

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Annual General Meeting Minutes Thursday 7th October 2010

1. Attendance:

Noel Lyons, Mai Quaid, Fran Quaid, John Vernon, Orla O'Sullivan, Chris Murray, Phyllis Flanagan, Ken Browne, John Dore, Ann Patterson, Anne Leigh, Cait Clerkin, Paul Gorry, Billy Timmins, T.D., Martina Power, Bernard Cloney, Gerorda Stamps, Vinnie Gethings.

2. Apologies: Paul McGowan Mary Vernon.

3. Introduction

The Chairperson thanked all for attending but expressed concern at the level of attendance. He then put a motion to the meeting that the quorum be reduced to eleven as this was more representative of the numbers attending and would enable future meetings begin on time.

There were no counter proposals but it was pointed out by Orla O'Sullivan that the fact that we are reducing the quorum means that we are becoming less representative of the community. This view was supported by John Vernon but it was also pointed out by the Secretary that we are not the only organisation suffering from falling attendances at this time.

The motion was seconded by Gerorda Stamps and was voted in unanimously.

4. The Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and acceptance proposed by John Vernon and seconded by Paul Gorry.

5. Matters arising No matters arising

6. Elections

There being no other nominations the officers, who had tendered their resignations at the previous meeting, were nominated from the floor as follows Chairperson Noel Lyons nominated by Paul Gorry seconded by Mai Quaid.

Vice-chairperson John Vernon nominated by Fran Quaid and seconded by Noel Lyons.

Secretary Mai Quaid nominated by Orla O'Sullivan and seconded by Ken Browne.

Minutes Secretary Fran Quaid nominated by Noel Lyons seconded by Cait Clerkin.

Treasurer Chris Murray nominated by Mai Quaid and seconded by John Dore.

All were unanimously voted into office for the next year.

7. Correspondence

A letter from the OPW's, Dr Martin Mansergh T.D. to Billy Timmins T.D. stating that a study to start in 2011 will measure the flood-risk in the area of the Slaney. The OPW have indicated that they would be willing to consider funding a localized flood study for Baltinglass *if it is required* to prepare a Local Area Plan.

8. Financial Report

The Treasurer reported a balance of €429.66 An amount of €365 was collected by Noel Lyons as business contributions to the web-site and is held separately.

9. Fund Raising/Social sub-committee.

The fund-raising theatre venture, while successful, was very badly supported by the Forum members and consequently didn't reward the efforts of the volunteers. An amount of €244 was realised but the printer's expenses were outstanding. Phyllis Flanagan deserves the full appreciation of the Forum for her hard work in organising the event but she has expressed reservations about getting involved with future fund-raising projects.

The next edition of the Newsletter is being prepared by Bernard Cloney and is still lacking content. Any submissions would be welcome but should be sent in typed fashion, preferably by e-mail or on disc.

10. Website

The web-site is now complete enough to warrant advertising it; particularly at the entrances to the town. The Library has been suggested as a suitable venue to stage the launch. Paul Gorry asked for congratulations to John Dore on his work in compiling the wealth of information on local organisations and contacts.

11. Roads Sub-Committee

On the flood early warning system, while discussions on a suitable siting position for the necessary equipment were ongoing a new situation arose which seemed to indicate that a different site might be more advisable, further up-stream. Also the mobile transmitter went out during the recent flooding for a period of four hours.

The Chairperson felt that it was regrettable that a splinter group were pursuing a divergent policy or path with regard to the flooding instead of working in conjunction with the existing Forum committee.

The Secretary was asked to write to Terry Crampton on behalf of the Forum to thank him for his work to date.

12 Any Other Business

Mr Frank Hanlon addressed the committee on the subject of a new local newspaper that he intends launching shortly. It will be entitled "The Borderline" and is aimed at the West Wicklow, East Kildare and North Carlow areas. He is particularly interested in getting news-gatherers and reporters from these areas to deliver reports on local news items, events, letters, comment and short story fiction are also acceptable.

The chairperson complimented Mr Hanlon on an excellent presentation and wished him well with the endeavour which would give the community a much needed voice not present in the existing press.

Mr Billy Timmins T.D. wished Frank all the very best with "The Borderline" project and commented on the number of local papers which had fallen by the wayside.

Asked about the flood situation Mr Timmins commented that you need to ensure that you get a scheme that is fool-proof or else you're going nowhere. He also complimented the Forum and said that it's easy to get a committee together to take on specific tasks or projects but very different to get an amalgamated ongoing group to keep working away despite any setbacks they encounter.

The Secretary was asked to write to the Tidy Towns committee to ask that they resume attendance at the Forum meetings with a view to pursuing a joint approach on matters of mutual concern.

Mr Timmins undertook to pursue the relevant persons about the condition of the streets within the town and also the provision of an information notice-board near McAllister or the Courthouse.

The Secretary reported to the meeting that Wicklow Co. Co. have acquired a "play-bus" which will visit Baltinglass on the same day as the Presidential visit 26th October. It is hoped that it will be located at the Parish Centre on the day.

Bernard Cloney reported some good news to the meeting in that crime locally is down by 27% on this time last year which is against the trend in other areas. This may be down to the new Superintendent, Eamonn Kehoe, who is pro-active in relation to Garda presence "on the beat".

The secretary was asked to write and congratulate the Badminton Club on the recent opening of their new venue and also to ask them to send a representative to the forum.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on 4th November 2010 at 8.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre.