



**Wicklow County Council  
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

**ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

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

**Officials Present:** Mr. Michael Geaney, District Manager  
Ms. Linda McDonald, District Administrator  
Mr. Rob Mulhall, A/District Engineer  
Ms. Sinéad Boddy

**Item 1 - Vote of Sympathy:**

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

John Hogan, Joseph Byrne, Sheila Nolan, Eliza Byrne, Julia Lambert, Lena O'Neill, Eileen Brennan, Betty Dempsey, Nicky Russell, Thomas Scarfe, Breda Mills, Kevin Rochford, Tom Dalton, John Kinsella, Joan Walsh, Caroline O'Regan(Walker),

A minutes silence was observed.

**Item 2 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting, held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2018.**

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018 were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Kennedy.

**Item 3 – Matters Arising:**

The speed limit set under the most recent review for the Beech Road was discussed – Cllr Murphy enquired if a letter had been sent to the SPC, residents cannot wait until the next review, there is video evidence out there. Ms McDonald DA will put in a formal request for it to be an item on the agenda for the upcoming meeting.

Cllr Fitzgerald said that it was the only area where the speed limit was increased and an error has been made, there needs to be a mechanism in place to allow for interim reviews if necessary.

It was agreed that Cllrs. McDonald and Fitzgerald would provide feedback on the this item from the next SPC meeting.

**Item 4: To consider the adoption of the 2019 Draft Budgetary Plan for Arklow MD(documentation circulated)**

The budget plan is similar to last year with the extra coming from the AMD sponsorship scheme. The CE has the option to adopt the budget as it stands.

A maintenance plan will be agreed for the sponsored roundabouts where the maintenance is to be carried out by AMD. Cllr Murphy commented that they look fantastic.

Cllr Fitzgerald said that the real concern will be the amount of discretionary funding that will be available to AMD and an increase is required for the maintenance of the graveyards – Consideration should be given to surveying the trees especially in St Gabriel's. Cllr Murphy asked if there was any update on the Urn Wall proposed for St. Gabriel's. Ms McDonald replied that the project was still being researched. It was agreed to raise this at the next meeting, as it had been proposed to have it in place by now.

Cllr Annesley commented that the lighthouse roundabout at junction 20 is the best one in Co Wicklow and was well worth the effort in putting the plan together. Rob Mulhall EE and Ms McDonald confirmed that plans are underway for landscaping the roundabouts at junction 21.

The suggestion of pay parking in the Mill Rd area was discussed along with the cost of resurfacing and parking charges that could be applied. Cllr Bourke enquired about the sale of freehold in the area and Ms Linda McDonald said that this application was with the CE. Cllr Fitzgerald said that as the precedent had already been set in BMD, that the money from the sale should be kept within the district and the funds ringfenced. Cllr Fitzgerald said that this proposal needs more thought and Rob Mulhall EE said that the he would look into this and consider all options available.

**Item 5 : To discuss Road Infrastructure in Arklow Town.**

Cllr Fitzgerald stated that he had never seen the roads as bad – Mellowes Ave, Abbey St., Emoclew Rd., Coolgreaney Rd., the Navy Bridge and Lower Tinahask – we can't get funding for re-surfacing in the town – the footpath works are being funded and works being carried out but there needs to be a plan for re-surfacing in the town. Cllr Murphy said that further footpath works are needed. Rob Mulhall asked the councillors to list all areas that could pose a risk as there is a certain amount of the IPB budget left. Cllr Kennedy said he understood where Cllr Fitzgerald was coming from, Rathdrum is suffering also. Cllr McDonald agreed and asked if AMD inspects the re-instatements carried out by the numerous contractors working in the

town at the moment. Rob Mulhall EE replied that works would be snagged and a survey done when works were completed. Cllr Bourke said that Emoclew Rd. is bad and the concern in the Abbey Street area is that the ramps are causing vibrations that are affecting properties when heavy goods vehicles are passing. They need to be removed or modified. We have been lobbying for this for years and it is incumbent on us to find a solution for residents. Rob Mulhall EE agreed that table tops ramps would be less severe. Cllr Murphy said that the unfinished works on the Dublin Rd were an accident waiting to happen, the ramp is not visible. Cllr Annesley said that manholes are sinking in some areas. Cllr Murphy reiterated that funding was needed for works in the town – can we appeal to the CE for further funding? Cllr Kennedy said that the town is losing out because of the population within the town boundary and that there should be development levies that could be ring fenced for the town. Michael Geaney DM said he would check this and request an update on the agreed capital works programme for roads.

**Item 6: to receive a report from Rob Mulhall Executive Engineer on the following works - .**

**2018 Roads Programme**

Works are almost complete – tenders are in for patching works.  
Funding to be received for storm damage and works in the following areas will be carried out –

- Toberpatrick
- Greenane
- Ballyteigue

The following LIS works will also start –

- Cronawinnia
- Kilmagig Upper
- Ballycooleen
- Carriglinneen

May span over two budgets 2018/2019.

**Discretionary Projects**

The agreed projects are at varying stages of progression – report was given to members.

**Footpaths / IPB Remedial Works**

The agreed projects are at varying stages of progression – report was given to members.

