

## BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011

#### 1. Attendance:

Noel Lyons, John Vernon, Ann Patterson, Phyllis Flanagan, Paul Gorry, Mary Vernon, Ken Browne, Pat Byrne, John Dore, Michael Cogan and Cait Clerkin

#### 2. Apologies:

Mai Quaid, Fran Quaid, Chris Murray, Gerorda Stamps, Orla O'Sullivan

#### 3. Welcome:

Noel Lyons welcomed everybody to the meeting and congratulations were made to Ken Browne for being made a member of the GAA Hall of Fame.

#### 4. The Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting having been distributed were proposed for acceptance by Paul Gorry and seconded by Pat Byrne.

#### 5. Matters arising

Ken Browne advised that due to personal commitments Terry Crampton's updated report on the Flood Early Warning System would probably be delayed until April.

It was suggested and accepted that a financial logbook/ledger is to be maintained by the treasurer and made available at each meeting.

#### 6. Correspondence

Email received from Anne Leigh advising she will not be attending meetings until next year due to overriding family commitments.

#### 7. Community Website ([baltinglasstown.com](http://baltinglasstown.com))

The Discussion Forum on the town Website is beginning to generate more traffic. The photo Competition to promote the site has had a low subscription to date – hopefully will improve as it gets closer to the closing date. It was agreed we should promote the website through the Forum Newsletter. It was also agreed the Forum would publish how the website is funded.

The car windscreen posters are to be costed by Mary Vernon for the next meeting – expected outlay is approx €150 for 200 stickers. The Forum is also to approach WCC with a view to having the website publicized on the Baltinglass Town signs on the approaches into the town.

The editorial committee for the website is still to be established.

Information on the subjects of Cycle Routes (John Gethings), Walk Ways (a la Tinahely), and a Baltinglass Walk (assisted by Google) were raised for inclusion on the website.

Michael Cogan indicated that one local individual was still disagreeing with the concept of the Baltinglass Hill Walk and that Wicklow Uplands funding had been lost by WCC in the current austerity cuts. WCC Funding for the Environment is handled by Jim Callaly. Mass Paths & Rights of Way were also discussed – with rights of way still being the “implementation roadblock”

The prospect of encouraging tourism with the establishment of a Campervan Park was raised

#### 8. Roads Sub-Committee

Refer to Matters Arising above, and Cooperation with Baltinglass Tidy Towns in AOB

## **9. Community First Responders Group (www.wicklowcfr.ie)**

Noel Lyons attended the recent Safe Heart presentation meeting at Rathsallagh. The Dunlavin CFR is a very strong group founded with support from Billy Timmins.

Baltinglass Forum has agreed to facilitate a Public Meeting to establish a local Baltinglass CFR

The KARE Centre 10/03/2011 @ 2000 hours was suggested.

Include Red Cross, Civil Defence, Billy Timmins?

Contact Grangecon & Stratford?

Paul Gorry will liaise with CFR and Mai Quaid on organisation, advertising and logistics.

## **10. Social Committee**

The content of the Forum Newsletter was discussed again and it was agreed a 2xA4 format similar to the Parish Newsletter be adopted particularly on cost grounds.

Publication of the Autumn/Winter issue did not happen for various reasons including the abnormally severe winter snows and the absence of the Chairperson (Refer Correspondence above)

It was agreed we should utilize a portion of the Newsletter for Forum PR.

A meeting of the Social Committee is to be called by Cait Clerkin & Mary Vernon

## **11. Any Other Business**

Pat Byrne reported he had been in contact with Noel Doody of Baltinglass Tidy Towns to establish communication between the groups. It is the aim of the Forum to seek cooperation with the Tidy Towns group on some projects of common interest e.g. flooding, river walks & the long mile programme.

Noel Doody indicated he would attempt to attend the next Forum meeting.

Paul Gorry – Secretary to write to Bus Eireann regarding the bus stop in town.

Mary Vernon – ARA Senior Citizens Party 08/02

Michael Cogan

Police – Snow Patrol/4 Wheel Drive Group – phone for help & services – looking for volunteers – contact Bernard Cloney

Citizens Info Centre – their van will be in town during March to highlight the services provided by CIC.

John Dore – St Patrick’s Day – on Website? – is there a parade?

There is no information to date on a parade this year.

Website – “I’m backing Baltinglass” programme? It is intended to have further discussion on utilizing the website to encourage local business.

## **12. Next Meeting**

**The next meeting of the Forum will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011 at 8.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre.**