Minutes of PCA AGM December 2014

The PCA AGM took place in Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links on Monday 1stDeceber at 8.00PM. The minutes of the previous agm were displayed on an overhead Projector and were read out by the Chairman, Finbarr Quigley They were proposed and seconded and accepted by the meeting as an accurate account of what took place at last year’s AGM

**Matters Arising**

The chairman said that a number of matters raised in the minutes were on-going and would be mentioned later in his address

**Treasurers Report**

Mary Melia told the meeting that she was presenting the audited accounts of the association as acting treasurer since Gordon Murphy, Treasurer, was unable to attend the AGM. She said the accounts were one year behind and were not the accounts for the year ending 2014.

She said that up to 2013 we were spending more than what we were taking in and this was not sustainable. The total subscriptions from members were €550 she went through all the expenses incurred in 2013 which came to €430 excluding our public liability insurance with BHP which cost €340. She said that the bag packing at Dunne’s Stores this year helped us to raise extra money and addressed the imbalance in our yearly accounts. She thanked Andrew Retwigger for doing our accounts pro bono. She said being a limited company meant that our accounts had to be presented in accordance with Company Law and had to be very thorough. The accounts were proposed and seconded and accepted by the meeting. The Chairman thanked Mary for all her work during the year as acting treasurer

Chairman’s Address

Finbarr presented a very detailed account of all the activities of the PCA over the past year on an overhead projector including some excellent photographs. The following were the main items mentioned in his address;

**Storm Damage to Beach/Dunes:**

He said the damage caused by the storms of January/February on the beach/dunes was extensive. The repair worked carried out in May by FCC with expert advice from Maire O Brien and Angela O Flynn Bury was very welcome. Our beach was now safe for our summer visitors but some work still remains to be done.

**Blue and Green Coast Flag**

He said that it was great that Portmarnock saw the return of our Blue Flag this year. But the Green Coast flag was archived by the efforts of our volunteers who collected litter every fortnight on the beach/dunes throughout the spring, summer and autumn. He also thanked the Community Employment workers Paul and Imelda for their work in keeping Portmarnock a cleaner place

**Anti-social Behaviour Safer / Safer Portmarnock for all**

He was glad to report to the meeting that the anti-social behaviour of previous years had not been repeated this year on our beach, dunes and promenade. This was mainly due to the excellent work done by the Gardaí on beach days that were present in large numbers. Alcohol was confiscated mainly from youths and the presence of the Paddy Wagon also acted as a deterrent. The public order riot squad were on stand to support the Gardaí

**Sale of Hotel and Golf Links**

Finbarr spoke about the sale of Portmarnock Hotel and Golf links during the year. He said that the PCA were aware that the boundaries on the site map were wrong and were determined that these boundaries would be corrected before the sale took place. He was glad to report that the lands on the estuary side of Golf Links Rd were transferred to FCC after the sale had been completed.;

**Dublin Airport Stakeholders Forum**

The Chairmen said that he attended 4 meetings of the DASF during the year. There were 29 groups in all represented on the forum but he said that the community groups were by far the best attendants. He felt the new parallel runway was not an immediate priority for the DAA as the numbers of passengers wouldn’t justify it. The upgrading of Terminal 1 was a more urgent matter for the DAA. He said that the forum itself was currently under review.

Fingal Community Network

He told the meeting that we had two representatives on Fingal Community Network which was recently established. The purpose of the network was for FCC and the voluntary organisations in Fingal to work closer together in the interests of the their communities

**Greater Dublin Drainage Project**

Finbarr referred to the GDD project now under the control of Irish Water and said that the PCA had already made a submission outlining our concerns about the project. The plant would be located at Clonshaugh and the pipeline outfall was going to be Portmarnock beach near the Baldoyle Estuary. He said the project was not on time due to the large amount of submissions to GDD. He expected GDD to go to An Board Pleanala in 2016with their application for planning permission.

