

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Meeting Minutes Thursday 6th May 2010

1. Attendance:

Noel Lyons, Phyllis Flanagan, John Vernon, Ken Browne, Fran Quaid, John Dore, Paul McGowan, Ann Patterson, Anne Leigh, Michael Cogan, Gerorda Stamps, Orla O'Sullivan, Andrew Pender, Paul Gorry, Pat Byrne,

2. Apologies:

Cait Clerkin, Mary Vernon, Chris Murray, Bernard Cloney, Maria McCormack.

3. Introduction

The Chairperson welcomed all and thanked them for attending.

4. The Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting having been distributed they were proposed for acceptance by John Vernon and Seconded by Michael Cogan.

5. Matters arising

Return from Phyllis' enterprise recorded as €89 should have been €80.

A draft letter approaching local businesses for inclusion on the town website was circulated.

6. Correspondence

In all four letters were received from our local representatives. All were dated 6th April (two days prior to the date of our last meeting). One from Billy Timmins stated that he had contacted Martin Mansergh T.D. the Minister re the Flooding issue and Mr Eddie Sheehy on our behalf and would be in touch when he received a reply. The second indicated that Mr Timmins had contacted Eddie Sheehy re the road maintenance.

A letter from Edward Timmins MCC indicated that over half of the time at the March Local Area meeting was given over to discussing the flooding in Baltinglass. He had also raised the question of road maintenance with the Engineer and would continue to do so.

A letter also from Bryan Doyle, Director of Water and Environmental Services stating that the WCC have sought funding to carry out a survey of the river Slaney at Baltinglass.

7. Financial Report

In the absence of the Treasurer a balance of €909.66 was reported.

8. Fund Raising.

Nothing new to report.

9. Social sub-committee

The sub-committee had held a meeting. The newsletter is about to go to press.

10. Website

John Dore has continued preparatory work on the website with the outline format in place and operational. The sub-committee met and an approach to the local businesses formulated.

11. Roads Sub-Committee

A meeting was held with Mr Terry Crampton re the AFAS (Automated Flood Alert System) for Baltinglass the committee made it clear that they thought it was a great idea and that they would like to proceed with Phase 1.- alerting people whose premises might be at risk through an alarm and by text when water levels are rising. Ken Browne had informally canvassed some local residents-/businessmen for their opinions on the plan. He reported that one local man however felt that it would be counter-productive. This man felt most disillusioned with the efforts of WCC and the local councillors over a number of years.

A meeting set up for 18th May with Terry Crampton. Some of the people affected by the flooding to be invited to a later meeting when some sort of package is compiled.

Opinion was expressed that it was good for the Forum to be involved in this project as it is concerned solely with the interests of the community

Thanks were expressed to Ken and John Vernon for all the work that had been put into the project already.

12. Any Other Business

Website: Further to the letter to be circulated to the local businesses it was said that receipts should be issued for any monies received towards this project from businesses registering or any other source to facilitate full accountability later.

Elections: The committee to check with Blessington and Jim O'Neill, Dunlavin, Jimmy Whittle, Ascon, on the organisation of their elections.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on 3rd June 2010 at 8.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre.