



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2015.

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

Apologies: Bryan Doyle, District Manager

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

A minute's silence was observed following Votes of Sympathy passed for the following: Eilish Devaney, Mark Synnott, Sr. Imelda Rowe, Una Timmons, Barbara Brennan, Gerard Kavanagh and James Nolan.

Item 1 - Confirmation of Minutes of meeting held on the 14th January 2015.

The minutes of the meeting for Arklow Municipal District held on the 14th January 2015 were confirmed and agreed. Proposed by Cllr. Miriam Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Mary Mc Donald.

Item 2 – Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

Item 3 – Review/Update of Notice of Motions received since 1st June 2014.

Linda McDonald circulated a report on the Notice of Motions and provided an update to the Members as follows:-

AMD meeting 10th September 2014.

Cllr Sylvester Bourke proposed “that the Municipal District Council undertake to review the current pay parking system in Arklow Town”.

Linda Mc Donald, District Administrator advised the members that Christine Flood, Senior Executive Officer is currently commencing a review of Paid Parking in the county. A committee will be established to deal with public consultation, procurement and parking bye laws.

Cllr Sylvester Bourke proposed “That the Municipal District take steps to enhance road safety at all the schools in the in the South Wicklow Area”.

Linda Mc Donald advised that a list of both Primary and Secondary Schools within the AMD has been compiled and will be e-mailed to each Member. It was agreed that the Members would make a decision on improvement works to enhance road safety at these schools at a future meeting when discussing the Schedule of Works for the District.

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald proposed “That the funds are made available to have a pedestrian crossing put in place in the vicinity of Redcross National School.

Linda Mc Donald advised that the members could also make a decision on this when discussing the Schedule of Works for the District. Jack Kelly informed the Members that a footpath would be more beneficial at this location and agreed to have a costing available for the budget meeting.

Cllr Miriam Murphy proposed “Following the completion of the new Civic Offices in September 2015 I propose that the new Chamber be officially named “McElheron Chamber”. It would be a fitting tribute to Vincent who gave many years to Arklow during his political life”

Linda McDonald advised that the members had agreed this motion in principal at the meeting of the 10th September 2014. Cllr Pat Fitzgerald advised that approval should be sought from Vincent McElheron's family and asked the District Administrator to write to both Joe and Edward McElheron informing them of the Members proposal.

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald proposed “That an upgrading of the road markings within the Municipal District takes place as soon as funding allows”.

Jack Kelly District Engineer advised the members that some work has already taken place but had to cease due to unfavourable weather conditions, work will recommence shortly.

AMD Meeting 15th October 2014.

Cllr Sylvester Bourke proposed “That the Council ask the Minister with responsibility for the OPW to investigate the possibility of acquiring and converting the green space to the rear of Aughrim Garda station for use as a public car park”.

Linda Mc Donald advised the members that a letter has been sent to the OPW but no response has been received as yet.

AMD Meeting 12th November 2014.

Cllr Miriam Murphy proposed “That Arklow Municipal District upgrades and installs new lighting and look into bus shelters at all bus stops in Arklow. There are some stops with no lighting with a lot of passengers waiting for public transport. There is an urgent need for the people of Arklow”.

Linda Mc Donald advised the members that no response has been received and Cllr Miriam Murphy asked for this motion to be followed up.

Cllr Miriam Murphy proposed “That Arklow Municipal District upgrades the signage on the island at the entrance of Inbhear Mor Park. This needs clear signage for entry and exit out of the estate”

It was noted that some temporary markings have been done. Cllr Tommy Annesley raised queries about the safety of the new proposals. Cllr. Murphy stated that the signage needs to be addressed. Jack Kelly advised the members that whilst the new measures may slow down the traffic, it will make the junction safer. He agreed to have a costing of the works for the next meeting.

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald proposed “That improvement works are carried out to the footpaths and road in Woodview Park, Avoca as soon as funds are available”.

Jack Kelly advised the members that following the budget meeting in March, it is hoped that works will be carried out on the following estates – Parnell Park, Woodview Park, Entrance to Inbhear Mor, Kirakee, Dublin Road, Avoca Road, Emoclew Road(Bolands) and Ballinaclash.

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald proposed “That works are carried out on the footpaths on the Wexford Road and Main Street Arklow at the earliest opportunity”

It was agreed that the Members would make a decision on these works when discussing the Schedule of Works for the District.

Item 4 – Taking in Charge/Unfinished Housing Estates within the AMD

Following a discussion on the report received from Planning Enforcement, the protocols involved in taking an estate in charge and the status of the various estates, it was decided to invite a member of staff from Planning Enforcement to the next Council meeting.

