



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15th January 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, 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:

Matthew Dalton, May O Reilly, Mary Healy, Brian Franey, Iris Crosse, Austin McNamara, Josephine Bateson, Ann Martin, Christine Power, Margaret Doyle, Charlotte Wolohan, Nadine Lott, Mary McGrath, Denis Healy, James Bolger, Joseph Moore, Rose Speakman, Margaret Kinsella, Tommy Cullen.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 11th December 2019.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 11th December 2019 were proposed by Cllr. Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Murphy.

Item 3: Matters Arising.

Councillor Annesley attended the AGM of Arklow Twinning Association and reported that the meeting went well. Kitty Brennan has stepped down as Chair and the members thanked her for time with the association. The new Chair and Vice-chair elected are Máire Fitzmaurice and Paul Maher respectively. Cllr Annesley is to remain on the committee and Cllr Bourke's nomination to the committee was proposed by Cllr Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald.

Claire Lawless DA confirmed that letters issued to the IDA, Minister Heather Humphries and Servier and replies are awaited from the IDA and the Minister.

Claire Lawless DA updated the members on the Ronnie Delany statue project and confirmed that the location for the statue had now changed. Plans for landscaping are to be drawn up. Rob Mulhall A/DE has been in touch with the sculptor to assess the revised location before the plinth is made. The members agreed with the decision and it was noted that the area will be in the CCTV area and that the previously suggested temporary installation was not ideal. Ronnie Delany to be notified of proposed change in location.

Item 4: To receive an update on the LA Housing Energy Upgrade Programme of Works for 2020 an Arklow MD.

Claire Lawless DA read out a report received from Housing WCC which included the 2020 plan for upgrades that will be budget dependant.

Cllr Murphy said that the delivery of the upgrades is very slow – Avoca residents were notified 4-5 years ago and the works have not started. Cllr Kennedy asked that the upgrade locations be sought for the next meeting. He said that this is an issue throughout the district where areas were promised the upgrades over the years and Housing have not delivered. People are paying top rent and it is not good enough. Cllr Leonard asked that priority be given to the more vulnerable tenants. Cllr Bourke reported that water is coming in under the doors in some houses and that upgrades are urgently required – St Peters Place built 50 years and no upgrade in that time – No answers coming from WCC.

Claire Lawless DA stated that the cost of proposed works was €18,000 to €30,000 per house.

Cllr Murphy raised the issue of delays in getting the HAOP/MAG/HAG grants – also noting that some applications are not acknowledged – for LA tenants. Cllr Fitzgerald stated that in his experience the response is good from Housing. Cllr Annesley said that the unspent funding in any year is lost – Cllr Fitzgerald said that €370,000 had not been allocated in 2019 and all applications are now OT led. Cllr Murphy asked that the question be raised again at plenary level. Cllr Annesley agreed to raise the matter at the next SPC meeting. Cllr Bourke if AMD were getting a fair share of funding for upgrades, Cllr Kennedy stated that this was a good question, Cllr Fitzgerald asked Claire Lawless DA to request a report on this.

Item 5: To discuss Discretionary Budget for 2020 (list of potential projects attached).

The list of proposed projects for discretionary spending in 2020 (circulated with agenda) was discussed and the following was agreed by all members -

Project	Amount
Wexford Bus Park and Ride Ancillary Works, Arklow	€40,000.00
Mountain Bay, Arklow	€5,000.00
Avonbeg Heights, Ballinaclash	€12,000.00
Ballgannon, Rathdrum	€18,000.00
Woodbine Avenue, Arklow	€15,000.00
Marian Villas/Fr. Redmond Park/Peters Place, Arklow	€10,000.00
St. Peters Place, Arklow	€9,500.00
Glenview, Thomastown, Arklow	€5,000.00
Tree Pruning (Arklow MD)	€7,500.00
Barndarrig	€17,200.00
Kilcarra, Arklow	€15,000.00
Sea Road opposite St. Patrick's Terrace, Arklow	€17,000.00
Tower Avenue, Avoca	€14,000.00
Woodlands Green, Arklow	€6,000.00
Ballyrichard, Old Dublin Road, Arklow	€5,000.00
Blackberry Glade, Arklow	€8,000.00
Harbour Court, Arklow	€10,000.00
Arklow Town	€2,100.00
Highfield, Templeraíney, Arklow	€9,000.00
Conary, Avoca	€7,500.00
Ballycoog, Arklow	€2,750.00

Cllr Murphy asked if bike stands were included and R Mulhall A/DE confirmed that they were purchased from last year's budget.

Cllr Kennedy acknowledged that the funding was spread over the district and stated his disappointment that the works in Ballinaclash could not be included this time and insisted that the proposal be kept under review.

