

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Meeting Minutes Thursday 8th April 2010

1. Attendance:

Noel Lyons, Phyllis Flanagan, John Vernon, Ken Browne, Fran Quaid, Mary Vernon, John Dore, Paul McGowan, Chris Murray, Cait Clerkin, Ann Patterson, Anne Leigh, Michael Cogan and Gerorda Stamps.

2. Apologies:

Mai Quaid, Andrew Pender, Liam MacGabhann, Billy Timmins, Paul Gorry and Pat Byrne.

3. Introduction

The Chairperson welcomed and thanked all the members attending and apologised for the late re-scheduling of the meeting. This was done to facilitate persons involved in other functions on the original night.

4. The Minutes

As the minutes of the meeting of 4th March had been distributed they were proposed for acceptance by John Vernon and Seconded by Michael Cogan.

5. Matters arising

6. Correspondence

In the absence of the Secretary the Minutes Secretary read the text of the reply from the Co Manager on the subject of road maintenance, stating that the matter had been referred to the Tinahely Area Engineer for a report.

On the subject of flooding the reply from the Office of Public Works merely promised a substantive reply when their enquiries were complete.

The same letter sent to Wicklow Co Co brought the response that they have sought funding to carry out a survey of the River Slaney and that a meeting of interested parties , including the Forum, would be held in the near future. They hoped also to include the Forum in the preparation of a County Council Major Emergency Response flood plan. An outside source indicated that they have been unsuccessful in getting the required finance.

E-mail received from Wicklow Local Sports Partnership with details of a programme entitled “Wicklow Women go Wild” designed to encourage those with little or no involvement in outdoor activities to get active.

The W.L.S. Partnership also sent details of a one day workshop in Shoreline Community Centre on Saturday 17th April at 10.00a.m. Cost €15 per head entitled “Coaching People with Disabilities” the contact number for this workshop is 01-2878184

7. Financial Report

The Treasurer reported a balance of €829.66 after repaying the Hon. Secretary’s expense claim.

8. Fund Raising.

Phyllis Flanagan realised €89 from her Crochet Classes and the quiz originally planned for April has been deferred until the autumn.

9. Social sub-committee

Items for inclusion in the newsletter may be left in the B. & D.F. Newsboxes which are currently in Pattersons, Gillespie's, The Library and O'Reilly's Filling Station.

10. Website

John Dore has done extensive preparatory work on the website which he is developing for the Baltinglass community as a whole. The outline format is in place and operational and he displayed the various pages to the meeting. As a result a small committee was suggested to carry the work forward and the following personnel were proposed to assist John as much as possible, Paul Gorry, Fran Quaid, Paul McGowan, Noel Lyons. Noel subsequently said that Chris Murray should be included as he had carried out all of the work on our own website.

11. Roads Sub-Committee

Ken Browne had received a copy of a discussion document from Mr Terry Crampton outlining a plan for introducing an AFAS (Automated Flood Alert System) to Baltinglass and setting out the benefits of such a system, mainly –early warning allowing time for preparation and reassurance if the situation is not as bad as it seems. The text of the draft is attached.

While little was happening on other fronts the Roads group was asked to pursue the issue of “walks” which are sadly lacking in the vicinity. The river walk for instance coming out at Whitehall only involves land owned by Wicklow Co Co. A Walk to the Pinnacle on the other hand involves crossing farmland with the resultant problems caused by rights-of-way and insurance cover etc. The provision of “walks” would give the community something to market and provide some entertainment for visitors to the area.

12 Any Other Business

Twinning with Fleurieu-sur-Saone. The advent of the town website will give an excellent place of reference for the interchange of information on our respective communities and will enable the exchange of photographs and contact details for activities such as pen-pals and other meeting points. On the subject of the AFAS it was suggested that it would make an excellent “Young Scientist” project for the local school. However this might have the effect of delaying any action taken.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on 6th May 2010 at 8.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre.