



**Wicklow County Council  
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

**ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MAY 2017**

**Present:** Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach  
Cllr. Tommy Annesley  
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke  
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald  
Cllr. Miriam Murphy  
Cllr. Mary McDonald

**Officials Present:** Mr. Michael Geaney, A/District Manager  
Ms. Linda McDonald, District Administrator  
Mr. Jack Kelly, District Engineer  
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, Assistant Staff Officer

Ms Helen Howes, Co. Wicklow PPN

It was agreed to start with Item 4 on the agenda –

**Item 4: To receive a presentation from Ms Helen Howes, Co. Wicklow PPN.**

Cllr Kennedy welcomed Helen Howes to the meeting.

A “homework” pack was handed out and Helen gave a brief introduction on the PPN and her role within the PPN.

The LGRA 2014 made provision for the PPN and provides a structure for channelling information to the relevant member groups. The aim is to encourage local knowledge input and community input in resolving local issues and foster involvement in the planning and policy structures for the PPN. The current membership stands at 154 and Arklow needs to be better represented. The membership in 2014 was 60 and the increase to 154 isn't great progress. Ms Howes said that the PPN is sometimes a hard sell as it can be seen as another layer of bureaucracy and we need to be demonstrating to groups that their input is valued. Examples of areas that can benefit from PPN input can be – Influence where annual budgets are spent and Enhance democracy.

It is only when the communities are listened to and consulted that they are further encouraged to participate.

A Q & A session followed –

Cllr Kennedy thanked Helen for the presentation and said that the PPN was very good at getting representations for different pillars and asked if the general public knew who Helen was and what she represented? Cllr Kennedy said it didn't look like it when the grant applications come in and can we tie into more rural community groups. Ms Howes said that it would be a good idea to tag along on the awards night and raise the profile of the PPN.

Cllr Murphy said she was involved from the start and commended Helen on her work to date.

### **Item 1 - Vote of Sympathy:**

The Members expressed votes of sympathy to the families of the following, who recently passed away:

John Dillon, Mary Doran, Marie Farrell, Eddie (Edward) Fitzgerald, Joe Loughlin, Terry (Terence) Riley, Ruth Levins.

A minutes silence was observed.

### **Item 2 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Meeting, held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2016:**

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Bourke and agreed by all.

### **Item 3 – Matters Arising:**

Ms McDonald circulated the current revenue report and no questions were raised.

Ms McDonald said that she had received a reply from IW that clinics had been arranged for the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and that and questions to be raised at the clinics should be submitted by the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2017.

Cllr Bourke said that upgrades on wastewater systems in the district should be considered if certain areas have been identified for population growth in the coming years.

Michael Geaney DM confirmed that funding has been sought by WCC to upgrade the temporary storage area at Arklow Harbour. In relation to the general appearance of the harbour area Mr. Geaney advised that the users of the units are in discussions with WCC about painting and tidying the area. Cllr Annesley asked if anything had been done about the rodents in the area and Cllr Fitzgerald said that Rentokil had been asked to clear the site.

### **Item 5 : To discuss the availability of Community Land in Rathdrum**

Ms McDonald confirmed that she had written to Michael Nicholson DOS about this and he has recommended that a working group be set up to prepare a brief in order to engage consultants to survey the sporting groups in the area. Cllr's Kennedy, Fitzgerald and McDonald agreed that this would be the fairest way to get representations from all groups. .

### **Item 6: To receive an update on the Roads Programme for 2017**

Jack Kelly DE said that the schedule of rates was in and he would be meeting with contractors in the coming weeks and this would be used for the works on Main St. Arklow.

The following footpath works are underway - Parnell Park Rathdrum, Avondale Footpaths and the works at Ashleigh Close are due to start.

There is one CIS scheme in the district for this year and the Roads Section is awaiting a response from the applicant.

Surface Dressing is likely to start in early June.

Cllr Fitzgerald said that there was a lot of works to be completed, all when the schools are busy in June, traders would be busy in July and the festival runs in August. Jack Kelly DE asked if he was referring only to the town. Cllr Fitzgerald said he understood that procedure must be followed but complaints will come in. The Parade Ground Area was also to be done and would the Main St works be carried out overnight? Jack Kelly said that he would be meeting with the contractor this week. Cllr Fitzgerald said that it couldn't be done during the day and Cllr Bourke said it would be easier when the schools were finished for the year. Jack Kelly DE said it will more than likely be at night and he was aware that the contractor would find it more difficult at night but the greatest disturbance to schools and general public would be during the day. He said he would get the contractor to agree to the night time work schedule. He also said that there are a lot of procedures relating to procurement, health and safety, PSCS and PSDP to be followed and it would be more appropriate for the works to be carried out over the summer months. Cllr Bourke said that IW is surveying in the town and this could impact on the works. Jack Kelly DE said there would always be the possibility of other contractors disturbing scheduled works.

### **Item 7: To receive an update on Irish Water issues on Harbour Rd**

Ms McDonald circulated the latest report from Kevin Scanlon –

*“The Contractor, Gibbons BCE are back on site on Wednesday to complete the snag list. The snags include some works to the chambers which are causing the problems with the pumps. Also, we have received the expert opinion on the pump problem. The measures they have suggested include 3 new items of work.*

*These extra items will be carried out as soon as possible following agreement with Irish Water. It is expected that a combination of all these works will ensure the pumps become fully functional.”*

Cllr Fitzgerald said it was a disgrace for the residents that IW are resorting to second best options – the cost of the tankers could have gone towards the cost of new pumps. Micheal Geaney DM said the funding is there and that IW needs to agree on the correct plan of action to resolve the issue. Cllr Murphy said that the residents are frustrated and Cllr McDonald said this will worsen with the warmer weather. Cllr Fitzgerald said that this has been an issue for too long – over 18 months. Jack Kelly DE said that this is a problem for IW.

#### **Item 8: To receive an update on the Social Housing Projects for the District.**

Ms McDonald circulated an update from the Housing Section on the following projects –

St . Mary's Rd  
Emoclew Rd  
Rathdrum

Ms McDonald said that suggestions for naming each project were required before August.

Some suggestions made were –

Emoclew Rd	-	Delany Park ( subject to agreement with Ronnie Delany)
Rathdrum	-	Avondale Heights.

#### **Item 9: Review of Pedestrian Crossings on the Wexford Road**

Ms McDonald said that the need for the review came about due to several complaints received about the pedestrian crossings. Cllr Fitzgerald said that the Lidl carpark exit was dangerous; especially when drivers give way to other cars and that the Wexford Rd needs a pedestrian crossing. There are 3 supermarkets on the road and additional crossings are needed. Jack Kelly DE said that the drawings show 4 crossing points. Cllr Fitzgerald asked if the plans would go on public display and Jack Kelly DE said yes they would. Cllr Kennedy asked by what date would the feedback be required and Jack Kelly DE said in the next couple of weeks. Cllr Bourke said cycle lanes would be a great addition and Jack Kelly DE said that they would be considered. Cllr Fitzgerald asked why was there one on the Coolgreaney Rd and Jack Kelly DE said it was consistent with the overall plan and Cllr Fitzgerald said that in his opinion it wasn't needed. Cllr Murphy said that the drivers would be held up and Jack Kelly DE said that we need to encourage walking and cycling as an alternative to using cars in the town and that funding is available for the vulnerable road users. Cllr Annesley said that hauliers are finding it difficult to get through the junction and avoid using other exits as it adds to the tacograph. Jack Kelly DE said they should be using Junction 21. Cllr Kennedy suggested a meeting with Margaret Hartnett SEE. Linda McDonald agreed to arrange this meeting.

#### **Item 10: To receive an update on Derelict Sites within the District**

Ms McDonald gave an update on the status of buildings identified in the district and the only buildings currently on the register are The Old Rectory in Rathdrum. Cllr Murphy said that while not criticising the Tidy Town committee the work they are doing prevents the builds from being deemed derelict. This doesn't make sense especially when there may be health

and safety issues behind the facades of the buildings. Cllr Kennedy said that the effort to keep the town tidy still needed to be made and our hands are tied the same with the Planning Section. Cllr Annesley said that the owners of the buildings are usually financial institutions and it is difficult to get fines paid.

**Item 11: To discuss projects for the Economic Development budget of €5,000.00**

Following a discussion on the use of this funding Cllr Fitzgerald proposed that the money be split between Arklow Town and Rathdrum and seconded by Cllr Kennedy.

