

## ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015

**Members Present:** Cllr Sylvester Bourke, Cathaoirleach,  
Cllr. T. Annesley,  
Cllr. P. Fitzgerald,  
Cllr. P Kennedy,  
Cllr. M. McDonald,  
Cllr. M. Murphy

**Officials Present:** Mr. M. Geaney, A/District Manager,  
Mr. J. Kelly, District Engineer,  
Ms. L. McDonald, District Administrator.

Elected Members passed a vote of sympathy for the families of the late Denis (D.J.) Naughter Shelbyville, Dublin Road, Arklow, Wicklow; Elizabeth Killeen (née Forde) Abbeyville, Arklow, Wicklow; David Cullen Main Street, Rathdrum, Wicklow; Michael Tyrrell South Green, Arklow, Wicklow; Agnes Garvey (née Doolan) Templeraíne Avenue, Arklow, Wicklow; Larry Byrne South Green, Arklow, Wicklow; Robert J. (Bobby) Kavanagh Coolgreaney Road, Arklow, Wicklow; Frances Wolohan Asgard Close, Arklow, Wicklow; Kathleen Doyle (née Stedman) Johnstown North, Arklow, Wicklow; Geoffrey (Geoff) Thompson Fernhill, Arklow, Wicklow. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

#### **ITEM 1:**

##### **Confirmation of minutes from Annual Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015.**

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. M. McDonald and agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of meeting of Arklow Municipal District held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

#### **ITEM 2:**

##### **Matters arising**

No Matters arising.

#### **ITEM 3:**

##### **Update on proposed traffic calming at Woodlands estate, Arklow**

Mr. Jack Kelly, District Engineer gave a brief update to the Members on the proposed traffic calming measures for Woodlands Estate. He confirmed that all residents had been consulted on the proposals and that the Municipal District had received 31 submissions but that there was no clear agreement from the residents. He also confirmed that a contractor had renewed signage and road markings in the estate. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to leave the estate as is for the moment.

#### **ITEM 4:**

##### **Future of Avondale House in relationship to ownership maintenance and parking.**

Cllr. P. Kennedy gave a brief outline on Avondale house, he raised a number of points including:-

- The Estate comprised of 500 acres of land as well as the house, which was the former residence of Charles Stewart Parnell.
- Coillte had installed barriers at the entrance to Avondale house; this was forcing members of the public to park on the approach roads around the vicinity of the house causing major concern for the local residents. He raised a number of concerns for the future of the House and Estate including the upkeep on the gravel pathways and the staffing of the estate. He said there was only one staff member full time with others only being employed on an ad-hoc basis. He said that this House and Estate was the jewel in the crown for South Wicklow.

Following a brief discussion it was agreed to request separate meetings with Coillte and Deputy Harris to discuss the future plans for the estate.

### **ITEM 5:**

#### **Update on the progress of the following projects:**

##### **Bridge Street Junction improvement works:**

Wicklow County Council intends to engage a contractor to upgrade the junctions Bridge Street/Main Street and Bridge Street/South Quay to improve safety and pedestrian accessibility. Works include –

- Realignment of kerbs and footpaths to reallocate road space and create wider footpaths at these junctions and Bridge Street.
- Raised surfaces at these 2 junctions
- 3 no. pedestrian crossings.
- The Tender process has commenced with the closing date for receipt of tenders the 16<sup>th</sup> September. It is hoped that construction would commence on the 28<sup>th</sup> September subject to the tender prices and approval.

Following a brief discussion with the Elected Members the following points were raised:

- Difficulties with the placing of pedestrian lights at the junction.
- Had the proposed improvement works go on Public display?
- Is it possible to put a Pedestrian crossing on the Bridge?
- How long will the works take to finish?
- Will heavy goods vehicles and buses be able to get around the corner?
- How many submissions were received from the public?
- Previous Engineer had indicated that certain works could not be carried out on the bridge as too many services may be affected?

Mr. Jack Kelly responded to the Elected Members with the following:

- The proposed works had gone on Public Display.
- He confirmed that the works would take approximately eight weeks but this was dependent on the tendering process.
- The pedestrian crossing is safer on at Bridge Street; it is not considered accepted policy to have a pedestrian crossing on a bridge.

