



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17th July 2019

Present: Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke
Cllr. Miriam Murphy
Cllr. Tommy Annesley
Cllr. Pat Kennedy
Cllr. Pier Leonard

Apologies: Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, Assistant Staff Officer

Officials Present: Mr. Colm Lavery, District Manager
Mr. John Bowes, District Engineer
Mr. Rob Mulhall, Executive Engineer
Ms. Jenny Seabrooke-Byrne, Clerical Officer

Item 1 - Vote of Sympathy:

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

Noel Kearon, Arklow, Kevin Quinn, Mary Lambert, Anne Larkin, Eileen Kavanagh, Sean Kealy, Helen O'Hickey, Mary Byrne (nee Kearon), Majella Thomas, Marie Doyle (Marina), Ann Doyle (nee Dunne), Norah Mulhall, Ann Rynne, John O'Connor, Mary Moules, Noel Keohane, Philomena Lynnot, Brendan Grace.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting, held on the 12th June 2019

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 12th June 2019 were proposed by Cllr. Bourke and seconded by Cllr. Annesley.

Item 3 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Special Meeting, held on the 12th June 2019

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Special Meeting held on the 12th June 2019 were proposed by Cllr. Bourke and seconded by Cllr. Kennedy.

Item 4 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting, held on the 24th April 2019

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 24th April 2019 were proposed by Cllr. Annesley and seconded by Cllr. Bourke.

Item 5 – To consider the report on the Part 8 development of 20 social housing units at Avondale Heights, Corballis Upper, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow

Emma Hickey, Executive Architect gave a brief overview of the preliminary design of the 20 new housing units that are being proposed under Phase 2. Cllr. Kennedy welcomed the report and commended the high standard and excellent landscaping for the first phase. Ms. Hickey confirmed that these houses will be RAPID Build with a commencement date of works envisaged during 2019. Marc Devereux estimated the works to be completed within 30-35 weeks.

Cllr. Fitzgerald wished to acknowledge the efforts of the Housing staff. The housing list for Arklow was 800 but, 34 houses have been allocated recently and 10 more this week.

All members present voted in favour of the new scheme.

Item 6 – Presentation to the members on the proposed Part 8 development at the old fire station – Sheehan Court

Benan Clancy, Executive Architect circulated hard copies of provisional drawings for this development. Site layout consists of 7 rectangular 2 storey RAPID Build houses. This has been scaled down from original plan of 3 storeys. In the report Marc Devereux highlighted the low energy costs and carbon footprint. They will be A1-A2 energy rating. They will be of modular design – steel & timber frame.

Cllr. Fitzgerald noted that no parking will be available. He envisaged issues with access and egress to the rear lane currently used by other residents in that area. Communication is vital between the Council & residents.

Cllr. Leonard queried a photo montage of the development. In response, Marc Devereux stated that this would only be done if consultants had been employed and it would delay the project by 15/20 weeks. As the designs have been done in-house it would not be possible to do this. Cllr. Leonard reiterated Cllr. Fitzgerald's sentiments of the access to the lane and the need for landscaping of the area.

All members present voted in favour of the project.

Item 7 – To agree a date to present Festival Funding for 2019

This event will take place at 6pm on 31st July 2019.

Item 8 – To discuss funding for Environmental Clean Ups in the District

Colm Lavery, DM outlined that there will be €4,000 allocated for cleanups at the discretion of staff in Arklow MD. Cllr. Fitzgerald welcomed the additional funding but, is a minute amount. He declared that more needs to be done to combat person A from collecting waste and illegally dumping same.

Cllr. Leonard stressed the importance of accurate records, costing and shortfalls in the budget. John Bowes, DE stated that there has been no dedicated fund to date and therefore, unable to track the costs. This is the first step towards quantifying records. Cllr. Bourke queried was this €4,000 reducing the funding given to Arklow Tidy Towns & Pure Mile. Pure Mile is separate and the funding is additional.

Item 9 – John Bowes, District Engineer to discuss –

- Roads Programme 2019
- Discretionary Works
- IPB Remedial Works
- Low Cost Safety Schemes

A report by John Bowes DE was circulated to members.

** Roads Programme 2019 – Road strengthening works and surface dressing works are complete

** **Discretionary Works** – a Consultant has been appointed to design the Carpark at Mill Road – 2019 Contribution

**** Footpath/IPB Remedial Works** – Rob Mulhall, Executive Engineer confirmed that footpaths in Avalon were partially completed due to issues with unducted cables and other services. It is recommended that no further works be carried out. As a result of same, Mr. Mulhall stated that there is a surplus in the Budget due to the Contractors work and rates being excellent.

