



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON THE 08th
MARCH 2023**

Present: Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Peir Leonard
Cllr. Miriam Murphy

Officials Present: Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager
Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, ASO
Mr. Fergal Keogh, SE
Mr. Solomon Aroboto EE

Apologies: Cllr. Tommy Annesley, Leas Cathaoirleach

Press: Eoin Mac Raghnaill

Public: None

Presentations: None

Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.

The members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost a loved one, those mentioned were –

Susan Wain, Thomas Byrne, James O Brien, Eddie McGee, Sean Crammond, Mary Donoghue, Tom Tallon, Martin Searls, John O Toole, Joseph O Toole, Bridget Leith, Michael Lynch, David Kealy, Nuala Staunton.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 8th February 2023 were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Bourke.

Item 3: Matters Arising.

Cllr Bourke requested an update on the proposed tree surgery at Kilbride Graveyard.

Cllr Leonard requested an update on the locating of temporary toilet at beached in the district. A Hill DE confirmed that toilets were made available during the pandemic and that there is no current budget for facilitating it this year. L Earls DM re-iterated that specific funding was made available during the pandemic and that funding stream is no longer available. Cllr Leonard stated that WCC need to work toward the provision of facilities at our beaches countywide.

Cllr Murphy requested an update on the report of anti-social behaviour in a laneway near a supermarket in the town. A Hill DE confirmed that the lane is a designated public road – any change to the right of way here would be a function of the members. The process to make any amendments would need to be followed.

Item 4: Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

To consider Material Contravention Report (as circulated) in accordance with Section 34 (6) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), in respect of PRR22/366, Noonan Construction, lands at Meadowvale, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.

The report was discussed and it was confirmed that no submissions had been received in relation to the material contravention. It was proposed that a condition could be included for a social housing element to be included. The members agreed on proposals for conditions to include EV chargers and open public space play equipment suitable for teenagers. A vote was taken and all members present agreed to proceed with the material contravention to include conditions as proposed.

District Engineers Report

Roads Programme

All 2022 scheduled jobs are now complete.

Waiting on confirmation of MD allocation for 2023.

Discretionary Funds 2022

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
Bus Shelter at Aughrim	Finished
Bus Shelter at Annacurragh	Finished
Footpath - Conary	Finished
Footpath – Harbour Ct. Blackberry Glade	Finished
Benches – Arklow Harbour	Finished
Footpath – Greenane	Road reinstatement complete, footpath to be finished
Woodview Park – Road resurfacing	Commenced 01/03/22
Footpath – Avondale	Under Construction
Footpath – Brewery Bends	Scheduled with GSS
Footpath – Mountain Bay	Complete
Footpath - Thomastown	Complete

Other Projects

Clarification sought from The Pines Committee regarding proposal for entrance.

To discuss Discretionary Budget for 2023

A proposal document for the 2023 discretionary budget was circulated to the members at the meeting. It was agreed to include Notice of Motions for the March meeting as potential projects for discretionary spending in 2023. Following discussion on the Notice of Motions, a number of projects were proposed and the members discussed the merits of each one and the following projects were agreed for funding this year –

Project
Remove sand build up at South Pier
Footpaths - Fernhill
Safety Works Greenane
St Mary's Crescent Barndarrig
Bus Shelters – Aughrim & Annacurra
Benches – The Birches
Public Realm – Rathdrum & Arklow
Beach Signage
The Pines
Footpath - Ferrybank
Tree Pruning AMD
Footpath - RNLI

Discussion on funding for the following projects was deferred to the April meeting –

Project
Footpath – Harbour Court field
Footpaths – Templerainey Hgts

Comments –

Cllr Fitzgerald stated that trees needed to be checked in an estate – A Hill DE confirmed that J Daly EE would respond to this request. Cllr Murphy also noted that the tree roots are a hazard coming up through the tarmac on Stringers Lane and this needs to be checked. Cllr Bourke stated that the IFA are lobbying Government to assist landowners in removing dangerous trees on their properties.

The condition of the footpath at Curran's Corner was discussed and A Hill DE confirmed that the area would be assessed.

Cllr Bourke requested an update on the installation of a tap at Castlemacadam Graveyard – A Hill DE confirmed that there was no water main there to make a connection, this needs to be referred to IW.

Further discussion took place on the concerns raised about pedestrian safety at Curran's Corner – The FRS project will enhance the public realm in this area which may mitigate some concerns.

Cllr Fitzgerald suggested that AMD look into installing a bus stop at the southbound stop at Knockmore – the frequency of buses stopping here is increasing.

Item 5: Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members.

Nothing brought to the meeting.