Rob Mulhall A/DE confirmed that the IPB funding will only be used for repairs/upgrades to reduce the risk slips/trips and falls. The audit of footpaths is ongoing and once the areas are identified for works, we will go out to tender. The funds are not intended for resurfacing/replacing large areas of footpaths. Areas noted by members will be listed as well as areas around utility connections and companies notified where required.

Cllr Fitzgerald asked that a copy of the audit goes to the members once completed.

The members discussed implementing a small scale tree planting scheme. Cllr Fitzgerald suggested that proposals go to the district engineer for funding.

Cllr Murphy stated that the disabled parking bays in the town are looking shabby and need to be re-painted. Rob Mulhall A/DE requested photos (where possible) of any that need refurbishment.

It was agreed that projects for the balance of funding would be discussed at the next meeting.

Item 6: Rob Mulhall A/District Engineer to discuss -

Rob Mulhall A/DE circulated maps highlighting the stretches of road that have been allocated funding under the 2020 road programme.

Roads Programme 2020

The following works are programmed under the 2020 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations:

Regional Roads

R-752 Tinnahinch, Meeting of the Waters - R750 Sea Road, Arklow - R-755-36 Laragh to Ballyhad

Local Roads

L-2191-21, L-6192-0 Ballyduff – Johnstown Road - L-2901 Yellow Lane – Abbey Street, Arklow - L-2137-0 Aughrim – Craffield - L-2127-0, L-6125-0 Rathdrum – Greenan/Ballyteige

Tender documents for these projects are being prepared will go out for all of the above jobs by the end of this week.

DTTAS Restoration Maintenance Programme 2020 - List of surface dressing works for 2020 is being prepared. DTTAS funding for 2020 has yet to be advised.

Discretionary Projects

2019 Works are substantially complete.

2020 List of works to be confirmed.

Footpaths/IPB Remedial Works

2019 Works are substantially complete.

2020 List of works to be confirmed – Remedial repairs to footpaths in Arklow area based on ongoing audit. The completed report will be presented to the members and works (IPB) completed by year end.

Low cost Safety Schemes

2019: There were 3 pedestrian crossing schemes funded by the DTTAS in 2019 as follows: -

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING LOCATION	Status as at 14 th Jan 2020	
	Electrical Equipment	Civil Works
L2900 Emoclew Road, Arklow	Fully operational Dec 2019	Complete
L2172 Redcross	complete and waiting on ESB connection	Complete
R754 Avoca	complete and waiting on ESB connection	Complete

2020 Applications have been submitted for:

R747 Vale Road Arklow to Woodenbridge approx - 800m of Safety Barrier.
R772 Wexford Road (North), Arklow – Upgrade of pedestrian crossing facilities.
R752 Rathdrum – Pedestrian Crossing near Saviour's National School.
R772 Wexford Road (South), Arklow – Upgrade of pedestrian crossing facilities.

Local Improvement Scheme 2020:-

DTTAS funding for 2020 has yet to be advised.

Community Involvement Scheme 2020 & 2021: -

2no. Applications were received.
DTTAS funding for 2020 has yet to be advised.

Cllr Fitzgerald asked that consideration be given to softening the ramps from Yellow Lane and along Abbey Street – people have been very tolerant. Members agreed that the ramps are severe in comparison to ramps in other urban areas.

Cllr Kennedy said that the Rathdrum works were badly needed. Cllr Bourke agreed and welcomed the decision.

Further discussion followed on where the pedestrian crossing on the Wexford road would be located and Cllr Leonard suggested that the natural crossing point would be opposite Lidl. Also discussed was the visibility of the crossings at Bridge Street and the members suggested the use of more reflective materials and additional signs.

The members discussed on-going issues with lighting on the Wexford Road.

Rob Mulhall A/DE informed that a proposal would be prepared to make an application for URDF funding for projects within the town – Pottery Museum, St

Mary's Park. Cllr Fitzgerald suggested that design plans be drawn up and Cllr Leonard agreed and said that the right project should be chosen.

Item 7 : Notices of Motions

(a) In the name of Cllr. Pat Kennedy

"That the footpath in Ballygannon on the Ballinderry Road be resurfaced. There is a continuous concrete kerb on the outside edge so it would require the inner layer to be re-laid in tar. The old layer of tar is no longer fit for purpose and is a trip hazard in many places." (Received 13th November 2019)

Cllr Kennedy added that this was just a matter of tar – this is an old estate with young families and it is not buggy friendly currently.

(b) In the name of Cllr. Pat Kennedy -"That the Council lay a footpath from the Community Centre along the road edge to the new houses in Conary, as there is no footpath there at present". (Received 13th November 2019)

Cllr Kennedy said it was great to see this works included in this year's proposal and that small villages tend to get left behind.

