



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th JUNE 2016

Present: Cllr. Sylvester Bourke
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Pat Kennedy
Cllr. Mary McDonald

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

Apologies: Cllr. Miriam Murphy
Cllr. Tommy Annesley

Cllr. Bourke welcomed all present to the meeting and passed on apologies from Cllrs. Murphy and Annesley.

The Members expressed votes of sympathy to the families of the following who recently passed away: Elizabeth Ebbitt, Kathleen Leeson, Kitty O'Shea, Thomas Carroll and Dorcas Boddy.

Due to this being his last meeting as Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Bourke thanked the Council and staff of AMD for their support and help throughout the year. He also thanked his wife and family, adding that he could not have carried out his duties as Cathaoirleach without them. He mentioned various projects which had been completed in his year as Cathaoirleach and many momentous events that took place such as the opening of the upgraded N11, the Water Treatment Plant, the new Municipal Offices and Library, the twinning with Aberystwyth, the visit of the Papal Nuncio Charles J. Brown, the Cycle Against Suicide, the 1916 commemoration events, the vote on Part VIII Housing in Rathdrum.

All Councillors present expressed their thanks to Cllr. Bourke for his work as Cathaoirleach and the manner in which he represented AMD.

Item 1: Election of Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. Fitzgerald proposed Cllr. Kennedy as Cathaoirleach. Cllr. McDonald seconded this proposal. Cllr. Kennedy thanked all present for this honour and gave a special thanks to Cllr. Bourke for his hard work as Cathaoirleach. He expressed his commitment to serve the district well, adding that he looked forward to working with the AMD staff in the coming term. He expressed his wish to work towards solutions to the housing shortage in AMD, the need for the sewerage treatment plants in Avoca and Aughrim to be upgraded and to bring inward investment and job creation to AMD. Cllr. Kennedy said he will be asking each of the 5 TDs to a meeting to update AMD on their plans for the area.

Item 2: Election of Leas Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. Bourke proposed Cllr. Annesley as Leas Cathaoirleach. Cllr. Fitzgerald seconded this proposal. Cllr. Fitzgerald explained to all present that Cllr. Annesley was currently undergoing surgery and hence could not be present.

Item 3: To agree Schedule of Ordinary Meetings for the coming year.

Ms. McDonald had furnished all present with a Schedule of the Ordinary Meetings for the coming year. All present agreed on the Schedule noting that there is no August meeting and that all other meetings, except that in Rathdrum on the 22nd of June next, will take place on the second Wednesday of each month.

Item 4: Review of Notices of Motions.

Ms. McDonald had furnished all present with a report on the Notices of Motion since 10/09/2014.

Upon reading through the Notices of Motion Report Ms. McDonald informed all present that there is no update yet from WCC on the review of pay parking in Arklow Town (1st Motion in Report) and with regard to the lighthouse (16th Motion in Report), she informed all present that Paul Ivory, the Harbour Master, has expressed interest in erecting the lighthouse in the Harbour area.

Cllr. Bourke asked Ms. McDonald if she could find out if the Percentage for Art Scheme will apply to the Ballyduff Water Treatment Scheme.

With regard to additional parking in Aughrim at the Garda Station Cllr. Kennedy asked Ms. McDonald to contact the OPW.

With regard to Road Safety at schools it was agreed to discuss having a subcommittee formed for this at another meeting. The committee would consist of the Cathaoirleach, Mr. Kelly and the Principals of the schools in AMD.

Ms. McDonald informed all the Members that Glenart College has requested that the crossing be moved to the new entrance. KWETB are currently considering funding for this.

Item 5: Notice of Motion

“That the Council considers the installation of a footpath from Corballis to Avondale House, Rathdrum” – Cllrs. Bourke, Fitzgerald, Annesley (received 5th May 2016).

Cllr. Kennedy said that the cost will be approximately €135,000. The area is 1.3km long and the 2 landowners involved have no issue with this being done. He added that this footpath is necessary in the interests of safety and tourism. Cllr. Kennedy said that funding is the only issue preventing this work being done.

Cllr. Bourke said that next year’s Discretionary Funding cannot be used for this as it will be only €90K and therefore asked if funding can be sourced from elsewhere. It was suggested to try for Leader funding or to include a footpath in the costs of rejuvenating Avondale Project.

Item 6: Correspondence

Ms. McDonald informed all present that Myles Smith of the Avoca Tidy Towns and Community Courthouse wrote to AMD to offer their premises for use for an AMD Meeting.

Ms. McDonald read an email from K&G Funfair in which they requested the use of the Arklow Main Street Car Park during the Sea Breeze Festival (14/07/16 – 17/07/16). After some discussion it was agreed that the District Administrator would contact the Sea Breeze Festival Chairman, Mr. Colm Moules to obtain their views on a change of location for the Funfair. Issues of concern are safety when using the Car Park for both parking and a fun fair and loss of parking revenue.

On foot of correspondence from Brian King of the Marsh Area Project it was agreed to ask them to meet with the Council on the 8th of July next at 5.30pm.

Ms. McDonald informed all present that the East Wicklow Youth Service wrote to AMD to request the use of St. Mary’s Park for Sunday the 3rd of July for a Remembering 1916 event. All agreed to this.

Item 7: Any Other Business

Ms. McDonald reminded all present that the next meeting of AMD on the 22nd of June in Rathdrum.

Ms. McDonald advised all present that AMD will host a Facebook page for good news stories and anything that might be of interest to the public. She added that she would email each of the Councillors the link to this.

Mr. Geaney said that a full presentation on the new Pay By Weight system, due to commence on the 1st of July, will be given at the next full Council Meeting.

Cllr. Kennedy said that Sorcha Walsh from the Planning Section in WCC has requested that a County Development Plan Workshop take place in AMD Offices on June 17th at 2pm. All agreed to this.

Ms. McDonald referred to her email advising the Members that the Managers Report on Submissions is now available for Members to view in the AMD Offices.

Cllr. Bourke added that the Ballycoog Cemetery needs to be marked out for an extension. Mr. Geaney said he would talk to Eilish Kelly about this.

Ms. McDonald said that she would send a welcome letter to the new Anglican Minister Nathan Duddy.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Signed: Ms. Linda McDonald, Arklow Municipal District Administrator

13th July 2016