

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12th March 2012

1. Attendance:

Noel Lyons, Fran Quaid, John Vernon, Mai Quaid, Paul Gorry, Phyllis Flanagan, Mary Vernon, Gerorda Stamps, Orla O'Sullivan, Pat Byrne, Chris Murray and Bernard Cloney.

2. Apologies:

Ken Browne, William Paterson, Theresa Doyle.

3. Welcome:

The Chairperson, Noel Lyons, apologised for his absence from the last meeting and thanked John Vernon, the Vice-Chairperson, who took the chair.

4. The Minutes:

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

5. Matters arising:

The Minutes Secretary apologised for the omission from the minutes of the discussion on the intended removal of the re-cycling bins from the location near the Fire Station. This was carried out soon after the meeting and no other location has been arranged.

The Riverside Walking Trail committee is apparently more extensive than was reported. An e-mail originating from Liam MacGabhann has listed those involved. Copy attached.

The Secretary asked that the committee authorise the prepayment of several months' room rent to the Parish Office to avoid the time-wasting of monthly visits to the Credit Union.

5. Finance:

The Treasurer reported a balance of €135.01 with the website funds at €138.62.

6. Social & Fund-raising:

The Quiz Night realised €760 between the quiz and a raffle held on the night. The sub-committee are still considering a newsletter issue but there was nothing to report.

7. Roads

The River Walking trail team had a meeting with Tidy Towns Secretary and the Parks committee and are working in the new joint committee to try to organise some funding through the Wicklow Partnership.

The Chairperson said that it was important to note that liaison had been established with Tidy Towns and the Parks Committee and that this was very positive progress

8. Community Survey

It was suggested that a more limited survey might better serve our needs with opinions and responses being solicited by canvassers at local venues and by website responses on the community website.

The Secretary will attempt to organize the meeting with the facilitator for 24th March and another date if this is not possible. It was again agreed that the committee members should get a clear picture in their own minds as to the results that they anticipate the survey might provide.

9. Any Other Business

The Committee were requested to send representatives, John Vernon and Fran Quaid ,to attend the meeting of the St Patrick's Day Parade committee with a view to the Forum becoming the umbrella organisation for this event in future years.

They considered the reported activity and agreed to do so with the object of giving the Forum a more meaningful presence in the community. The major areas of activity are

- A. Floats - Generally required to make a contribution between €50 and €200
- B. Music - Bands are usually provided and paid for by the Public Houses
- C. Voluntary Groups – Marchers /Dancers and some other participants
- D. Crowd Control – Marshals are all voluntary but must be organised
- E. Traffic Control – Garda Siochana – discussions must take place well in advance
- F. Raffle – Ticket or card salespersons and cash security to be organised
- G. Advertising – Signage to be organised and press mentions and handbills or posters
- H. Other affiliated activities – Face Painting, Dancers, Singers etc.

From next September the Forum would appoint a Parade sub-committee to plan all related activities and ensure that the necessary groups are well briefed on their roles

It was suggested that the Forum might also offer to assist in the “Santa Clause Project” at Christmas and it was agreed that an offer of assistance should be made to the current organisers. This assistance is intended to be of the logistical and hands-on variety rather than financial.

Tearmann Gardens would like to link their webpage to the Community Website. Paul undertook to pass this to John Dore who had indicated that he would assist for the time being.

It was asked whether any action would be forthcoming on the Mill St. house but it looks like the bollards ringing it out are to become a “permanent temporary” solution.

The Chairperson asked if we should remove the Shop Local signs but it was decided to leave them in place until after the St Patrick's weekend.

It was reported that a meeting to protest the Septic Tank Inspection charge and the general Household Charge was held in Germaines last Wednesday followed by a street protest. No advice of this meeting was received in advance.

10. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on Monday 2nd April 2012 at 9.00p.m. in the Parish Centre.