



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th OCTOBER 2016

Present:

Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Mary McDonald
Cllr. Miriam Murphy

Officials Present: Mr. Michael Geaney, A/District Manager
Ms. Linda McDonald, District Administrator
Mr. Jack Kelly, District Engineer
Ms. Frances Clinton, Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr. Tommy Annesley

Item 1 - Vote of Sympathy:

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

Brian Alexander, Margaret Byrne, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Olive Hersee, Brendan Kincaid, Michael (Buffer) Kinch, Tommy McWalter, Judy Power, Francis (Frank) Robinson, Forbes Vigors and Rita Wolohan.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting, held on the 14th of September 2016:

The Minutes of the AMD Meeting held on the 14th of September 2016 were proposed by Cllr. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Bourke.

Item 3 – Matters Arising:

Congratulations were given to the Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney Football Club on their win in the Intermediate Football Championship Final against Ballinacor recently. It was agreed to invite representatives from both teams to a reception in the AMD Offices after the next AMD Meeting on November 9th next.

Ms. McDonald updated all present on their query regarding the Percent for Art Scheme. She read an email from Michael Nicholson, Director of Community, Cultural and Social Development which outlined that the funding for the new Arklow Library came from the Council's own resources at a cost of €4 million. The Department only covered the cost of the site. He advised that the 1% would have come from WCC's resources and as such it did not apply in this case. It would simply have increased the cost of the project by €64,000.

Regarding the issue around illegal parking in disabled bays, Ms. McDonald told the Members she was in touch with Gorey Municipal District who informed her that their pilot scheme which allows members of the public to text the Traffic Wardens if they see illegal parking in disabled bays occurring, is working well. She added that she is awaiting a reply from ParkRite to her query as to whether it is possible to do likewise in Arklow from an I.T. point of view. She added that there are 17 disabled parking spaces in Arklow Town spread over 10 locations. She said that the amount of fines issued for illegal parking in disabled parking spaces in 2015 was 55 and year to date for 2016 is 30.

Cllr. Kennedy said that himself and Cllr. Annesley had recently received some information on the introduction of 'Age Friendly Spaces' which are parking spaces close to places such as the Post Office, the exits of car parks etc. which are left for the elderly to use. This would be based on the good will of other motorists i.e. if another motorist uses these spaces no penalty or fine will apply. It is an optional choice based on good will. Linda McDonald agreed to check this out.

Cllr. Kennedy asked if the fine for illegally parking in disabled spaces can be increased. Ms. McDonald advised that she believes the fine is set out in the Road Traffic Act but is awaiting confirmation of same from ParkRite. Cllr. Bourke added that he would not like to see such an increase.

Cllr. Murphy asked that the disabled parking signs on the roads be repainted. Mr. Kelly agreed to look to see which ones need this done.

Ms. McDonald informed all the Members that the official name of Dunne's Lane was adopted by WCC and signage will now be erected. It was suggested that an unveiling ceremony should take place when the signage at St. Mary's Park is erected. Cllr. McDonald asked that the sign alerting motorists to the car park in the Main Street needs to be erected. Mr. Kelly said he would speak to Sean Dunne about this. Cllr. Fitzgerald asked for the sign at Mahon's Lane to be replaced. He added it was removed but never replaced. The District Administrator said that AMD has requested an increase in its budget for signage for 2017.

Item 4: To discuss Traffic Calming Measures at Woodlands Estate, Arklow:

Ms. McDonald informed the Members that the reply to the 300 letters which were issued was about half in favour of more ramps and half not. She added that road markings and signage in the estate have been renewed. It was agreed that Mr. Kelly would meet with Cllr. McDonald in Woodlands Estate to view the area in question. The matter is to be discussed at the November Meeting.

Item 5: To receive an update on the AMD Roads Programme 2016:

Mr. Kelly updated the Members on the AMD Roads Programme 2016 with the following information:

He said the works at the Community Involvement Schemes at Moneyteige, Mucklah and Ballintemple are complete. He added that one outstanding scheme remains at Kilcara. He said road strengthening of the storm damaged road at Ballyrogan is to commence on the week starting Monday the 17th of October next. He said the footpaths at Redcross are complete, at Woodview Park, Avoca they are ongoing and at Woodenbridge they will start in early November. He said the footpath on the Wexford Road, Arklow is to commence immediately.

