



**Wicklow County Council  
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

**ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER  
2017**

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

**Officials Present:** Mr. Michael Geaney, District Manager  
Ms. Linda McDonald, District Administrator  
Mr. Jack Kelly, District Engineer  
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, Assistant Staff Officer

Mr Ciaran O'Brien – Housing Section  
Mr David Porter – Housing Section  
Ms Wojciech Kostka – Presentation polish /Irish Festival

**Item 1 - Vote of Sympathy:**

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

Marie Cosgrove, Ben O Reilly, Sheila Copeland, Paddy(Tailor) O'Brien, Mary Kelly(Fortune, Kilrush), Bridie Fitzpatrick, Conal Kavanagh, Gerry(Horse)Kavanagh, Johnny Wall, Patrick Doyle, Billy Sheehan, Jimmy Fitzpatrick, Vincent Dempsey, Carmel Byrne, Chrissie Doyle, Audie Kavanagh(Devon England), Billie Nolan, James Byrne, Lilly Byrne, Mary Gallagher, Ned Doyle, Denise Kinsella, Wendy Nolan.

A minutes silence was observed.

**Item 2 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Meeting, held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2017.**

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Bourke.

**Item 3 – Matters Arising:**

Cllr Annesley congratulated the members of Arklow Rowing Club on qualification to the IFSA offshore rowing championships at Lake Geneva in October and wished them well in their endeavours. Cllr Murphy also acknowledged the fantastic achievement for the town and commended the dedication of the members and wished them well in October.

Cllr Murphy extended congratulations to Jane Moules on her recent Hidden Hearing Hero award.

Cllr Fitzgerald noted the tremendous achievement of Arklow author Adele O'Neill in reaching the top ten on Amazon with her first novel and she will feature again over the coming years. He asked that a note of congratulations be sent to her.

Cllr Murphy congratulated Arklow Library and Clare Fullham on the recent launch of the exhibition of paintings by George Campbell RHA. She said it was great to see the artists work on show in the town.

Cllr Annesley also extended congratulations to Michael McGeary on obtaining a soccer scholarship to Buffalo, United States and to Brendan Murphy, son of Patrick and Mary Murphy who has moved to Kentucky to further his career as a jockey.

Cllr Kennedy referred to Item 6 at the July meeting and wished to clarify that the proposal to erect a statue of cartoonist Terry Williers in the Square in Rathdrum was false and asked for the minutes to be amended.

***Housing Presentation – David Porter and Ciaran O'Brien***

Mr O'Brien Architect presented drawings for the second phase of the social housing units on Emoclew Rd. The phases are –

Phase 1 – 17 Units – completed at 7% less than budgeted – 11 3bed and 6 2bed

Phase 2 – 26 Units

Phase 3 – 21 Units

Mr O'Brien acknowledged the support for the project from both Joe Lane DOS Housing and Breege Kilkenny SE Housing.

The next 2 phases need further discussion around the introduction of an allowance for lifetime adaptable homes at planning stage – funding was refused on Phase 1 although the submission was made in line with the Department guidelines for this.

The development will be named 'Delany Park'. The units are no longer straightforward bungalows but will facilitate later adaptation if required for the tenant and will provide for a communal garden.

The Part VIII process is due to begin in October with the tendering process beginning in the new year with both processes running together in a bid to speed up the overall process.

Cllr Fitzgerald said it was the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original announcement and wanted to commend the staff involved for the extra impetus applied to get the scheme off the ground. He also asked if local contractors would be involved and Mr O'Brien replied that the project would be published on e-tenders website and to his knowledge all known local contractors had been invited to submit a bid. Cllr Fitzgerald said that not all local contractors were aware of the process.

Cllr Kennedy said it was great for the town, last year there was nothing and this year things are moving and in 2018 we hope to have 20 units in Rathdrum, 17 units in Emoclew Arklow and 7 units at the Old Library Arklow. This is more progress than in the last ten years.

Cllr Bourke asked if the building material will be brick and Mr O'Brien confirmed they would be brick built.

Mr O'Brien said that this is only the start and Wicklow are only getting going. There are 13 similar LA's that don't have architects in employment.

Cllr Kennedy asked how WCC can ensure the quality of materials used; the quality of windows used in past builds was not great. Mr O'Brien said that although the products names/brands will be removed the architects will ensure the quality standards are met.

