

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Meeting Minutes
Thursday 1st May, 2008

1. **Apologies:** Noel Lyons Martina Power Paul McGowan Paul Gorry
Ann Leigh Con Murphy Assumpta O'Neill Pauline Lawrence Chris Murray
Noel Doody Pat Byrne Phyllis Flanagan Ray O'Toole Liam MacGabhan
Orla O'Sullivan

2. Introduction

The acting Chairperson welcomed the attendees and regretted that as there were insufficient members present to form a quorum the business of the meeting would be restricted to discussion.

3. The Minutes

Will need to be formally ratified at the next meeting.

4. Matters arising

The Secretary was requested by Cathy O'Toole to send a letter to the Garda Commissioner with the object of increasing the local Garda manpower.

5. Correspondence

A notice was received re a meeting on 6th May 2008 in the Old Badminton Hall in Church Lane to discuss Country Markets and specifically the setting up of such in Baltinglass.

The Secretary had received a letter from Wicklow Co Co re the Bryko planning application stating that additional information had been obtained and could be inspected at W.C.C. but requiring a telephone call to set up. Cait Clerkin said that the information could be faxed to Baltinglass library if requested by telephone.

John Vernon had received a notice of a Europe night in Bray on 21st April organised by Dick Roche in support of the Lisbon Treaty but did not attend.

6. Treasurers Report

An application has been made for funding under the Heritage Scheme.

An additional €100 has been received from Baltinglass Parish.

The balance of funds now stands at €1,150.00.

7. Constitution

Fintan Doyle queried the sense of even discussing the Constitution without a quorum and suggested deferring any discussion until a full meeting could be arranged.

8. Agenda Items

The question of lack of attendance to be discussed at the next meeting. A letter to be sent to each group with representation on the Forum to establish if that group intends to send 1 or 2 representatives to the meetings in future and also to advise if they would like to nominate someone else to attend. This would have a sizeable influence on the number required to form a quorum.

9. Town Plan

A draft letter for discussion prior to despatch to Mr John Gormley, Minister for the Environment, was presented by John Vernon. It was suggested that a sub committee of Eamonn Horan, John Vernon and Andrew Pender should re-draft the letter as some members felt that it would be counter-productive to emphasise the "politics" of the situation. We should instead concentrate on encouraging the Minister to influence the Co Co to expedite the urgently needed works in the town i.e the footbridge, the parking and an increased Garda presence.

Simon Murphy felt that the Forum needs to be proactive on issues rather than wait for the adoption of the Town Plan. He identified the Town Bridge as an example which he felt was an emotive issue where nothing was being done. It was pointed out by Cait Clerkin that blueprints of two possible bridge designs had been sought one from Shillelagh by one of the community groups (BCG) and one from Sneem in Co Kerry which she had requested in a personal capacity.

10. **Any other business**

Lena Burke requested that an item be included on the next agenda on attendance as the situation that obtained at the last two meetings is not acceptable.

Cait O'Toole handed out a circular seeking peoples views on the benefits of a Community Centre and the estimated usage of such a facility by their household.

Simon Murphy raised two issues under A.O.B.

The Mains Power cables which currently run overhead in Mill Street and also in Main Street. These cables should be underground and it is the responsibility of Wicklow Co Co. He asked for the assistance of the Forum in raising and addressing this issue. This to be raised at our next meeting.

His second point concerned the Old Mill House in Mill Street which is being allowed fall into disrepair following the refusal of planning permission to Peter Morrin. He further stated that Mr Morrin had indicated a willingness to take on board the views of the Forum in any future planning application and he wished to identify if the Forum was prepared to be proactive in assisting the sympathetic development of this property.

Simon Murphy was requested to forward relevant information to Ken Browne and the matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

11 **Next Meeting**

Due to the lack of attendance and the necessity of having sufficient members present to form a quorum it was decided to hold the next meeting on Thursday 15th May in Stratford Lodge at 8.00p.m.

**Date for Next Meeting. Thursday 15th May 2008 at 8.00p.m.
at Stratford Lodge.**

Amended