



**Wicklow County Council  
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

**ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015.**

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

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

A minute's silence was observed following Votes of Sympathy passed for the following: Charlie Gaul, Nigel Burns, Ben Kelly, Michael Maguire, Elizabeth Roche, Adele Doran, Jacqueline Lewis, Bridget Bracken.

**Item 1 – To consider the proposed Municipal District budget for 2015**

**A01 – (AMD) Local Authority Housing Maintenance & Repair**

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald discussed the housing repair budget and advised the members that houses in the former Arklow Town Council area had a budget of €780 per house and that the rural areas have had a budget of €150 per house in 2014. The budget for 2015 for each house is approximately €350. This will mean a reduced service in some areas and an increased service in the rural areas.

Cllr Pat Kennedy identified houses in the Ballycoogue, Aughrim and Parnell Park estates that are in need of investment and require heating and replacement fascia.

Bryan Doyle, District Manager advised the members that pre-lets are not part of this budget but will come from a central allocation.

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald advised the members that applications for replacement of Window and Doors will now be considered by Wicklow County Council on medical grounds.

**B04, RM Local Roads Arklow Area & BO4, Improvement Grant Local Roads**

Jack Kelly, District Engineer advised the members that there is funding in place for these 8 projects and work is expected to start in May 2015. Cllr Sylvester Bourke enquired about the Barniskey Road and Jack agreed to examine same with Councillor Bourke.

#### **B04, RM Local Roads Arklow Area.**

Jack Kelly, District Engineer advised the members of the projects to be completed and advised that the pot holes in Kilcarra are on the work list.

#### **B09 – Operation of Arklow MD Car Parks.**

Cllr Tommy Annesley asked for clarification on the amount of revenue raised from car parking fees and the contract fees paid to Park Rite. The Members expressed their concerns as to how the service is being managed and operated by the company. Following a general discussion Bryan Doyle, District Manager suggested that the Councillors be afforded the opportunity to meet with Park Rite to discuss their concerns. Linda Mc Donald confirmed that Park Rite's contract will expire in June 2015.

#### **D09 – Arklow MD Economic Development and Promotion.**

A discussion followed about the various Tidy Towns within the District and how best to allocate the funding from this budget fairly. It was agreed by the members to invite submissions from the various Tidy Towns committees for funding.

#### **F03 – Maintenance of AMD Playgrounds.**

It was noted that while the funding for the maintenance of playgrounds is small there will be a small amount of capital funding available from a central fund in WCC.

#### **F04 – Arklow M.D. Bursaries.**

Linda Mc Donald, District Administrator referred to the minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014 where it was agreed by the members to award this funding to the Secondary School in Rathdrum for 2015. This was agreed by the members.

#### **F05, Arklow M.D. Festivals.**

A discussion followed about the various Festivals within the District and how the funding should be allocated. The members agreed to invite submissions from the various Festival committees and these submissions would then go before the members for approval.

#### **H09, (AMD) Entertainment and Associated Expenses**

It was agreed by the members to transfer this fund to allow works to be carried out on the upgrade of a portion of the footpath on the Wexford Road.

#### **H09, Discretionary Fund Arklow Municipal District**

The members discussed the Christmas Lights and the costs incurred which include storage, installation/removal, hire of equipment and the safety implications. Cllr Pat Kennedy advised the members that volunteers install the lights in Rathdrum and discussion followed about how the lights are managed in other areas.



The following allocations were agreed by the members:

• Christmas Lights	€ 20,000	
• Entrance to Inbhear Mor Park	€ 10,000	
• Footpaths, Kirakee	€ 8,000	
• Footpaths in Avoca, Rathdrum	€ 14,000	
• Footpaths in Parnell Park	€ 10,000	
• Footpath at Phelan's, Ballinaclesh	€ 5,000	
• Road at St Patrick's Terrace, Arklow	€ 6,000	
• Footpaths at Woodview Park, Avoca	€ 12,000	
• Footpaths on the Wexford Road	€ 3,000	<b>Total €88,000</b>

**B06 – NTA Beech Road, Arklow Pedestrian IMP SCH 13/005.**

Jack Kelly, District Engineer advised the members that the NTA has given approval for funding and that works will commence shortly on the Beech Road.

It was noted that funding has been received from the NTA for improvement works to two junctions in Arklow town. Work will be carried out this year on one of the junctions.

**B07 – BS R775 Rathdrum and BS R772 Arklow.**

Jack Kelly, District Engineer advised the members that funding has been received for Rathdrum under the Low Cost Safety Scheme and similarly for the R772 Arklow road.

Cllr Pat Kennedy commended District Engineer, Jack Kelly and the outdoor staff on the work carried out in the rural area.

**E02, Recycling Civic Amenity Arklow.**

Bryan Doyle District Manager advised the members that the new regulations in relation to pay by weight will not have any impact on current recycling operations.

**E11, Fire Service Arklow & Rathdrum.**

Funding for this service comes directly from the Central Fund in Wicklow.

**F01 – Arklow MD Swimming Pool.**

Funding for this service comes directly from the Central Fund in Wicklow.

Cllr Miriam Murphy emphasised the importance of this facility. Bryan Doyle informed the members that the County Council is undertaking a review of the service providers and that a report would be presented to the members for their consideration.

**F02 – Library.**

Funding for this service comes directly from the Central Fund in Wicklow.

Cllr Miriam Murphy enquired about the workforce for the new Library in Arklow and Bryan Doyle, District Manager advised the members that there would be sufficient staff available.

### **G02 – Arklow Harbour.**

Funding for this service comes directly from the Central Fund in Wicklow.

Bryan Doyle, District Manager informed the members that repairs are due to be carried out on the Harbour Office.

### **H11 – Maintenance Arklow Courthouse.**

Bryan Doyle, District Manager advised the members that these funds are for normal maintenance of the Arklow Court House e.g. heat and light.

**It was proposed by Councillor Pat Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Sylvester Bourke and unanimously agreed by the members that the Arklow Municipal District Budget 2015 be formally adopted.**


### **Item 2 – Any Other Business**

- Cllr Pat Fitzgerald advised the members that Arklow Twinning Association have invited the Chairman of Arklow Municipal District to the Châteaudun. The Chairman is unable to attend and it was proposed by Cllr Pat Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald that Cllr Mary McDonald should represent Arklow Municipal District on this occasion.
- Cllr Pat Fitzgerald expressed his thanks to District Manager, Bryan Doyle on his appointment to the post of Temporary Chief Executive Officer. He also thanked the District Administrator, Linda McDonald for her work in preparation for this Budget Meeting.

**Minutes confirmed and signed at Meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015.**

Signed: 

**Cllr Pat Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District**

Signed: 

**Linda Mc Donald, District Administrator.**