



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN BALLYCOOG, COMMUNITY HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 11th March 2020**

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

Officials Present: Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator
Mr. Colm Lavery, District Manager
Mr. Rob Mulhall, A/District Engineer
Mr. Daniel Roche, Executive Engineer
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, Assistant Staff Officer

Item 1 : Vote of Sympathy:

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

Thoss O Toole, Robert Porter, Vincent Martin, Rosemary Madigan, Jimmy Farrell, Helen Connolly, Myles Moody, Alice Freaney, James Byrne, Peter Gill, Carmel Hecker, Hazel Turner, Tiana Connolly, Rosie Monaghan, Patrick Gouch Kinsella, John Byrne, Brent Smithies, Patrick Murray, Margaret Egan, Frances Wolohan.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 12th February 2020.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 12th February 2020 were proposed by Cllr Bourke and seconded by Cllr Kennedy.

Item 3: Matters Arising.

Cllr Murphy sought clarification on the proposed traffic survey for the town – Colm Lavery DM stated that once the terms of reference were agreed the job would go out

to tender. The process will include a consultation phase and any comments can be forwarded to the District Engineer. The members requested a meeting with the consultants once engaged, Colm Lavery DM agreed with the proposed meeting once the consultants were appointed. Cllr Annesley stated that the survey would need to be carried out during school term. All members agreed that the effects on traffic of the new WWTP, Primary Care Centre and new developments within the town need to be a key feature of the study. Cllr Bourke asked that the traffic flow is measured on the day the Town Team propose to carry out its "Walk to School" day.

Item 4: Update on Columbarium Wall

Claire Lawless DA confirmed that there would not be sufficient funds to complete these works this year – the proposed works are part of the three year capital programme. The members expressed their disappointment – it was agreed that Arklow was to get a columbarium wall after Bray, meeting minutes will confirm this. A survey was conducted in the town and the results speak for themselves, we need to push this project on. The members discussed alternative sites and agreed to assess all options to move the project on. In the meantime the Bray model should be looked at.

Item 5: Rob Mulhall A/District Engineer to discuss -

Roads Programme 2020

Road Strengthening Works

The tender process is now complete for the local and regional road resurfacing jobs in the Arklow MD for 2020. Contractors are currently being appointed. It is expected that these works will start in mid-late April 2020 when the weather improves and temperatures increase.

Surface Dressing Works

A list of surface dressing has been compiled and issued to the Roads Department. The current list for 2020 is below. R Mulhall A/DE stressed that the list may be revised prior to the works being carried out during the summer months –

R-753 – Rathdrum Garda Station – Co-op, L-2197-0 – Woodenbridge – Ballycoog, L-6195-0 - Woodenbridge to Kilahurler, L-6169-20 – Ballymurtagh(Avoca) – Castlemacadam, L-6182-31 – Castlemacadam – Knocknamohill, L-6184-0 – Knocknamohill – Woodenbridge, R -754 – Kilmacoo – Redcross.

Discretionary Projects

With regard to the discretionary projects list of approximately 21 different projects agreed, each of the projects is at varying stages of progression.

R Mulhall A/DE confirmed that the majority of projects would have contractors appointed in the coming weeks. There is doubt over the footpath works in Barndarrig as there may be a need to install a paladin fence and the budget is not there this year – the school principal has requested a formal engineers report before agreeing to any works. The installation of a public light at Ballyrichard is in doubt also.

Footpaths/IPB Remedial Works

With regard to the Footpaths/IPB Remedial Works, a list of areas containing potential trip hazards within the Arklow Municipal District is currently being compiled. It is hoped that later in the year (resource permitting) a tender package will be issued to contractors to carry out remedial works in all of the areas identified. Rob Mulhall A/DE circulated a detailed list of locations identified.

