

Signed
/

BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of Meeting held at St. Mary's National School, Blessington on Monday, 8 April 2013 at 8.00 p.m.

Present: List of members as per attached

Apologies: List of apologies as per attached

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 11 March 2013, were circulated, read, proposed by Noel Nolan, seconded by Gerry O'Neill and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting dealt with the following matters:-

1. Tidy Towns

Brian Kane, in the unavoidable absence of Chairman Jason Mulhall, briefed the meeting on present developments. Brian Kane circulated the attached update and there was a long discussion on how matters were progressing. The following points were noted:

- The work being carried out by the consultants from FFEC is funded through Wicklow County Partnership and the cost is circa €4,200.
- Brian Kane circulated a survey sheet to members and this was completed and returned to Brian.
- It was noted that there are very limited funds available to the Council for infrastructure work such as the upgrading of Dempsey's Lane in terms of lighting.
- It was accepted that the Forum would need to deal with any large projects.
- Many thanks were paid to local engineer, Declan Geraghty, for his invaluable support and assistance and the Council were commended on the work in upgrading the road from the Education Centre to Avon Rí and on the Naas Road/Kilmalum Road junction.
- It was agreed to liaise with Aidan Cruise in regard to possibly having a short video setting out and showing the voluntary efforts presently being carried out.
- Brian Kane has liaised with the Community College and hopes to encourage students to maintain a litter-free Dempsey's Lane.
- It was accepted that there is a need to involve young people in the area and to this end it was agreed to set up an education group which could liaise with the schools.
- The Gaelscoil was congratulated on having a quiz recently which focussed on local history in the area.

2. Blessington & District Forum logo

Liam Fay reported that his sub-committee has yet to make a final decision on the Community College pupil who wins the prize for design of the new logo. There will be a presentation night which members will be advised of in due course and Liam confirmed that the right to use the logo would rest with the Forum.

3. Theatre

Apologies were to hand from Chairman of the Theatre Company, Pat Winters, and Liam Fay updated members in Pat's absence. Liam advised that the Tommy Fleming performance at the

weekend was played to a full house and that the recent BYMDS production of “Oklahoma” also had sell out nights.

4. The Gathering

Pat Conlon advised that there would be a meeting of the group relating to The Gathering next Friday. Pat also mentioned that there would be an Harvest Gathering on 12/13 October.

5. Glending

Carmel Cashin advised that builders are still on site renovating the eight houses that had been flooded. It is anticipated that two families will move in to these renovated houses in June and that the two families will then have their own houses renovated in return. The Forum still awaits a meeting with Minister Jan O’Sullivan. Carmel Cashin stated that the situation in Glending is still somewhat confusing in terms of how the general renovation work is going to carry right through the estate.

6. Downshire Gardens / Cookehill

The Chairman reported on correspondences with the receiver of the Cookehill lands. The receiver is HT Meagher O’Reilly. It was proposed and agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman would meet with the representative of HT Meagher O’Reilly and clarify the advices received which have advised “we will be presenting the lands as is with the planning that was obtained”.

7. Blessington Community Project 2013

Patsy Phibbs outlined where matters stand in relation to the Forum supporting the project to build an extension beside the church which will bring together under one roof in a permanent, purpose-built centre all groups (24 currently using the old prefabricated classroom for their meetings) and also the services of the elderly which are operating out of the youth café in St. Joseph’s Hall. Patsy Phibbs and his group are presently compiling a letter to go to Wicklow County Partnership and a draft of this was read to members. It was agreed that the letter would, in due course, be signed by the Chairman.

8. Blessington Greenway

The advices of John Horan were read to the meeting:

“A third payment has been made to the contractor and a third grant claim has been made to CWP. A final invoice is due to be received from the contractor and practical completion sign-off should be this week from the QS and architect. There will be a 5% retention for a number of months. Wicklow County Council are not ready just yet to complete the footpath walk at the N81. The Council appreciate the urgency of getting this done. All finances to date are in line with budget. Two TUS workers now completing daily maintenance and caretaking duties. An official opening will happen just as soon as the footpath is in place.”


