

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Meeting Minutes
Thursday 15th May, 2008

1. **Apologies:** Anne Marie O'Shea Liam MacGabhann Michael Coogan
Noel Doody Marie McCormack

2. Introduction

The Chairperson greeted the members and was pleased to announce that we had a quorum.

3. The Minutes

Simon Murphy requested that the minutes of the 1st May be amended to more accurately reflect his contribution on several points. This was agreed.

The minutes of the April meeting having been distributed were proposed for acceptance by John Vernon and seconded by Mary Vernon.

4. Matters arising

On the subject of attendance opinions were expressed as to how representation of the various groups was achieved. Initially two persons from each group was agreed. On being elected they would cease to represent the group specifically.

The members decided to suspend meetings for the months of July and August unless a matter of urgency or major import arose when the Secretary was empowered to call an impromptu meeting. Suggestions that the meeting night should be changed were not entertained.

5. Correspondence

An e-mail from Liam MacGabhann in response to the Secretary's letter re attendance.

6. Treasurers Report

The balance of funds remains unchanged at €1,150.00.

The Secretary felt that Fintan Doyle should be recompensed for the printing expenses incurred, however, he declined at this time saying he would submit a bill when the Forum could afford it.

7. Constitution

The changes to the draft were read through by Paul McGowan i.e. the numbers required to form a quorum ($1/3 + 1 =$ currently 16+1). The Public to be encouraged to attend. Constitutionality of depriving someone of membership was queried.

As the new wording on all the points to be amended was agreed by the meeting the points were deemed to be accepted.

The Disciplinary Procedure under Standing Orders was read in detail and despite one or two minor questions the procedure was adopted unanimously.

The Constitution was also formally adopted and the Chair thanked the sub-committee for the amount of work put in.

8. Town Plan

The Secretary was requested to read a draft letter for discussion prior to despatch to the Co Manager Mr Edward Sheehy. As a preamble John Vernon said that the Minister of the Environment has indicated his intention to stay out of local County squabbles. The meeting agreed that the letter should be sent - with some amendments - indicating appreciation of the infra-structural efforts carried out over the years and asking for a meeting to discuss implementation of the agreed parts of the Town Plan. This was agreed unanimously.

Simon Murphy asked that we request a copy of the list of 600 signatories from the County Secretary.

The overhead cables in Mill Street were the subject of technical drawings (copies available) and, it is believed, could have been re-routed underground for approx. €5,000 at the time of building the Mill Street apartments. The Forum should look for copies of these drawings and any other information available from the ESB.

Fintan Doyle undertook to enquire from Jim Kearney –ex Carlow Co Secretary- details of the new footbridge in Tullow.

9. Any other business

Bus Stop: Paul Gorry reported that at a meeting between representatives of Bus Eireann and WCC a problem arose with siting the stop in Weaver Square or Main Street due to the difficulty of turning at The Dutchman's Inn. This site however has been the subject of a planning application and the corner may be changeable.

River Walk: Ken Browne enquired if the sub-committee delegated to pursue this had anything to report but as yet the answer was no as none of the sub-committee was present at the meeting.

Sand & Gravel pit planning application: The applicant has apparently written to WCC saying that the local resident's minds have been put at rest. This is unfortunately not the case.

Old Mill House: The information available to Simon Murphy has been given to Ken Browne. Simon had met with Peter Morrin who had been refused permission to demolish the property and indicated that he would listen to any comments the Forum might make in regard to the property. The Chairperson decided to recuse himself from the topic and asked Paul McGowan to chair this particular discussion. He proffered the opinion that the Forum should only get involved to the level of offering advice, on the other hand, if we are to support the aspirations already expressed then the impact and scale of any development should activate our interest. If our input is taken as support for any project this should not be a problem provided the solution is acceptable to us.

On any occasion where our interest is required the request should be in writing and the developer asked to present the case in person. Limited time to be allowed for any such presentation.

11 Next Meeting

Date for next meeting June 5th at 8.00 p.m. in Stratford Lodge