**Minutes of PCA Agm 2nd December 2013**

Venue: Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links

Time: 8.00PM

Apologies: Margaret McInerney

The minutes of the previous agm were read by the Finbarr. Maire O Brien proposed the adoption of minutes which was seconded by Shay Horan.

**Matters Arising**

The chairman said many items from the minutes were on-going and would be dealt with in his address to the meeting

**Treasurers Report**

The treasurer presented the audited account of the PCA for the year 2012 on an overhead projector which was signed off on by our accountant Andrew Rittweger. She told the meeting only €320 had been taken in subscriptions and more than €700 had been spent in the year. So more money had gone out than was taken in. She thanked Andrew for doing our accounts pro bono whereas previously €700 was paid for this service. The PCA insurance costs €400. She gave a full breakdown on all outgoings for 2012. She said that it was not just good enough for our association to pay out more than it collected and this matter had to be addressed urgently. Mary said that the committee had discussed fund raising projects and that Dunne’s Stores were willing to give us a bag packing week end in the New Year. She had regrettably to refuse requests for money for some events In Portmarnock during the current year. The audited accounts were proposed and seconded. The chairman thanked Mary for her excellent work as treasurer for the past three years and her work was applauded by the meeting

**Chairman’s Report**

Finbarr gave a very comprehensive address to the meeting on the work of the PCA over the past year. He mentioned the meeting in May with the Gardaí, Dublin Bus, FCC and Iarnoid Eireann so as to have a strategy in place for the summer months to combat anti-social behaviour arising on sunny days when large crowds were expected on the beach. The PCA didn’t want a repeat of the ‘Portmarnock Riots’ of 2012. Except for one bad day at the end of May when the guards were caught off guard he praised the Gardaí for the excellent work done during our very warm summer. There was little or no trouble and the consumption of alcohol was considerably reduced due to the work of the Gardaí in confiscating alcohol from youths and the garda presence at various locations throughout Portmarnock helped considerably in maintain order. He said he had been interviewed by an RTE reporter and he did his best to portray a very positive image of Portmarnock and the response of the Gardaí to the anti-social behaviour.

The chairman spoke about the on-going difficulty in having the bus stop in Lower Wendell Ave relocated to a more suitable location on Strand Rd. Efforts would continue in 2014 to have this bus stop moved so that residents in Lower Wendell would have more peace and quiet in their homes especially during the summer months.

He told the meeting about our efforts over the summer in keeping the beach and dunes free of litter with our fortnightly Saturday morning clean-ups. He also thanked the two Community Workers Paul and Imelda for their efforts in keeping Portmarnock a cleaner place. A Tidy Towns Committee would soon be in place and he said that we would enter the Tidy Towns Competition next year. He thanked the transition Year students in Portmarnock community School for their environmental work in the community during the year. He updated the meeting on what was happening at Dublin Airport from attending DASF meetings on behalf of PCA. He didn’t think a new runway was currently on the DAA agenda. There was just a 5% growth in passenger numbers. Finbarr spoke about the Fingal Local Area Plan for Portmarnock South and how some of the PCA suggestions for this area had been taken into consideration by Fingal. He was positive about the proposals and hoped they would come to fruition.

He updated the meeting on the Greater Dublin Drainage Project and how Clonshaugh was selected as the preferred choice for the water treatment plant. Countless submissions had been made by individuals and groups including the PCA. The project would be delayed and it would probably go to An Board Pleanala at the end of 2014 as it was an SID (Strategic Infrastructural Development). The outflow from the sewage pipe would be under the Baldoyle Estuary in the vicinity of the car park on Golf Links Rd. The PCA had deep concerns about the project especially on the quality of the sea water if the sewage was not treated to tertiary standards as originally promised.

