



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th December 2019

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
Ms. Helena Dennehy, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. John Bowes, District Engineer
Mr. Rob Mulhall, 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:

Dean Hannigan, Margaret Kelly, Kathleen McDonald, Eileen Vaughan, Simon Cooper, Nancy Doherty, Kay Dillon, Noel Harper, Philomena Sarjant, Seamus Kavanagh, Ann Williams Gaffney, Laureen Kelly, Jimmy McKay.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 13th November 2019.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 13th November 2019 were proposed by Cllr. Murphy and seconded by Cllr Leonard.

Item 3: Matters Arising.

Cllr Bourke asked if the request for the installation of bike stands had progressed, John Bowes DE confirmed that a notice of motion had been before the last meeting. Cllr Bourke requested that some be installed along the Riverwalk.

Item 4: Update on URDF projects.

Shane Gubbins and Manuel Diez Garrido (ARUP) circulated the current design plan for the Parade Ground upgrade. The drawings introduced a few elements of change. In-depth topographical surveys carried out, provided valuable information for finalising the report.

Cllr Murphy asked if the pedestrian crossings were designed with those with visual impairments in mind. Manuel said that these requirements would be considered.

The design will also incorporate a digital display screen for promotion of events around the area. The Town Team had made this request and had provided a brief for the design. The unit will be an interactive one and will be user friendly.

With regard to the project timescale, Manuel confirmed that the tender documents were being drawn up with the objective of being on site early next year. Confident that any time lost on issues with the Castle Wall would be caught up.

Cllr Fitzgerald asked for confirmation that there were no huge material changes from the Part VIII approval. It was suggested that the agreed parking arrangements were not fully incorporated in the design and that the number of agreed spaces was seven. Manuel agreed to check this. Cllr Annesley and Cllr Kennedy stated that the plan did not accommodate people being dropped off at the Church gates. Rob Mulhall EE said that this was not a specific request at the planning stage. Cllr Leonard asked if parking at the courthouse was included. Rob Mulhall stated that this was not public parking. Manuel confirmed that the final design would fulfil the brief as agreed while maximising public space and a solution would be found.

Cllr Annesley suggested putting 4 spaces parallel to the two bus spaces. He also asked ARUP to review the pedestrian crossing at the corner shop and consider making it a safer junction. Manuel agreed to look at traffic calming measures there.

Manuel estimated the timeframe for works at 9 months minimum – dependent on contractor appointed.

Item 5: Update on Ronnie Delany Statue.

Claire Lawless DA informed the members that the statue was at final casting stage and could not confirm a timeframe for completion. Once complete the statue will be unveiled at an official ceremony. The members stated their frustration at the delay in getting the statue in place. Cllr Kennedy suggested that works on the plinth could begin to avoid unnecessary delays once the casting was complete. All members agreed with this proposal.

Cllr Leonard asked if the risk of damage during the upgrade works was considered, Cllr Fitzgerald confirmed that the statue could be moved if required.

Item 6: John Bowes, District Engineer to discuss -

Roads Programme 2019

Works are complete under the 2019 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations – no update.

Discretionary Projects

9 projects (plus 1 added) were agreed and each of the projects is at varying stages of progression. The works at Rednagh Rd., Aughrim will be completed next week and tree pruning in Brookmeadow Estate will continue into January.

Footpaths/IPB Remedial Works

8 project locations were agreed plus 2 added and all works are now substantially complete. The snagging on works at St Michael's Tce is to be carried out.

Low cost Safety Schemes

There are 3 pedestrian crossing schemes approved under the DTTAS low cost safety scheme 2019. The schemes are located as follows:

Emoclew Road – Civil works complete and due to be switched on this week.

Redcross – Civil Works complete and due to commence electrical installation.

Avoca – Civil works complete and due to commence electrical installation.

Additional Works: Completed an upgrade of the pedestrian lights on Wexford Road to LEDs. (outside old service station).

Cllr Bourke asked why public lighting works previously approved for discretionary spending were not complete –

Mountain Bay – numbers 9-11

Ballyrichard

Beech Road

The members expressed their frustration at the delays in getting public lighting projects completed. It was also noted that the number of outstanding repairs in the district was increasing.

Cllr Bourke stated that the shop owner in Avoca was dissatisfied with the works and location of the lights and this should be reviewed again.

Cllr Annesley asked what was planned for Curran's Corner after the removal of the beacons – he suggested that overhead beacons could be an option – visitors to the town are not aware that there is a pedestrian crossing there.

John Bowes DE said the beacons had been hit numerous times and would be reluctant to replace them in their current location. There would be a falling risk with them and other options are being explored. Replacing them with the same type of beacon would be perpetuating the problem. Cllr Leonard said she had flagged these with Rob Mulhall EE and asked if the crossing could be moved towards the bridge. Cllr Leonard reiterated what was said about the Avoca Village pedestrian crossing and John Bowes confirmed that the shop owner had been consulted about the proposed works prior to commencing. The main concern was over this possible loss of car parking spaces. It was agreed at the time that the parking arrangement would be reviewed prior to line-marking the road so as to retain existing parking spaces. Following this review the new layout implemented has resulted in no loss of car parking spaces.

