

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Meeting Minutes Thursday 3rd June 2010

1. Attendance:

Phyllis Flanagan, John Vernon, Ken Browne, Fran Quaid, John Dore, Ann Patterson, Anne Leigh, Michael Cogan, Gerorda Stamps, Orla O'Sullivan, Andrew Pender, Chris Murray, Eoin O'Malley, Phil Murdoch, Mary Vernon, Cait Clerkin, Mai Quaid.

2. Apologies:

Bernard Cloney, Pat Byrne, William Paterson, Anne Marie O'Shea, Noel Lyons, Paul Gorry.

3. Introduction

The Chairperson being absent the meeting was chaired by the Hon. Secretary, Mai Quaid who thanked all for attending.

4. The Minutes

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

5. Matters arising

None

6. Correspondence

The only correspondence received was an e-mail from William Patterson enclosing a short video of a flood control measure developed in Germany and being espoused by the Minister for Housing and Local Services. The "Big Bag" system is just what the name implies but would provide a reasonably quick reaction time under certain circumstances.

7. Financial Report

The Treasurer reported an unchanged balance of €909.66. It was pointed out that the Newsletter print costs had to be paid but as yet it was uncertain what these were.

8. Fund Raising.

At their meeting it was arranged to get Richard Lynch to stage "From the Shoulders Down" on 1st October and permission to use the Lalor Centre is being sought.

9. Social sub-committee

The newsletter has been released with a printing of 300 copies. They appear to have been cleared out already and a further printing of 300 was advocated. The cost of the original and any future printing to be established. In future it was requested that the committee be sent copies of the newsletter pre-release and that the content should be put on the website simultaneously with the release.

Instruction was sought on what to do with the answers to the quiz.

10. Website

John Dore has the website up and running and it grows daily. It is a centre for information and items of interest to all local residents and allows those living abroad keep in touch with home. Notifications about local events to be sent to John Dore for inclusion on the website. The subscriptions collected from the Businesses for inclusion in the directory to be used to advertise the website on the approaches to the town.

The number of persons accessing the site is constantly monitored and up-dated.

11. Roads Sub-Committee

The flood early warning system was universally agreed as a good idea. Ken Browne had met with various local merchants and Terry Crampton had a chart of the levels in the Parkmore area. Pat Lee had discussed a monitoring system installed at docklands (in Dublin) and although this was reasonably expensive it is possible that he and Terry Crampton could come up with a feasible combination monitoring solution to our local problem. Pat Byrne has joined the Flood Committee. It was noted that some work is being carried out on pavements near Horan's but as yet there is no sign of the promised pedestrian crossing.

On the subject of walks Ken felt that the River Walk should present no problems as the total route is over land owned by the local authorities. The hill (Pinnacle) walk would be more difficult as the land is privately owned with all the implications that holds for damage, injuries and insurance.

The Secretary proposed a vote of thanks to the Roads (incorporating the Flood Committee) sub-committee for all the work they had put in on their varied projects.

12 Any Other Business

Tidy Towns Competition. The Secretary was asked to write to Lisa McGowan to establish whether Baltinglass was entered in the Tidy Towns Competition as no flower boxes or other decoration was in evidence despite the subscriptions collected.

Wheelchair Access from Allendale. The Roads sub-committee was asked to look at the situation of access from Allendale. The lack of ramps and double-parked vehicles being part of the problem. Members were requested to submit photos highlighting the various problems. The absence of ramps at bus stops in the town and the continuing problem with the location of same.

Elections: Once again the importance of getting prepared for the required elections to be held before year-end was stressed. The stand-in chairperson undertook to have a report on the required procedures for the meeting in September.

Notice Board. The members were reminded of the failure to get the proposed notice board installed in the town centre and it was suggested that this might make a worthwhile Summer Recess project.

Exhibition of photographs "A Day in the Life of Baltinglass" upstairs in the Library was praised by Mary Vernon as well worth visiting.

The Community Garden is beautiful at the moment and also worth a visit. Vegetables will be available for sale there from next Tuesday.

Congratulations to Stephen Walsh, a member of Baltinglass Golf Club who won the Ulster Youths Amateur Open Championship on Sunday. Former winners of this event include such names as Jimmy Hegarty, Ronan Rafferty and M. Hoey.

Country Markets are continuing to operate on Saturday Mornings between 10.00a.m. and 1.00 p.m.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on 2nd September 2010 at 8.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre.