



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 08th FEBRUARY 2017

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

Officials Present: Mr. Michael Geaney, A/District Manager
Ms. Linda McDonald, District Administrator
Mr. Jack Kelly, District Engineer
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:

Jonathan Malone, Neil Redmond, Michael Kavanagh, Dudley Hall.

It is noted that a vote of sympathy was expressed to the family of Anne Byrne, mother of Luke Byrne former employee, at the January meeting and was not recorded in the minutes.

The members expressed get well wishes to David Kinsella, AMD employee, and that he have a speedy recovery from recent illness.

A minutes silence was observed.

Change to Agenda Order –

Cllr Kennedy suggested a change to the order and that Items 7 & 8 be discussed in conjunction with Item 10 – this was proposed by Cllr McDonald and Seconded by Cllr Annesley.

Item 2 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Meeting, held on the 14th of December 2016:

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 11th January 2017 were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Bourke.

Item 3 – Matters Arising:

Ms McDonald confirmed that Deirdre Forde Engineer is following up on erecting the signs at McGraths cross.

Ms McDonald said that no further update on funding for the Courthouse has been received

Ms McDonald said she received confirmation from Rosemarie Dennison, AO Planning Section, that the applications under the Derelict Sites Act for the 56 and the Marine Hotel buildings are under review.

Ms McDonald said that Helena Dennehy SEO confirmed that the Draft Parking Bye-Laws document will be on the agenda for the County Council meeting in March. Cllr Fitzgerald asked if AMD's agreed amendments/proposals would be included in the draft document. Michael Geaney DM said the AMD's comments on the draft would be presented at the meeting and the draft document would be presented as published earlier this year and that the comments should be circulated by the members at County Council level. Cllr Fitzgerald said that he feels that AMD members will be ignored with only 6 members and we are at a disadvantage. We will need to approach the other members. Cllr Bourke said that the traders in WMD are not happy with the draft proposals either. Cllr Fitzgerald said that AMD are a special case and that we have more to lose than the other MD's as we have different parking rules. Cllr Murphy said that the last meeting should have covered this and why give our proposals only to be ignored. Ms McDonald said that all comments will be acknowledged as part of the public consultation process but will not be contained in the draft document. Cllr Fitzgerald said it may not even feature at the meeting as the March meeting has a big agenda.

Members agreed to discuss this further before the March meeting in Co. Buildings.

Ms McDonald confirmed that no groups are covered when working voluntarily in any of the graveyards. Michael Geaney said that they would need to get their own insurance. Cllr Kennedy said this is a huge concern and that if groups need insurance should individuals need insurance to tend to family plots? This seems to be a very grey area. Cllr McDonald agreed to raise it at the next SPC. Cllr Bourke said that IPB may have been asked already to give competitive quotes through Cllr V Blake and that if Councillors can get insurance for duties in their role surely IPB can come up with a policy at reasonable cost to cover these groups. Cllr Bourke said he would follow this up and Ms McDonald said she would also follow this up.

Item 4: To consider traffic calming measures at Woodlands Estate, Arklow.

Jack Kelly DE gave his report –

“The Arklow Municipal District of Wicklow County Council has received multiple representations regarding safety and speeding on the roads in this residential estate.

The current report refers to the vicinity of No. 50 Woodlands Park.

The estimate for installing a pair of traffic cushions at this location is €4,500.

This proposal could be considered by the members for inclusion under the 2017 Discretionary Grant Budget.”

Cllr Kennedy suggested that this be discussed with discretionary funding – Cllr McDonald agreed. Cllr Fitzgerald said there were requests received asking AMD not to proceed and Jack Kelly DE said that this proposal was for cushions and not ramps and so the sightlines were not an issue.

Item 5 : Update on Roads Programme fro 2017 from District Engineer

Jack Kelly DE read out the following works proposed for 2017 -

Road Strengthening Proposals

R772	Templerainey	1.5km	€210,000
L2196	Ballycoogue	2.2km	€198,000
L6126	Glenmalure	1.6km	€176,000
R752	Castlemacadam	1.2km	€144,000
L2128	Aughavannagh	1.0km	€100,000

Surface Dressing Proposals

R747	Killavaney/Coolalug	3.1km
L6141	Ballyeustace/ Ballymoneen	3.3km
L6644	Ballinaclash	2.1km
L2180	Beech Road	5.9km

Cllr Bourke said that Pound Hill is unravelling and Jack Kelly DE said that reps had been received and this would be done as it is part of the works from the Topaz

garage to junction 20 off the M11. Cllr Bourke asked if there would be leeway for other areas and Jack Kelly said that if funding became available these would be considered. Cllr Kennedy said that there are local roads breaking up due to water damage and Jack Kelly DE said that the District was required to concentrate on the regional roads as per Department instruction.

Cllr Murphy said that she got stuck at the edge of the pedestrian crossing at the Wexford Road roundabout where the ground is uneven coming off the path to the crossing. Jack Kelly DE confirmed that this area is on the agenda for works in 2017.

