



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2016

Present:

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

Officials Present: Mr. Michael Geaney, A/District Manager
Ms. Linda McDonald, District Administrator
Mr. Robert Mulhall, Executive Engineer
Ms. Frances Clinton, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Mr. Jack Kelly, District Engineer.

The Cathaoirleach welcome all present back after the summer break.

Item 1 - Vote of Sympathy:

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

Pattie Keenan, Josephine McGraynor, T.P. Brady, Mathew Butler, Margaret Canavan, Peggy Stokes, Josephine McCrave, Ceceila Smithies, Sean Wolohan.

Cllr. Annesley asked that a letter of condolence is sent to the family of Caitriona Lucas, the Coast Guard Volunteer, who died recently in the course of her duties.

Cllr. Fitzgerald also asked that we remember all those who are ill in the District.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting, held on the 22nd of June 2016:

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting, held on the 22nd of June 2016, were proposed by Cllr. Annesley and seconded by Cllr. McDonald.

Item 3 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting, held on the 13th of July 2016:

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting, held on the 13th of July 2016, were proposed by Cllr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr. McDonald.

Item 4 - Matters Arising:

At the last meeting, the Members had asked about the works taking place in the house owned by Cross Care on Connolly Street, Arklow. Ms. McDonald advised that Ms. Carroll replied that Cross Care has been in touch with WCC regarding allocating this property but no decision has yet been made. It had been agreed that Cllr. Murphy would make further enquiries and update the Members at the next meeting. At this meeting Cllr. Murphy advised that she had been unable to get further information on this matter.

With regard to the installation of an additional disabled parking space on Upper Main Street, Cllr. Murphy advised that she spoke to the business owner of this property who said they would prefer if this change didn't take place. It was agreed that Mr. Kelly would review the matter.

Cllr. Kennedy brought up the matter of people parking in disabled car parking spaces when they are not disabled. After much discussion it was agreed that the District Administrator would look into the one year pilot scheme being carried out in Gorey, Co. Wexford at present which allows the public to text Traffic Wardens if they see this occurring. It was also agreed to consider this problem when updating the by-laws and to then also consider raising the fine for such infringements.

Item 5 – To consider the submissions received for the naming of Dunne's Lane:

Ms. McDonald began by informing all present that she had the file of submissions with her if anyone wanted to see any of them in full. The submission for Fr. James Dunphy Avenue was read out, upon request. After some debate it was agreed to take a vote on the submissions made. The anonymous vote saw two votes for it to remain as Dunne's Lane, one for Library Lane, one for Aberystwyth Lane, one for Olympic Way and one for Fr. James Dunphy Avenue; thus the lane is recommended to be named Dunne's Lane. This recommendation will be forwarded to a full meeting of WCC.

Item 6 – To consider the Report on Revenue Expenditure for AMD 2016:

A print out of the Budget spent, committed and remaining at the end of August 2016 had been emailed to all present prior to this meeting. Mr. Geaney explained how this document gives a snap shot of cash flow. After various questions were asked, the following information was provided:

Of the €47,353 budgeted for the upkeep of burial grounds, wages for same comes out of this figure.

The €10,000 not yet spent under the Arklow MD Festivals heading is committed for Xmas Lights.

Expenditure on utility bills for the Courthouse is recouped by the Finance Section.

The costs for the maintenance of the Duck Pond are included in the figure for Maintenance of Parks and Open Spaces.

Also, from this the following points were raised:

Cllr. Bourke said he has received numerous complaints about a lack of maintenance at St. Gabriel's Graveyard and asked if the type of work being done can be reviewed. Cllr. Murphy said that overall the complaints about the graveyards are mainly to do with them being overgrown. Cllr. Kennedy asked that Mr. Kelly provide a breakdown of the hours of the road-sweeper i.e. where it goes and when.

Ms. McDonald informed all present that with regard to concerns raised about the conditions of roundabouts in the town, an advertisement will be in next week's Wicklow People asking for submissions from businesses/organisations to sponsor the development and upkeep of 4 roundabouts in the town.