**Bus Stop on Lower Wendell Avenue**

He said that the PCA were maintaining their efforts to have this bus stop relocated to Strand Rd but found Dublin Bus very intransigent and uncooperative with little concern for the problems this stop caused to residents in Lower Wendell Avenue

**Text Alert**

Finbarr said the Malahide Gardaí were encouraging residents to set up Text alert systems in their communities. They were already operating in 3 estates in Portmarnock. The main purpose of text alert was to prevent burglaries and watch out for rogue traders or conmen who were ripping people off with by doing certain jobs on their houses

**Foot Path on Blackwood Lane**

The PCA saw the completion of the foot path on Blackwood Lane as a matter of urgency by FCC. He told the meeting that he expected work to commence as soon as the land had been transferred to the council and registered in the Land Registry Office

**Bag packing in Dunne’s Stores**

He told the meeting this was the first major effort made by the PCA to raise funds for the association. The fundraising event was very successful and he was grateful to all who helped out especially the students from Portmarnock Community School. A donation was subsequently made by the PCA to the Transition Year co-ordinator to purchase some item that would be of use to the students.

**Review of Memorandum and Articles of Association of the PCA**

He said the review of the Memorandum and Articles of association were being reviewed by a subcommittee of the PCA. A decision had been made at our EGM to remain a limited company.

**Solstice Days, Southern Cross Day and Portmarnock village Days**

The chairman spoke about these three great community occasions and he commended all the people responsible for organising them. All were getting increased support within Portmarnock and were growing in popularity.

Finally the chairman thanked the committee for their support over his three years in office. He thanked the hotel management and staff for providing us with facilities for all our meetings as well as providing tea and scones after our Saturday clean-ups. He thanked the Fingal County Council for their work with the PCA, the two Community Employment workers Paul and Imelda for keeping Portmarnock so clean, Ultan O Morain for managing our website and the students in Portmarnock Community School for their work in the community during the year. He thanked Eddie Delehunty for emailing us his excellent photographs of Portmarnock beach during the year. He wished the new committee every success.

**Election of Officers and Committee**

The following officers and committee were proposed and seconded:

Shay Horan, Chairman

Secretary, Angela O FlynnBury

Treasurer, David Kelly

**Committee**

Maire O Brien, Finbarr Quigley, Mary Melia, John Fay, Ann Maguire, Pat Suttle, Catherine MCMahon,

Martin O Flaherty subsequently agreed to join the committee

**AOB**

**The meeting was then open to the floor and the following points were made by speakers**

Councillor Brian McDonough updated the meeting about the developments in Lower Portmarnock near the station and how the car park was only leased to Iarnoid Eireann, the foot path on Blackwood Lane, the Estuary Cycle Way from Malahide to Sutton and the Moyne Rd realignment.

Catherine and Betty were complimented by Maire O Brien for their excellent book,’Portmarnock Uncovered ‘which costs €15 and also for organising the Solstice Days in June and December which were growing in popularity.

Angela Lawton was thanked for her excellent work in monitoring aviation developments

Catherine expressed her anger about the dog shite in Portmarnock especially on the beach

Charles Sargent spoke about the Howth/Sutton Community Council and their excellent website. He felt the PCA could look at other ways of extending its membership by linking up with other voluntary organisations in Portmarnock. He said it should try to be more than just a residents association as originally envisaged. He felt membership might just be €2 for some people

Maire O Brien informed the meeting about the prevalence of micoplastics in sea water.

Jack White told the meeting how he set up the Text Alert System in Park View and how successful it was working. He said that Portmarnock had a serious problem with burglaries and unwanted individuals calling to houses offering to do jobs. He explained how the text alert system worked

Councillor Anthony Lavin spoke about the importance of Neighbourhood Watch in a community and urged people to contact Malahide Garda Station to report any crimes.

The meeting concluded at 10.00PM

Shay Horan

Acting Secretary