

## **BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011

### **1. Attendance:**

Noel, Lyons, Fran Quaid, John Vernon, Mai Quaid, Mary Vernon, Ken Browne, Ann Patterson, Chris Murray, Paul Gorry, Pat Byrne, Phyllis Flanagan, John Dore and Cait Clerkin. The following attended from the First Responders volunteers. John Rossiter, Sheila O'Neill and Carolyn Sutton.

### **2. Apologies:**

Gerorda Stamps.

### **3. Welcome:**

The Chairperson, Noel Lyons, welcomed the attendees to the meeting and mentioned that the volunteers for the First Responders group had been invited to join the meeting at 8.30.

### **4. The Minutes**

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

### **5. Matters arising**

Paul Gorry asked for the consent of the Committee to pursue the matter with Bus Eireann and this was agreed.

The secretary informed the meeting that the Parish Council had been paid €60 in respect of room rental for four months to December 2011.

The Secretary was asked to write to the Kare Centre to thank them for the use of the facility for the First Responders public meeting.

### **6. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **7. Finance**

The Forum Account balance remains at €559.56. This will be depleted by the €60 paid to the Parish Council otherwise no change. The Web-site fund stands at €229.00.

### **8. Roads Sub-Committee**

Ken Browne reported that work had commenced on the River walk in that the route has now been strimmed by Tidy Towns. This applies to the length by the river but not the full loop. The new area engineer wants to walk the route. It is suggested that the walk should be called the Riverside Walking Trail. Written commitment is still required from Tidy Towns for continuing maintenance The Area Engineer to be asked to get a sign about dog restrictions in the Park and on the Riverside Walking Trail.

The Secretary was asked to write to the WCC about re-surfacing of the town streets and to copy the letter to local councillors.

### **9. Social & Fundraising**

The Newsletter will be organised for Spring/Summer 2012. Mary Vernon reported that a meeting of the Social & Fundraising had taken place and that they proposed running a Table quiz in the Spring.

It was pointed out that if a large attendance is required it is essential that the event be well advertised and word circulated to all interested parties.

It was proposed that signs should be erected on the approach roads to the town asking that people support the local traders. A price of €160 had been obtained for four signs of 4ft by 4ft. with the main message being “**SHOP LOCAL**”

#### **10. Any Other Business**

A draft Community Survey with the relevant questions was shown and the Parish Council and Fr. Dillon had been contacted. Chairperson, Noel Lyons, undertook to talk to Rev. McCullagh.

The public meeting to recruit interested persons for the First Responders was successful and it was agreed that a further meeting with the nine volunteers and the fourteen from the GAA and the five from the Golf Club should be organised and hopefully sufficient impetus and structure would be created to enable the group carry on from there. A schedule for training of volunteers and re-fresher training for others would be required. The First Responders will supply the kit bag with mobile phone and any other equipment needed by the person(s) on call and the group needs to fundraise to provide the portable defibrillator which costs approximately €1,200.

#### **11. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Forum, **the AGM**, will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011 at 8.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre your attendance would be greatly appreciated.