time secretary.

V. Loggia points out that the financial situation has changed and reporting the full-time secretary's contract would entail a significant additional annual cost. President Gaglione informs the assembly that the secretary - Mr. Marco Pariotti - asked to be able to work three consecutive days (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) in case the assembly decided to confirm him part-time. Furthermore, an additional expense could be made, if necessary, relating to the increased effort for the passport service. It is therefore decided to delegate a new discussion in this regard to the Executive.

3. Unfortunately, for work reasons, the new Director of the Italian Cultural Institute, Dr. Francesco Bongarra', cannot be present this evening.

4. Already discussed in point 2.

5. Renewal of the Comites website: Councilors have received the £4,500 quote which will also include technical updates and the English translation of the site. It is proposed to finance this expense with the balance available on the Communication Project.

We therefore vote by show of hands to approve the budget proposal of doctors Allocca and Ciccomascolo.

In favor: unanimity

6. Project against gender violence carried out by Councilor Livia Grasso with the support of the Comites Councilors. On March 8, the project was announced on the Comites website and a list was provided regarding *charities* who offer help in the UK, as well as the names and contributions of a psychologist and a lawyer. The same information would be given via webinars and flyers to be distributed, for example, to patronages, to the Italian Church, to Italian schools, with the numbers to call if you are a victim of domestic violence. We would also like to

organize the screening of a documentary film on the topic, in collaboration with Cinemaitalia UK, with subsequent discussion; for this screening, a contribution of £500 is required. As regards the screening of the film, a letter will be requested with a formal request for contribution and it will be discussed during the next meeting.

Webinar on the transition from pre-settled to settled status: E.Remigi informs the assembly that she would like to organise a webinar, indicatively for the month of June, with the aim of providing all the information about the latest changes in this regard.

Screening of a film on violence against women, promoted by Cinemaitalia UK: already discussed regarding the update on the project on gender violence.

Liberation Day organized by ANPI: scheduled for April 25, 2024, President Gaglione was sent to participate on behalf of Comites. ANPI also requests a contribution of £500 to help organize the event. It is therefore decided to proceed with a show of hands vote regarding the contribution.

In favor: A. Cambiaggi, E. Remigi, G. Tipu, F. Lago, G. Canzi, R. Nola

Opposite: E. Alberti, C. Cerovac, N. Del Basso, T. Martorana, L. Bille', V. Loggia, M. Petretta

Abstentions: A. Gaglione

Furthermore, again by show of hands, we vote for the participation of the president of Comites (and obviously the other councilors who want it) in the Liberation Day.

In favor: unanimity

E. Presentation to the Italian community of the Italian presence on the island of Tristan da Cunha:

President Gaglione informs the assembly about a project, which he promotes, on the Italian presence on the island of Tristan da Cunha, a British overseas possession in the southern Atlantic

Ocean. About 250 people live on this island; there is an interesting Italian presence on the island, following a shipwreck which occurred in 1898, which involved an Italian vessel and following which, two sailors decided to remain on the island.

The Italian Embassy in London will host an event, scheduled for May 15th, to present this particular story of emigration to the Italian community. Gaglione asks Comites for free sponsorship for this event.

We therefore vote by show of hands.

In favor: unanimity.

F. Musical event to promote Italian culture abroad: Sicilian singer-songwriter Roberta Gulisano:

The president, with the consent of the assembly, passes the floor to Roberta Gulisano (connected remotely), who informs the assembly that the event will focus on Sicilian popular music. The event aims to enhance the Sicilian identity and attachment to one's roots. 3 or 4 concerts are planned in England, within the various Italian communities, but she would also like to bring such concerts to Europe.

The help that Comites can give is to put Mrs. Gulisano in contact with the Italian communities and, if possible, contribute partially to the expenses by organizing one or more joint events. M. Petretta and L. Bille' are in contact with Mrs. Gulisano.

The assembly asks Mrs. Gulisano for an official email, which explains this project in detail and also includes any request for financial contribution. L. Bille' underlines that this is a Comites project, which has the task of dissemination without economic costs at the moment. Possible financial support will be discussed during the next meeting.

7. Discussion and deliberations regarding the letter of support to the Italian Church in Clerkenwell regarding the proposed changes to the road network.

