

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Meeting Minutes
Thursday 4th March 2010

1. Attendance:

Noel Lyons, Mai Quaid, Phyllis Flanagan, John Vernon, Ken Browne, Fran Quaid, Pat Byrne, Mary Vernon, Paul McGowan, Chris Murray, Paul Gorry, Cait Clerkin, Anne Leigh, Michael Cogan, Gerorda Stamps, Bernard Cloney, Andrew Pender, Ann-Marie O'Shea and Liam MacGabhann.

2. Apologies:

Ann Patterson, William Paterson, Orla O'Sullivan.

3. Introduction

The Chairperson welcomed and thanked all the members attending and proposed Bernard Cloney for membership. This was seconded by Mai Quaid and unanimously agreed.

4. The Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 4th February having been distributed were proposed for acceptance by Paul McGowan and Seconded by Liam MacGabhann.

5. Matters arising

The subject of the web-site was raised by Liam MacGabhann.

6. Correspondence

The Secretary said that she had written to the County Manager requesting attendance by either himself or a representative of the Co. Co. at our meeting to discuss the subjects of road maintenance and flooding but that no reply had been received. Subsequently she had contacted Lorraine Gallagher by e-mail but no commitment to attend our meeting was forthcoming, however, Ms Gallagher later confirmed that the protocol committee had confirmed that we should go ahead with the twinning procedure with Fleurieu-sur-Saone.

The Secretary had sent the letter (compiled by Paul Gorry) to Georgina Kerslake in Customer Service at Bus Eireann but had received no reply.

Letter received from Wicklow Local Sports Partnership with details of events they are organizing throughout Wicklow. Copy attached.

A submission was received from Simon Murphy re the recent flooding. This was discussed under the Roads Sub-committee.

7. Financial Report

The Treasurer reported a balance of €964.66

8. Fund Raising

The sub-committee met on 1st March and discussed various options for events.

Phyllis Flanagan is giving Crochet Classes in the Library on Tuesday nights.

Other suggestions included a Whist Drive in Horan's pub in September, a Table Quiz to be run in Horan's before the end of March, a Duck Race later in the summer and a staging of "From the Shoulders Down" with Richard Lynch in October/November.

9. Social sub-committee

No meeting was held.

10. Bus Éireann

After lengthy discussion it was accepted that we appear unable to affect or influence decisions made by this semi-state body who seem determined to pursue a policy of social isolation. It was decided to write to our local T.D. to try to resolve the bus stop placement issue.

The afternoon bus service to Dublin is being discontinued from 12th March¹ and despite assurances that plenty of notice would be given no notices have been seen so far and no response to a request for a public meeting.

11. Roads Sub-Committee

This sub-committee met on 9th and again on 22nd February – the subjects on discussion being the freezing conditions and the flooding and the effect on the already bad condition of the local roads. The communication from Simon Murphy was discussed and the valid points agreed. A letter had already been drafted to the Minister of State and the County Manager about the flooding and this should add impetus to any communication from Simon Murphy.

A letter has also been drafted to Eddie Sheehy re the signage on Belan St. Bridge and suggests that the signs should be sited where the heavy vehicles first access the route.

The deplorable state of the building in Mill Street is causing concern as it increasingly presents a hazard to passers-by. A letter to be sent to Kevin Wade in Canada to make him aware of the situation and ask that as the proprietor he should, in his own interest, do something about it.

12.1 Any Other Business

There is a meeting of the National Forum in the Aisling Hotel on 20th March. Eileen Cullen of the Wicklow Community Forum is running as a candidate representing Wicklow. The Secretary is attending as an observer.

12.2 A Community Information Event for Baltinglass and District in the Inis Fail has been organised for 10th March by the Co Wicklow Partnership and Active Retirement.

12.3 St Patrick's Parade this year is being run by a committee of Ronan Malone, Enda Hallahan, Helen Jones and Bernard Cloney. Volunteer groups and businesses are being asked to participate. The Forum agreed to take part.

12.4 In reply to a question the Secretary corrected a seemingly widespread misconception that the Cultural Group organised a house to house collection last year to pay for the parade. This did not happen any outlay was from their own funds.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on 1st April 2010 at 8.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre.

¹ Subsequent to the meeting, Bus Éireann clarified that the mid-afternoon bus will continue until the end of March.