Item 6: Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting.

Nothing brought to the meeting.

Item 7: Notice of Motion/s

- (a) **To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Pat Kennedy, Cllr Pat Fitzgerald and Cllr Tommy Annesley Received on 23/01/23**

"That Arklow Municipal District look at providing funding for Public Realm in both of the towns in the Arklow Municipal District."

All members agreed on this motion.

- (b) **To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard Received on the 23/01/2023**

"That Arklow MD fund and erect bollards or a boulder to prevent vehicular access at Ennereilly Beach as a matter of urgency and also to fund educational signage and begin a marram grass/dune restoration project on all MD beaches where possible with the assistance of NPWS and WCC Heritage & Biodiversity officers"

Members agreed to amend motion to read –

To fund educational signage and begin a marram grass/dune restoration project on all MD beaches where possible with the assistance of NPWS and WCC Heritage & Biodiversity officers"

Cllr Leonard proposed that €1000 of discretionary spending is used for signage for this project with locations to be agreed with the DE. All members agreed on this amended motion.

- (c) **To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard Received on the 23/01/2023**

"That Arklow MD request a review of the County parking bylaws in relation Upper, Middle and Lower Main Street and this review engage with local Main St. traders to identify where more short term customer parking might be implemented."

A Brehony DA confirmed that the remit for amending bye-laws sits with Bray MD as the provider. The schedule can be considered for amendment in relation to length of time parking is allowed in particular bays. This will not affect holders of residential parking permits granted for Upper Main St. The motion was seconded by Cllr Bourke and the members agreed that schedule is to be considered for review and possible amendment.

- (d) **To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard Received on the 31/01/2023**

"The Arklow Municipal District fund the repair and replacement where necessary of Arklow Main Street footpaths and arrange a thorough cleaning of same until such a time as funding becomes available to upgrade them to the standard of Arklow Parade Ground."

The members discussed areas of concern in the town and A Hill DE confirmed that AMD would fix where they could and ensure that conditioning is in place for any road opening licences – there is currently no budget for this and the repair and replacement would require URDF scale funding.

- (e) **To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Tommy Annesley Received on 15/02/23**

"That Arklow Municipal District look at replacing the Footpaths at Templerainey Heights"

Deferred to April meeting

- (f) **To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Tommy Annesley Received on 15/02/23**

"That Arklow Municipal District look at installing a footpath between Arklow Bearing Services and Arklow Recycling Centre in Croghan Industrial Estate"

Deferred to April meeting

Item 8: Correspondence

A letter from Rathdrum Christmas Festival Committee was received, thanking AMD for their support.

A letter from Arklow's Racquetball Club was received, requesting funding toward the Irish Racquetball Competition in May 2023 – AMD will advise them to apply for a Community Support Fund grant.

An email was received from Aoife Munn with a proposal to run a course in Arklow on sustainable gardening. L Earls DM suggested contacting the Biodiversity Officer for options on this request.

A letter was received from Sheila Fogarty, Seal Rescue Ireland, requesting signage for Ennereilly Beach – agreed under Item 4 – Discretionary Fund 2023

Item 9: Any Other Business

Cllr Kennedy thanked Cllr Murphy for her contribution and time on the Tourism Committee and deemed the position vacant. Cllr Murphy acknowledged the thanks and stated that her mark was made with accessibility improved throughout the county. Arklow town will blossom and we need to be ready for this to grow tourism.

Cllr Fitzgerald nominated Cllr Kennedy for the vacant position. Cllr Kennedy accepted with agreement from the members.

Cllr Bourke confirmed that the An Taisce spring clean for the Vale Road has been confirmed for the 16th April 2023 and encouraged all to support this on the day.

Cllr Bourke suggested that a ceremony could be held to plant trees on the north side cycle path to mark the entrance to the town. All agreed that this was a good idea – AMD will organise this.

Cllr Kennedy requested an update on line-marking – A Hill DE stated that AMD have been communicating with the contractor and marking will begin in the next few days. The cold weather forecast may hinder their timeframe.

Cllr Kennedy acknowledged the work on rural roads and asked if there was a chance that the budget would be increased – L Earls DM confirmed that WCC were fighting hard for an increase and would let the members know as soon as possible.

Cllr Kennedy asked if funding was available to parade committees – A Brehony confirmed that funding would be available on condition that application criteria had been met.

Cllr Leonard requested an update on the start date for the FRS – L Earls DM agreed to circulate an update in the coming weeks.

Cllr Murphy thanked everyone for their support for tomorrow's IWD event.

Meeting concluded.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 12th April 2023.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed:

Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District