



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN ARKLOW LEISURE CENTRE ON
WEDNESDAY 17th June 2020**

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

Officials Present: Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator
Mr. Colm Lavery, District Manager
Mr. Rob Mulhall, A/District Engineer
Mr. Tony Quirke, Executive Engineer
Mr. Benan Clancy, Executive Architect
Mr. Declan Marnane, SE Housing
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, Assistant Staff Officer

Rob Mulhall A/DE introduced the members to Tony Quirke, Executive Engineer for AMD and welcomed him to the District Office.

Item 1 : Vote of Sympathy:

The members expressed votes of sympathy to the families of those who have recently passed away, too numerous to name individually. All present acknowledged that this has been a very difficult time for those who have lost loved ones especially with restrictions on attendance at funerals. Cllr Kennedy and Cllr Fitzgerald asked if all could especially remember two families who have lost loved ones in the last days in tragic circumstances.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 11th March 2020.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held in Ballycoog on the 11th March 2020 were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Murphy.

Item 3: Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Special Meeting held on the 10th June 2020.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Special Meeting held in the McElheron Chamber on the 10th June 2020 were proposed by Cllr Leonard and seconded by Cllr Bourke

Item 4: Matters Arising

Cllr Leonard asked if Ballycoog Development Group could apply for funding through the TVR Scheme, Claire Lawless DA confirmed that details of the scheme had been passed on to the group.

Item 5: To consider the report on the Part 8 development of 7 no. social housing units at Back Street, Hudson's Square, (Abbeylands), Arklow, Co Wicklow

Members received the CE report on the proposed development. Cllr Annesley wanted it noted that the official name for the housing development is "Sheehan's Court". It has been recorded under numerous names and he asked that all future documents/plans record the official name of the development – Declan Marnane SE noted the request. Cllr Bourke asked if a start date had been set for the development, Declan Marnane SE said he hoped that it would begin before the year end. The members discussed complaints received that the building would be higher than existing buildings, both Declan Marnane SE & Benan Clancy, Executive Architect, confirmed that the building would be 2 storey and no higher than existing.

The Part 8 development was proposed by Cllr Annesley and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald.

Cllr Annesley complimented all involved in the design and planning of the development on such small site. Cllr Kennedy also commended all involved and hoped that more projects like this would be brought forward.

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

Roads Programme 2020

Resurfacing works commenced on the local roads in the middle of May. With regard to the regional roads - still awaiting a formal programme of works from contractor however AMD have been given assurances that these works will commence in July. It is expected that these works will take 3-4 weeks to complete.

Road Strengthening Works

Ballyduff and Greenan/Ballyteigue works are complete – all other works are varying stages of progression.

Surface Dressing Works

Preparations are currently ongoing within the district for the surface dressing works which will commence in Arklow MD around mid-July (weather permitting).

Cllr Fitzgerald said that the Yellow Lane/ Abbey Road residents need sufficient notice of the the works beginning, as there will be no parking on the street. Rob Mulhall A/DE said the residents would be given notice in advance of the works.

Discretionary Projects

2020 Works

With regard to the discretionary projects list of approximately 21 different projects agreed, each of the projects is at varying stages of progression. One change to the agreed works was noted – Public light at Ballyrichard, not viable at the moment. Cllr Annesley asked if the landowner had been approached – Rob Mulhall A/DE confirmed that no approach had been made from AMD. Cllr Annesley and Cllr Bourke proposed that they would meet with the landowner and agreed to push the project out until next year.

Cllr Fitzgerald noted that the proposed works on the Park and Ride facility may not proceed this year – issues in relation to planning on the proposed site and the impact of Covid-19.

Footpath/IPB Remedial Works

A tender package is currently being prepared and over the next few weeks these works will be put out to tender. Cllr Murphy commended the work put into putting together the survey for carrying out the works and it's great to have a comprehensive list of works required.

Low cost Safety Schemes

The safety barrier has been installed on the Vale Road – works complete. Tender documents are being drawn up for the Wexford Road North & South crossings and the Saville's cross project is at design stage. The members will be updated as works progress.

Cllr Fitzgerald thanked the engineering staff involved in the installation of the barrier – great job.

Cllr Kennedy asked if the Saville's Cross works would be done before the winter months – Rob Mulhall A/DE confirmed that the works should be completed by then.

Rob Mulhall updated the members on the replacement of the bus shelters.

Cllr Bourke requested that the Ballinaclash Junction upgrade be given priority.

Other Road Works –LIS & CIS Works

The 2020 LIS schemes update – Shroughmore, Arklow, contractor appointed and Raheen, Beech Rd, Arklow, works are complete.

The members discussed a proposal for a cycle lane upgrade – all members agreed to proceed with this.

Cllr Leonard asked if the Wexford Road Roundabout could be upgraded while carrying out the pedestrian crossing works. Rob Mulhall A/DE said that the budget would not allow for this. Cllr Leonard asked if the sign for Kilcarra could be installed as agreed (Cllr M McDonald) Rob Mulhall A/DE said he would check the minutes for the details.

Cllr Leonard has received complaints about the parking along South Quay – near the bridge – and proposed that a yellow box could be painted there. Rob Mulhall A/DE said this had been considered before and this would not necessarily work as there are already double yellow lines there and drivers still park there. Cllr Fitzgerald said it will improve once all of the businesses are open again.

Cllr Bourke asked if there was any update on the Village Renewal Scheme for Redcross and was aware that the cost will increase – may need to consider supplementary funding. Rob Mulhall A/DE said the project was moving along and that he would update the members as the project progresses.

Item 7: To discuss Festival Funding.

It was agreed to consider all applications received subject to the festivals/events going ahead.

Item 8: Notices of Motions.

(a) In the Name of Cllr Sylvester Bourke(Received on 19/04/20)

“ That the council supply replacement bricks to The Pines residents association to help them restore the entrance to the estate”.

Rob Mulhall A/DE suggested that the councillors could allocate some discretionary spending to The Pines Resident's Association for the procurement of new bricks. It was agreed to wait until quotes were received for the purchase of the bricks.

(b) In the name of Cllr Peir Leonard (Received on 01/5/20)

“That Arklow Municipal District, in the interest of health safety of council staff and the negative impact on our local environment and ecology, leads the way and immediately finds an alternative solution to using pesticides such as "Round-up" in its day to day maintenance regime.”

There is no issue with researching and trialling an alternative eco-friendly alternative to pesticides for weed control. AMD would be happy to carry out research into possible alternatives in conjunction with Cllr. Leonard and Cllr. Fitzgerald. It was noted that an eco-friendly alternative may be much more expensive and is likely that an eco-friendly product would likely be less effective than standard pesticides and more time will be required from outdoor staff to carry out multiple treatments during the year which may not always be possible. Arklow Municipal District do not currently use excessive amounts of pesticides.

(c) In the name of Cllr Peir Leonard & Cllr Pat Fitzgerald (Received on 05/5/20)

“That Arklow Municipal District invite the public to be involved in creating a combined plan for biodiversity and community amenities for the green area located at Fernhill/Fr.Redmond Park/Marian Villas housing estates when funding allows”.

Arklow Municipal District is currently assessing options on how best to engage the public on possible plans for the green space between Fernhill and Fr. Redmond Park/Marian Villas.

All agreed that communication with residents is a key factor and a survey should be undertaken before any plans are made.

Item 9: To agree the Schedule of Municipal District Works

The schedule of works was circulated and proposed by Cllr Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Bourke.

Item 10: To received a report from Claire Lawless District Administrator on the following projects:-

Arklow Town Team – All meetings are postponed until further notice, regular updates will be circulated to all members.

Flower Basket Scheme – Baskets are nearly all gone, note of thanks to Arklow Chamber who have generously sponsored 10 baskets in the town.

Ronnie Delany Sculpture – Liaising with the designer in relation to the plinth for the sculpture which is ready – date for installation to be confirmed.

LEADER projects - SEA-nanagins Seafood Festival, Arklow Bridge - Flower Irrigation System, Arklow Town Website and River Tourism Project – Harbour to Headwaters project applications have been submitted and updates on approval will follow.

Community CCTV – system will be live in the next few days.

School Garden Design Competition – The prize giving for the competition will be held on the 30th June (TBC).

Running Track refurbishment – Funding received will be spent on a drainage system for the track.

Cllr Murphy thanked the AMD staff for their assistance with the project applications. It was great to finally see the CCTV up and running and expressed thanks to Claire Lawless DA and Ins. Ronan Lawlor for their time and expertise in getting the project completed.

Cllr Kennedy also thanked the Town Team for putting together the LEADER applications and AMD staff for assisting. It was also noted that discretionary funding has been previously earmarked for River Tourism project. Cllr Leonard said that the project would draw people to the town and thanked Donal O’Keeffe, LAWaters for his work on the project.

Item 11: Update on the URDF – Arklow Historic Core Town Project.

The Courthouse upgrade works are going very well and on schedule. It is hoped that the building will be handed back in time for the August sitting of the Court Services and that ABEC would have use of the building by late July.

The detailed design plans were being prepared for the Parade Ground and the tender documents will be ready in September. It is hoped to have a contractor on site early 2021 and an estimate on the works timeframe is 9-12 months.

Item 12: Tree Planting Scheme

The planting scheme has been postponed until the Autumn and Residents Associations and other groups are to be invited to request trees for planting in town area.

Item 13: Correspondence

Correspondence was received from C. Moules requesting funding support for a festival proposal due to be held at the end of the summer. The members agreed to request further information on the festival event and the event plan before making a decision on funding.

Cllr Annesley said that any events held would need to be promoted online and would need a lot of support.

Item 14: Any Other Business

Cllr Bourke and members congratulated Cllr Kennedy on his recent appointment as WCC Cathaoirleach and wished him well in the role.

Cllr Fitzgerald said the North Quay amenity area was in an awful state and that the briars and rubbish are taking over the space and had reported this to AMD and WCC and expected immediate action. Rob Mulhall A/DE confirmed that he was working on this.

Cllr Fitzgerald requested an update on both the access to and erosion of the North Beach, on behalf of Nancy Quinn. Colm Lavery DM confirmed that WCC are looking at options and costs involved – a gravelled surface is suggested to get the walkway open again for pedestrians which would also allow for reinstatement should there be future storm damage. Funding is an issue. Cllr Murphy said that this was good news and Cllr Kennedy thanked Colm Lavery DM for his commitment to finding a solution. Cllr Leonard suggested that the option to install lateral buoys should be considered.

Cllr Kennedy proposed that the outgoing Cathaoirleach, with the permission of the sitting Cathaoirleach, would hold a civic reception to present his special recognition award in September as the event could not be held now with the current restrictions in place. – All agreed.

Cllr Kennedy reported that the volume of dumping in the Glenmalure area was unprecedented and this behaviour is unfair to local residents who take pride in keeping the area free of litter. He has met with Ian Davis and the Gardaí about this and asked if AMD could act also. Rob Mulhall A/DE asked Cllr Kennedy to forward on all details and the locations of litter spots.

Cllr Kennedy asked that AMD contact ESB in relation to major outages in the Clone/Kilpipe area – 3 times in the last few days affecting 30 households. Claire Lawless DA will write the regional manager and will report back to the members.

The members discussed the proposed rejuvenation of the Harbour area and funding opportunities available. The opinion that the proposed new fisherman's huts were in the wrong location was also discussed and that the location was a major part of the overall public realm concept for the area.

Cllr Leonard requested a cull on rats in the Woodlands area – the place is overrun at the moment. Rob Mulhall A/SE said he would follow up on that request.

Cllr Annesley commended AMD staff on the maintenance of St Gabriel's Graveyard and the volunteers keeping public areas in the town were missed over the last 12 weeks.

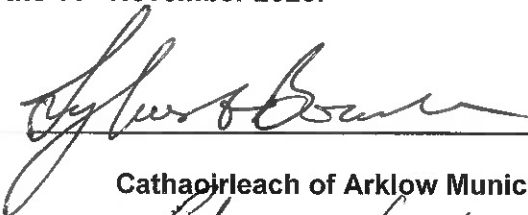
He also commended residents and community for doing what they could during the lockdown to keep their town clean. Rob Mulhall A/DE said that he was supportive of any community that works together and confirmed that AMD would collect and waste collected once it was bagged.

Cllr Annesley asked if AMD could assist a tenant who is in a wheelchair that is getting damaged by the ramps – the members were aware of this case and discussed options to resolve the tenant's issues.

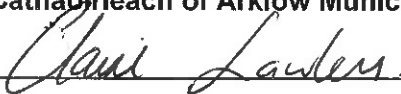
The members discussed progress on the WWTP project and requested assurance that the project would not be pushed back. It was confirmed that plans for the Primary Care Centre were progressing and that the planning application for the Data Centre had been submitted.

Cllr Murphy congratulated Arklow Chamber on the production of the video promoting Arklow businesses. Colm Lavery DM confirmed that the July meeting would be held only if statutory business required it.

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

Signed:  11-11-20

Cathairleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed:  11-11-20

Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District