



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th February 2020

Present: Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke
Cllr. Pat Kennedy
Cllr. Peir Leonard
Cllr. Miriam Murphy

Apologies : Cllr. Tommy Annesley

Officials Present: Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator
Mr. Colm Lavery, District Manager
Mr. Rob Mulhall, A/District Engineer
Ms. Caroline Fox, Administrative Officer CCSD
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, Assistant Staff Officer

Item 1 : Vote of Sympathy:

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

Willie Wolohan, Maurice O'Brien, Jackie Kelly, Kevin Kennedy, Kevin Germaine, Tricia Searls, Katriona Maguire, Ann McDonald, John Farrell, Pat Cox.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 15th January 2020.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 15th January 2020 were proposed by Cllr Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Leonard.

Item 3: Matters Arising.

Cllr Murphy raised the matter of correspondence received from residents of Blackberry Glade and Harbour Court. Cllr Fitzgerald confirmed that this issue would be discussed under AOB.

Cllr Bourke asked for an update on the issues raised at previous meetings in relation to public lighting. He confirmed that works have been carried out in recent days. Cllr Bourke also stated that the traffic situation in Avoca is worsening and requested that this be kept on the agenda for ongoing review.

Item 4: To consider Part VIII Report for the Avonmore Bridge Project.

Caroline Fox AO CCSD briefed the members on the Part VIII Managers Report for the Avonmore Footbridge project. The deadline is tight to ensure the funding is received. The design is complete and the next stage will be the detailed design phase which is dependent on approval of the Part VIII by members. It was confirmed that no objections have been received and nothing significant was raised by the planner other than works to be carried out in accordance with Inland Fisheries requirements. It is hoped to have the tender documents out by March and works beginning in May 2020.

Cllr Kennedy endorsed the project and stated that it would benefit all of south Co. Wicklow. The project will be a link from the far side of the river to the town. He thanked Michael Nicholson and Caroline Fox for their continued support of the project and bringing all the parties together to bring the project to this stage. Cllr Bourke said he also looked forward to the completion of the project and it was symbolic in connecting communities.

The Part VIII approval was proposed by Cllr Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Leonard. All members supported the project.

Item 5: To discuss Discretionary Budget for 2020.

Rob Mulhall DE confirmed that a balance of €20,000 remains unallocated for the year.

Cllr Fitzgerald stated that a motion had gone before the members previously for the upgrading of footpaths in Cherryfield Estate and he proposed that these works be included in this year's discretionary works - €10,000. Cllr Kennedy seconded the proposal and stated that these works had been discussed for a few years now. The members agreed with the proposal.

Cllr Kennedy said that the district need to consider the future for river tourism in Co. Wicklow and the addition it would make to the proposed greenways. Information panels need to be installed along the river from Glenmalure to Arklow – it would not be a huge cost – detailing the aquatic life and wildlife. The project could be completed over a number of years. Cllr Kennedy proposed the project for discretionary spending, Cllr Leonard seconded the proposal.

Cllr Leonard confirmed she had spoken to the DE previously about a similar project and had plans in mind to explore the vast potential for tourism – website should also be considered. Cllr Murphy asked if the funding for the project could be sourced

elsewhere. Cllr Bourke stated that members should not be in a rush to allocate from discretionary funds – funding may be available through the River Basin Management Plan – LAWCO – they would support the educational concept. Cllr Fitzgerald suggested investigating other funding streams and Cllr Leonard asked that the members consider the balance as match funding on an agreed project. It was agreed to explore other funding options and all agreed to proceed with the project.

Item 6: Rob Mulhall A/District Engineer to discuss -

Roads Programme 2020

Tendering work has commenced on the 2020 roads programme is now completed with works completed as part of road strengthening at –

Tinnahinch, Sea Rd. Arklow, Laragh – Ballyhad, Ballyduff-Johnstown Rd, Abbey St. Arklow, Aughrim – Craffield, Greenan – Ballyteigue.

A list of surface dressing works for 2020 is being currently being prepared.

Discretionary Projects

2020 discretionary projects are at varying stages of progression. Rob Mulhall A/DE said that the installation of a public light at Ballyrichard might not go ahead – Confirmed that connection is on private land.

