

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th September 2012

1. Attendance:

Noel Lyons, Fran Quaid, John Vernon, Mai Quaid, Ken Browne, Phyllis Flanagan, Mary Vernon, Orla O'Sullivan, Ann Patterson, Theresa Doyle, Paul Gorry, Chris Murray, Julia Glass and Bernard Cloney.

2. Apologies: Cait Clerkin.

3. Welcome:

The Chairperson, Noel Lyons, welcomed all to the meeting and particularly Julia Glass as a new attendee.

4. The Minutes:

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

5. Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

6. Correspondence:

None

7. Finance:

The Treasurer, Chris Murray reported a balance of €845.01 and a website account balance of €138.62.

8. Sub-committee reports:

Roads: On the subject of the River Trail John Vernon gave a written report on the current situation which indicated that it is progressing despite the difficulties reported on by Ken Browne which were caused by other groups attempting to attach additional ideas onto the original scheme. A Special Area of Conservation had also caused a problem and the advice received was to keep the whole thing simple. A Section 50 exemption from planning application is being applied for and it is envisaged that an Appropriate Assessment ecological study will be required. This will cost approx. €300.

A complaint was voiced about motor scrambling activity in the vicinity of the River Walk but more information is required if any action is expected.

Question as to what is happening at the school and the continuing road works. No real information available but it is hoped that it's the start of a road refurbishment.

Social: A meeting to be organised to inform as many local groups as possible about "The Gathering 2013" and elicit support for the various events that are proposed locally. The opportunity should not be missed to get these groups on board also for the St Patrick's Festival for which the Forum has agreed to be the umbrella organisation. E-mails to be sent to local groups inviting them to attend. Matters of insurance and financial clarity will need to be finalised but the initial task is to get people informed and involved.

It was reported that an offer of premises for use by the Forum has been made by Breeda O'Neill and the Secretary was asked to write to acknowledge the offer and thank Breeda for this very welcome gesture.

9. Community Website

Chris Murray got the details re the up-dating of the Community Website from John Dore. It was suggested that the transition year students might get involved in maintaining it. Kevin Browne to be asked to talk to Joe Dolan on the matter.

10. Constitution Review

The sub-committee to review the Constitution has not yet finished the task as it turned out to be a more radical re-working than at first envisaged. The exercise earlier in the year has prompted an overhaul of the structure of the Forum and therefore a rethink on the governing constitution. The finished article should be available for adoption at the AGM and it was decided that this should happen in November.

11. Annual General Meeting

The AGM is deferred until November and the members are reminded to establish candidates for the various officeholders in advance to ensure a reasonably smooth handover. The revised constitution should also be fully prepared for adoption or otherwise.

12. Any Other Business

A bio-diversity study to take place involving the transition year students.

Vegetable and other produce will be available for sale in a € package on 12th September and the support of the Forum members sought.

Feast from the hedgerows - a talk on Autumn Cooking at 11.00a.m. at "The Cabin" Tearmann Garden on 26th September

Community texting as part of a neighbour watch scheme has taken off in quite a few local areas with 550 registered in the Grangecon Area and 350 in Bigstone. A Community Alert or Business Watch scheme is highly recommended and proved effective recently in apprehending two burglars. The cost of a phone for this exercise is approx. €36 and a service fee of €20 per month.

Wicklow Partnership spokesperson will come to address our next meeting on the subject of a festival grant, possibly to acquire a P.A. system.

The new **Nationalist** reporter (Janet Gorman) is required to be put on the circulation list for news items re the forum.

The Secretary was asked to write to William Paterson to thank him for his support over the years and to wish him well in his new location.

A hope was expressed that the €25000 granted for a traffic survey would not be wasted but might be used to solve some of the more pressing problems on the bridge and elsewhere.

13. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on Monday 8th October at 8.00p.m. in the Parish Hall.