### **Low Cost Safety Schemes**

The agreed projects are at varying stages of progression – report was given to members. Cllrs expressed concern at the delays in finishing the pedestrian crossing with poor visibility at this time of the year. Lighting up the crossings is now urgent. Rob Mulhall EE confirmed that he will contact ESB Networks in relation to connections for lighting and push things on.

### **Street Furniture Allocation**

Report was given to members. All seats are installed. Locations for the remaining seats and budget were discussed.

### **Item 7: To discuss the designation of Smoke Free playgrounds within AMD**

Ms McDonald informed the meeting on the national policy to reduce the smoking prevalence rate to less than 5% by 2025, setting a target for Ireland to be tobacco free in the future. It was suggested that AMD could make the playgrounds in the district smoke free zones. It may be possible to share any cost in doing this with Wicklow Partnership. Proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Kennedy.

### **Item 8: To discuss possible projects for the remaining Twinning Funding.**

It was agreed to bring this to the December meeting for discussion and agreement.

### **Item 9: Notices of Motions.**

#### **a) In the name of Cllr Pat Fitzgerald**

*“That the L2196 which runs from Arklow to Thomastown is included in a future list of local roads projects. The road is on poor condition especially on the section near Ballyduff.” (Received 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018)*

Rob Mulhall EE agreed to look at this.

#### **b) In the name of Cllr Pat Fitzgerald**

*“That future works are carried out on the road into Woodview Park, Avoca.” (Received 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018)*

To be funded through discretionary spending – proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Kennedy

#### **c) In the name of Cllr Pat Kennedy**

*“That funding be made available for the construction of a footpath from the community centre in Aughrim to Rednagh Bridge as there is no footpath in place at present only a grass patch. (Received 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018)*

Cllr Kennedy confirmed there was room for a footpath.

**d) In the name of Cllr Pat Kennedy**

*“Following on from the upgrading of the footpath at Avonbeg Heights on the Ballinaclesh Lower Rd, that funding is made available to continue this work to the Upper Road next year.”* (Received 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018)

To be agreed by the members – from discretionary spending.

**e) In the name of Cllr Pat Kennedy**

*“That funding is made available to the area of Fairgreen, Rathdrum in order to carry out safety measures on the extremely dangerous junction leading onto the Fairgreen Road.”* (Received 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018)

Proposed by Cllr Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Bourke.

**Item 10: Correspondence**

***Application for Extinguishment of Public Road at Kish & Proposed taking in charge of Road 772***

Documents in relation to the extinguishment of right of way at Kish were circulated. Application was proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Murphy.

***Joy O’Loughlin – Principal St John’s NS***

Correspondence received requesting push button is installed on the Coolgreaney Rd – the increase in pupil numbers attending schools in the area has increased by over 200. Cllr Murphy stated that the volume of traffic as a result is very high. Rob Mulhall EE said that it would be possible if the budget was in place for these works. Cllr Fitzgerald said that the children exiting the school cannot be seen due to the volume of traffic passing to collect from school. Co-operation will be key here and a push button system would be the safer option. Rob Mulhall EE agreed to review this and report back to the members.

***East Coast Drugs Task Force***

Nomination for a representative from Arklow –

Cllr McDonald was nominated by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllrs Kennedy and Murphy.

***Avoca Men’s Shed***

Correspondence received looking for funding – Cllr Murphy said they are working with the Tidy Towns committee and the voluntary work is to be commended. Ms McDonald DA suggested that an amount could be considered when the discretionary funding is being discussed. Cllr Murphy suggested a review at the January meeting.

**Item 11: Any Other Business**

Cllr McDonald asked that a statement of support be made from AMD/WCC for the retention of right of way at the North Beach, especially on behalf of the Beresford Tce Committee. Cllr Murphy has spoken to Sean Quirke and confirmed that this would be a slow process and it will be kept on the agenda. Cllr Fitzgerald suggested a letter signed by all members should be submitted.

Cllr Bourke wished Rathdrum well in the Pride of Place Awards taking place in Cork.

Cllr Kennedy referred to the list of Fabric Upgrades issued in January by Housing and asked if any report issued on what works had been completed to date. Cllr Murphy said the funding for the works was given in stages and Arklow has not been done yet.

Cllr McDonald asked if there was any progress with the plans for Avondale. Cllr Kennedy said it was at planning application stage.

The members raised concerns about the continuing drug problems throughout the District and said that although it may be openly known where the problems are, that people are afraid to say anything. Disappointment was expressed that as yet a task force has not been set up. A guarantee was given that this would be done. Michael Geaney suggested writing to Senior Gardaí to express these concerns.

Harbour report to be circulated to members.

**Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018.**

Signed: 

**Cllr. Miriam Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.**

Signed: 

**Ms. Sinead Boddy, A/District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District**

Arklow Municipal District  
Ordinary Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018

**ITEM 10 – Minutes 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**COUNCILLOR MURPHY AMENDMENT NO. 1 –**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Annesley

**SECONDED:** Cllr Kennedy

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

To remove the heading "Avoca's Men's Shed" – Cllr. Murphy

**REPLACE WITH:**

"Arklow Men's Shed"