### **South Green & Harbour Road Works:**

Elected Members are reminded that all requests for updates in relation to Irish Water Projects must be made by the Districts via the full Council Meeting.

Jack Kelly gave a brief update including the

- Harbour Road has received 1<sup>st</sup> Surface dressing.
- Works will start shortly on South Green
- The area is open for residents only
- Works are being managed by Irish Water.

The following points were raised by Elected Members;

- Residents had experienced damage to houses – will Irish Water take responsibility for restoring the damage.
- Residents are very upset with the lack on communication from Irish Water.
- Disappointed that Pacelli Flood was not at meeting to give an update to Members.
- There are generators running over night that is making it very difficult for residents to sleep. Can these generators be moved further away from the residents?

Jack Kelly responded by saying the he understood that Irish Water had carried out pre-works survey on the houses in the area and that follow up surveys would take place and any damage rectified.

### **Flood Relief Scheme:**

An update on the Flood Relief Scheme was received from Marc Devereux, Senior Engineer, Wicklow County Council stating the following:

Consultants are currently working on completing a feasibility study. It is intended to hold public consultation by the end of 2015, and progress the planning stage (Environmental Impact Statement) during 2016. Assuming approval to progress and funding follows (from the OPW), it is intended to progress construction of the scheme during 2017.

The Cathaoirleach, Sylvester Bourke requested that Marc Devereux attend the next meeting to give the Members a presentation on the Scheme.

### **Arklow Christmas Committee**

Linda McDonald advised the Members that a number of meetings have been held and a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer have been appointed.

The committee is now in the process of seeking sponsorship for the Festival and letters will issue to business in the area in the coming weeks. A further update will be given at the next meeting.

### **REDZ Application:**

The REDZ initiative is one of the recommendations of a government report on rural development prepared by CEDRA, the commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas. It was noted that the Community, Cultural and Social Development

Section of WCC has submitted an application for funding under this programme for Arklow Town.

**ITEM 6:**  
**Update on 2015 Roads Programme for the AMD**

Mr. Jack Kelly gave the following up date to the Members:

1. The road strengthening in Parnell Park, Rathdrum was completed in May. Work was completed on the LS 6142 Greenan to Ballintombay road during June. Work was since been completed on the LS 6172 Raheen to Snugborough road, the three local roads in Tinakilly, Aughrim, the R752 road in Woodenbridge and the L61235 Ballinderry Road. Additional money was provided by the Department for road reconstruction. A section of the Rathdrum / Laragh is been strengthened this week. While part of the L2144 at Mill Road, Ballinaclash is scheduled for the end of September.
2. Surface Dressing Program. The Council's Machinery Crew started on the R732 regional road at Mongnacool on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July. They completed the surface dressing program on the 24<sup>th</sup> September. In addition to the roads on the original program roads at Rostygah, Ballinastraw and Ballinakill were surface dressed.
3. Discretionary Works. Works on footpaths at Ballinaclash and Kirakee, Junction at Indreabhan Park, Arklow and the Reshaping of the road at Saint Patrick's Terrace, Arklow and footpath in Parnell Park, Rathdrum are complete. Work started on the footpath at Woodview Park, Avoca towards the end of August.
4. Low Cost Safety Schemes. Traffic Calming. Two of the tabletop ramps in Rathdrum were installed in May. The remaining tabletop ramps in Rathdrum are now scheduled for the end of September. The reconstruction of footpaths along the Dublin Road, Arklow was completed last week.
5. Community Involvement Schemes. €100,000 has been provided for the entire County for these schemes in the current year. Three schemes the Arklow Municipal District are to receive funding this year. These are at Kilcarra, Moneyteigue and Ballinaskea.

The following points were raised by the Elected Members:

- A lot of work has been carried out by Jack Kelly and his team.
- New signage is needed for the School in Avoca.
- New road markings are required at Ballymoyle lane and the Wexford bus stop.
- Wexford road footpaths need work however these can be looked at again when the sewerage works are completed.

Mr Jack Kelly advised that the Elected Members should look at works that are required around the district so that schemes and costs could be looked at for the following year.

