

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 1st December 2011

1. Attendance:

Noel, Lyons, Fran Quaid, John Vernon, Mai Quaid, Mary Vernon, Ken Browne, Ann Patterson, Chris Murray, Paul Gorry and Ann Kavanagh.

2. Apologies:

Pat Byrne, Phyllis Flanagan, John Dore, Gerorda Stamps and Cait Clerkin.

3. Welcome:

The Chairperson, Noel Lyons, welcomed the attendees to the meeting and thanked all the committee for their diligent work throughout the year. In particular he thanked John Dore and Mai for their work in securing the web address (baltinglass.ie) Ken Browne and the Roads sub-committee for their work on the Riverside Walking Trail and other projects.

4. The Minutes

The minutes of last years AGM were delivered in synopsis and proposed for acceptance by John Vernon seconded by Paul Gorry.

5. Election of Officeholders

There being no other nominations the incumbents who had expressed their willingness to resign were duly asked to remain in office for the second year in accordance with the constitution, having been elected in 2010.

6. Relevance of the Forum

The Chairperson said that we had singularly failed to attract membership or involvement from the local organisations and residents groups and should redouble our efforts in that regard. Ken Browne suggested that we should get back to contacting individuals within these organizations as it was obvious that written communication did not work. Mary Vernon said that we need to promote ourselves (the Forum) more and that the Shop Local signs and the website should help. We should use our association within our own groups to help promote the Forum. Paul Gorry agreed that the Riverside Walking Trail and the Flood Early Warning System had been great ideas but they seemed to be hi-jacked by other groups. Some members felt that this was not a problem as without the impetus of the Forum nothing would have happened. Ann Patterson thought that we should look at our neighbors in Dunlavin and that we must attract representatives from the parish Council, the Tidy Towns and FAS. Maybe we should have an information evening to let people know what the Forum is about.

The Newsletter to appear in the spring should let people know about the achievements the Forum managed throughout the year.

More interest and participation might be attained by having speakers on meeting nights on subjects of more general interest. Paul Gorry suggested that a sub-committee be set up to produce ideas for the January meeting. Paul Gorry, Noel Lyons and Mary Vernon were asked to form the sub-committee.

7. Correspondence

The Secretary reported that as requested she had written to the Kare Centre to thank them for the use of the facility for the First Responders public meeting.

The WCC roads committee had also been written to about the dismal state of the streets in the town and it was pointed out that the condition was dangerous in places and could result in an action being brought against the council for negligence.

8. Finance

The Forum Account balance remains at €499.56. The Web-site fund stands at €229.00. but will be depleted by €140.00 in respect of domain charges and advertising.

9. Roads Sub-Committee

Ken Browne reported that work had progressed on the Riverside Walking Trail in that periodic maintenance by Tidy Town has been agreed. The subject of insurance had been raised and it seems likely that it will be included in the policy of the National Trails Office.

10. Social & Fundraising

The Newsletter will be organised for Spring/Summer 2012. Mary Vernon reported that they proposed running a Table quiz in the January 2012.

As discussed previously a large attendance is required and it is essential that the event be well advertised and word circulated to all interested parties.

The signs to be erected on the approach roads to the town have been prepared at a cost of €160 which Mr Liam Quinn has agreed to sponsor. The main message being “**SHOP LOCAL**”.

11. Healthy Food Made Easy

The meeting was addressed by Ann Kavanagh of the Co. Wicklow Network for Older People on the subject of this course developed by the HSE. This is a six week course of approximately 2 hours per week on the subject of buying, preparing and cooking a more balanced diet containing more fruit and fibre. Typically the requirement is 10 to 12 persons for the course which allows for 1 or 2 dropouts.

A contribution of €60 for the entire course is required to provide materials on a weekly basis.

Paul Gorry suggested that the Forum might sponsor the first course. Ann Patterson suggested that the youth club might take part. As the youth group are under 16 years of age this will not be possible until summer 2012 when the Peer Leaders have been trained. A group from Active Retirement is also a possibility.

The Chairperson thanked Ann Kavanagh for her presentation and felt it would certainly be of interest to groups within the community.

12. Any Other Business

Paul Gorry had prepared a document “A Submission on the provision of Public Transport for Baltinglass to the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Economic Infrastructure” which he required to be vetted by the Committee prior to despatch. Frank Quaid undertook to forward this to the other committee members to allow them time to absorb the details and request that they respond by next week.

13. Future Meetings

The meetings of the Forum will take place on the second Monday each month in 2012 so the first meeting will take place on Monday 9th January at 8.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre and your attendance would be appreciated.