The Consulate General accepted the invitation to send a letter to the Local Council, in support of the needs of the Italian community which belongs to the Italian Church, regarding the proposal to modify the road system in the area of what was once London's Little Italy. President Gaglione asks to be able to send a letter from Comites that mirrors the views expressed by the Consulate. In particular, they would like to create a detached cycle path in front of the church which, however, would make it impossible for hearses or cars accompanying elderly people to park.

G.Canzi has a reservation about this proposal; many don't have cars, they use the cycle path. According to councilor Canzi, the safety of cyclists and pedestrians must be taken into consideration and, therefore, the letter should be modified.

The President points out that Comites should not think of asking to overturn the traffic system, but a premise could be made in which Comites supports safe traffic, and then subsequently reports the specific needs of churchgoers Italian and the Clerkenwell area in general.

We then proceed with a show of hands vote.

In favor: Gaglione, Cerovac, Tipu, Loggia, Petretta, Martorana, Del Basso, Nola, Bille', Alberti.

Opposite: Nobody

Abstentions: Canzi, Lago, Cambiaggi.

8. Update from the Working Group on consular services.

The working group on consular services composed of Tipu, Nola, Lago, Rapa and Alberti has been reactivated.

R. Nola informs the assembly that a meeting was held recently in which some topics were discussed including that of passports.

The passport renewal service is experiencing considerable success.

Postal order: it is proposed that it can be replaced with another form of payment, also because the amount varies periodically. Otherwise, the date on which the postal order is issued should be taken into

consideration, so as not to find the application rejected because the amount has changed in the meantime.

Consul Mignini informs the assembly that the Consulate is working on the possibility of paying by bank transfer, definitively eliminating the postal order, but this will take time.

Electronic identity card: It is very difficult to make appointments online. The Group asks whether it is feasible to increase the number of appointments, making use of the help of the Patronages, as happens for passports.

D. Scarlato, not present, sends a letter (read at the meeting) in which he complains about the impossibility of finding available slots and that by chance he discovered that new appointments are released on established days and times, unknown to the majority of his compatriots.

Console Mignini: to issue an identity card, two separate instruments are required for issuing it and, for this reason, you must contact the Consulate only.

The Consulate is working to increase the number of daily appointments, but the resources it has available are limited.

He responds to D. Scarlato by saying that on the Consulate website it is clearly written when appointments are released, times and days of the week.

Birth registration, marriages and death: the Consulate requires the Apostille in accordance with the law. The Group requests to be able to overcome this obligation, but Consul Mignini points out that it is absolutely not possible as this fulfillment is required by law.

Aire registration: from January 2024, the legislation provides for sanctions for those who do not register or register late, but it is not retroactive. The Group requests to be able to inform citizens as much as possible on this point.

Console Mignini: the Consulate is working on it.

Visa Issue: the Group requests to be able to create a preferential procedure for first degree family members of Italian citizens.

Console Mignini: there is already a preferential procedure, but the advice is not to wait until the last minute to apply for the visa.

Tax codes: no problems encountered with the issuing of tax codes.

Update on the issue relating to the failure to register the birth certificate of children before the age of eighteen.

The issue has been brought to the attention of the Consulate and Comites is awaiting an update.

Any other business.

Complitaly: An update has been received from Mirco Ricci.

Filming began on February 15th and Comites has already paid the second instalment. Complitaly requested an extension to conclude the reportage by the end of the year at the latest, instead of June. Mirco Ricci's requests on this point are three:

Possibility of independently integrating the figures to be interviewed that are deemed in line with the project.

Every now and then it happens that interviewees ask to have a small part of the recording to use for promotional purposes, for example, of their company and, therefore, they ask for authorization from Comites to be able to give a maximum of one minute of "footage".

Extension to finish registrations by the end of the year at the latest, instead of June as initially planned.

We proceed with the vote (regarding points A, B and C above)

by show of hands. In favor: unanimity

Furthermore, President Gaglione informs the assembly that the Consulate today sent the request for contributions to the Italian press abroad, presented by "La Notizia", and Comites has 30 days to issue the mandatory opinion required by law. Therefore, it will be necessary to organize an extraordinary online meeting, with a single point on the agenda, to release this opinion.

Finally, President Gaglione again informs the assembly that next Saturday he will be in Hastings for the event, sponsored by Comites,

relating to the workshop and reading of the story of "Olga: the Cockroach".

At this point the President, having exhausted the topics on the agenda, declares the session closed at 8.30 pm.

The President Alessandro Gaglione

The Secretary Chiara Cerovac