#### **ITEM NO. 7.**

##### **Update on Twinning Projects:**

An update on Twinning Projects was provided to the Members and the following points were raised:

- Email received from Treia, requesting a revival of twinning activities to allow for them to apply for funding from Europe.
- Chautedun the links are still very much alive between Arklow and Chautedun with students from the CBS and schools in Chautendun taking part in a student exchange programme.
- Twinning with Aberwysty should be encouraged especially with regard to the Celtic Challenge, perhaps it could be encouraged that the Celtic Challenge could be accommodated in Arklow every second year. Update to be sought on this twinning arrangement for the next meeting.

#### **ITEM NO. 8.**

##### **Correspondence:**

- Ms. Linda McDonald advised that correspondence had been received from Ms. Irene Sweeney, Arklow Heritage/Nature Walks Development Company Ltd providing the Members with an update on the group's proposals for walkways in the town.
- Ms. Linda McDonald advised that correspondence had been received from Ms. Damhnait McGuire, Planning Section, Wicklow County Council providing the Members with an update to the Derrybawn Estate in Aughrim and in particular the maintenance of the green areas.
- Ms. Linda McDonald advised the members that correspondence had been received from Mr. Liam O'Loughlin, 4 Connolly Street, Arklow. It was agreed that the matter required further investigation and would be discussed further at the next meeting of AMD.
- A thank you note had been received from the family of Mr. Leo O'Brien, following on from his home-coming in Rathdrum after his success at the Special Olympics. The family were very thankful for the donation received. It was noted that there were plans for a Civic Reception by Wicklow County Council.
- Ms. Linda McDonald further advised the Members that correspondence had been received from six community groups requesting funding from AMD towards their various projects.

All requests for funding were discussed and it was agreed that to be fair to the whole district and every group looking for funding assistance that the matter should be discussed further. It was agreed to defer to the next meeting.

## **ITEM No 9.**

### **Any Other Business:**

- It was noted, that with the amalgamation of the boys and girls national schools that there was a serious issue with road safety and parking at the school gates particularly at the National School on the Coolgreaney Road. Ms. Linda McDonald confirmed that a meeting had taken place with Ms. O’Loughlin, School Principal, Mr. Sean Dunne, Arklow Municipal District and An Garda Siochana. Members requested further information relating to the proposed improvement works for this area.
- The Elected Members requested that Ms. Helena Dennehy, A/Senior Executive Officer, Wicklow County Council be invited to next meeting of Arklow Municipal District to clarify recently announced changes in relation to the extension of existing burial grounds
- Ms. Linda McDonald advised that Arklow Municipal District would be trialling the new “minute pad and online meetings” system. Training would be provided to all members on how the system will work.
- Ms. McDonald confirmed that Ms. Sheelagh Daly, Head of Enterprise will give a presentation on the work of the Local Enterprise Office to members of the Municipal District and the Chamber on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30pm.
- Elected members would be notified shortly for a date for a site visit to the Raheenleagh Windfarm.
- The Elected Members were provided with an update from Mr. Larry Wolohan, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services for proposed Coastal Protection Works on the South Beach. Following a grant provided by the OPW, the works were now in a position to proceed.
- It was agreed by the Members that capital funding set aside for the construction of a wall on South Quay would be used to finance the proposed works at the junctions at the National School on the Coolgreaney Road. It was also agreed to re –evaluate the walkway at the North Beach with a view to completing the walk way.
- The Cathaoirleach advised the members that a grant of €5,000 has been received for the provision of books in the Polish language for the Arklow Library.
- Cllr Pat Kennedy requested that a member of the Housing Section, Wicklow County Council be invited to give a housing update for the Arklow Municipal Area. He also requested that the new Chief Inspector of An Garda Siochana be asked to give a follow-up reports on new Garda recruits for the Aughrim Area.

- Cllr M. Murphy requested that the provision of Bus Shelters in Arklow town be included as an item on the Agenda for the next meeting of AMD.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Minutes confirmed at meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015  
at 2.30pm**

**Signed:** *Cllr. Sylvester Bourke*

**Cllr Sylvester Bourke, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council**

**Signed:** *Linda McDonald*

**Linda McDonald, District Administrator**