

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th January 2011

1. Attendance:

Fran Quaid, John Vernon, Orla O'Sullivan, Ann Patterson, Paul Gorry, Mary Vernon, Chris Murray, Gerorda Stamps, Pat Byrne. Also present were Eoghan Connolly, John O'Reilly and John Fitzgerald

2. **Apologies:** Noel Lyons, Mai Quaid, Wm. Paterson, Martina Power, Ken Browne, John Dore.

3. **Welcome:** In the absence of the Chairperson the Asst. Chairperson John Vernon welcomed the members to the first meeting of 2011.

4. The Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting having been distributed were proposed for acceptance by Mary Vernon and seconded by Ann Patterson.

5. **Matters arising** Gerorda Stamps asked if there was any feedback on the flood issue. An article in the Wicklow Times reported that some funding is available, possibly about €70k, but it is unclear whether it's planned to use this to produce another report or to facilitate dredging of the river, bunding in the area of Parkmore or other works.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

7. Community Website (baltinglasstown.com)

The following arose under matters arising from the minutes.

The Town website which launched on 5th November has not been as well supported as anticipated. In particular the Discussion Forum has not attracted the expected activity. On the other hand more enterprises have applied to be included on the site. The No-name club will join up to the discussion group as a specific section has been incorporated.

The Bumper stickers or car windscreen posters have not been produced and the proposed billboards at the entrance to the town have not gone ahead.

John Dore would like Chris, Orla and Paul to get together to organise monitoring of the Discussion Forum

8. Roads Sub-Committee

It is unlikely that anything further will take place on the Flood Early warning system until the March/April period due to personnel involvement elsewhere.

It was suggested that the committee write to Jack Kelly / Seamie Halloran regarding the state of the pavements following the big freeze. Some attempt to clean up the grit and revealed detritus would be appreciated.

The two seemingly abandoned cars, one opposite the mill apartments and the other opposite the Library should be brought to the attention of the Gardai.

9. Community First Responders Group

One of our local paramedics, Eoghan Connolly, introduced John O'Reilly and John Fitzgerald both of the Dunlavin First Responders Group who gave a brief description of the functioning of the organisation. The benefits to the community of having dedicated volunteers in the area became obvious when the operation was explained. There is however an extensive training programme to be gone through and an on-going commitment to making oneself available on call.

The committee recognised the important impact such a group would have on respiratory and cardiac emergencies within the community and agreed to do whatever is necessary to form one locally.

A public meeting would be required to seek volunteers to undergo training in CPR and the use of defibrillators (3 currently in community) and aspirin therapy and the mechanics of the service operation. Up to 10 persons would constitute a viable training group.

The committee undertook to organise the meeting before the end of February.

To this end John Fitzgerald agreed to forward suitable literature to the Secretary. There is also information available on the internet under wicklowcfr.ie which is explanatory although dated.

9. Any Other Business

The newsletter came up for discussion as it had been hoped to go to print in the autumn. The overbearing problem of cost and the difficulty of getting the content prepared prompted discussion on content and the extent of the publication. It was agreed that any content in future should be Forum specific and the final product should be single page and black and white.

It was suggested that representatives of the Forum should go to the meetings of the various clubs and organisations to explain the role of the Forum and the Community wide basis for its operation.

Some members of committee were asked to approach specific individuals to ask their opinion on the Apparent lack of co-operation on any project, i.e. flood measures, river walk etc.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on 3rd February 2011 at 8.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre.