



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th JANUARY 2018

Present: Cllr. Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Pat Kennedy
Cllr. Mary McDonald
Cllr. Miriam Murphy

Officials Present: Mr. Michael Geaney, District Manager
Ms. Linda McDonald, District Administrator
Mr. Jack Kelly, District Engineer
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, Assistant Staff Officer

Mr McFadden – Fox McFadden Funfairs

Item 1 - Vote of Sympathy:

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

Angela McDonald, Caryl Breslin, Conal Tarrant, Edward (Eddie) Moorehouse, Edward Bayly, Irene Hobson, John Briody, John Byrne, John Walker, Kevin F Flynn, Kevin Fitzgerald, Laurence Parsons, Margaret Caulfield, Michael O'Brien, Olive Hale, Patricia Kane, Patrick Byrne, Peter Finn, Philomena O'Neill, Sadie Winterbotham, Sarah Sweetman, Thomas Kearney, William(Billy) Murphy, Joe Caulfield, Nicola Bowe, Jack Hudson, Mick Redmond, Christy Bolton, William Toomey.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Meeting, held on the 13th December 2017.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 13th December 2017 were proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald.

It was agreed to hear Item No. 7 after Item No.3

Item 3 – Matters Arising:

Cllr Annesley welcomed Ms Jenny Byrne to the meeting and to AMD as a new staff member and wished Ms Pauline Canavan a speedy recovery following her recent accident.

Cllr Murphy raised the issue of dumping at Sea Road and Ms McDonald said that the issue had been referred to the Waste Management Section and that R Mulhall EE has been in contact with the section.

Ms McDonald gave an update on the painting of the containers at the Harbour and a quote of €10,000 had been received and that the option of using direct labour on the project was currently being considered as this would be a less expensive option. Ms McDonald said that a Part VIII process would be required for the placing of the Lightship Lantern in order to meet the criteria for receipt of FLAG funding.

Ms McDonald advised that an update had been received from IT in relation to the problem with the landline in for AMD. Michael Geaney DM stated that he had raised queries on the reply and is waiting on a reply from the IT section. Cllr. Fitzgerald said that he was fed up and flabbergasted with the situation and that he felt that he was ringing a Call Centre instead of being able to contact staff in Arklow MD directly with a query. The matter was left with Michael Geaney DM for an update at the next Council meeting.

Item 7: To discuss a request received from Fox McFadden Funfairs for use of a site at the Leisure Centre, Arklow.

Linda McDonald read out the letter she had received from Fox McFadden. Cllr. Bourke expressed his initial view that whilst he has no problem with the Funfair at Seaview Avenue, he felt that the residents of Seaview Avenue needed to be consulted first. Cllr. Kennedy agreed with Cllr. Bourke and in addition wanted a breakdown on the number of days it would take to set up the Funfair, the predicted Charge for Ground Rent for the days and the number of days it would take to dismantle the Funfair. He also requested that any rent received would be re-invested for the residents in the area affected.

Cllr. McDonald agreed that there would be teething problems but, the overall economic benefit to the town would be significant. Cllr. Murphy also said that communication was vital with the residents in the area and expressed concerns about traffic congestion in the already busy area. Cllr. Fitzgerald concurred with the above and reiterated communication with the Resident's Association. Cllr. Annesley raised concerns about noise levels, crowds and the location of the Funfair taking into account what is already in place at Seaview Avenue.

Mr. McFadden indicated advised the members present that the funfair would be open Friday-Sunday. It would take 2.5 days approx to set up. He has been visiting the Arklow area and feels that there is no suitable location elsewhere to set up.

The item has been listed on the Agenda for the next Council Meeting in February.

Item 4: To discuss the establishment of a Town Team in Rathdrum.

Linda McDonald DA – reiterated that Cllr. Kennedy had wanted the Arklow Town Team to be in place for a minimum of one year to gauge progress before a proposal for a Rathdrum Town Team would be put forward.

Cllr. Kennedy stated that following on from the successful introduction of the Arklow Town Team it would be envisaged that a Town Team for Rathdrum would be set up but, on a smaller scale. Cllr. Fitzgerald asked for confirmation as to who would be on this new Town Team. Cllr. Kennedy responded that there would be 4-5 representatives and that there are no set up costs. Linda McDonald confirmed that there is no Budget in place for the Town Team and suggested that the number of Town Team Meetings for Rathdrum should be capped.

Cllr. Murphy said that the Rathdrum, Avoca & Aughrim areas have a good business association in place. She suggested that a forum or sub-committee from these 3 areas could sit on the existing Town Team. She was concerned that there is not enough representation for these areas and that more Business Networking could be done.

Cllr. Kennedy spoke about the Town & Village Schemes and suggested that Christine Flood be invited to attend a district meetings to discuss how to improve networking amongst businesses. Cllr. Annesley, Cllr. Fitzgerald & Cllr. McDonald concurred with this suggestion. Cllr. Bourke wants to ensure that Arklow MD do not miss out on any future grants. DE Jack Kelly pointed out that the Town Team was not in place to apply for grants, it is also a forum for bringing businesses together.

Item 5 : To receive an update on the Roads Programme for 2018 from Jack Kelly District Engineer.

J Kelly DE gave his report and asked all for contributions on the proposed discretionary spend for 2018 which will be considered at the February meeting and asked for agreement to begin works in the coming weeks on the following –

- Glenview Thomastown - €15,000.00
- Kirikee - €11,000.00
- St. Saviour's School Rathdrum - €14,000.00

These are from notices of motions from throughout the year.

Cllr Annesley asked how much would be left and this could roughly be a quarter of the budget. Cllr Fitzgerald said that the footpath at the graveyard was in greater need of repair and Cllr Murphy said that footpaths at Ferrybank were lethal for wheelchair users. J Kelly DE confirmed that Emoclew was on the list. Cllr McDonald asked if Marian Villas was on the list and Cllr Kennedy said that all could be done. Ms McDonald said that the painting grant scheme for Arklow town will also need to be accounted for from discretionary spending. The proposed start on works was proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr McDonald. J Kelly DE confirmed that the final schedule was to be agreed and that Kirikee and Rathdrum works would be carried out by our own staff and that Thomastown would be by way of tender.

Cllr McDonald asked when the works on the footpath at Woodenbridge would be completed and J Kelly DE said that they should be completed mid-February – concrete to be laid.

Cllr Kennedy brought two items to the attention of the DE – Trees opposite the entrance to IFI site near the spring (water pipe) and J Kelly DE said this would need to be queried with Coillte. Cllr Kennedy recommended the tree be fully removed. Cllr Kennedy also asked if the works on the stretch of road from Raheenalea could be reviewed as the road could have been widened especially on the corners. J Kelly DE said that he would talk to the contractor to see if the edges are to be finished and see what else could be done. Cllr Kennedy said there were potholes appearing already and cars slipping into the verge. Cllr Bourke said the Ballycoogue road was the same and more soil was needed in the verges.

Cllr Murphy raised the issue of dumping along the road from Woodenbridge to Ovoca Manor and the excess growth on the evergreen trees. Cllr Kennedy asked if the €170,000 bond could be used or some of it and J Kelly DE said the quality was generally good along the 15km stretch.

Item 6: To receive an update from the Housing and Corporate Estate Directorate on the following items –

- **Status of local authority housing projects within AMD – St Marys Rd, Brewery Bends and Emoclew.**

Linda McDonald gave an update on the following:

1. Delaney Park – foundations are poured and construction continuing
2. Brewery Bends, Rathdrum – on target
3. St. Mary's Road – Contractor ready to commence work on site

She stated that there is no scheme in place for upgrade works. Phase II of Fabric may include fascia & soffits. Upgrade Works are a priority and Heating Insulation is not. Cllr. Murphy highlighted that her house was inspected the same day as her neighbour. Her neighbour took everything out of the attic as requested and the contractor has not been back to commence works.

Cllr. Kennedy asked for clarification on Phase I – Linda McDonald stated it is for Insulation only. Cllr. Kennedy went on to list Ballycoogue, Conary, Aughrim & Avoca not being on the list. He stated that there was one particular tenant who had wood across their windows to keep heat in. He also stated that Declan Marnane, T/SE should be asked to come to an Arklow MD Meeting to explain the situation further and was not happy with the figures listed before him. Cllr. Murphy stated that it wasn't good enough when people are paying their rent.

Cllr. Kennedy asked Michael Geaney DE about the sewerage septic tank in Conary. In response Michael Geaney DE said that there was no sewerage system in place and no future works to be carried out.

Item 8: To receive an update on the following –

a) Abbey Graveyard

Work has completed on the rebuilding of the wall. Cost €21,111 (inclusive of VAT). Arrangements are ongoing to try to recoup some of this cost from the adjoining landowner.

The graveyard will remain closed until an archaeologist assesses damage that was also done to some headstones during the storm.