Item 5 – Wicklow Heritage Forum – Nomination from AMD sought

Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer has written to Arklow Municipal District to seek a nomination to represent the District on the Heritage Forum. It was proposed by Cllr Sylvester Bourke and seconded by Cllr Tommy Annesley to nominate Cllr. Mary McDonald to represent Arklow Municipal District on this Forum.

Item 6 – Update on Contract for Public Lighting.

Linda Mc Donald circulated a report on public lighting from Sean Quirke Director of Services Transportation and Road Infrastructure. Following a discussion the following issues were discussed by the Members.

- It was noted that the number of outages appears to be more prevalent in the Arklow area
- Some lights are not listed on the Airtricity network – Croghan Industrial Est and the Duck Pond area.
- It would appear that the list needs to be upgraded.
- At least 12 lights are out of order along the roundabout exiting Arklow to Dublin Road at Junction 20
- The lights on the Vale Road remain on 24/7.
- Cllr. Bourke suggested that the Airtricity Contract should contain a penalty. He asked that a further update on the number of faults be obtained for the next meeting.
- Cllr. Annesley informed the members that there are problems with the lights in Marian Village and that Declan O’Brien will be carrying out a full survey of same.
- The Members asked if it could be arranged through Sean Quirke for a representative from Airtricity to attend a District Meeting.
- Cllr. Bourke suggested that Airtricity should set up a Local Representative desk as Irish Water has done.

It was agreed that the above issues would be forwarded to the Director of Roads and a reply sought for the next meeting.

Item 7 – Correspondence

- A letter from Arklow Pride requesting approval to use the Park/Bandstand Saturday 4th July 2015. The members agreed to this request.
- A letter from Mr. Pat Power seeking financial support for the proposed commemoration to mark the presence of the Dominican Order in Arklow. It was agreed by the members that the commemoration should be supported and Linda McDonald agreed to discuss funding options with the Heritage Officer.
- It was confirmed that AMD would meet with Arklow Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday 11th March 2015 at 2.00 p.m prior to the District Meeting.
- Correspondence from the Irish Cycle Advocacy Network supporting the introduction of a 30km/h speed limit in residential estates. It was noted that this matter has been dealt with by AMD at a previous meeting.
- Correspondence from Arklow Business Association with regard to a meeting with the members. It was agreed by the members to meet with this Association on the 8th April at 2.00 pm. Linda McDonald agreed to circulate a copy of the proposals submitted to each Member.
- A letter from Arklow Geraldines/Ballymoney Juvenile Girls GAA Club seeking funding towards participation in the Feile Peil Na nOg 2015. It was agreed by the members that the GAA club should submit a more detailed request for funding. Linda McDonald to revert.

8 – Any Other Business

- Jack Kelly advised the members that Arklow Municipal District has received funding from the NTA to provide road safety measures for vulnerable groups like pedestrians and cyclists. It is proposed to carry out improvement works to one junction during 2015. It was agreed by the members to invite Margaret Hartnett Senior Executive Engineer to give a presentation at the next meeting on the proposed works.
- It was agreed by the members to have a separate meeting to discuss the budget for the Schedule of Municipal Works on Wednesday 4th March 2015.
- Cllr Pat Kennedy informed the members that there has been an increase in crime in the Aughrim area. Following a discussion it was proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Pat Kennedy that the District Administrator would write to Superintendent Paul Hogan to arrange regular meetings with the Gardai.
- Cllr Pat Fitzgerald raised concerns about the increased traffic at St Michael's school. Linda McDonald advised that she has contacted the principal in relation to arranging a meeting but has not received a response as yet. Matter to be followed up again.

- Cllr Pat Fitzgerald advised the members that Bus Eireann have a new schedule. It was agreed by the members to write to Bus Eireann to seek confirmation that Route 5 would not be affected and to include concerns with regard to the Knockmore bus stop.
- Cllr Pat Kennedy advised the members that the Principal, Brendan Hyland is retiring and asked that that a letter of congratulations be sent from the Arklow Municipal District members.
- Cllr Mary Mc Donald enquired about insulation grants and window replacement schemes. Jack Kelly advised that while there are no grants at present, however, there may be a small provision in the budget for work.
- Cllr Tommy Annesley raised the lack of any new housing developments in Arklow. A discussion followed and it was decided to invite the Director of Housing, Joe Lane to a future District meeting.
- Cllr Pat Kennedy raised the difficulty facing farmers in the Lambing season and the number of sheep killed in Wicklow. Linda Mc Donald advised the members that this issue will be highlighted in the next edition of the Countywise Newsletter.

Minutes confirmed at Meeting held on Wednesday 4th March 2015.

Signed: Pat Fitzgerald

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District

Signed: Linda Mc Donald

Linda Mc Donald, District Administrator.