



Tipperary PPN Secretariat Meeting

Minutes January 2024

Date: Thursday 25th January 2024

Time: 6pm

Location: TCEC and Zoom

Facilitator: Michael Kealy

Minutes: Alan Moore

Present: Derry O'Donnell, Michael Kealy, Niamh Ni Chuillin, Daniel Long, Charles Stanley Smith

Attended: Ruth Smith, Sharon Melbourne, Ann Scanlon

On Zoom: Fiona Crotty, Mike Edwards.

Apologies: Kuldeep Joshi, Josephine O'Connor.

Conflict of Interest: None declared.

Agenda: Agreed

Minutes from previous meeting: 30th November 2023 were read and approved (Proposed by Derry O'Donnell and seconded by Michael Kealy)

Matters Arising: None

Finance Meeting: Michael reported on Finance subgroup meeting 23rd January 2024. Main points from this:

Account balance Operating A/C on 22/01/24 was €4 909.63

Account balance Company /Wages A/C was €7 157.25

Kuldeep was welcomed on to the Finance subgroup. Derry has received his Digibox and is an authoriser on the Company account. Kuldeep to go through authorisation process for both accounts, then Mary can be removed from Operating Account. Sharon's end of Jan 2024 annual increment was recommended for approval.

In this evening's meeting, Sharon's increment was approved. Ruth reported that she raised the issue of having a Director who is not on the Secretariat on the Finance subgroup with Ciaran Lynch, Company Secretary: it was confirmed that Mary can stay on Finance subgroup.

Ruth noted that the Department have sent us the Financial Returns documents for 2023. We have until the end of March to submit them plus the MOU and Workplan to finalise core funding 2024 approval.

Coordinators Report: This was reviewed and members noted with thanks how Ruth has managed to achieve a very significant workload despite recent illness!

Re-registration process: Sharon, Ann and Ruth need to be trained up on Dashboard and Salesforce. We have revisited our registration protocol. At the last registration process, Tipperary PPN was a pilot group. Some details will need to change in next registration. A discussion is needed about Associate Members. Agreed that they won't have voting rights but that they play a valuable role in the work of PPN's. Typically, they would include agency and local authority staff, for example. A decision will be needed, however, as to definition of Associate members. It was agreed that Mike will join Ruth on a subgroup on this issue.

Fiona Crotty told the group that Tipperary CoCo are carrying out a mapping exercise to record community groups and that a questionnaire has been devised to encourage participation with a 500 euro 'prize'. She is writing to Tidy Towns groups to ascertain their compliance with sustainability principles and to promote the introduction of sensory gardens for citizens with cognitive and other challenges. She confirmed that the mapping will include GIS surveying to ensure a comprehensive overview.

PPN Workplan: Fiona, Ruth and Sharon had a meeting to edit this and will meet again soon. Ruth and Charles separately met on the same issue. PPN workplan was linked to the draft LECP. Charles will join a Workplan subgroup.

Vision of Community Wellbeing Review: Ruth is awaiting a response from Ciara Bates (DRCD) on this matter.

Training 2024: There was a discussion about whether we need a Training Needs Analysis. Decision to carry on as before. Discussion about who should pay for website training.

National Resource Workers Network: There will be a Retreat April 25/26 probably in Trim, Co. Meath. The NRWN conference will be held in Limerick, 17/18 October. Ruth reported from last year's conference about the disappointment at failure to increase core funding and that there is a national subgroup working on this. Ruth also noted that Tipperary PPN has reached our tenth anniversary this year and that we should formally celebrate this at our forthcoming plenary in April.

SE Region PPN Network: Ruth is hoping for funding for EU election webinar and there was a discussion about a PPN video and election collaborations at the recent SE Network meeting.

Environmental News: National launch of Community Climate Coaches toolkit will be on June 22nd, venue to be confirmed but is in Clonmel. Visit to Lisheen Mine/Decarbonizing Zone will be on Friday 15th March

Mazars Accounting: Niamh attended a national Secretariat network meeting to look at, amongst other items, the implementation of the Mazars report. Niamh and Charles note delay in this. The need for new Councillors to be educated about the PPN process and structure was averted to.

Rep update: It was noted with great enthusiasm that Sean O'Farrell will be returning as Environmental Rep for Thurles MD.

Queen of the Castle festival 2024: Daniel reported that this will take place over the Bank Holiday in August in Cahir, Community groups welcome, more details to follow.

Funding Applications: Fiona reported on Just Transition and LEP funding matters. She told the meeting that the local authority is carrying out a survey of settlements: a staff member will be employed to carry out a complete review of needs, activities etc. Regarding our funding applications, it was noted that this would be under the Tipperary PPN CLG. Questioned by Charles, Fiona agreed that the cost of accountant's fees should be covered.

Local Elections: A discussion took place about the appropriateness of our PPN group hosting an event for candidates in forthcoming local elections should attend a public meeting and answer prepared questions on relevant topics. There was agreement that this is a good idea, though the need to be strictly apolitical was stressed as was the importance of choosing a suitable MC for the event. It was decided that the events would be less likely to get fraught, if online.

AOB: Date of next plenary April 11th

Ruth suggested a rotation of contributors to the PPN monthly newsletter and this was agreed. Alan contributed in January.

The Department's 2022 Annual Report is available online and Ruth recommended that members read it.

The issue of whether Tipperary PPN should withdraw from 'X' (formerly Twitter) was aired in view of the deterioration in standards on this platform. Decision was to stay for now and review at next meeting and Mike suggested that Niamh might take this issue to the National Secretariat Network.