

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th March 2011

1. Attendance:

Noel, Lyons, Fran Quaid, John Vernon, Orla O'Sullivan, Ann Patterson, Phyllis Flanagan, Paul Gorry, Mary Vernon, Gerorda Stamps, Pat Byrne, Mai Quaid, Ken Browne, John Dore, Andrew Pender, Cait Clerkin, Phillip Reilly, Maureen Coogan

2. Apologies:

Chris Murray, Bernard Cloney.

3. Welcome:

The Chairperson, Noel Lyons welcomed Phillip Reilly and Maureen Coogan to the meeting .

4. The Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting having been distributed were proposed for acceptance by Gerorda Stamps and seconded by Ken Browne.

5. Matters arising

The question of organising a date for the public meeting to be addressed by the **Community First Responders** from Dunlavin was hampered by inability to contact them. Gerorda Stamps undertook to get a definite contact number so we can then establish a suitable date for them before advertising the date publicly. wicklowcfr.ie

It was suggested that we could issue a questionnaire at the public meeting to recruit volunteers for training as CFRs and also to establish the owners of 4wheel drive vehicles for the proposed "Snow Patrol".

6. Financial report

Chris Murray apologised for his non-attendance but reported that the financial situation remained as it was. A balance of €93.93 with the website balance at €90.00. There are amounts of €6.00 and €125.00 owing. The members expressed a wish that a written statement or a ledger be produced at the monthly meetings.

7. Correspondence

A letter from the OPW to Billie Timmins was forwarded to the Forum for information. It concerned an inspection on Eldon Bridge which showed no obvious defects following the recent flooding. The letter was copied to Sean Quirke Director of Roads at WCC and Aiden Farrell, Bridge Manager at KNRDO.

Three e-mails received from Simon Murphy, one in connection with Flooding and a request to know if the Forum was pursuing any action. Speed cameras and criticizing the fact that these seemed to be placed in "money-grabbing" situations as opposed to worthwhile speed restriction or accident likely locations and thirdly on the subject of (roadside) rubbish collection. The Secretary had already written back to Simon complimenting him on his involvement and noting that the roadside rubbish was already being collected.

8. Community Website (baltinglasstown.com)

John Dore asked if we could request the use of the web site name baltinglass.ie which is currently the property of WCC. As they are unlikely ever to make use of it perhaps they could be persuaded to turn it over to us. A flyer has been produced and it was requested that it be copied in numbers by the members for distribution at the St Patrick's Day parade.

9. Roads Sub-Committee

Ken Browne reported that it seems very difficult to get anything moving on the proposed river walk. Although he walked the route last July with Roisin Byrne there has been no contact since.

10. Social & Fundraising

A draft of the newsletter to be produced was shown. It has been simplified to a fold-over A4 size in black and white and will have the winner of the photo competition on the front. Some amendments were suggested and the content passed to John Dore.

Congratulations were extended to Phillip Reilly, the winner of the photo competition.

Various ideas were discussed and the consensus was that as the competition generated such a lot of interest we should pursue it. A request was also made to the members to submit more photos which could be used to stage an exhibition as a charity venture or fundraiser for the Forum.

Kevin Hayes has offered to frame some photos for free.

11. Any Other Business

Paul Gorry produced a letter addressed to the powers that be in Bus Eireann which was read and the meeting agreed that it should be sent from the Forum.

Orla O'Sullivan asked for some volunteers to man a human chain of bunting made by local schoolchildren and assembled by members of the Fair Trade group. Saturday at 2.00o.c.

In reply to a query the Secretary said that she had established that the Forum does not have to pay for use of the centre for meetings.

10. Next Meeting

Please note change of venue.

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on 7th April 2011 at 8.00 p.m. in the Lalor Centre.