Cllr Bourke said he had received a lot of reps from the Avoca area about lining the road, especially the Beech Rd and could all of the road to Avoca be lined. Jack Kelly DE said this couldn't be done at the moment but lining works would follow.

Item 6: Update From Housing Section on the number of Disabled Persons Grant Applications for the Arklow Municipal District.

Ms. McDonald said that the update from Housing referred only to the town area. Cllr Kennedy asked how it compared to the other Districts. Cllr Murphy asked how many applied rather than how many were approved. Ms McDonald confirmed she did not have these details. Cllr Kennedy said that, Laura English (Disability Federation Ireland) would attend a future meeting.

Cllr Bourke said that he had received complaints from applicants that WCC were putting contingent specifications forward and making it more difficult for applicants and can we do anything about this. Cllr Murphy said that applicants should be made aware that they will share some of the cost of the works. Jack Kelly DE said that these conditions on approval are required to meet the standards set out by the Department.

Cllr Fitzgerald said that Arklow have done very well in this area and have received up to 30% of the funding available. Cllr Kennedy agreed that all areas within the District have done well. Cllr Murphy commended the works done and it is to a high standard, giving a new lease of life to a lot of people and families.

Item 9: To discuss the Public Lighting on the Wexford Road

Ms McDonald read out the reply form Sean Quirke DOS Roads and Transportation, confirming that the public lighting measures were in excess of national and international standards and there was no safety issue in relation to the level of lighting in the area.

Cllr Murphy said she was not the only one getting reps and it's a dim situation. The lights are not good enough and there is a health and safety issue. There is no comparison to lighting on the Dublin Road. She also said she was aware that WCC are using more efficient LED lighting.

Jack Kelly DE said that the lighting along the Wexford Rd was safe and that the Dublin Road Lighting was at primary road status but now needs to meet regional road status. Cllr Kennedy said the Public Lighting was going the LED lighting route and that AMD were only responsible for lighting the footpaths and not as a security measure for home owner's gardens.

Cllr Bourke suggested that it be compared with the Avenue in Gorey and Jack Kelly DE said he would follow up on that.

Cllr Annesley said that two businesses on the opposite side of the road to the lights were recently burgled and that this was worrying and acknowledged that the owners needed to light up their premises. He is worried that the lights can be blocked by high sided vehicles parking for deliveries.

Item 11: To provide updates on the following projects –

A -South Green Playground

Ms McDonald said that upgrade works are well underway, a number of trees have been removed and others cut back. Construction of the wall has begun and the play equipment will be arriving next week and works should be completed by the end of March.

Cllr Annesley asked if any correspondence was received from the residents and Ms McDonald confirmed that AMD received two – both had an issue with the work on the trees. Jack Kelly DE said the work really opened up the playground and Cllr Kennedy agreed that it was a good decision to upgrade the playground. Cllr Murphy and Fitzgerald also agreed. Cllr Annesley asked if flooding in the area had been considered and Jack Kelly DE said it had.

B – Town Team

Ms McDonald confirmed that the next meeting was to be held on the 22nd February 2017.

C- Pitch and Putt Course

Ms McDonald confirmed that the lease on the course had been signed and that an application for Leader funding had been made.

D- Arklow Courthouse

Ms McDonald confirmed that there is a meeting arranged for the 23rd March 2017 to discuss funding for the refurbishment of the courthouse with the new Regional Manager from the Court Services.

E- Coastal Protection Works

Ms McDonald said that a new application for funding has been made for works on the North Beach. WCC will need to match the funding received and that the application will be followed up with more photos of the more recent storm damage.

Cllr Fitzgerald said that this is the most walked section of the town and it's in danger of collapsing. The problem needs to be resolved now as Seaview Avenue is at risk of flooding. The problem seems to be the rock armour is sinking and protection is a huge concern for the residents in the area. Jack Kelly DE said that the waves were unusually high for this time of year and that is the reason why sand and stones were washed in over the rock armour. Cllr Fitzgerald said that if the earlier works hadn't been carried out more damage would have happened.

Cllr Bourke said this was a very popular route and is shocked at the damage done. He said the waves were washing into the Duck pond and said that the TD's should be pushing for remedial works and the Murrough in Wicklow Town should be an example to us. Cllr Annesley said he walks it every night and said that the damage being done was close to major storm damage and the rock armour is sinking and the footpath lifting with each storm. Cllr Kennedy suggested that the 5 TD's be invited to attend a meeting in April or May. Ms McDonald suggested that it be separate to the AMD monthly meeting. Cllr Kennedy and Ms McDonald said they would arrange the meeting.

F – Christmas Festival

Ms McDonald said that the January meeting was very successful and a lot of new ideas were put forward and there is an open meeting scheduled for the 28th March 2017. Ms McDonald informed the members that AMD had been contacted by the company, Kilkenny on Ice who are interested in having an ice rink in the tow for Christmas 2017. Further discussions are to take place.

Cllr Kennedy expressed his thanks to Linda for following up on this initiative and also for the time and effort put into the festival.

Cllr Murphy asked if there was any progress with the proposed Halloween Festival and Ms McDonald replied that Rob Mulhall was heading up a committee for this.

Item 7: To Discuss the Discretionary Spending for 2017

Discuss with Item 10

Item 8: To receive a report on the former ATC Capital Code and remaining funding

Discussed with Item 10

Item 10: To discuss the existing Pedestrian Crossing at Upper Main St. Arklow

Cllr Fitzgerald said that it would be safer to move the pedestrian crossing at the roundabout Upper Main St. Jack Kelly DE said that there are plans being drawn up that may include 4 sets of lights at the junction and that consultants have met with the Roads Section. Cllr Fitzgerald said he would contact the Roads Section about the plans.

Ms McDonald handed out the report on the ATC Capital Code. Cllr McDonald asked how things were progressing with the sandladder for the South Beach. Ms McDonald said she had received a quote from Tony Neary of €5,000.00. Cllr Kennedy said that

age friendly carparking should also be looked at. Ms McDonald said that €5,000.00 would be sufficient for the two initiatives – Text Alert System / Disabled Parking.

A discussion took place on the proposed discretionary spending for the District and the following was agreed –

Proposed Discretionary Spending, Arklow Municipal District

Footpaths at Glenview, Thomastown	€11,000
Footpaths at Parnell Park, Rathdrum	€15,000
Speed Cushions at Woodlands Park, Arklow	€ 5,000
Footpaths at Parnell Terrace, Wexford Road	€40,000
Footpaths at Ashleigh Close, Arklow	€12,000
Resurface Entrance at Woodview Park, Avoca	€16,800
Footpaths at Council Housing Estate, Kirakee	€10,000
Two Ramps at Blackberry Glade, Arklow	€10,000
Footpaths at Wicklow Terrace, Arklow	€ 5,000
Footpaths at Redcross	€10,000
Footpath at Marion Villas, Arklow	€ 6,000
Footpath on the old N11 near Love Lane	€16,000
2 Ramps in Ballinaclash	€10,000
1Ramp in Aughrim	€ 5,000
2 Street Lights in Conary	€ 3,000
2 Street Lights on Greenane Bridge	€ 3,800
2 Street Lights at Johnstown North	€ 6,000
Wicklow Hospice	€10,000
Total	€194,600

Footpath Budget €95,000

Wexford Road	€10,000
Ballycoogue	€ 8,000
Avondale Road	€20,000
Castlemacadam	€25,000
Total	€63,000

Total Budget - € 168,750 + €95,000 = € 263,750

The members discussed other areas in the town and District in need of attention including an area outside the butchers on Ferrybank where the cobbles are loose and dangerous. The Main St/ Parade Ground area was also mentioned and Jack Kelly DE said that he would discuss this with Sean Dunne and that there are preliminary plans drawn up and these could be presented that the next meeting.

Cllr Kennedy thanked all members for agreeing the budget for 2017 and all areas were facilitated.

Item 12: Notices of Motions

"That provision is made for further footpath improvements on the Wexford Road Arklow" (Received 20th December 2016)

Already dealt with.

Item 13: Correspondence:

Arklow and District Lions Club have requested permission to put a bench for public use in the South Beach Area. Ms McDonald will refer this to Sean Dunne.

A request for funding was received from the Arklow Volunteer Centre and this is to be referred to CCSD to see if any grants are available.

The next AMD meeting is to be held in Aughrim in Allen Park, Cllr Bourke asked if Avoca could host a meeting in the future.

A request was received from Hugh Campbell to commemorate the birth place of his father, George Campbell, 3 St. Patrick's Tce., Arklow, and a provisional date of 10th of May has been suggested.

It was suggested that a Cathaoirleach's Special Recognition Award be re-introduced as an annual award and the award could be made at any time during the term of office.

Item 14: AOB:

A meeting with the Chamber of Commerce is to be held before the April AMD meeting.

The official opening of the footbridge at Coolboy is to be held on the 28th February 2017 at 12:00pm with refreshments in the AGB Ballymoney club house afterwards.

Cllr Bourke raised the issue of the broadband quality in the area and that we should write to Eir and request that they extend the area intended for coverage around Arklow and that this should be pushed at Municipal and County Council level. Ms McDonald is to write to Eir and request a meeting to discuss this issue.

Cllr Fitzgerald said he had reports that Virgin was hoping to get business in the town and that they have been approaching home owners looking for permission to run cables through their property. He feels this is very unprofessional and that a structure should have been put in place.

Cllr Annesley said he had received a call from Spain from tourists complaining about the dog fouling on the street of the town. He said this is not good enough anymore and that a letter needs to issue to the dog warden. Michael Geaney DM said that the Waste management Section would follow up on this.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 08th March 2017 in Aghrim at 3.30pm.

Signed: Pat Kennedy

Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: Linda McDonald

Ms. Linda McDonald, Arklow Municipal District Administrator