Item 7 – To consider the Report on Capital Expenditure for AMD 2016:

A print out of the Capital Expenditure to date had been emailed to all present prior to the meeting. This outlined the use of the €303,000 set aside by Arklow Town Council prior to its dissolution. Michael Geaney said, of the €110,412 remaining, he would like to keep €35,000 for the North Beach Coastal Protection Works. Cllr. Fitzgerald proposed this and Cllr. Kennedy seconded it.

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked if the remaining monies can be spent next year. Ms. McDonald said they could.

Cllr. Annesley said he has reservations about spending a quarter of a million euro on private property when the owner will not allow a walkway on this land to Porters Rock. In reply Cllr. Annesley was told that the works were in the public area and not on private lands.

Cllr. Murphy asked if €5,000 for South Beach is still going ahead and if not where else in that area €5,000 can be spent. Cllr. Annesley said this €5,000 was originally meant for a recreational area. He added that this area needs a toilet and a bin and monies for them to be maintained. Mr. Geaney said he would look at the area.

Item 8 – To consider a report on Derelict Sites & Dangerous Buildings within the AMD:

Ms. McDonald read a report on Derelict Sites & Dangerous Buildings within the AMD. It stated that there is currently one site in the AMD included in the Derelict Sites Register. It is the site at The Old Rectory, Corballis, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow. She outlined a list of the most recent complaints received and investigated in the Arklow urban area.

Ms. McDonald also advised that seven sites were included on the Arklow Town Council Register when it was handed over to Wicklow County Council on 1st of June 2014. She said that all these sites have been investigated, deemed not to be derelict, as defined under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 and removed from the register.

Cllr. Murphy asked about the situation at the old depot at Hudson's Square. Ms. McDonald said she would ask Corporate Estate for an update on this.

Cllr. Kennedy said there are lots of derelict sites in Rathdrum.

Cllr. Annesley said he found it hard to believe that some of the sites discussed have been deemed not to be derelict and would like the Acting County Manager and Director of Planning to view these sites and discuss their classification as not derelict. Ms. McDonald said she would write to both and request same.

Item 9 – To receive an update on the AMD Roads Programme 2016:

In the absence of Mr. Kelly, Mr. Mulhall gave an update on the AMD Roads Programme for 2016. He advised that the road strengthening works at the following locations are complete; the R750 at Seabank and Sallymount, the R752 at Castlemacadam, at Kilahurler on the L6196, at Bearnacleagh on the L2191, on the L61741 at Ballymoyle, on the L6294 at Ballydowling, at Rosnastraw on the L7213 and on the L6126 at Kirakee.

With regard to the Surface Dressing Programme he said the Council's Machinery Crew started on the R752 Regional Road at Bahana on the 15th June and have since surface dressed the roads at Ballycoogue, Clone, Kilmagig, Barranisky, Snugborough, Poulaphuca, Ballydonnell and Knockanree on the R753 at Tinakilly and Tankersley Lane.

With regard to the works on the footpaths he advised that those at Abbeyville, Cheeryfield and Ticknock Court, Arklow and at Corballis and Parnell Park, Rathdrum are complete. He added that those works at Redcross are ongoing.

Mr. Mulhall said the 4 Community Involvement Schemes were selected for AMD in 2016. He said the Roads Section has written to the 4 applicants and are awaiting their replies. Mr. Mulhall added that it is therefore hoped that work will commence on the schemes in early October.

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked about footpath works in Woodview Park to which Mr. Mulhall replied that he believes this will commence after such works are completed in Redcross.

Cllr. Bourke said that 4 inch stones need to be filled in for the verges at Seabank in order to improve the surface.

Item 10 – To discuss traffic calming at Woodlands Estate, Arklow:

The Members discussed the issue of speeding vehicles in the area and were informed that signage has been improved. Previously, residents were asked to submit their views on the issue and 39 replies were received from over 300 homes. It had also been agreed that the matter would be looked at after the nationwide 30km/h limit in housing estates came into effect. Cllr. McDonald said that there only appears to be a problem in Woodlands Park, which is used by drivers to cut through the estate. She said that there has already been one minor accident involving a child and that at least one ramp could improve the situation. Cllr. Kennedy said the Members had to be mindful of the safety of children. It was agreed that the matter

would be placed on the October Agenda when the District Engineer would be present.

Item 11 – To receive updates on the following projects:

Arklow Courthouse:

- Ms. McDonald informed all present that discussions have taken place recently between Lorraine Gallagher and the Court Services. She said that a new Regional Manager has been appointed to the Court Services and that this matter will now be progressed.

Arklow Flood Relief Scheme (AFRS):

- Ms. McDoanld said that the Public Information Days (PID) held by Marc Devereux of WCC went very well. She said the next PID day will take place at the end of October – possibly for 2 days from 2pm to 8pm each day. Consultants and WCC staff will be on hand to answer questions. She went on to say that a multi-criteria analysis has taken place and the emerging preferred option is a combination of flood defences, dredging and a debris trap. As the construction of the AFRS and the Sewerage Treatment Plant Scheme will be progressing in or around the same time interaction is also taking place with IW in order to avoid duplication of works. She said work has commenced on the EIS.

North Beach Coastal Protection Works:

- Mr. Mulhall informed all present that an application was submitted to the OPW on the 23rd of May last. Clarifications were sought and replied to. A meeting has been arranged with the OPW, WCC and Jimmy Byrne in Arklow on the 20th of September next to look at the condition of the revetment on North Beach.
- Mr. Mulhall said that with regard to the North Beach Coastal Protection Works €450K is sought as per the survey report. He said that €250K of this is for the repair of the revetment while the remaining amount is for a concrete pathway on the top to replace the tarmacadam pathway which isn't strong enough. Mr. Mulhall suggested that we wait to see what comes in from the OPW and then see if the pathway can be brought out to the caravan park.
- Mr. Mulhall said that he spoke to Larry Wolohan and his initial feeling is the case may be weak as maintenance is the responsibility of the Local Authority. However, it was pointed out that the 2014 storms caused damage and no funding to repair these was received and we did maintain it.
- Cllr. Bourke added that when the work was done the original idea was to put groins out to sea. Mr. Mulhall replied that this was too costly. Cllr. Bourke asked if one or two could be put in now. Mr. Mulhall replied that due to erosion there is no beach there now to break the waves and this will be discussed at the aforementioned meeting of the 20th of September next and a more costly option may have to be considered.
- Cllr. Fitzgerald added that a five figure grant was received a few years ago for work there. He said the walkway plaque is now gone and it is 26 years since this work was originally done so it is not a question of maintenance not being done. He suggested the dates of the 5/6 storms in the last 26 years are to hand for the meeting.

- Cllr. Annesley praised the site visit with Marc Devereux in Bray. He added that he would have reservations about the height of the wall at the river walk.
- Mr. Mulhall added that if granted, 90% of the cost is given. Mr. Geaney again said that of the €110,412 remaining in Capital Expenditure, he would like to keep €35,000 of it for the North Beach Coastal Protection Works.
- Mr. Mulhall added that money for a walkway may not be given. The Councillors stressed the importance of it. Cllr. Kennedy said they would await Mr. Mulhall's next report.

Arklow Harbour – North Quay Wall Remedial Works:

- The contractor commenced vegetation removal from the North Quay on Monday 12th September. The preparatory works for the North Quay are estimated to take one week to complete before any drilling or grouting works can be completed. Drilling and grouting will commence at the eastern end of the work site on the 19th of September next and work towards the west. The contractor will limit the work site to approximately 20m to 30m at any one time. Traffic management will be in place for approximately four weeks during the drilling and grouting and will be removed each evening at the end of the shift. The Contractor will be working Monday to Thursday 7am to 7pm and Friday 7am to 3pm.

Item 12 – Proposed Speed Limit Amendments for Arklow Municipal District:

Ms. McDonald said that Declan O'Brien of WCC emailed his apologies for not being able to attend to today's meeting but said he is available to contact any time on this matter. He also asked that any changes the Members wish to see to the proposal they were issued with in August be sent to him as soon as possible as they will need to be assessed. He added that he is planning to publish the consultation document, (by-laws), as soon as possible i.e at the end of September/early October.

Cllr. Fitzgerald said he was disappointed that the speed limit at the football pitch, (road from Arklow to Coolgreaney), wasn't included. Cllr. Kennedy said this can be submitted as an AMD submission. Ms. McDonald said she would send it in and asked Cllr. Fitzgerald therefore to supply her with the details and the distance.

Item 13 – Notice of Motions:

(a) In the name of Cllr. Pat Kennedy:

“That the Members of Arklow Municipal District provide €10,000 from the tourism budget to start a much needed footpath from Rathdrum to Avondale Forest Park.” (Received 09/06/16, deferred from July 2016 AMD Meeting).

Proposed by Cllr. Kennedy. Seconded by Cllr. Bourke. This motion was agreed.

(b) In the name of Councillors Pat Fitzgerald & Sylvester Bourke:

“In so far as funding allows, that traffic calming measures are put in place on the Main Street in Avoca Village. The ramps proposed would be table top ramps.”

It was proposed by Cllr.Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr.Bourke to consider these works when discussing the Budget for 2017.

(c) In the name of Cllr. Sylvester Bourke:

“In so far as funding allows, that signage be provided for Oakwood Court, Tinahask Upper, Arklow to deal with Children At Play and/or Slow Down, Name of the Estate and Dog Fouling.”

All agreed to consider these works when discussing the Budget for 2017.

Item 14 – Correspondence:

1. Ms. McDonald read from an email from Volunteer Ireland asking for nominations for the Volunteer Ireland Awards. Ms. McDonald said the Members could nominate people on behalf of AMD by giving their name and a few lines about them. She informed them the closing date is 16/10/16.
2. Ms. McDonald read an email from Deputy John Brady in which he asked if Oisin Byrne of Woodlands Avenue could be given a civic reception having won 1st and 2nd prize in Taekwondo in the World Championships in Liverpool recently. It was agreed to do this after the next AMD Meeting on 12/10/16. As there is no money available in the budget for this, all Councillors agreed to share the cost. Ms. McDonald added that she has requested that €1000 be provided in next year’s budget for such events. All Councillors also agreed that such receptions should take place twice a year only from now on.
3. Ms. McDonald read an email from Michael Nicholson about the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2016. All were informed that the window to apply is very tight but that between €20,000 and €100,000 in funding is available for ‘shovel ready’ projects.
4. Ms. McDonald read from an email to Cllr. Murphy from Siobhan Enright regarding having a footpath built from Love Lane/Pound Hill to Hills Garage. It was agreed to defer discussing this matter until Mr. Kelly is present at the next meeting.
5. Ms. McDonald read from an email she received from Cllr. Fitzgerald regarding a crash on the Beech Road. After some discussion it was agreed to put the issue of rumble strips for this road on the Agenda of the next AMD Meeting.

Item 15 – Any Other Business:

Cllr. Bourke proposed that AMD request that the bus stop at Jack White’s be brought back to allow the Wexford Bus to stop (Northbound). He said the landowner is agreeable to this. All Councillors agreed to this.

Cllr. Fitzgerald said the signs for Monument Lane at Templeraíney Church and Mahon's Lane need to be re-erected.

It was requested that the sign for Dublin on the Vale Road be moved as it is currently behind the Tourist Office sign and cannot be clearly seen. Cllr. Annesley added that its pole is bent too. Cllr. Fitzgerald said that there are too many signs there.

Cllr. Murphy said that there is no sign on the Main Street to say there is a car park there. She said Sean Dunne said the sign is in the Council Depot. She asked for it to be erected. She also asked for a sign to be erected at McGrath's Cross on the Coolgreaney Road pointing to the N11.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 12th of October 2016 at 3.30pm.

Signed: *Cllr. Pat Kennedy*

Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: *Linda McDonald*

Ms. Linda McDonald, Arklow Municipal District Administrator