

BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of Meeting

**Held in at St Mary's National School, Blessington
on Monday 8 January 2018 at 8.00 pm**

Present: List of members as per the attached
Apologies: List of apologies as per the attached

Minutes

As it was a busy agenda the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2017 were deferred for approval until the February Forum meeting.

Matters arising from the minutes

- As a follow on from a question raised at the last meeting regarding planning permission for a house at Oak Drive the Chairman advised that having had the views by email of Jason Mulhall and Liam Fay and discussions with Aine Keogh, Michael Duggan and Michael Doyle and Councillor Gerry O'Neill an email had issued to Wicklow County Council on behalf of the Forum on Friday last 5 January 2018. The text of the email was read to members and a copy is attached to these minutes.
- Following a query regarding text alert raised by Eamon Kelly at the last meeting the Chairman reported having discussed the series of break ins at Burgage Manor with the Gardai. It has been explained by the Gardai that text alert in the town area is to provide information to the Gardai rather than the notification by the Gardai of any events that occur in the area such as break ins. It was agreed that the Chairman and Councillor O'Neill would liaise with the Gardai and check if the alert system could be extended to include also notification of break ins locally so that text alert recipients could be aware of what is happening in the area.

The Chairman and members welcomed Councillor Gerry O'Neill to the meeting. The apologies of Councillor Jim Ruttle were passed to members, Councillor Ruttle being unavailable due to flu.

Planning Applications.

Councillor Gerry O'Neill outlined proposed planning applications for housing developments on the Kilmalum Road and on the Naas Road. Councillor O'Neill gave the following details

- Under new fast track legislation developers can make applications direct to An Bord Pleanala rather than the local County Council.
- Until now upgrading of the sewerage system delayed any planning applications, however, Irish Water advised that a new design should be available this month and that an application for upgrading will then be made.
- To facilitate the sewerage system upgrade costs developers are being asked for levy payments up front.
- The planned development on the Kilmalum Road will be for between 266 and 300 houses.
- The development on the Naas Road by Kelland Homes will be for circa 300 houses.

- There will also be a housing development on the ten acres of the old Cookhill lands.
- Whilst the housing developments planned at present are in Kildare all the services and infrastructure will be in Wicklow.
- There is a requirement for 10% social housing which may go to persons on the Kildare housing list.

Subsequent discussions agreed that whilst housing is necessary it must go hand in hand with the development of infrastructure. The developments must also be in line with the Local Area Plan 2013 – 2019.

It was agreed that the Executive together with Councillors O'Neill and Ruttle would meet with the developers and also meet with WCC and KCC.

It was also noted that these developments will necessitate the setting up of our town team as soon as possible.

St. Patricks Day Parade.

Frances Crampton and Maria McGlenn joined the meeting to discuss arrangements and collaborations in respect of the St. Patricks Day Parade. Frances Crampton advised that proceeds this year would go towards the Blessington rescue boat.

Discussions ensued relating to the need for street barriers, a viewing stand and whether or not any entertainment should be provided in the Square.

It was agreed that Michael Duggan, Michael Doyle and the Chairman would meet with Frances and Maria and start to put in hand the necessary arrangements.

Dame Ninette de Valois Festival.

The Chairman welcomed Jim Corley and Paul Tyrell and advised members that a bank account for this festival has been opened and an Expression of Interest for a grant of €15,000 has been accepted by Wicklow County Partnership, that application requires now to be drafted and submitted.

Michael Doyle updated members on where matters stand and noted the following points

- The festival will happen on 29/30 June and 1 July.
- There is a grant application in progress at the moment to the Arts Council for circa €5,000.
- Liaison is being made with the Arts Section of Wicklow County Council.
- Discussions are in hand with Ballet Ireland regarding sponsoring of the event.
- Set designs for the Tramway Theatre are in hand.
- Involvement of the schools will be discussed on Wednesday next 17 January 2018.
- Russborough are coming on board with an afternoon tea dance on Saturday 30 June.
- There will be ballet events on Saturday 30 June also.
- The filming is almost finalised.
- Jim Corley will give a talk at the Tramway Theatre.

Michael Doyle is continuing discussions with Vincent McCabe of Interpretive Artists Ireland and further details will be provided to members at the February Forum meeting.

Reservoir Cogs.

David Irwin and Declan Rowe joined the meeting for a presentation photograph in respect of an amount of €2,600 donated by the Reservoir Cogs to the Christmas lights. Members thanked sincerely Reservoir Cogs for their wonderful support.

Christmas Lights.

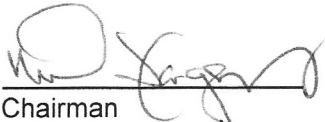
The Chairman on behalf of the members expressed sincere thanks to Michael Duggan, Eamon Kelly, Charlie Brophy, Patsy Phibbs, Joe Hanly, Michael Doyle and Noel Murphy for their huge contribution of time on Saturday last when the Christmas tree at the Credit Union, the motifs and the Christmas lights were taken down and stored. Many thanks were also expressed to Stephen Doyle of SD Flooring for providing a storage facility for all of the lights.

The Chairman explained that the work to be done now relates to collecting of outstanding monies and settling of accounts outstanding.

AOB.

- Members were advised of events at the theatre this Saturday and in this connection Liam Fay, David Egar and Michael Doyle volunteered to assist on Friday in preparing the theatre whilst Noreen Keegan Kavanagh, Nuala Haughian, Catriona Cullen and Noel Nolan volunteered to assist on the Saturday shows.
- Some of the Christmas lights were damaged by a Dublin Bus and in this connection it was agreed that correspondence would issue to Dublin Bus in respect of this damage.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: 
Chairman

Proposed: Anita Moroney
Seconded: Michael Duggan