Finally the Chairman thanked our auditor Andrew Rittweger for doing our accounts pro bono, the two Community Workers on the Fas Scheme, Philip Duffy, Manager of Texaco for facilitating the CE workers, Peter Coyle for his excellent work as a councillor over very many years and he wished him well in his retirement. He thanked the officers and the committee for their work over the past year specially our treasurer Mary Melia who now had to vacate the post. He was delighted Mark Nolan, a sixth year student in the Community School had joined our committee. He thanked Angela Lawton for her work. He thanked Oliver Sevestre, manager of the hotel and his staff for providing us with tea/Scones after Saturday clean-up and for providing facilities at no cost to the PCA for our meetings over the year including the room for the agm.

He extended condolences to the wife and family of Joe Gallagher, a former chairman of the PCA, who died during the year

**Election of Officers**

The next item item on the agenda was the election of officers for the coming year

The following were prosed and seconded.

Chairman: Finbarr Quigle6y

Vice Chairperson: Maire O Brien

Secretary: Margaret McInerney

Treasurer: Gordon Murphy

PRO: Shay Horan

Election of Committee

The following were proposed and seconded

Angela Bury, Mark Nolan, Mary Melia, Judy Dunne. More would be co-opted on the committee at a later date

**Visual Presentation by Maire O Brien**

Maire O Brien gave a visual presentation to the meeting on the development of Portmarnock dunes since the year 2000. She showed how embryo dunes had developed due to her own effort along with Angela other volunteers. She pointed out the magnificent flowers that were growing on the dunes.

Peter Coyle complimented Maire and her team for their excellent work in Dune preservation. He said that their objection to the Fingal boardwalk had been vindicated by what happened at Donabate. Angela said that more ecologists needed to be employed by FCC and she told the meeting how the Bull Island had developed over the past two centuries.

**New Constitution**

Shay said the committee had discussed the necessity of reforming or replacing the original Articles of Association of the PCA which were drawn up in 1976. He said the PCA was originally an umbrella organisation representing the different estates in Portmarnock The PCA did excellent work over many years and the original founders had a great vision for Portmarnock and welfare of its community. He said that the facilities we now enjoy in Portmarnock especially the PSLC bore testimony to the work of the PCA members, some of whom have now sadly departed this life. It was a limited company with no share capital. But as a company the filing of annual accounts demands a lot of work on the part of the treasurer and our accountant even though we are raising very little money annually from subscriptions. All of the old resident associations in Portmarnock are now moribund despite the great work being done by groups and individuals in some estates. There was no longer a supply of young people ready to carry on the work of the association. He said other communities have faced similar problems to our own. He referred to how Malahide community Forum arose from the demise of Malahide Community Council. Its constitution was very simple and could be used as a template for the PCA. Shay said the PCA had sought advice from Fingal Community Forum and were also in touch with Malahide Community Forum. As a limited company we were bound by the Companies act so we were statutory obliged to follow certain procedures if we were winding up the company and replacing it with a new Constitution more suitable to the current situation. Expertise would have to be sought as how to move forward. The meeting agreed to go along with PCA suggestions and when the groundwork was done to call a special general meeting of the association.

**AOB**

The meeting was then open to the floor for matters of concern to those in attendance. A number of contributors spoke of the urgency of fighting the Sewage Plant at Clonshaugh. A big battle lay ahead and we needed to be prepared for it once it went to An Board Pleanala. People felt the out flow could have very serious consequences for the quality of the water in Portmarnok beach as the sewage plant was not being treated to tertiary standards. Others favoured the plant and felt we needed to ensure the highest standards were maintained in all aspects of construction.

A member also raised the problem of parking in Portmarnock and the dangers it constituted for other road users. People were parking near junctions which caused even further problems. He wanted the PCA to address this matter and inform residents and others to be more vigilant when parking cars near other people properties.

The relocation of the bus stop was also discussed. Some felt the bus top would cause further hazards if moved to Strand Rd and would inconvenience a number of bus users. The meeting was informed that the committee had been fighting a long battle with Dublin Bus to have it relocated to a more suitable location principally to give the residents in Lower Wendell more peac e and quiet. It was agreed that the issue be put to a vote and was carried by **21 votes to 2** with some abstentions.

The meeting concluded at about 10.00PM

Shay Horan

Acting Secretary