Cllr Fitzgerald expressed disappointment that the graveyard would remain closed.

b) Arklow Town Team

No update since last AMD meeting on the 13th December 2017 and next meeting is scheduled for the 10th January 2018.

c) Arklow Courthouse

The Fire Report for the Courthouse Building is in the final stages of being completed. The report cannot be completed until the new plans for the layout of the proposed commercial offices on the upper floor has been completed. The drafting of these plans are also at an advanced stage. Once the Fire Report has been received we will then be in a position to complete the tender documents for the refurbishment of the ground floor. Once we receive costing for the work we will then be in a position to approach the Court Services with regard to obtaining funding for the refurbishment work.

Tendering was completed for the refurbishment of the Courthouse roof in early December and a preferred contractor has been notified that he can commence work. This contractor has recommended that work does not commence until the weather improves as large sections of the roof will need to be stripped back and will be exposed to the elements. We would hope that this work will start in late February or early March.

Cllr Bourke asked if District Manager could have some input here to speed things up.

d) Coastal Protection Works on the North beach

The area was visited by Boxer Moran Minister of State for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief on the 9th January 2018.

Cllr Fitzgerald said the visit brought a positive response and he gave a commitment to meet with Rob Mulhall after seeing it at its worst. Cllr Kennedy said he had understood that the money was available and it was just a matter of asking. Cllr Fitzgerald agreed and said it was not political and was above politics.

e) Redevelopment of the Parade Ground

The Part 8 for the scheme was lodged last week and submissions from the public are being welcomed until the deadline of 26th February. Providing that permission is granted for the scheme, we will then start work on developing a more detailed costing and bill of quantities for the scheme that we can use for the tendering process. We would hope to be in a position to start tendering for the first phase of the scheme (funding permitting) in the second quarter of the year.

Cllr Fitzgerald welcomed the very positive response from the town however it was noted that there will be some objections but most people are delighted with the project. Cllr Murphy said it should lift the town and Cllr Kennedy agreed and said Arklow needed it and the project needs the support of senior management to get it completed. Cllr Kennedy said further funding is required and the DM should now talk to management about further funding.

f) Coastal Path Walk

Signs have been erected since the last meeting stating that *"In the interest of safety this footpath is closed to public"*.

Cllr Bourke asked if there was any storm damage funding and J Kelly DE said the claim was unsuccessful.

g) Rathdrum Square

The sculpture has been completed and is ready to be put in place by the end of January. It is expected that the lighting in the plinth will be turned on shortly.

Cllr Kennedy said the sculpture was near completion and that a date for fitting could be chosen, taking into consideration that the lights needed to be fitted first. Also on a positive note the derelict buildings on the square was now owned by Gorey Credit Union and renovation works were due to start before the end of March and will enhance the area.

h) Pedestrian Crossing in Aughrim

ESB have connected the power and the contractor is due to switch on the power shortly.

i) LAMA awards

Neither the Halloween Festival under the heading Arts/Culture or the Flower Basket Scheme under the heading Community Based Initiative were shortlisted on this occasion. However, WCC is well represented with Bray MD nominated for 3 awards.

Item 9: To receive an update from the Community, Culture & Social Development Directorate on the following –

- **Arklow Swimming Pool & Leisure Centre – status of feasibility study and proposed works**

Condition survey was carried out by Holohan Architecture in 2017 and it is intended in 2018 to go through a procurement procedure in order to have the works outlined in the report carried out. Consultations have been engaged to tender for a new licence from hopefully 1st June 2018 for 10 years. Existing licence will be extended temporarily until 31st May 2018 to cover intervening period. In the interim fortnightly meetings are held between officials of Wicklow County Council and Coral Leisure to ensure the smooth running of the two public swimming pools in the County and equipment i.e. treadmills and cross trainers are being repaired/replaced on an ongoing basis as and when the need arises. Funding was received recently under the healthy Ireland Initiative to replace the hoists in both pools and these have been ordered.

If anyone has any specific issue that they need clarification on please contact Ms. Theresa O'Brien in the CC&SD section of Wicklow County Council.

Cllr Fitzgerald complimented both M Geaney and M Nicholson on their commitment to keeping the leisure centre open as an important amenity for the town.

- **The former pitch and Putt Site**

Lease in place for 10 years from 1/3/2016 with Hudson Lloyd Hudson Hotel Group Limited. Owners planning on major development and investment on the site. It is intended to meet with the lease holders in January to check on their plans and progress.

