



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4th MARCH 2015.

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

Apologies: Jack Kelly, District Engineer

Officials Present: Mr. Bryan Doyle, District Manager
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: Jim Tallon, Larry Kenny, John Mc Donald, Louise Nuzum, Sally Forde, Thomas Fortune, Robert Williams, Desmond Lott, James Kennedy, Sean Whelan, Breda Broughan, Helen Toomey, Michael Russell, May Byrne and Nicholas Maddock.

Item 1 - Confirmation of minutes of meeting of Arklow Municipal District held on the 11th February 2015.

The minutes of the meeting for Arklow Municipal District held on the 11th February 2015 were confirmed and agreed. Proposed by Cllr. Tommy Annesley and seconded by Cllr. Miriam Murphy.

Item 2 – Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

Item 3 – Briefing from Margaret Hartnett Senior Executive Engineer – Improvements to Arklow Town Junctions.

Ms. Hartnett informed the members that it is proposed to carry out improvement works to two junctions in Arklow town and that funding has been provided by the NTA to proceed with one junction this year. It is most likely that the junction of Bridge Street and Main Street will be constructed during 2015.

A time scale of 4-6 weeks is envisaged for works to be completed. A discussion followed about a suitable commencement date for the works due to other project works taking place in the town along with holiday and school times. The Members invited Margaret and she agreed to attend the meeting with the Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday 11th March 2015 to discuss these improvements works.

Item 4 – Taking in Charge/Unfinished Housing Estates within the AMD – Update from the previous meeting.

Linda Mc Donald having received a report from Planning Enforcement advised the members of the procedures for taking an estate in charge. It was noted that Cluain Ard is currently being assessed and if there are any queries, the members should contact planning enforcement directly. Cllr Tommy Annesley noted that there is no application for Mill Meadows to be taken in charge as yet and asked for this matter to be followed up by the District Administrator.

Item 5 – Update on Local Authority Housing in Arklow Municipal District.

A general discussion followed about the number of persons on the housing list, the shortage of houses available and the loss of a dedicated Environmental Health Officer in Arklow.

Cllr Mary Mc Donald enquired about an update with regard to the use of package treatment plants which would allow building to commence in the town. Bryan Doyle advised that he had raised the matter but had not received a response.

It was proposed by Councillor Pat Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Miriam Murphy to invite Director of Housing Mr. Joe Lane to a meeting to discuss housing issues in the District.

It was agreed that the Members would submit a Notice of Motion to the full County Council Meeting in relation to AMD being included in Wicklow County Councils social housing building programme. Linda McDonald to submit this Motion on behalf of the Members to Ms. Lorraine Gallagher.

Cllr Pat Kennedy asked about feedback from the Irish Water Clinics held with Members in February. Following a discussion it was noted that some members had received feedback and others had not.

Item 6 – Report on the Gateway Labour Activation Scheme in AMD.

Linda Mc Donald gave a brief report on the Gateway Labour Activation Scheme, the number of participants and an outline of the works being carried out within the AMD.

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald praised the work being carried out and advised the members to email Linda Donald about any works that could be carried out in the future by the participants of this Scheme. Ms. McDonald informed the members that she will be meeting the Tidy Towns shortly and any concerns about duplication of works will be addressed at that meeting.

Item 7 – Update on Arklow Flood Relief Plan

Linda Mc Donald gave the Members an update from Mark Devereux, Senior Engineer on the Arklow Flood Relief Plan. The Members were also reminded of the upcoming CFRAM workshops.

Cllr Sylvester Bourke raised a query about whether the gravel from the river at the old bridge on the north side of the town and the bridge at the bypass will be removed and asked for an update on this matter.

Cllr. Pat Kennedy informed the Members that there are trees 30ft high on islands in the river that need to be cut back in order that no damage is caused to two bridges in the area i.e. Greenane Bridge and Strand Bridge.

Item 8 – Correspondence

- Linda Mc Donald circulated a report on the public lighting from Sean Quirke, Director of Services, Transportation and Road Infrastructure.
- Linda Mc Donald updated the members on the South Green/Harbour Road contract.
Cllr Tommy Annesley raised a query about the Bridge Street entrance and the damage caused by the the volume of lorries working on the BAM project and the cost of these repairs.


Cllr Sylvester Bourke suggested that Roadstone should be advised of the commencement of these works.


- Linda Mc Donald circulated the members with an invitation to the Arklow Music Festival.
- Linda Mc Donald circulated the members a copy of the application submitted on behalf of Arklow Municipal District for the Irish Tourism Industry Awards 2015. The application refers to the Arklow Duck Pond & Bridgewater Area. Linda Mc Donald advised the members that feedback on the application would be received. The submission was complemented by all the members.
- Linda Mc Donald circulated a letter from Colm Kavanagh addressed to the Members of AMD. It was agreed that Linda Mc Donald would acknowledge receipt of this letter on behalf of the Members. It was noted that most of the issues raised in Mr. Kavanagh's letter are not matters for Arklow Municipal District.

Item 9. Any other Business

- Cllr Pat Kennedy expressed his concern about the reduction of Garda Personnel within the AMD. It was agreed that Linda Mc Donald would write to the Chief Superintendent with a view to setting up a Garda Committee for the AMD.
- Cllr Pat Fitzgerald congratulated Bryan Doyle on his appointment as Temporary Chief Executive Officer and offered his best wishes to Eddie Sheehy on his forthcoming retirement. Cllr Pat Fitzgerald expressed his wish to have a District Manager who will have the interests of Arklow at heart. All Members wished to be associated with these comments.
- Bryan Doyle advised the members that he is looking forward to the challenge and that his door will always be open. It is envisaged that there will be a new District Manager in place for the April meeting.
- Cllr Sylvester Bourke enquired about a full skip and the potholes in the Graveyard in Barndarrig and was advised that this complaint has been logged.
- Cllr Pat Kennedy enquired about the possibility of changing the time of the monthly meetings to 3.30 from April onwards and this was unanimously agreed.

Minutes confirmed at Meeting held on Wednesday 8th April 2015.

Signed: 
Cllr Pat Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District

Signed: 
Linda Mc Donald, District Administrator.