He suggested that additional works at Avonbeg Heights, Ballinaclash & footpath connecting Old Chapel Ground and Harbour Court be carried out. These works were proposed by Cllr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr. Kennedy.

**** CIS & LIS Road works** – Cllr. Bourke queried the number of applicants for the scheme and could other projects be selected from those not approved at the end of the year. Cllr. Miriam Murphy queried the improvement works on the Johnstown L6187 – L6189 and is there money to complete same. Cllr. Murphy felt that the works finished at a dangerous part of the road. John Bowes, DE stated that there is no more funding available. It can be submitted for consideration under the Roads programme for 2020.

Item 10 – Notice of Motions

(a) In the name of Cllr. Sylvester Bourke

“That the Council undertake road improvements at Ballinvalley, Redcross between Kingstown and Sunderlands Farm”. (Received 12th June 2019)

John Bowes, SEE:-

With regard to the section of the LS-6175-0 between Kinstons and Sunderlands farms:-

- The length of road between the farms is approximately 860 metres with an average width of approximately 5.0 metres.
- Current estimated cost of surface overlay works = €86,000 approximately
- Not currently a priority as the road and surface is in relatively good condition
- Not included in DTTaS 3 year Restoration Improvement programme 2019 to 2021
- Can be considered for Restoration Maintenance Programme in coming year (s), i.e. surface dressing
- The drainage of the road yet to be assessed

Cllr. Bourke opined that the road is particularly hazardous during wet conditions.

(b) In the name of Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald

“That resurfacing of the road leading into Tower Avenue, Avoca is carried out at the earliest opportunity”. (Received 30th May 2019)

Report by John Bowes, SEE:-

With regard to the section of the LT-21801-0 leading into Tower Avenue:-

- The length of road leading to the arch is approximately 360 metres with a width of approximately 4.0 metres
- It is a cul-de-sac which serves as access to 7 no houses
- Current estimated cost of surface overlay works = €29,000 approximately
- The road is in poor condition but, does not have extensive potholing and is considered adequate for the traffic it receives
- Not included in DTTaS 3 year Restoration Improvement Programme 2019 to 2021
- In the short term it would not be prioritised over other roads in the district which are also in need of attention and which would benefit a wider community.
- This road would be a good candidate for an application under the Community Involvement Scheme in 2020 or 2021. The seven residents should be encouraged to submit an application under this Scheme.

Cllr. Annesley stated that residents in the area should not have to pay towards the resurfacing works.

John Bowes, SEE considered the resurfacing on Main Street, Avoca a greater priority.

(c) In the name of Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald

"That resurfacing of a section of the road that runs into Blackberry Glade from Abbeyville is carried out when funding allows". (Received 30th May 2019)

Report by John Bowes, SEE:-

With regard to Blackberry Glade LS-6904-45 and it's junction with Abbeyville:-

- The length Blackberry Glade is approximately 190 metres with a width of approximately 7.0 metres.
- It is a residential road which also serves as a through road to other areas of Arklow
- Current estimated cost of surface overlay works = €32,000 approximately
- The road is generally in good condition but the surface course has failed and broken away in certain areas, particularly at its junction with Abbeyville. Shallow depressions of approximately 20 to 30mm deep remain in these areas and resurfacing is warranted as a result
- Not included in DTTaS3 year Restoration Improvement Programme 2019 to 2021
- Unless other funding becomes available sooner it can be considered for inclusion in the Roads Programme post 2021.

Item 11 – To discuss current speed limits on local road L1113- Deputy's Pass-M11 (Beehive)

Report from the Roads Department was circulated to members. John Bowes provided a comprehensive analysis on the findings to all present. The report concluded that the speed

limit on this section of road is in accordance with the Speed Limit Guidelines and a speed limit lower than the default is not appropriate at this stage.

Cllr. Murphy appreciated the extensive report but, while the speed limits may be within the guidelines, she felt it was endangering lives. The speed limit was to return to 60 km/hr once the Bypass was completed. Her recollection from a meeting last year attended by Michael Geaney was that it wasn't impossible to change a speed limit - it could go to public consultation.

Colm Lavery, DM stated that the Council can review speed limits within the 5 year period – Statutory process and would take 6 months from initiating the process to a final decision being made.

Cllr. Bourke stated that enforcement in the form of Garda vans would reduce speeding somewhat. Cllr. Annesley expressed his disdain with the Report. He reputed the assessment on the grounds that there has been a fatality on the road within the past 11 years and where did the figure of 100 million vehicles come from?

Cllr. Fitzgerald proposed and Cllr. Murphy seconded the motion that the speed limits be reviewed. Colm Lavery, DM will bring this to County level.

Item 12 – To receive an update on the Arklow Flood Defence Scheme project

Colm Lavery, DM spoke to Marc Devereux, SE who has confirmed that the project is at design stage. The Members requested that Marc Devereux be invited to the next district meeting to give an update on the Flood Defence Scheme.

Item 13 – Correspondence

Community Involvement Schemes letter RW/08 received from Dept. of Transport, Tourism & Sport. Colm Lavery, DM gave a brief outline of the funding available and criteria required for funding of schemes in 2020 and 2021.

Item 14 – Any Other Business

- ❖ Cllr. Leonard to give contribution of €300 to Aisling Nolan, Pound Fitness towards the cost of organising a Wellness Festival on the 18th August 2019. Cllr. Fitzgerald proposed and Cllr. Annesley seconded it.
- ❖ Reception for Arklow Tidy Towns in recognisance of their recent success. Cllr. Annesley suggested leaving same until after September when the overall Tidy Towns Awards Results are announced.

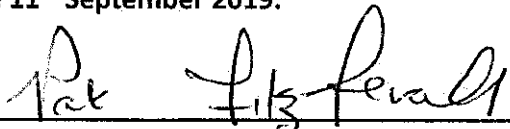
- ❖ Cllr. Kennedy – congratulations given to Cartoon Festival on their successful event.
- ❖ Cllr. Kennedy raised the issue of the Disabled Parking sign across from Arklow Post Office being moved up or down by 2 metres.
- ❖ Cllr. Kennedy raised the issue of no Garda resident in Aughrim Garda Station – letter to be written to the Minister for Justice and Equality and Local Gardaí outlining his concerns. Cllr. Fitzgerald would like to meet with the Chief Superintendent in Wicklow on a quarterly basis – perhaps a letter could be forwarded to him to arrange a meeting between September/October.
- ❖ Cllr. Leonard raised the issue of cyclists using footpaths.
- ❖ Cllr. Bourke raised the presence of ragweed on the roundabout at Barndarrig. Cllr. Bourke queried an update on the Avoca Water Scheme as there was a Boil Notice still in situ.
- ❖ Cllr. Bourke raised the matter of no ambulance cover in the Arklow base on a Tuesday each week (ongoing for the last 2 years).
- ❖ Cllr. Fitzgerald asked about the possibility of sourcing a stone for the entrance to John Paul Avenue. A resident of this estate will engrave the name of the estate onto it. In response, Rob Mulhall confirmed that he was dealing with this matter.
- ❖ Cllr. Fitzgerald raised the matter of road markings – Is Coolgreany Road being done or just part thereof? John Bowes, DE is meeting with the company responsible on the 18.07.19
- ❖ Cllr. Murphy queried the possibility of blue painting on the parking signs at the Leisure Centre
- ❖ Cllr. Annesley asked about the possibility of an additional yellow box at Templerainey Heights & Highfield Avenue. Traffic Congestion is unprecedented on Ferrybank and access & egress from these estates is very difficult. Rob Mulhall, EE will organise same.
- ❖ Cllr. Leonard queried the number of leaks at Abbey Street and Abbeyville. Cllr. Fitzgerald responded that Irish Water needs permission from the new owner of 1 O'Connell Terrace (currently going through a sale) for access to the property.

- ❖ Cllr. Bourke raised the matter of certain old graves in the graveyard that are badly collapsed – is there a possibility of getting these filled? Rob Mulhall, EE will investigate same.
- ❖ Cllr. Fitzgerald commended the extensive work done in the graveyard. Credit was given by Fr. Pádraig Ó Cochláin during the Annual Blessing of the Graves.
- ❖ Cllr. Annesley discussed the recent ARROW meeting that took place on the 14th July. A large number of people along with two Deputies met and walked the route. He expressed his concerns about the large sinkholes. In response, Rob Mulhall, EE stated that an application for funding is with Wicklow Partnership and feedback on same is due towards the end of August / beginning of September.
- ❖ Cllr. Murphy did not attend the walk but, stated that the upcoming ARROW meeting that is due to take place on the 31st July should be attended by the Chief Executive and a Planning Official. Cllr. Murphy asked Colm Lavery, DM when does the decision to go legal occur? In response Colm Lavery stated when the Planning Officials determine same.

At the moment the Planning Department are awaiting further information from the owner of Arklow Property Holdings Ltd. Cllr. Leonard stated that she would like to access to information regarding the house that was built at Porter's Rock.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 11th September 2019.

Signed:



Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed:



Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District