If anyone has any specific issue that they need clarification on please contact Ms. Theresa O'Brien in the CC&SD section of Wicklow County Council.

Cllr Bourke said he would like to see it happen as soon as possible, its two years on. Cllr Annesley agreed.

Item 10: To discuss the maintenance of St Gabriel's Cemetery

Cllr. Fitzgerald enquired about maintaining the kerbs, grass etc. He suggested that the upkeep start from mid May onwards.

DE Jack Kelly confirmed that there are currently no schemes in place. He gave an undertaking that the upkeep of the cemetery would commence from circa 1st May 2018 and would continue for at least once a week. It would be ready for the annual Blessing of the Graves in early July.

Cllr. Annesley reconfirmed with DE Jack Kelly that the maintenance would be carried out.

Cllr. Bourke expressed his delight with the undertaking. He received an enquiry from Cllr. Joe Behan regarding the provision of seating in the cemetery. Linda McDonald advised that the technical staff were considering this suggestion at present.

DE Michael Geaney, DE Jack Kelly and Linda McDonald agreed that providing seats in the graveyard could attract anti-social behaviour. It was then proposed that the Councillors are to decide where the seats are to be placed.

Item 11: Notices of Motions:

(a) In the name of Cllr Pat Kennedy

“that some funding be made available on a rolling basis for street furniture for our towns and district” (received 07th November 2017)

Mr. Jack Kelly District Engineer advised that street furniture is normally provided from the budget for the maintenance of parks and open spaces or from grants that come periodically from the Department. Last year the budget was €175,000. This year I would recommend €17,500 of this budget be set aside for new street furniture. I would also recommend that the Arklow Municipal councillors would come to a decision on the acquisition of the street furniture before the end of April each year.

(b) In the name of Cllr Pat Kennedy

“that funding be made available to upgrade the white lining on roads throughout the district” (received 15th November 2017)

Mr. Jack Kelly District Engineer advised that the lining of public roads in the Arklow District is charged to the budgets for the maintenance of regional and local roads. In the past councillors have approached me and I have arranged for the roads to be lined. There have been some delays, particularly during the winter months as the roads have to be dry and above 6 degrees centigrade for the work to be successful. If the members wish to change I would recommend that it be discussed further at this meeting.

Cllr Bourke supported this motion; the Beech Road could do with lining too.

(c) In the name of Cllr Pat Fitzgerald

“That funding is provided from discretionary funding for the installation of a public light at the new bridge on the Beech Rd, Arklow.” (received 15th November 2017)

Mr. Jack Kelly District Engineer advised that the estimated cost of providing the public light at this location is €2000. I would recommend that the €2000 be provided under the discretionary program.

(d) In the name of Cllr Pat Fitzgerald

“That funds be made available to overlay a section of the road that runs from Foxtons, Ballyduff toward the junction for Johnstown/Thomastown” (received 27th November 2017)

Mr. Jack Kelly District Engineer advised that this road is approximately 1.2 km in length. The estimated cost of re-structuring the entire road is €108,000.

Item 12: Correspondence.

It was noted that correspondence had been received from the Polish community in relation to visiting Arklow in May and a reply is to issue soon, they are happy to receive the invitation.

Correspondence received from Nancy Quinn proposing a meeting with a small delegation of residents to discuss the future of the area. All agreed that a meeting would be appropriate to discuss dumping in the area and public access to the shore. A proposed meeting was scheduled for 3pm 14th February 2018.

Item 13: Any Other Business.

- ✚ Cllr. Kennedy – spoke about Derelict Sites Register – Land, Buildings & Folio Number. List of property owned by Wicklow Co. Co. in AMD area only. He referenced a derelict bungalow on the Annacurra Road, Aughrim that has been left idle for about 4 years.
DE Michael Geaney agreed to look at this.

- ✚ Cllr. Fitzgerald agreed with Cllr. Kennedy and referenced houses in other LA’s that have been purchased and maintained by the relevant LA.

✚ Cllr. Annesley – Hilary Sharpe operates a Resource Centre from Crosscare House. Other Community groups cannot use the house for meetings as clothes & food are stored there to meet the increasing demand on their services. It was noted that no letter was sent in to Arklow Members.

✚ Cllr. Annesley proposed that the March meeting be held in Avoca and the May meeting to be held in Aughrim – all agreed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 14th February 2018.

Signed: *Cllr. Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.*

Signed: *Linda McDonald, Arklow Municipal District Administrator*