Cllr. Murphy asked when Inbhear Mor will be done. Mr. Kelly informed her that these works will be done in the next 2 weeks.

Cllr. Bourke asked about a collapsed culvert on the Ballydonnel to Redcross Road. Mr. Kelly informed him this work is done.

Cllr. McDonald asked if the footpath on the Wexford Road from the bus stop to Tesco can be resurfaced. Mr. Kelly said he would discuss this with James O'Toole.

Cllr. Fitzgerald said that we agreed to do this last year but never did. Ms. McDonald reminded all that the budget for these works was overspent last year so new funding must be found for this work. Cllr. Bourke asked if the road markings on the Ballese Road could be redone. Mr. Kelly said this is on the programme to be done.

Item 6: To receive an update from Cllr. Fitzgerald on the work of the Burial Ground Subcommittee of the Transportation, Water & Environmental Services SPC:

Cllr. Fitzgerald informed all present that he and Cllr. McDonald are on the Burial Ground Subcommittee of the Transportation, Water & Environmental Services SPC.

Cllr. Fitzgerald gave the following update on proposed policies for St. Gabriel's Cemetery. He said that there are 7 items going to the full Council while another 1 matter is for further discussion.

He said the recommendations include a locals only policy i.e. the Council reserve spaces for locals only, the removal of the ability to advance purchase i.e. plots will only be sold at the time of death, graveyards to become lawn type graveyards and sourcing land under a Capital programme for new graveyards. Cllr. Fitzgerald added that with regard to making graveyards into lawn graveyards, he would be very opposed to anyone being asked to remove grave surrounds. He added that there are 4 lengths left in St. Gabriel's graveyard where lawn type graves could be made.

Cllr. Bourke suggested that if any land earmarked for Community Use could be changed for to be used for graveyards, it would be a good idea to make graveyards on the South and the North side of Arklow.

Cllr. Fitzgerald added that there is a Capital Programme for urn walls in Arklow, Rathnew and Bray.

Cllr. Kennedy expressed his disappointment with the Environment Section as he said they had originally agreed to have both urban and rural representatives on this subcommittee. He said that rural graveyards are maintained and ran very differently to urban ones, that people from rural areas like to advance purchase their plots in advance and he questioned whether the detail in the local only policy is suited to

rural people e.g. if the person has to live within 8km of a graveyard to be buried there but the lane to their house/farm brings them over the 8km, does this mean they have to be buried elsewhere, where their family have never been buried etc.

Mr. Geaney interjected that the local only policy combined with only being able to buy a plot at the time of death prevents people from other counties buying plots and leaving locals with none.

Item 7: To receive a report on submissions received for traffic calming proposals for The Brook, Lower Main Street, Arklow:

Mr. Kelly stated that 21 submissions on this matter were received by AMD. He said that due to its proximity to both the South Quay and the Lower Main Street, The Brook has been used as a rat run by motorists trying to avoid traffic holdups on the South Quay, Lower Main Street and Bridge Street. He added that The Brook is too narrow to allow for two-way traffic. He said that with regard to the direction of one way traffic, the vast majority of the submissions were that the traffic would only be coming from South Quay. He said that, in his opinion, this proposal would give rise to a smaller number of vehicles using The Brook as a rat run and would have less impact on The Brook. He therefore recommended that The Brook be made one way from the South Quay. This was proposed by Cllr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr. McDonald. The District Administrator said she would have this advertised. Cllr. Bourke asked is this extinguishing a right of way. Mr. Kelly told him it wasn't as all traffic is not being banned.

Cllr. Bourke and Mr. Kelly agreed to meet at The Brook to look at putting in an access ramp for a resident there.

Item 8: To receive updates on the following projects:

a) Review of Parking Bye Laws

Ms. McDonald advised all present that Helena Dennehy of WCC emailed to state that a full review of parking countywide is currently underway. This includes a full review of Bye Laws and contracts. It is anticipated that bye laws for the entire county will be finalised next week and these bye laws will be on public display in October. This public consultation period will allow for submissions from Members and the general public. The proposed bye laws will then be presented to the full Council at the November Meeting. It is anticipated that WCC will seek tenders for the full operation of parking services and the National Procurement Office is currently finalising a framework for this process from which WCC will be able to draw down.

Mr. Geaney said that there is a lot of work being done on this at present. Cllr. Fitzgerald said that he doesn't agree with charging medical people for parking permits or for rate payers to have to pay for parking discs or for residents on the Main Street to have to pay for parking discs. Ms. McDonald said AMD are the only district in the county not charging for permits.

Cllr. Bourke said that he feels the enforcement of parking violations is too harsh. He gave the example of someone being fined €40 for parking their car over the white line/car parking space boundary when there are empty spaces around it.

Cllr. Kennedy asked how much AMD are paying ParkRite and how much profit is made from parking fees and fines. Mr. Geaney said he would request this information.

b) Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

All Members were informed that the Public Consultation Meetings would take place the first week of November 2016. Cllr. Fitzgerald said that the work will be begin at the end of 2017. Mr. Geaney reminded all present that the OPW are the lead agency on this project and are to be informed if any obstructions are met.

Cllr. McDonald said the residents of Whitebridge in Avoca feel the river there needs dredging. Mr. Kelly said this should be reported to Marc Devereaux of WCC. Cllr. Kennedy said the owner of the Farrier's Inn has agreed to give access via his car park to the river for any dredging work.

c) Arklow Harbour – North Quay Wall Remedial Works

Ms. McDonald informed all present that Ciaran McCaffrey of the Environment Section of WCC emailed her to advise her that the vegetation removal and power-washing of the North Quay Wall have been completed. He also advised that the contractor has experienced some delays due to strong and unfavourable winds which have delayed the project slightly. This has resulted in some ensuing delays to the drilling and grouting works. The contractor has achieved significant progress over the last few days and it is estimated that works will continue until approximately the 5th of November subject, to weather conditions.

d) AMD Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme

Cllr. Kennedy thanked Ms. McDonald for all her hard work on this scheme. Ms. McDonald informed all present that she received 15 expressions of interest to this scheme in reply to the advertisement. She added she is awaiting a reply from the Roads Section to see if we can include 4 more roundabouts in this scheme. Cllr. McDonald asked that if we are told no by the Roads Section, can AMD please ask BAM to maintain the roundabouts they are meant to maintain. Cllr. Bourke suggested the voluntary work done by John McDonald maintaining 2 roundabouts be acknowledged. He suggested allowing him to advertise on one. Cllr. Bourke was advised that though the work of Mr. McDonald is appreciated and should be acknowledged, it could not be acknowledged in this manner as Mr. McDonald did not submit an expression of interest unlike the 15 others who did. Cllr. Kennedy asked that the money raised from this project be ring-fenced for AMD and not to go into the coffers of WCC.

e) North Beach Coastal Protection Works

Ms. McDonald informed all present that Robert Mulhall, Executive Engineer, met with Cyril McCarthy from the OPW on the 27th of September last. He said they had a detailed look at the existing condition of the protection system and Mr. McCarthy recognised that the existing defence system does need repairing and a breach is possible if this is not done. Mr. Mulhall said that the problem lies in the fact that these

repair works are classified as 'maintenance' and not 'new capital works' and in the OPW's view AMD is seeking funding for the repair of existing, and not the creation of new. The available funding does not cover maintenance and it is up to each local authority to maintain the structures constructed from OPW funding. Mr. McCarthy said that the policies and criteria that must be adhered to in order to be eligible for funding, are not therefore being met. Mr. McCarthy suggested AMD reapply for funding with this knowledge. Either way, Mr. McCarthy said the funding would not cover the reconstruction of the existing footpath.

Mr. Geaney added that a decision on this should be given this week. It was agreed by all Members to let the 5 TDs for Co. Wicklow know that this application has gone in and their support for same is called for. It was estimated that the cost of such work – including the reconstruction of the existing footpath – is €300,000.