Cllr Kennedy said that there are 30 more units due to start in Rathdrum and that Aughtim is starved and the public are desperate to build and that the land may as well not have been re-zoned.

Cllr Bourke extended his congratulations on getting the scheme up and running and that CE Bryan Doyle should also get credit and that it should ease the pressure on housing in the town. Mr O'Brien said that there was a team of people working on the background. Cllr Bourke asked if the old Council yard has been considered as a site and Mr O'Brien said it had been looked at and surveyed.

Cllr Murphy said she was excited about this in 2009 and is disappointed that the Department still has barriers up around building for outside 'standard' needs. This needs to be addressed and the housing list needs to be looked at and communication being the most necessary tool in identifying specific needs. Contact with people is key. Cllr Murphy congratulated Mr O'Brien and housing staff on the presentation.

Cllr McDonald extended congratulations to all the staff and was disappointed that 4 units were lost in Aughtim and asked would there be any discussion around package treatment plants in the future. Mr Porter said he would find out and report back. Mr O'Brien said that once this scheme gets going the focus will be on Tinahely and Aughtim. Cllr McDonald said she would hate to think that we would be sitting here in 2021 and starting this process again and Mr O'Brien said that some future schemes

are already at stage 1 and confirmed that the Part VIII and the tendering processes would run together.

Cllr Kennedy asked about one off rural housing and that the Department were not in favour of this and has this changed recently. Urban sites could have been signed over for €1.00 for social housing. Cllr Kennedy said that people born and reared in rural areas may not want to settle in an urban area. Mr O'Brien said that a one off development had started in Bray Municipal District but was a very drawn out process.

Cllr Annesley said the starting of the scheme was great news for the town, finally after 10 years. He acknowledged that houses were purchased in that period but building should have continued. He also commented that the houses spent more time on paper than in building. All agreed.

#### ***Other matters –***

Cllr Annesley extended his best wishes on behalf of the members to Jacinta Jameson and Bryan Doyle on their recent retirements. He acknowledged Jacinta's hard work over the years and to say publicly that she was always helpful and answered any queries. She will be missed.

Cllr Murphy said that Bryan Doyle was here when she started her political career and was full of encouragement and instilled belief that I could do some good. She also welcomed Frank Curran to his new post as CE.

Cllr Bourke wished to echo the Cathaoirleach's comments and was disappointed that Bryan Doyle did not get the CE post.

Cllr Kennedy wished Jacinta a long and happy retirement and said she has been nothing but courteous over the years. Cllr Kennedy said that Bryan was a people's man and was never off the job and he will be a big loss to the County. He welcomed Frank Curran to the post and said that he has a big role to fill. He asked that he be invited to a meeting to discuss the issues of the District.

Cllr Fitzgerald said he had worked with Bryan for 16 years and he was always helpful. The funding for Main St. was a positive step for Arklow.

Cllr McDonald said she first met Bryan in 2014 and he never made you feel any less than equal. He is a great asset still to the Council and she wished both Bryan and Jacinta well in retirement.

#### **Item 4: Review of Burial ground Policy Documentation (correspondence attached)**

Ms McDonald confirmed that this matter has been discussed previously and has now been referred back to each district for further comments/recommendations.

Cllr Kennedy raised the issue about 'locals only' and living within 8km of a graveyard and said that this would not be practical and that the people of Glenmalure Valley had the right to be buried in Greenane. Members agreed that the wording should be amended to include 'those born 'or' reared in any one area.

Cllr Fitzgerald said that further clarification is required and DM Mr Geany said that we need to concentrate on Burial Grounds that had been 'identified as a problem' and that may mean that there is limited space for future burials.

All agreed that a special meeting with SEO Helena Dennehy is needed and to postpone the item until the next meeting.