Ms McDonald gave a brief description of the planters to be funded by the money. The base to be sourced from a supplier and the AMD staff will make the tops of the planters. This lowered the cost considerably. Ms McDonald also confirmed that a contribution towards the scheme had been secured from a contractor working in the town. Cllr Kennedy said they would make a real statement in the town and Cllr Fitzgerald suggested areas in the town for the planters. Cllr Kennedy thanked the members for their support on this.

**Item 12 : To receive updates on the following projects**

a) **Arklow Town Team**

Cllr Kennedy confirmed that the TT Bloom initiative had taken off and thanked Linda for the effort put in getting it off the ground. The recent civic receptions in the town have also been very positive and we are hoping that the new tenant on Main St (Marine Hotel) would make a difference and turn things around. Cllr Kennedy said that the incoming Chair would continue the good work with the team.

b) **Arklow Courthouse**

Ms McDonald said the next step in the renovating the Courthouse would be to appoint an Engineer and obtain quotes and confirmed that the Court Services would be funding the project.

c) **Coastal Protection Works on the North Beach**

No further update – reply sent to OPW.

d) **Arklow Christmas Festival**

Ms McDonald gave an update the Christmas Festival.

e) **Arklow Halloween Festival**

Ms McDonald gave an update on the Halloween Festival – A meeting was held with students from the CBS in Arklow Town and they have shown a great interest in the festival.

**f) Arklow on Ice**

A fourth meeting took place this morning – a flyer is to be distributed and an information meeting is to be arranged for the beginning of June.

**Item 13: Cathaoirleach's Special Recognition Award**

Cllr Kennedy commended the amount of volunteering across the district and the club that has touched his heart is the Avondale Allstars – A group that caters for the people with learning disabilities covering the whole district and beyond. The club has 11 members and 12 adults assisting. Cllr Annesley said it was a tough decision to make all agreed that it was an excellent choice.

**Item 14: Correspondence**

A letter was received about public access to walkways near the caravan park – It was agreed to arrange a meeting with the Marsh Committee and refer the correspondence to the Law Section to get advice on the issue of right of way. Cllr Fitzgerald asked if a meeting could be arranged after the July meeting.

A letter was received from St Saviours parish church looking for funding – Cllr Kennedy said there was no funding available and Cllr Bourke suggested asking the heritage officer to work with them in raising funding for the repairs.

A letter was received for the town twinning committee looking for funding for the coming year. Cllr Fitzgerald said that they may have received the full budget last year. Cllr McDonald said that the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the twinning was coming up in 2018 and funding would be required for extra smaller events being held. It was agreed they be given €3000.00 on submission of a more detailed breakdown of the costs and copies of their bank statements. This year's Estate Development grant fund is €8,500.00 and the advertisement was to go out in the coming days – there would be a three week application period. It was proposed that the grants would be given out at the July meeting.

The company Go-Car – carsharing would like to give a presentation to the members about introducing the scheme in the town. It was agreed that it would be discussed at the June meeting.

The Annual Meeting of AMD is to be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

**Item 15: Any Other Business**

Cllr Kennedy asked that a letter of gratitude be issued to Sgt. Mary Burbage who recently retired for the Garda Síochána.

Cllr Bourke said that the old Kilbride Graveyard had been vandalised again and 12 graves were disturbed. An attempt was made to break into the Pyramid and J Kavanagh was extremely upset at the damage done. Cllr Bourke emailed the District Manager and asked if the AMD staff could help restore the graveyard as a gesture of goodwill. Cllr Annesley said

that if the Pyramid was in any other County it would be better maintained. Jack Kelly DE said that as the graveyard is not council property procedure would need to be followed as you would be dealing with a possible national monument. You would need to be sure that you are not breaking the law in repairing the grave stones. Cllr Kennedy suggested that we write to D Burns and get clarification.

Cllr Annesley said that the flowerbed along the Riverwalk needs to be looked and that cobble lock could be an option. Jack Kelly DE said he would meet him there to discuss the matter.

**Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017.**

*Signed: Cllr. Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.*

*Signed: Ms. Linda McDonald, Arklow Municipal District Administrator*