



**Wicklow County Council  
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

**ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 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  
Ms. Linda McDonald, District Administrator  
Mr. Jack Kelly, District Engineer  
Mr. Sean Dunne, Executive Technician  
Ms Iris Gould, A/Staff Officer.

A minute's silence was observed following Votes of Sympathy passed for the following: Roisin Elliott, Sadie Farrell, Michael Wolohan, Margaret Sunderland, Angela Wolohan, Ray Healy and Ned Purcell.

**Item 1 - Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Arklow Municipal District held on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014.**

The minutes of the meeting for Arklow Municipal District held on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014 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 – Update from Planning & Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting (Cllr Bourke)**

- Cllr Bourke advised the members that the closing date for submissions for the County Development Plan has now expired and a report will be presented to the Councillors next month.
- Responsibility for the HAP (Housing Assistant Payment) will be transferred to the Council. All persons in receipt of same will be deemed as having been housed and will be removed from the housing list.
- Cllr Mary Mc Donald enquired about the repair status of a house in Woodbrook. Jack Kelly to report and advise Cllr. McDonald.
- Mr Bryan Doyle advised members that he has written to Michael Nicholson and Des O'Brien with regard to the use of Package Treatment Plants in Arklow.
- Following a discussion on local authority housing in the district it was agreed that a letter would be drafted to the Director of Housing Michael Nicholson and copied to the Senior Engineer Breege Kilkenney requesting that they enter into discussions with developers who have planning permission but have not yet commenced building, as the commencement of these could lead to some local authority housing becoming available.

- Mr Bryan Doyle advised the members that he has spoken to the Director of Planning Mr. Des O' Brien about vacant properties on the Main Street in Arklow and suggested that these properties should not be subject to any planning restrictions(water services).
- Cllr Pat Kennedy asked why Rathdrum was excluded from the housing programme as it has the sewage capacity. It was agreed that Linda McDonald would write to the Housing Department to enquire about the House Building Programme for 2015 to 2020.
- Cllr Miriam Murphy enquired about the DPG Grant and was informed by WCC that they were being allocated on a priority basis.

**Item 4 – Update from Transportation, Water & Environmental Services Strategic Policy Committee meeting (Cllrs Pat Fitzgerald and Cllr Mary Mc Donald)**

- Cllr Mary Mc Donald gave a summary of the presentation made by Veterinary Ireland. A sub group is to be formed to provide information and advice on policy changes.
- District Manager, Bryan Doyle advised the members about the preparation and implementation of a new Waste Management Plan. It was noted that a submission has been made by the SPC. The closing date for submissions is 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015.
- Cllr. Fitzgerald advised that €30,000 is to be allocated to the libraries for musical instruments. It was noted that Arklow Library has not been included in this allocation. Following a discussion the Members agreed to raise this matter at their next SPC meeting.
- District Manager, Bryan Doyle advised the members that the Traffic Study of Laragh/Glendalough car park is proceeding.
- Cllr Mary Mc Donald advised that there will be new signage available for the Sally Gap area when access is restricted.

**Item 5 – To consider draft design for Fr Murphy Statue and Parade Ground area.**

- Sean Dunne circulated a copy of the plans to the members and outlined the proposed changes:
- A single entrance/exit at the Bank of Ireland which will improve sightlines significantly.
- Remove one car parking space which would increase the amount of public open space to develop around the Fr Murphy statue.
- Remove the existing trees and replace them in different areas.
- Following a discussion it was decided to circulate the proposal to those who had made submissions along with businesses and residents in the area, Chamber of Commerce and Tidy Towns Committee.
- A meeting is to be arranged with all the members of the District at the statue to explain all the changes.
- It was noted that two submissions have been received by the HSE for a premises for the new primary care unit in the town. District Manager, Bryan Doyle is to enquire about the future plans for the Courthouse with Michael Nicholson Director of Corporate Estate and Bray Court Service.

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

- Jack Kelly, District Engineer gave a brief outline on the number of participants on the Gateway Labour Activation Scheme and the work that they are currently engaged in.
- Cllr Pat Fitzgerald outlined the positive impact this scheme has made to the entrance of the town. Bryan Doyle advised the members that he hoped that two persons would be designated to the Harbour area.
- Members asked if the following works could be included, completion of stonework in the old Kilbride Graveyard, trimming of hedging at Highfield on the Dublin Road and the trimming of hedging on the laneway at the school in Castle Park.
- Linda Mc Donald advised the members that the participants would be commencing work on the playground at St Peter's Place, Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

## **Item 7 – Correspondence**

- A letter was read out from a concerned resident over the loss of the bus stop at Knockmore, Arklow. It was agreed to write to Bus Eireann regarding this matter.
- Linda McDonald advised the Members that Mr. Joe Lane Director of the Community, Cultural & Social Development Directorate has advised that the WCC is currently liaising with the Law Agents regarding the potential leasing of the Pitch and Putt course in Arklow Town. In relation to the Swimming Pool it was noted that that WCC is currently preparing tender documents seeking consultants to prepare a feasibility study on the two pools in Wicklow and Arklow.
- Linda Mc Donald circulated the members with a copy of reply from the District Manager, Bryan Doyle to Mr. Donal O'Sullivan regarding his query on Fibre Broadband for the Main Street of Arklow.
- Following a query by Cllr. Murphy regarding the closure of the downstairs toilets in the Bridgewater Centre, Linda McDonald advised that the matter had been investigated by the Planning Authority, which had deemed that the closure of same is an operational issue and not a matter for the Planning Authority.
- Cllr Pat Fitzgerald enquired about a texting service available in the Bray Municipal District in the event of flooding, fallen trees, etc. Bryan Doyle, District Manager advised that this is currently being evaluated by the Head of I.T for the County.
- Cllr Mary Mc Donald enquired about local authority housing insulation grants. A list of the houses to be given to Jack Kelly who will advise on same.
- Jack Kelly, District Engineer advised the members about the erection of 11 turbines in Croghan. Work is due to commence in April/May of 2015. It is expected that these works will be completed in 6 months.
- Jack Kelly, District Engineer gave an update to the members on the proposed changes to the entrance of Inbhear Mor Park.

**Minutes confirmed at Meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Linda Mc Donald, District Administrator.**