



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th October 2019

Present: Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke
Cllr. Tommy Annesley
Cllr. Pat Kennedy
Cllr. Peir Leonard
Cllr. Miriam Murphy

Officials Present: Mr. Michael Nicholson, Director of Services CCSD
Mr. John Bowes, District Engineer
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator
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:

Matt Jenkinson, Josephine Walker, Lily Keogh, Kitty Thewlis, Jim McCawl, Catherine Timmins, John Mills, Sheila Molloy, Frederick Cooper, Danny Murphy, Jimmy Noctor, Patsy O'Toole, Jean Horan, Teresa McCarthy, Ailish Byrne, Noreen Moraghan, William Moran, John Byrne, Dolly Doyle.

A minutes silence was observed.

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

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

Item 3 : Matters Arising

Cllr Annesley reported that there has been no meeting of the Seabreeze Festival Committee since the last MD meeting and a statement in relation to the annual pigrace will issue in the coming weeks.

Cllr Fitzgerald reported that since the last meeting, Oakwood Court estate is to be taken in charge by Wicklow County Council which will resolve the issue of public lighting in the estate.

Claire Lawless DA confirmed that the correspondence sent to Richard Bruton TD in relation a motion put forward at the last meeting by Cllr Bourke, has been passed on to Minister Paschal Donohoe.

Cllr Kennedy raised his concerns over Gardaí numbers in the district and Cllr Fitzgerald said that further discussion on this would follow under agenda item 6.

Cllr Bourke said that the visit to Aughrim NS to talk to the principal had not yet taken place and he would report back to the meeting once the meeting took place.

Item 4 : To discuss the Avonmore Way Link Bridge

Michael Nicholson DOS gave an update on the Avonmore Way Link Bridge Project.

There are many funding streams and the ORIS funds projects from small-scale local projects, to large projects which have a regional impact. Funding ranges from €5000 to €500000, depending on the scale and quality of the project. This project is one of three approved in the large project band.

The project will link two walks that run parallel along the river and open up other walks/trails in the area. The project will be developed in conjunction with Coillte and the National Parks & Wildlife Service.

The project will proceed and be managed to reflect the SAC status of the area and with a high level of environmental screening.

The Part 8 process should begin in the coming weeks.

A copy of the draft plan was circulated at the meeting and the design stage is to be completed by year and it is hoped that construction can begin in Spring 2020.

The members commended the efforts of all involved in the project and welcomed the development.

Cllr Kennedy said that the benefit to the district will be noticed in the volume of pedestrians now having the option to access the town from the walks. It will give a huge tourism boost to southern Co Wicklow and will lead to the link up of Rathdrum to Arklow.

Cllr Bourke said it will be the beginning of establishing a Camino Way type walk for the east of the country which will be great for hostellers also.

Cllr Leonard said the river is the key to the project and will help in connecting people and can be a focus for wellness. A link to Arklow would be great using the train as a public transport link from Dublin.

Cllr Murphy said that the small businesses in the area should benefit and noted that projects like this will progress with the decision to increase to LPT at plenary level.

Cllr Annesley said this makes the decision last week worthwhile and asked if the costs could also be presented.

Michael Nicholson DOS confirmed that the grant available was €400,000 and is confident that the money is there to complete the project. The bridge itself will be the attraction and will be installed in such a way, that only 50% of the structure will be on view – visually subtle. Cllr Leonard asked what the measurement of the bridge span was – Michael Nicholson DOS confirmed that it would have a 90m span and that the stanchions would be positioned on existing islands where possible to avoid disturbing the river bed where possible and following consultation with Irish Fisheries the time for installation will be May onwards.

Cllr Murphy enquired about accessibility on the Avondale project – Michael Nicholson DOS confirmed that it was a Coillte/Fáilte Ireland project and the public consultation process should address these issues. This is a very big project and is taking longer than expected but there may be plans by the year end.

Item 5 : John Bowes, District Engineer to discuss –

- *Roads Programme 2019*

Works are complete under the 2019 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations.

Road strengthening works at 7 locations were completed in June 2019 under the DDTAS Restoration and Improvement Programme 2019. Surface dressing works at 7 locations were completed in July 2019 under the DDTAS Restoration Maintenance Programme 2019.

- *Discretionary Works*

5 of the original 9 projects are complete and one more project has been included for this year. Ongoing works at Fairgreen, Rathdrum have been revised following feedback from residents – bollards will be installed instead of ramps.

Tree cutting is due to commence in the Arklow town area with hedge cutting already in progress. The tree pruning and footpath works in Brookmeadow are ongoing and works for the added project (agreed at Sept. Meeting), footpath at Rednagh road, have not commenced.

The design plans for the Mill Rd carpark are underway.