Footpaths/IPB Remedial Works

A list of areas containing potential trip hazards within the Arklow Municipal District is currently being compiled. It is hoped that later in the year (resources permitting) a tender package will be issued to contractors to carry out remedial works in all of the areas identified.

Low cost Safety Schemes

From the 2019 Low Cost Safety Scheme list we are still awaiting connections at the following - L2172 Redcross and R754 Avoca.

All of the necessary paperwork has been submitted to the ESB for the above locations. We are awaiting clarification from the ESB about the supply layout at Avoca.

In January 2020 the Department approved the following low cost safety schemes for the Arklow Municipal District:

Wexford Road (South) Arklow – Pedestrian Crossing Upgrades
Wexford Road (North) Arklow - Pedestrian Crossing Upgrades
Vale Road Arklow – Safety Barrier Installation

Other Road Works –LIS & CIS Works

No budget has yet been announced for LIS works in 2020.

A budget of €307,000 has been allocated to Wicklow County Council in 2020 for CIS. There is one live application from the Arklow MD.

Item 7 : Notices of Motions

(a) In the name of Cllr Sylvester Bourke

“That the council repair the road from Corballis i.e.Saville’s Cross for a distance of 200 metres towards Avondale” (Received 17th December 2019)

Rob Mulhall A/DE confirmed that he would look at this and assess the condition of the road. Cllr Kennedy said the proposed Avondale House re-development project may factor here and Colm Lavery DM said he would consult with the DE on this.

(b) In the name of Cllr Pat Fitzgerald

“That replacement of the footpath that runs from Mother Kevin’s Crescent, John’s Villa’s, Arklow to Fr. Redmond Park is replaced as a matter of urgency” (Received 18th December)

Motion was withdrawn – On current schedule of works.

(c) In the name of Cllr Pat Fitzgerald

“That repairs are carried out to the footpath that runs from Glenview Estate, Thomastown” (Received 18th December 2019)

Rob Mulhall A/DE said that the works could be carried out this year and the decision to proceed will depend on funds available – All agreed that works will proceed if funds allow it.

Item 8: To discuss the spending of Festival Funding for 2020.

The members discussed the number of festivals in the town and the funding available to festival committees. Cllr Leonard recommended an analysis of all festivals be carried out with a view to improving how the festivals are delivered.

Cllr Fitzgerald proposed that the Festival Funding Scheme be advertised for this year from the 28th February and a closing date of 27th March. All agreed with the proposal.

Item 9: Correspondence

Claire Lawless DA received a letter from Nancy Quinn of Beresford Tce., Residents Association requesting funding assistance to organise an event to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the terrace – 2021. Cllr Fitzgerald proposed that the members

support the application in principle and look at the funding again nearer the event. Cllr Murphy seconded the proposal.

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach, received correspondence from Harbour Court residents in relation to the proposed community garden, Cllr Fitzgerald recommended that the members meet with the residents – He welcomed two Harbour Court residents, to the meeting. The correspondence brings many issues to the fore and we need to communicate with the Chairperson of the Residents Association. Cllr Murphy stated her surprise at the testing carried out on the site and Cllr Leonard clarified that the test was a simple turn of the sod and a look – no more than that and it has been blown out of proportion.

Cllr Leonard re-iterated that the Harbour Court site was a potential site for the garden and will be a not for profit project – community based to make the place look nicer – do utmost to avoid conflict and division. There will not be allotments but a landscaped vegetable garden owned by no one. It will deter anti-social behaviour and all stakeholders will have a say.

Cllr Fitzgerald again recommended that the members should talk to the residents first as Harbour Court is an area with no parking. Nothing will go ahead without discussion.

Item 10: Any Other Business

The members raised concerns about the increased speed limit at Rednagh Road, Aughrim and the frustration felt by the local residents. Cllr Murphy asked if the promised traffic survey was due to start. No one at the meeting was aware that the limit had increased. Cllr Kennedy confirmed that a notice of motion has been submitted to install ramps on the road.

Colm Lavery DM said that a review would start this year by the end of Q1 and that the broader traffic survey has been budgeted for and the project will go out to tender. Cllr Murphy welcomed the news and Colm Lavery DM confirmed that the survey should take approx. 3-4 months. Rob Mulhall confirmed that the data collection period would be 6-8 weeks and the collation of the data would take a few months. Cllr Murphy asked if it was to cover all exits and Colm Lavery confirmed that the survey was intended for all traffic.

Cllr Bourke confirmed that the Town Team is considering a walk to school day and it would be a good exercise to compare the traffic on that day to the data collected.

Cllr Kennedy requested that Rathdrum be included and Colm Lavery confirmed that this could be done in house and would be a separate contract either way.

Cllr Kennedy has requested that a JPC meeting be held in Aughrim and asked if the members would support this request – All agreed – most likely to be held in September.

Cllr Leonard welcomed the start of a traffic management plan especially after the recent serious accident at the Wexford Road junction and health and safety would need to feature in the plan. Colm Lavery confirmed that H & S would be a major part of the study with input from road users and coach companies.

Cllr Leonard asked if the ownership of the access road into the golf club had been clarified. Cllr Fitzgerald commented that it clearly states on the wall that it's Roadstone and Arklow Golf Club. Rob Mulhall A/DE is checking this out with planning section also. Cllr Fitzgerald stated that the club were 99% compliant and the issue only occurs at the 4th hole.

Cllr Bourke and Cllr Leonard requested funding for the tree planting scheme – hoping to get the planting done this year before the end of March. All members agreed with the scheme and funding agreed. Claire Lawless said she would follow up on this. Cllr Leonard confirmed that Irish Rail would also contribute to the scheme.

Cllr Bourke asked if there was any update on Kilbride Cemetery – Colm Lavery DM said nothing had been decided and he would have an update for the next meeting.

Cllr Kennedy requested an update on the bus shelters – Rob Mulhall A/DE confirmed that there was a delay in production.

Cllr Kennedy asked if any further progress has been made after the IW clinic held in Aughtim – Planning in the area is being refused – IW confirmed that two villages could be put forward and that Aughtim was to be one of them. Colm Lavery DM confirmed that he was not aware of any commitment being made by IW and will keep pushing them on this issue. Cllr Kennedy and Colm Lavery DM are to meet with IW.

Cllr Leonard raised issues concerning residents in Tigroney West in relation to building works in the area. The roads need to be kept clean. Cllr Leonard and Cllr Bourke asked that the A/DE meet with residents. Rob Mulhall A/DE confirmed that he was not aware that any works were under way – public road and we should have been notified.

Cllr Fitzgerald said that the ongoing road works in the town were a disgrace and that more attention should be paid to road opening licences – need to be more forceful with the contractors. Rob Mulhall A/DE replied that a contractor has apologised for the standard of work over the last number of weeks and no licences will issue until re-instatement improves. In some places the permanent re-instatement will not be carried out until all of the works are completed. Colm Lavery DM confirmed that the issue of road opening licences has been raised at the recent DE's meeting and issuing will be reviewed. Rob Mulhall A/DE confirmed that all utilities contractors should be aware that any utility works required need to be carried out before LA works are started – protected re-instatement period is 5 years after works are completed. Road opening licences need to be better managed and conditions attached that ensure better road surfaces.

Members discussed the ongoing issue with the IW outlet system on South Green – this will be resolved when it ties in with WWTP and Flood Relief works.

Colm Lavery DM gave an update on public lighting repairs in the district – 2 extra crews have been mobilised and the fault numbers have decreased from 700 to 500. Rob Mulhall A/DE is to check with ESB Networks, when more recent public lighting installations will be switched on.

The Dublin – Rosslare commuting corridor was discussed and future works and improvements along the route. An upcoming study by NTA will focus on the bus corridor.

Cllr Bourke asked that the DE look at the junction from Inbhear Mor Park and the Dublin Rd and consider putting a yellow box there for traffic exiting the estate – Dublin Rd traffic is too fast. He also asked that the DE look at the road surface on the road from Lil Doyles to Kilbride – very bad state at the bridge.

Cllr Leonard promoted an upcoming exhibition in Arklow Library – 5/3/20 local man John O Brien – Wildlife on the River.

Cllr Murphy asked members to support the upcoming IWD event to be held in the Arklow Bay Hotel on the 8/3/2020.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 11th March 2020.

Signed: Pat Fitzgerald
Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: Claire Lawless

Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District