9. Christmas lights


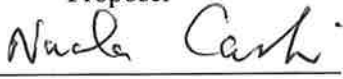
The Chairman circulated the attached letter, which issued last week to 56 businesses in respect of contributions made by business people to the Christmas lights. An account of the receipts and payments was also presented as per the attached.

10. A.O.B.

- Ruairí O hAilín agreed to revert to Councillor Jim Ruttle in regard to the roundabout at Deerpark and its being taken in charge by the Council.
- Carmel Cashin reminded members of the East Coast Coffee Morning in aid of Cancer Research to be held in the West Wicklow this Friday.
- Carmel Cashin also asked if follow-up could be made in relation to the blocking of the roadway on the way to the Senior School.
- Gerry O'Neill advised that the Boxing Club has now been in existence for 30 years and this year will be the first time that 3 girls (U12) compete in Leinster.
- Gerry O'Neill advised that Christine Moen of Suicide Awareness would like to attend our next meeting and speak and this was agreed.
- Pat Conlon was advised that there is no update as yet on a possible site for a dog-park.
- Brian Schweppe stated that he wished to have his objections noted to the name of Elizabeth Smith being associated with the re-planting of a tree which had been uprooted in the Square by the Council and which is due to be re-planted by the Council at a date in the future.
- Members were reminded that tomorrow night, Tuesday 9 April, there will be an unveiling at the St. Joseph's Hall of a memorial in honour of Pete Nolan RIP.
- Members discussed the possibility of raising the awareness of the town as a sports attraction area and in this regard contact will be made with the Regatta to see what, if anything, the town can do for the Regatta and help bring the Regatta back in as part of the town.
- Membership of committees requires to be filled at the next meeting to take a look at a St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2014 and a Literary/Rambling/Writing Festival in May 2014.
- Updates are awaited on
 - Dublin Bus and bus shelter
 - Yellow box at relief road exit at Maxol
 - WCC re Scurlock's Graveyard.
 - WCC re water quality

This completed the business of the meeting.


Chairman
13 May 2013
Date


Proposer

Seconder

Blessington & District Forum

Attendance List 8 April 2013

	Name	Phone	Email	Signature
1	Balfe Seamus			Apologies
2	Brady Tommy			Thomas Brady
3	Brennan John			
4	Cashin Carmel			Carmel Cashin
5	Cashin Nuala			Nuala Cashin
6	Conlon Pat			Pat Conlon
7	Coogan John			John Coogan
8	Curran Michael			Apologies
9	Daly Brian			Brian Daly
10	Dermody Aisling			Apologies
11	Doyle Michael			
12	Duggan Michael			Michael Duggan
13	Egar David			
14	Fay Liam			Liam Fay
15	Fitzsimons Ruth			
16	Gilheany Fintan			
17	Hamilton Gilmer			
18	Hanlon Frank			Frank Hanlon
19	Hanly Joe			Joe Hanly
20	Haughian Nuala			
21	Kane Brian			Brian Kane
22	Kavanagh Bernie 865025			
23	Keegan Kavanagh Noreen			Noreen Keegan Kavanagh
24	Laurenns Conlon Ariadne			Apologies
25	Magee Hugo			
26	McGillycuddy Tom			
27	McGrath Patricia			Patricia McGrath
28	McGreal Killian			
29	McMahon Lorcan			Lorcan McMahon
30	McNabb Roisin			Apologies
31	Moroney Anita			Anita Moroney
32	Mulhall Jason			Apologies
33	Murphy Fr. Tim 045 865442			Fr. Tim
34	Murphy Mary Lorna			Mary Lorna Murphy
35	Nolan Noel			Noel Nolan
36	O hAilin Ruaidhrí			Ruaidhrí O hAilin
37	O'Neill Gerry			Gerry O'Neill
38	Phibbs Patsy			Pat Phibbs
39	Pidgeon Pat			Pat Pidgeon
40	Ryall Sally Ann			Apologies
41	Sargent Michael			Michael Sargent
42	Schwepe Brian			Brian Schwepe
43	Ward Deirdre			Apologies
44	Winters Pat			Apologies