

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Meeting Minutes
Thursday 5th June 2008

1. **Apologies:** Liam MacGabhann Pauline Murray Frank Quaid Andrew Pender
Assumpta O'Neill Paul McGowan Lena Byrne Monica Brophy
Pauline Laurence

2. **Introduction**

The Chairperson welcomed the members.

3. **The Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of May 15th having been distributed were proposed for acceptance by John Vernon and seconded by Mick Browne.

4. **Matters arising**

Paul Gorry asked for an amendment to the minutes to show that if any planning applications were brought to the forum for discussion then the forum should not be seen to endorse them.

5. **Correspondence**

A letter from WCC rejecting our application for a Community Award grant for 2008 and also rejecting our application for a Community and Heritage Award for 2008.

A letter of support from Billy Timmins in respect of the footbridge.

A letter from George Jones, Deputy Mayor of Greystones expressing his support for our aspirations in respect of the Town Plan.

Letter from Pat O'Neill of O'Neill & Flanagan asking permission to attend and address the Forum on his plans for a development in Baltinglass.

Letter from the Co. Wicklow Partnership re election of Community and Voluntary representatives to their Board.

Letter from Peter Morrin re the Mill House requesting our opinion re the development of the property.

6. **Treasurers Report**

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

The Secretary suggested that we support the Dunlavin Golf Classic by sponsoring a tee-box to the value of €50.00.

7. **Town Plan**

a. **Town Development – Speaker Pat O'Neill**

Pat O'Neill of O'Neill & Flanagan submitted the plans and photographs of his proposed development to the Forum members and requested the Forum to offer support for his project. He then answered various questions from the floor and then left the meeting. Subsequently a discussion took place and the feeling of the meeting was that the project could meet our aspirations for the location in question. It was decided to hold an interim meeting to formulate a submission to WCC re the project.

b. Pedestrian Footbridge

John Vernon had been to Tullow to inspect the footbridge which was funded by Carlow Co Co and found it to be pleasing to the eye and fitted into its surroundings very well. He also stated that WCC are funding the footbridges in Aughrim and Shillelagh. Simon Murphy enquired whether the plans had been received from Sneem and Shillelagh but was told they were not to hand as yet.

8. Any Other Business

River Walk: Ken Browne enquired again if any further information was available but the answer was yet again no as none of the sub-committee was present at the meeting. The Secretary suggested that reports of work done on sub-committees should be sent to her for discussion at the meetings. This was agreed.

Official Park Opening: Lisa MacGabhann requested volunteers from the Forum to assist at the official opening of the park on Saturday 14th June. Remember to contact her. Eamonn Horan felt that this might be the occasion to buttonhole the WCC representatives re our ambitions for the town.

Parking: A member complained about the careless and invasive parking in the driveway of the Lalor Centre and the adjoining street. This represents a hazard to users of the Lalor Centre, particularly wheelchair users. Paul Gorry asked if anything had been done about the maps to allow the positioning of the Yellow lines through the town. The maps have been sourced. A letter to be sent to the Superintendent re the parking and to thank the Gardai for their presence at the Junior Disco

Old Mill House: The Chairperson excused himself from the chair and asked John Vernon to preside. Simon Murphy said that the site was deteriorating and that we should formulate a plan to offer to Peter Morrin. Cait Clerkin proposed that it be considered for use as a Community Centre and this was seconded by Ann Patterson. Ray O'Toole felt it could be used as a Tourist/Heritage Centre and an Art Centre. It was decided to write to Peter Morrin and suggest the above ideas and invite him to come and talk to us. Simon Murphy felt that any aspirations put forward must represent a financially viable proposition for Peter Morrin.

Paul Gorry showed concern yet again that the Forum is not here to facilitate developers.

11. Next Meeting

The Forum adjourned until the next meeting on September 11th at 8.00 p.m. in Stratford Lodge