

## BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012

**1. Attendance:**

Noel Lyons, Fran Quaid, John Vernon, Mai Quaid, Ken Browne, Phyllis Flanagan, Ann Patterson, Theresa Doyle, Julia Glass, Paul Gorry, Cait Clerkin, Dorothy Neill, Gerorda Stamps, Orla O'Sullivan and Bernard Cloney.

**2. Apologies:** Mary Vernon and Chris Murray.

**3. Welcome:**

The Chairperson, Noel Lyons, welcomed all to the meeting and said how good it was to see so many attending.

**4. The Minutes:**

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

**5. Matters arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**6. Correspondence:**

A letter from the Credit Union with details of the draw for the car.

Letter sent to WCC on the subject of derelict houses was read. There had been no acknowledgement.

**7. Finance:**

The Treasurer, Chris Murray reported by text that there was no change to the financial situation.

**8. Constitution:**

It was agreed to circulate both the old and revised versions of the constitution to the members before the AGM. This effectively means that it must be done before 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. (28days in advance). Paul Gorry undertook to do this as the Secretary and Minute Secretary would be away from the morning of 6<sup>th</sup>.

**9. Annual General Meeting**

The AGM will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012 in the Parish Centre at 8.00p.m.

It is important that this meeting is well advertised and that people are aware of the current issues in the community. Orla O'Sullivan undertook to arrange a poster to be distributed throughout the district. It was hoped that it could be advertised on the Community Web-site and that local clubs and businesses advised by e-mail.

The following personnel were proposed and expressed their willingness to go forward in the following positions, Chairperson- Mai Quaid,

Vice-Chairperson- Ann Patterson,

Treasurer- Fran Quaid,

Secretary- John Vernon,

Minute Secretary- Noel Lyons,

## **10. Sub-committee reports:**

**Roads:** On the River Trail it was reported last month that a Section 50 exemption from planning application is being applied for. This is still the situation but some further complications have arisen which will require negotiation between the various parties concerned.

The Consultants hired by WCC (Clifton, Scammell, Emerson - Consulting Engineers) to look at the town situation were apparently given a very constrained brief in that the area to be studied only extended from the old boys school on Chapel Hill to the start of the Bridge and to Timmons Bar on the Kiltegan Road. However, after talking with John Vernon and Ken Browne they proved open to extending the survey area and studying the feasibility of providing a pedestrian bridge.

It is anticipated that the up-dated traffic study will be available in 2-3 weeks.

The Secretary will ask the Wicklow Community Forum to seek an explanation from Wicklow Co. Co. as to why the Baltinglass Forum was not invited to the discussion meeting held about the survey and also why the study was so restricted as to give a totally biased view of the situation.

**The Gathering 2013:** Some meetings have taken place and it has become clear that the way forward is to form a Festival Committee. This does not conflict with the proposals in the revised constitution which allows the Forum be the umbrella organisation for various independently operating groups (workgroups) which would have a forum member or more on the committee but would co-opt the required personnel or expertise required for their project.

However in order to qualify for grant aid it will be necessary for the Festival Committee to set up and maintain it's own bank account and demonstrate the ability to furnish a 25% contribution to the cost of any item for which funding is sought.

The various events proposed for 2013 include

1. Patricks Day Festival- March
2. V.E.C. Re-union
3. Hot Air Balloon Convention – June (**Balto Balloon Fest**)

Whereas the events themselves are self-explanatory constructive thought must be given to peripheral activities to maintain the interest and guarantee the attendance of the large numbers required to make the events a success.

The Forum needs to investigate the provision of adequate insurance (including person to person) and the cost of providing same.

## **11. Annual General Meeting**

The AGM is deferred until 10<sup>th</sup> December and it is envisaged that the revised constitution will then be fully prepared for adoption. The question of candidates for the various officeholders was raised and some members were proposed. Mary Vernon was proposed for Chairperson but declined due to other commitments. Other members volunteered to let their names go forward. Chair – Mai Quaid, proposed by Noel Lyons who was proposed for the post of Minutes Secretary, John Vernon for the post of Hon. Secretary and for Hon. Treasurer- Fran Quaid. All other positions may be filled from the newly elected Committee.

## **12. Any Other Business**

It was reported by Paul Gorry that information to hand indicates that there is a plan to close Baltinglass Court House and move the business to Carlow. This is seen as a further down-grading of the town and local area. While contributing little to the commercial life of the town the remove will certainly contribute to the inconvenience of those attending and a waste of more time for local residents or local Gardai required attending.

Phyllis Flanagan read extracts from a critique of Baltinglass from 1966 and the alarming fact was that all that required changing was the date to make it applicable to-day.

If the proposed closure of the Courthouse goes ahead it would be important to ensure that the building is immediately put to alternate use and not become another derelict site within the town. Suggestions were made that it should be incorporated into the library as a local museum and possible as a meeting place and information centre.

## **13. Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be the AGM on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 8.00p.m. in the Parish Centre.