Item 9: Correspondence:

- Linda Morgan, Chairperson for Leinster Female Boxing wrote to AMD to ask for a contribution to their fundraising appeal to attend the Golden Girl Championships in Sweden in 2017. It was agreed to contribute €1,200 out of next year's Festival Funding Budget. Cllr. Fitzgerald proposed this and Cllr. Kennedy seconded it. In order to provide the money for them this year, it was agreed to allocate the sum of €1,200 to this worthwhile project.
- Mac Burke, a 13 year old student at Glenart College, wrote to ask AMD to arrange a Halloween Festival. It was suggested by Cllr. Bourke that the Christmas Festival Committee might get involved in this. Ms. McDonald suggested this be put on the agenda for February/March next year. All agreed to this.
- Frances Burke, Secretary of The Beech Road Community Alert Group, wrote to ask AMD to erect a street light on the first bridge of the Beech Road. Cllr. Fitzgerald advised that the bridge is being installed in sections and thus ducting for a street light could be put in. It was agreed that Ms. McDonald would pass this request to the Director of Roads and write to Ms. Burke to advise her this has been done.
- Siobhan Enright wrote to AMD to request a footpath be built at the top of Love Lane/Pound Hill continuing to Hills Garage. This piece of correspondence had been carried on from the previous AMD Meeting on 14/09/16 to allow Mr. Kelly to respond. Mr. Kelly advised that 4 applications have been made to N.T.A. for funding and one of these is for €35,000 for a footpath on the Dublin Road. He said that if this application is successful and €20,000 could be added from the Discretionary Fund then this work could be done. Ms. McDonald said she would reply to Ms. Enright to state these works are on a list.
- Monika Kostka wrote to ask AMD to either contribute financially or to send one of the Members to the forthcoming PolskaEire Festival in Ruda Slaska, Poland in May of next year. It was agreed that the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Kennedy would attend this festival and that this would be funded out of next year's budget. On this note, Cllr. Murphy asked if we could review Arklow's

twinning relationship with the town in Poland Arklow is twinned with. Ms. McDonald agreed to try to make contact.

- Pat Power wrote to AMD to ask for their support for a Kynoch Centenary Commemoration in 2017. Ms. McDonald said the Economic Development Fund could be used for funding for this. She said she would acknowledge the letter, send a copy to each of the Members and she would put this item back on the agenda for January 2017.

Item 10: Any Other Business:

Mr. Geaney said the Christmas free parking dates are 02/12/16 to 02/01/17 (both dates inclusive) and the free parking on the Main Street will be restricted to 2 hours on these dates.

Cllr. Kennedy alerted Mr. Geaney to 5 manholes which need attention in Rathdrum – 1 at the Post Office, 2 on Lower Main Street, 1 in The Woods and 1 on the Greenanne Road opposite the hospital gate.

Cllr. Kennedy thanked all those involved in the launch of the Arklow Municipal District – “Making a Difference” short video on Thursday the 6th of October last. Ms. McDonald added that the feedback has been very positive and it has been viewed on www.wicklownews.net 10,500 times. She added that Cllr. Fitzgerald will be on East Coast Radio on 13/10/16 discussing it and Conor Simpson of the IDA has also agreed to promote it. Cllr. Bourke and Cllr. Murphy praised the video and the launch, stating it was a great opportunity to network and meet new faces in a good atmosphere. Mr. Geaney suggested that the momentum is kept going by establishing the Town Team. Ms. McDonald said she has contacted Christine Flood to set this up.

Cllr. Fitzgerald informed all present that Inspector Syl Hipwell has left Arklow to go to New Ross. He said he will be sorely missed as he was dedicated to his job and to Arklow and he suggested a letter thanking him for all his hard work over the years be sent to him.

Cllr. Murphy expressed her disappointment that the Avoca Mines were excluded from the Local Area Plan (LAP). Cllr. Fitzgerald said they weren't fully excluded and Ms. McDonald advised all present that packs have been put before them containing information on the LAP and advised them that the public consultation day will be 18/10/16.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 9th of November 2016 at 3.30pm.

Signed: *Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.*

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