Discussion followed about the viability of the Mill Rd car park project. The members agreed that they did not want charges introduced. John Bowes DE said the design would include the option for charging for parking – machine and barrier. Cllr Fitzgerald stated that if he had to pay he would walk. Cllr Leonard said that Seaview Avenue would be clogged with cars parking, Cllr Murphy said that cars would park along the quay. Cllr Annesley asked how much the project would cost, John Bowes DE said that the costs have not been estimated yet. Cllr Annesley suggested that the costs would be in the region of €70,000. He asked that the staff of Bridgewater be considered especially when many are on low wages. Cllr Annesley also commented that charging will lead to more cars parking along the Mill Road. Cllr Bourke suggested another option – to surface dress the car park similar to the long term car park at the airport – lower cost and could remain free parking area. Cllr Leonard said that the Mill Road would need to be kept clear to facilitate the WWTP works. Options for upgrading the area were discussed further and all agreed that the area should be made safe for staff and visitors to the shopping centre.

- *Footpaths/IPB Remedial Works*

8 of the 10(8 original plus 2 added at the July meeting) are substantially complete – some ducting issues with the works in Avalon.

Cllr Murphy requested that a survey of the footpaths in Ferrybank be conducted as soon as possible. Cllr Fitzgerald asked that a motion for this goes before the next meeting. Cllr Murphy agreed to do this.

- *Low Cost Safety Schemes*

3 pedestrian crossing schemes have been approved and the Arklow one is near completion. The Redcross scheme is delayed due to late agreement on ESB connection points. The Avoca scheme is due to start at the end of October.

Cllr Fitzgerald asked if there was an update on the bus shelters approved for Arklow. John Bowes confirmed that CCSD had procured the shelters for all districts and could not confirm a delivery date.

- *LIS & CIS Road Works*

2 LIS applications were shortlisted in 2019 – Kilqueeney and Killballyowen – all surfacing works have been completed.

1 CIS application was received in 2019 – Killacloran.

2 CIS applications have been received for 2020 and 2021 schemes.

Item 6 : Policing Plan Committees.

Claire Lawless informed the meeting that at the September plenary meeting it was agreed that the 5 MD's set up Policing Plan Committees and the date for the first meeting has been set for the 13th November before the district meeting.

An invite to the meeting will issue along with the terms of reference and the Co Wicklow Policing plan.

Cllr Annesley suggested that vintners and chamber of commerce should be included on the JPC as they are on the ground and some operate after hours. It was noted that this was a decision for the JPC. Cllr Leonard suggested that the committee needs a young person and a representative for the scouts would be an option.

Cllr Kennedy said that a first meeting was required to make any decisions.

Discussion continued in relation to current policing issues in the district and the lack of Garda numbers on the area. The increase in the presence and use of drugs in the town and district was discussed and the fact that a lot of incidents go unreported. All agreed that people should be encouraged to report all incidents.

Cllr Annesley said that the change in roles and structure within the Garda Siochana means that there is no longer a dedicated drugs task force. Cllr Fitzgerald said that all will be discussed at the first meeting and proposals for members would be recorded.

Item 7 : Housing Construction update in Arklow MD area.

Claire Lawless DA gave a report on housing in the district. Cllr Pat Fitzgerald advised the meeting that an invitation would be issuing for the official opening of Delany Park and Heatherside on the 25th November.

Cllr Leonard said that she had a report that there was an issue with the levels of some of the houses and that the gardens were holding water. Cllr Fitzgerald advised her to contact Graham Wynne in Housing in relation to this issue.

Item 8 – Notices of Motions

In the name of Cllr. Sylvester Bourke

'That the Council extends the footpath along the Beech Road from Gaynor's Cross Raheen'. (Received 17th July 2019)

John Bowes DE gave a report on this proposal and estimated that the cost of works would be approximately €39,600 and could be considered for future discretionary funding.

Cllr Bourke said that it should be considered if funding opened up sooner.

Item 9 – Correspondence

No correspondence recorded.

Item 10 – Any Other Business

Cllr Bourke reported a rat infestation on the Mountain Bay area and requested that the AMD investigate and deal with the problem. John Bowes DE said this was a matter for the HSE's Environmental Health Officer. Cllr Fitzgerald said that this may have been dealt with already. Cllr Leonard said that sightings have been reported all over town and a cull of rats should be considered and J Joyce (IW) should be notified.

Cllr Bourke raised the issue of clamping after hours in Aldi car park and proposed that they should put a barrier up to prevent use of the car park after hours. Cllr Kennedy seconded this. Cllr Annesley said he had spoken to management about this and a barrier may not work as they get night time deliveries. Cllr Bourke said that they are expanding nationally and the policy on parking charges should be queried at planning stage.

Cllr Murphy asked if an update was available in relation to limits on the L1113. John Bowes DE said he would follow up on that with the Roads Section. Cllr Murphy said that the residents were holding a meeting next week.

The members commended the Tidy Towns result and wished the Halloween committee well for the upcoming festivities. They also wished AGB well on final day in Aughrim.

Cllr Kennedy thanked all involved in the NETA judging day in Rathdrum.

Claire Lawless DA advised the members that a civic reception was to be held for all Tidy Towns groups in the district in the Arklow Bay Hotel – date to be confirmed.

Cllr Leonard invited all to the Shine a Light event on Friday night at the Riverwalk in Arklow town.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 13th November 2019.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: _____

Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District