Wicklow County Council	85
Eircom	85
IW	30
ESB	9

The utility companies will carry out repairs to their own locations. Cllr Leonard asked if it was just bad workmanship and Rob Mulhall A/DE stated that natural deterioration is also a cause and full re-instatement is generally carried out once all works are complete. The identified works will be tendered out and the audit will continue. Cllr Annesley said that the list does not include all utility companies - Bord Gais for example – and Ferrybank, as Cllr Murphy has mentioned, is in a terrible state. Rob Mulhall A/DE confirmed that he had walked locations with Virgin Media and has been monitoring their re-instatements. Cllr Annesley said that many of the crews were arrogant and block footpaths with no regard for pedestrians. Rob Mulhall A/DE confirmed that the list only represents the highly trafficked areas and includes all hazards and works will be prioritised.

Low cost Safety Schemes

From the 2019 Low Cost Safety Scheme list we are still awaiting connections at the following crossings - L2172 Redcross and R754 Avoca.

No further progress has been made with the following schemes - We intend to prepare tender documents for the Vale Road job next week and various options are being looked at with regard to the two pedestrian crossing upgrades - Wexford Road (South) Arklow ,Wexford Road (North) Arklow, Vale Road Arklow, Saville's Cross. Members stated their frustration at the un-necessary delays with ESB connections.

Other Road Works –LIS & CIS Works

Local Improvement Scheme Works: No budget has yet been announced for 2020.

Community Involvement Schemes: A budget of €307,000 has been allocated to Wicklow County Council in 2020 for CIS Schemes. Currently there is one live application from the Arklow MD on the county wide list. The projected cost of completing this scheme is in the region of €169,000.

Item 6: To agree funding amounts for Estate Grants

Claire Lawless DA circulated the proposed grant payments to residents associations (16 in total) and the payments were proposed by Cllr Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald. Payments are subject to meeting the full application criteria.

Item 7: To discuss development of Ballycoog.

Andrew Bolger (Ballycoog Development Committee) welcomed the members to the hall. The people of Ballycoog are working hard and have plans for the area and he encouraged all at the meeting to strive to achieve these goals. On behalf of the village, he expressed gratitude for the proposed footpath and road safety works scheduled for the village.

The future plan to upgrade the community hall was discussed and how this upgrade could be funded – the hall is not fit for purpose – it was proposed that a business and development plan could be drafted before any commitment could be made in relation to the area and this in turn would assist in completing any future funding applications.

Cllr Fitzgerald confirmed that once a plan was presented, the members would sit down and consider it and the funding needs could be identified and any decision on assistance available to the committee would be considered.

Andrew Bolger stated that while the community has a certain amount of funding the proposed plan would use up most of that and the community will need some guarantee that the proposed plan would lead to further funding. Cllr Fitzgerald suggested that the committee draw up a rough outline of the plan and present it to the District Manager – Broad terms, identify projects and assess what funding streams are available.

The members thanked all for their input and all supported the proposal and stated their commitment to assist the community where possible – Community halls are a vital part of any rural area.

Item 8: Update on projects in Arklow MD

Arklow MD Festival Funding Scheme 2020

Advertised this week. Closing date Thursday 9th April.

Arklow Municipal District New School Gardens Competition

Launched this week. It is open to all schools in the District.

To support schools to bring nature, wildlife, plants and colour into their schools to promote horticulture and biodiversity.

Flower basket Scheme 2020

150 baskets purchased to date – 20 baskets ordered to date.

Cllr Leonard asked if the A/DE would look at signage issues at the Woodenbridge Junction to the Lodge House – Rob Mulhall A/DE confirmed that someone had already been on touch with him about this and signs have gone up. He also recommended that they make a submission to the next Speed Limit Review.

Claire Lawless confirmed that the post of Marine GSS is to be advertised for Arklow Harbour.

The principal of Ballycoog NS raised the issue of the speed limit coming into the village past the school and in particular logging trucks – windows broken occasionally.

Cllr Leonard said that the issue about keeping the cobbled drains in Redcross (VR Scheme) needs to be addressed. Rob Mulhall A/DE replied that options for the retention of the drains in some form are being assessed.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 17th June 2020.

Signed: 

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: 

Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District