(c) In the name of Cllr. Pat Kennedy - "That the footpath at Avonbeg Heights in Ballinaclash is finished in 2020 as we started this footpath in 2019, and that funding be made available for the installation of four street lights from Avonbeg Heights to The Birches in Ballinaclash. The Birches is a new housing estate with many children and no street lighting along the footpath". (Received 13th November 2019)

Cllr Kennedy expressed disappointment that these works could not be included this year and questioned why the developer was not required to put in the utilities. Cllr Fitzgerald said he would check if levies were available for funding the works.

(d) In the name of Cllr. Sylvester Bourke and Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald -"That the Council install a footpath from Ard Rua to the speed limit sign in Barndarrig". (Received 20th November 2019)

All Members were in agreement on this motion.

(e) In the name of Cllr. Miriam Murphy -"That Arklow Municipal District considers the resurfacing of the Parade Ground area. The area has residents who have been looking for this for some time" (Received 22nd November 2019)

Cllr Murphy asked that the motion be amended to read "Old Chapel Ground" and not "Parade Ground" – seconded Cllr Leonard. Motion agreed by all members for Old Chapel Ground.

Cllr Leonard also suggested that an art installation would look well on the corner – Cllr Fitzgerald suggested contacting Housing about this.

Item 8: To discuss the possibility of holding the Arklow MD March Meeting at another location in the District.

Cllr Murphy proposed that the March meeting be held in Ballycoog Community Hall. All members agreed.

Item 9: Correspondence

It was agreed by all to implement the election poster ban requested by Arklow Tidy Towns within the town boundaries. The update will be put on the website on Thursday.

The members supported a request from Arklow United Football Club to acquire a second pitch in the town. Cllr Fitzgerald suggested the use of the track field – Colm Lavery DM said that a lease may be required for use of the ground. It was agreed to investigate the request.

Cllr Leonard asked that the Golf Club be contacted in relation to the number of mishit golf balls in the public road area.

Item 10: Any Other Business

Rob Mulhall A/DE circulated the most recent report from ARUP responding to queries raised by members. The issue of parking was discussed and it was reiterated that all submissions made at during the part 8 planning process were considered when drawing up the plans for the area. A major element of the initial plan was to reduce the parking in the area, favouring pedestrians. Disabled and age friendly parking will be part of the plan. Some agreed that there would be ample parking in the town with the current plan.

Members out forward other options for parking spaces around the church.

Cllr Leonard submitted a draft drawing of the proposed community garden in Harbour Court. The members voiced their concerns and suggested that the residents are spoken to first. Cllr Leonard agreed and asked all if they would support the concept. Cllr Fitzgerald stated that the part 8 process would record all views and that would be the way to proceed. Cllr Annesley suggested that a viewing of the garden in Blackrock, Co. Louth would be a good idea – it recently won a Tidy Towns prize and a similar garden might work.

A sum of €10,000 was set aside in 2017 for a public realm project. As this money was unspent Cllr Leonard queried if it could be used for a South Beach project. Claire Lawless DA confirmed she would look into this.

The members discussed the issues with the North Beach walkway and Colm Lavery DM confirmed that WCC were still waiting on the funding announcement.

Cllr Fitzgerald said that it will most likely be a few months before the announcement is made. Rob Mulhall A/DE said that pending reports from other agencies on the coastline from Dun Laoghaire to Courtown will have implications also. Cllr Leonard said that it was time to consider "out at sea" solutions – projects that could tie in with the NORA (Stephen Kavanagh – Oyster Restoration) project, there is funding available.

Cllr Bourke confirmed that the transfer of Kilbride Graveyard to WCC is progressing and paperwork was submitted to WCC. Colm Lavery DM said he would check for receipt.

Members discussed the progress on the Primary Care Centre in Arklow and the Data Centre at Avoca River and welcomed the news of new technology jobs for the town.

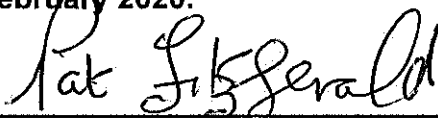
Cllr Kennedy asked if research could be done on river tourism for the district – huge potential from Glenmalure to Arklow – we are not tapping into this potential. In 5-6 years the river will be clean. Cllr Leonard agreed and suggested that a photo montage be commissioned for all areas. Members agreed that this should be looked at.

Cllr Annesley advised that he would not be available to attend the next meeting.

Closing date for Community Grants is 29/02/2020 – noted.
The unveiling of the heritage panels (LEADER & Arklow Town Team) is on 29/01/2020 – Arklow Library.

Details for civic reception will be decided at the next meeting.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 12th February 2020.

Signed: 

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: 

Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District