Parking habits in the village were discussed and it was agreed to keep this under review regarding future potential parking places.

Cllr Bourke received a complaint that businesses were not notified about the works on the riverbank and asked if there was any way to mitigate the cost to small businesses. John Bowes DE confirmed that the works were carried out on behalf of the OPW and businesses should have been notified.

The members discussed issues relating to public lighting in the district and asked that the DE contact the Public Lighting Engineer in WCC to push things on. Helena Dennehy SEO confirmed that Airtricity Utility Solutions were on an extended contract and no new contract had been signed. The possibility of re-tendering is being looked at to ensure WCC is getting what is needed in the long term. A report from the PL Engineer will issue in the new year.

Item 7 : Notices of Motions

a) In the name of Cllr. Miriam Murphy and Cllr. Tommy Annesley

"That Arklow Municipal District fund resurfacing of footpaths in the area of Ferrybank & Sea Road (between Quinns Shop and Arklow Bay Hotel). This is due to footpaths sinking and is a hazard to the public." (Received 9th October 2019)

DE Report: This issue is mainly due to settlement of and around water meter boxes. A detailed survey of the locations affected has been forwarded to Irish Water for remedial works by them. Other areas that require repair should be funded from the Discretionary works budget in 2020.

Cllr Bourke asked if there were funds available and Cllr Fitzgerald said it would be considered for the 2020 budget.

b) In the name of Cllr. Peir Leonard

"That the Council provide a public toilet on South Beach, Arklow when funds become available." (Received 14th October 2019)

DE Report: A reconditioned universally accessible automatic public convenience on a 15-year rental and maintenance agreement would cost approx. €25,000 per annum. The initial cost for the delivery and installation would be €3,000, not including civil works.

Cllr Leonard said this area is neglected even though a lot of people use it. The cost is substantial but could it be considered at a later date or funding from FLAGG/LEADER be sought. Cllr Fitzgerald supported the proposal but stated that discretionary funding would not be used. Cllr Kennedy suggested that funding may be sought through the off shore wind farm project.

c) In the name of Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald

"In light of the condition of sections of the footpaths in Cherryfield, Arklow, I am asking that remedial works are carried out in 2020." (Received 22nd October 2019)

DE Report: This work should be carried out and should be funded from the Discretionary works budget in 2020.

d) In the name of Cllr. Peir Leonard

"That the Council commission or apply for funding to commission an urban realm plan for the harbour, river and Main Street." (Received 30th October 2019)

DE Report: The study suggested it would be beneficial provided that there is funding available to implement any designs that would be produced. No budget currently exists to undertake this work. The council will endeavour to identify any appropriate source of funding that may be available for a study.

e) In the name of Cllr. Peir Leonard

"That the Council fill in the remaining green area at South Beach, provide two zip wires, one for young children and one for older children, some additional outdoor play equipment and picnic areas when funding allows." (Received 30th October 2019)

DE Report: In principle these additions would be beneficial and could be considered when funding allows.

Cllr Annesley said that funds had been set aside for this previously. Claire Lawless DA said she would check this out.

Item 8: Correspondence

Correspondence received from CJ Louth – ownership of plot at Harbour Court confirmed. Cllr Leonard said that local groups had expressed interest in the community garden project and will discuss it with the district engineer.

A submission for funding was received from the Twinning Association for 2020. Members agreed to allocate €6000 to the Twinning Association. Cllr Kennedy asked that they submit a breakdown of costs for events. Helena Dennehy recommended that a clear program for funding should be requested. Cllr Kennedy asked that Rathdrum be considered for Twinning next year.

Item 9: Any Other Business

Members congratulated Rathdrum on their success in the NETA competition and acknowledged the work put in by the committee and staff members.

Cllr Bourke asked that a letter of congratulations be sent to Servier.

The members expressed their disappointment at the closure of Rondo Foods on South Quay and their thoughts went out to the workers. Local politicians reached out to the company to try and prevent the closure.

The members stated that the IDA is not stepping up to the mark and asked that a letter be sent to the Minister to provide a works task force for the town. Claire Lawless DA said she would write to the Minister.

Cllr Fitzgerald asked all to be aware that there are dud €20 notes in circulation in the district.

The bus shelters are on order – 3 in total for the district.

Arklow has been awarded €66,900 through the Local Sports Partnership for a community sports hub in the town. Meetings with local clubs will be arranged in the New Year.

The members expressed their thanks and gratitude to John Bowes for everything over the last year and wished him well in his new post. It is not too often that the difference made is so evident – big shoes to fill.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 15th January 2020.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: _____

Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District