

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2015

Present: Cllr. Sylvester Bourke, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. T. Annesley
Cllr. P. Fitzgerald
Cllr. P. Kennedy
Cllr. M. McDonald
Cllr. M. Murphy

Officials Present: Mr. M. Geaney, A/District Manager
Mr. J. Kelly, District Engineer
Ms. L. McDonald, District Administrator

Elected Members passed a vote of sympathy for the families of the late Garda Tony Golden, the ten people who died in the Carrickmines fire tragedy, Kitty Kiloran of Ballycoog and Mona Clare from Johnstown. The members also extended their sympathy to Barney O'Beirne on the death of his mother and to David Tarrant on the death of his wife Paula. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

Item 1: Confirmation of minutes from monthly meeting of Arklow Municipal District

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. T. Annesley and agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of meeting of Arklow Municipal District held on 9th September 2015.

Item 2: Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Item 10: Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Sylvester Bourke welcomed Mr. Marc Devereux, Senior Engineer to the meeting. It was agreed to bring Item 10 forward. Mr. Devereux proceeded to give a verbal report/update to the committee on the Arklow Flood Relief Scheme. The main points included the following:-

- The Scheme is nearly ready for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
- There are a number of exercises to be carried out in relation to C.F.R.A.M.
- Public consultation will be carried out in the New Year.
- Scheme will include removal of gravel from the upper stream.
- The objective is to lower the bed at each of the 19 Arches.
- To extend concrete piers down to one metre below. Allow for protected structure.
- Edge of Quays will have side - series of concrete structures/columns upstream.
- The objective will be to get the scheme up and running – no involvement in issues concerning public right of way issues.
- Arklow should be up in front for Funding on basis of merit.
- A full EIS will be published in 2016 and then it will go to the Board.

A general discussion followed during which a number of points were made and views expressed:

- Concern raised about 19 Arches downstream - low tide
- Concern raised re Turning basin (just up from Harbour Board office)
- Public Access to Marsh

The Members agreed to place this item back on the Agenda in six months.

Item 3: To consider a Garden of Remembrance Initiative for the AMD

A discussion ensued re the Garden of Remembrance initiative as follows:

- Each District would provide a garden to hold seven trees, the Irish Flag and a Proclamation Stone 1916/2016
- €1,000 from the Arklow Municipal District budget, matched to another €1,000 from the 2016 Committee.

A suggestion was made that a portion of the Parnell Park in Rathdrum be used. However, maintenance would have to be maintained by the District. While the provision of a garden was agreed in principle the location would have to be discussed further. It was proposed that the Members would come back to Linda McDonald, District Administrator with suggestions prior to the next meeting.

Item 4: Provision of Bus Shelters

A discussion on the Bus shelters in Arklow took place and a number of points were made and views expressed viz:

- There is only one bus shelter in Arklow town and none in Rathdrum.
- The Cathaoirleach advised that the NTA (National Transport Authority) has stated that it is a regional issue - the cost is €20,000 per bus shelter which is very expensive.
- It was suggested that contact be made with Ms. Margaret Hartnett with a view to looking at the possibility of obtaining a grant from the NTA to provide bus shelters in Arklow and Rathdrum. Linda McDonald to follow up on this matter.

Item 5: Update on progress of the following projects:

(1) Bridge Street Junction

Procurement completed and Letter of Intent sent to Formac Construction - ready to start works on 29th October 2015 (6 weeks construction period). End date 11th December 2015. It was noted that work is to be carried out at night time only 8.00pm to 6.00am.

- Concern raised that it is the busiest time of the year - right in the middle of the Christmas shopping period.
- The Commercial Premises also concerned - who is going to come to Arklow with works going on again this Christmas
- Festival Committee also concerned.
- Cllr. Fitzgerald commended Margaret Hartnett for her patience in progressing this project.
- Cllr. Annesley said he was fearful for the traders in the town and that a serious commitment was needed from the Contractor to ensure that works would be completed by 11th December.

(2) South Green and Harbour Road Works

A discussion ensued during which a number of points were made and views expressed viz:

- Insurance claims notified to Irish Water Insurance
- South Quay should be finished completely next week 23/10/2015.
- Reflux valve being awaited - mid November before final surfacing.
- People complained of smells - had to close windows - cannot continue - Complainants feel that they are 'fobbed off'
- Council being fobbed off as well as the residents.
- South Green is happening and will be completed.
- Concern raised re two sub stations - don't want returnable valves
- Michael Geaney to get clarification for next meeting.

(3) Arklow Christmas Committee

A general discussion on this matter ensued.

- It was noted that the website and face book page are up and running.
- Sponsorship for fireworks has been secured.
- Christmas Lights - quote for €33,692 (down from €55,000)
- Administrator sent out 45 letters to businesses seeking sponsorship to which there has been little response.
- There will also be funding needed for Public Liability Insurance and incidental expenditure.
- Additional funding needed in order to provide the Christmas lights.

Item 6: Update on 2015 Roads Programme for the AMD

- All road strengthening works in the Arklow Municipal District are complete
- All surface dressing works in the Arklow Municipal District are complete
- Discretionary Works
 - Works on footpath at Woodview Park, Avoca this week.
 - Work will commence a new footpath on the Avoca Road, Rathdrum next week.
- The two Low Cost Safety Schemes are now complete (footpath Rathdrum)
- Community Involvement Schemes
- Possible site for the Cycling Club - they are looking for approximately 280 square metres
- The proposed site adjacent to the Sports Centre was recommended by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald and agreed.
- Mr. Jack Kelly was commended and thanked for completing everything and getting the much needed works done.

Item 7: Future of former Council Depot at Hudson Square

- Concern raised that we do not look after our own derelict sites.
- It was agreed to write to Corporate Estate in relation to this Council owned vacant site - could it be used for Housing?
- It was agreed to review this matter at a future meeting.

Item 8: Finance

(1) 2015 Revenue Expenditure Budget (Appendix 1)

A discussion followed during which a number of points were made and views expressed and suggestions made viz:

- Project for the Parade Ground Area including Fr. Murphy statue which cannot be cleaned any more, the proposal is to be enhanced in order to submit the project for future government funding.

(2) Report on Capital Funding (Appendix 2)

A discussion ensued, during which a number of points were made and views expressed viz:

- €60,000 (which was put aside for wall on South Quay) now available as the construction of this wall will not proceed. It was suggested that €30,000 of this money be put aside for match funding towards future coastal protection works on South Beach, the members agreed this.
- It was also noted that the Members had agreed at a meeting on 9th September to fund the roads improvement works at the National School on the Coolgreaney Road from this fund which will cost in the regions of €16,000 minus €3,000 contribution from the school.

(3) List of Expenditure on Economic Development Funding (Appendix 3)

There is an unallocated balance remaining of €8,750. It was agreed to use €5,750 from the Economic Development Funding for the Christmas lights, leaving a total of €3,000 in this budget.

(4) List of expenditure on Festival Funding (Appendix 4)

There was a budget of €20,000 Festival Funding. Most of the funding set aside has been claimed or spent to date. The unallocated balance remaining is €5,650 and the members agreed to allocate €3,000 from this fund towards the Christmas Lights, leaving a balance of €2,650 in this budget.

It was agreed to make a decision on allocating the balance of 3 & 4 above at the next meeting.

Item 9: To receive an update on Burial Ground Policy for the Arklow Municipal District

Mr. Geaney reported to the meeting on the burial grounds and a discussion ensued, during which a number of points were made and views expressed viz:

- It was noted that this item was discussed at the Environmental SPC meeting last Monday. Correspondence form that meeting to be circulated to all members.
- Single / Double graves and cost of same.
- Grave digging is now the responsibility of the undertaker in Arklow

- Need for experienced people to dig graves.
- Next SPC - 20th November 2015 at which issues with Graveyards will be discussed.
- What is the policy for Arklow on buying a grave?
- A lot of problems with graves being hit by trailers etc. - insurance cover
- No payment is received by Council for re-opening graves.
- No issues in Barndarrig, Greenane Castlemacadam, Macreddin, Preban, Rathdrum, to name a few. However, for Templemichael a Locals only policy is operated.
- Letter from the National Monument Service by letter dated 1st October 2010 states that “*it is preferable to open a new graveyard away from the old graveyard*”
- It was agreed to discuss this matter at a future meeting following SPC sub committee meetings.

Item 11: Future Development of Arklow Port

Discussions took place on the future development of the Arklow Port. It was noted that money has been spent on the port but that there is no increase in business. The Members would like to see a Vision for the port and it was agreed to invite Mr. Lorcan O’Toole to make a presentation at the next meeting of the Arklow Municipal District on the 11th November, 2015.

Item 12: Traffic Management in Arklow Town

Discussions arose regarding the number of trucks from Roadstone travelling through housing estates, Abbey Street and Rory O’Connor Place - Noise of empty trucks early mornings 5am etc. (lots of ramps) The Members asked if Roadstone could be written to regarding this issue, Linda McDonald to determine if such a letter should come for the Director of Roads or from the Arklow District Engineer and revert to the members.

Item 13: To set a date for consideration of the Draft Budgetary Plan 2016

Correspondence received from the Head of Finance was read out, following which the members agreed to hold the Draft Budgetary Plan Meeting on Wednesday 4th November at 3.30pm.

Item 14: Notices of Motion

Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald & Cllr. Tommy Annesley

“That a survey is carried on the footpaths in the Wexford road area with a view to seeking funding to upgrade same and or providing funding from council own resources. This survey should take account of accessibility and standard of the paths. (Received 10th September 2015)

A report was circulated to the Members who agreed to place this item on the Agenda for the next Municipal Meeting. Proposed by Cllr Tommy Annesley and seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald.

Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald

“It is proposed that when Arklow Municipal District has discretionary funding available for distribution to local organisations / individuals under various headings that application are invited through the local media so as to ensure that those who might be interested and qualify get the opportunity to apply for same. I fully understand in proposing this motion that there will be occasions when the members deem it worthy to provide support to an individual as happened this year” (Received 11th September 2015)

Following a discussion the Members agreed the Motion and it was proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Miriam Murphy.

Item 15: Correspondence

It was noted that each MD has been allocated the sum of €6000 from the Environment / Community Fund 2015 which much be spent / committed in 2015.

Councillor Kennedy advised that there is no public lighting in the playground in Rathdrum and asked if a light could be purchased from this fund. The park needs three lights and the development Association

would pay for the second one and that the Roads Section of WCC would pay for the third. It was estimated that each light would cost €2,500.

A suggestion was also made to purchase trees / shrubs for Resident Associations in the District which would have to be advertised.

Other suggestions included benches at the duck pond, benches at the Main Street park, a dog pooper hoover, solar powered lights for the walk on the seafront

The members agreed to proceed with the public light for the playground in Rathdrum and to spend €1,000 on trees to be distributed to Resident Associations.

The matter is to be raised again at the November Meeting.

Item 16: Any other business

(1) Traffic – Correspondence from Avoca National School - looking for car park and stating that there is some ground available beside school, could this be used? It was agreed that Mr. Jack Kelly would meet with Ms. Cahill.

(2) Deferred from previous meeting correspondence from Liam O'Loughlin. Checked with Planning Department - no planning application lodged. However, it was agreed by the Members that the planning process was the best procedure to deal with this matter.

(3) Correspondence received from Dorothy Scallon re recent changes to the crossing on Abbey Street. Linda McDonald to check the matter further and reply to the correspondence.

(4) It was noted that there was no update on the position of extra Garda for the Aughrim area.

(5) Irish Water – Aughrim – Cllr. Pat Kennedy asked the District Manager if he could get an update on the situation in Aughrim from Irish Water for the next meeting.

Minutes confirmed at meeting held on Wednesday 11th November 2015 at 3.30pm.

SIGNED: Sylvester Bourke

**CLLR. SYLVESTER BOURKE
CATHAOIRLEACH OF ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

SIGNED: Linda McDonald

**LINDA McDONALD,
DISTRICT ADMINSTRATOR**