

Signed

BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of Meeting

held at St. Mary's National School, Blessington

on Monday, 13 June 2011

at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Liam Fay, Joe Hanley, Pat Phibbs, David Egar, Gerry O'Neill, Brian Schweppe, Pat Conlan, Gerry Gilvary, Frank Hanlon, Peter Nolan, Seamus Balfe, Michael Sargent, Michael Curran.

Apologies: Pat Winters, Tom McGillicuddy, Ruairi O hAilín, Fr. Tim Murphy, Róisín McNabb, Gilmer Hamilton, Michael Doyle.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 9 May 2011, were proposed by Peter Nolan, seconded by Michael Curran and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting dealt with the following matters:

1. Old Library Building

The Chairman reported that no reply has yet been received from Wicklow County Council to the suggestion from the Forum for a voluntary clean-up of the outside of the old library building.

2. Road Surface Main Street

David Egar confirmed that the upgrading of Main Street would commence on Monday 20 June 2011. David Egar agreed to check on what would happen to the old cobblestones between Ulster Bank and Dempsey's.

David Egar also advised the meeting that the developer would be clearing up areas around the relief road where there is builder's rubble and that material at the area beside the County Council office would be disposed of/recycled.

3. Theatre

Members were advised of an event at the Theatre last Saturday running through from 4.30pm to 10.30pm and which generated rent for the Theatre Company and serverly takings. Members were reminded that Forum members Liam Fay, Pat Conlan, Gerry Gilvary and Michael Sargent had been on duty on Saturday and that this is an aspect that needs to be considered by the new Forum in terms of the manning of various events and spreading the workload.

4. Forum Elections

The Chairman advised that nomination week is proceeding from 19 June to 26 June and that notices have been included on the Parish Newsletter in recent weeks and that nomination boxes will be in various outlets from Sunday 19 June.

Gerry Gilvary advised the meeting that it was with regret that he was finding it necessary to resign from the Forum due to work commitments, however Gerry advised that he would be staying with the Theatre. It was noted that 27 of the 48 Forum members will be staying and that there will accordingly be 21 vacancies.

5. Tax Office

Gerry O'Neill confirmed that the tax office would, from next week, be only open on Tuesday mornings. Gerry O'Neill advised that there would be a review in 6 months.

6. Planning Permission Applications

Gerry O'Neill advised the meeting that a situation has arisen in recent times where one resident has been objecting to all planning applications. This has the effect of holding up the applications and costing the applicants additional costs. Gerry O'Neill advised that a meeting to consider the objector's intentions will be held at South Dublin Golf Club, Brittas, Co. Dublin on Tuesday next, 21 June 2011, at 8pm in relation to planning permissions in County Wicklow and South County Dublin area.

The Forum will consider this issue again at its meeting on 11 July 2011.

7. Rural Transport

Pat Conlan passed to the meeting a letter from Andrew Doyle TD in relation to the risk to Rural Transport Funding. Pat Conlan advised that the weekly Rural Transport run from Blessington at 10.30am on Tuesdays to Newbridge, returning from Newbridge at 2pm, has been a tremendous success. This is free for pensioners and a reduced fare applies for Welfare recipients. The bus carries on a weekly basis approximately 15 people.

Pat also advised that there is a very good Lakes service which runs from Kare each morning at 9am and returns from Kare in the evening.

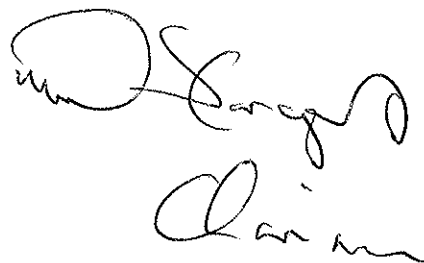
8. A.O.B

- The forum will check with Wicklow County Council on cover for street cleaning at weekends.
- The Forum will check with Wicklow County Council on repair to damaged tree-surrounds at the Green.
- It was noted that Aldi had commenced building their new store today.
- The Chairman advised members of the views of Wicklow County Council in relation to a person looking after the gravel-filled surrounds at trees on the Main Street. It was felt that looking after these surrounds would be best left till after the Main Street is upgraded and in this connection Michael Curran stated that residents are very upset with the non-maintenance of areas at Topaz and that it will be necessary very shortly to simply cut down all the grass/weeds in that area as they are presently hampering vision for those persons exiting from Joseph's Road.
- The question of liaising with Naas Urban Council on their handling of litter, particularly dog fouling, is outstanding.
- The Forum is yet to have contact with FÁS and with the Department of Social Protection in relation to Turning Point.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Proposed
Seconded

Brian Schrypps
Peter O'Leary


Chairman

11/7/11