### **Item 5 : To receive an update on the Roads Programme for 2017**

Jack Kelly DE gave his report for the district –

**1. Road Strengthening.**

*All road strengthening works on this year's program are now complete.*

**2. Surfacing of the Main Street, Arklow.**

*The build out at the Post Office on Arklow Main Street was completed in August. The surfacing of the Main Street was completed earlier this week. Subject to the weather the renewal of the road markings will be done in the coming week.*

**3. Works on footpaths at Glenview, Thomastown, Redcross, and Kirikee are currently underway. Work on the footpaths at Castlemacadam and Wicklow Terrace, Arklow will commence shortly.**

**4. Community Involvement Schemes.** *There is one scheme in the Arklow Municipal District in the current year. The applicant has paid his contribution. The work is likely to be completed in early October.*

**5. Surface Dressing.** *Surface Dressing for the Arklow Municipal District is now complete.*

**6. Low Cost Safety Scheme.** *Two tabletop traffic ramps have been constructed in Avoca.*

Cllr Annesley asked at what stage the works on the Dublin Rd footpath were at and DE J Kelly said they were completed. Cllr Fitzgerald asked about the works in Parnell Tce and DE J Kelly said that we were finishing what we were working on and a few smaller areas needed attention. Cllr Murphy asked that the disabled bays have the markings repainted. Cllr Fitzgerald proposed that a new disabled parking space be marked outside the new chemist on the Wexford Rd. DE J Kelly said he would look into this and putting more on the Main St. All agreed that this was a good proposal.



Cllr Fitzgerald commented that the build-out on Main St. was great and commended Sean and Jack for their work on the project.

Cllr Kennedy complimented the outdoor staff on the quality of work recently and especially Redcross and asked would the footpaths be extended to the school. DE J Kelly replied that this is being considered.

Cllr Kennedy asked if the Annacurra works could be brought forward and DE J Kelly said that until the cabling through ducting was finished the works could not proceed. Cllr Kennedy asked that the potholes be filled regularly until the works are completed. DE J Kelly said that the current court case may influence further works (bond of 160k).

Cllr Bourke supported Cllr Kennedy in his comments and commended Jack on the Roads Programme works to date. Cllr Bourke asked if the Wexford Rd could be upgraded and DE J Kelly said that the Parade Ground would be upgraded first. Cllr Bourke said that the road markings stopped at the Beech Road to Avoca Village where they were worn away and there have been a few close calls in the village especially at Kinsella's shop. DE J Kelly noted the comments and will look into it.

Cllr Murphy raised the issue of the lack of road marking around the Bridgewater Roundabout; Cllr Annesley agreed and added that there were no markings at some exits. DE J Kelly said that it had been previously agreed not to have markings on the bridge side and this could be looked at again.

#### **Item 6: To consider report on the allocation of Festival Funding for 2017**

The recommended allocation of the Festival Funding for 2017 was proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Bourke.

Cllr Murphy queried if the Rathdrum Christmas Lighting had received this funding previously and Cllr Kennedy said they had when they had nothing and funding was required to upgrade the lights for this year.

#### **Item 7: To consider the approval of Community Facilities Awards 2017**

The awards for 2017 were proposed by Cllr Bourke and seconded by Cllr Kennedy.

Cllr Fitzgerald commented that Arklow must have been asleep and it was strange that so few applied for the grant. 70% of applications were from outside the town. Ms McDonald said that 17 applications were received and CCSD assessed the applications.

#### **Item 8: To receive an update on the following –**

##### **a) Abbey Graveyard**

- b) Ronnie Delany Statue
- c) Arklow Town Team
- d) Arklow Courthouse
- e) Arklow Coastal Protection Works on the North beach
- f) Arklow Halloween Festival
- g) Arklow Christmas Festival
- h) Update on the Primary Care Centres Rathdrum and Arklow
- i) Upgrade of the Parade Ground

It was agreed to discuss Item 8 at the next meeting and a printed update was circulated to each member.

Ms McDonald asked that funding for the Ronnie Delany statue project be raised at the next CPG meeting – as it is too late for the notices of motions Cllr Fitzgerald asked for the request in writing and he would raise it.

**Item 9: Notices of Motions:**

**(a) In the name of Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald**

*“That funding is provided in 2018 for future footpath and road improvements in Ashleigh Close and Hawthorn Drive in Mountain Bay”. (Received 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017)*

Proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Kennedy

**(b) In the name of Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald**

*“That further traffic calming measures are put in place on the road that runs between Father Redmond Park and Marian Villas”. (Received 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017)*

Cllr Fitzgerald accepted the comments made.

**(c) In the name of Cllr. Tommy Annesley & Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald**

*“That Arklow Municipal District put a pedestrian crossing on the Dublin Road to facilitate the number of elderly people living on that road. Where ever the engineers see fit between the junction of Highfield and Inbhear Mor Park”. (Received 24th July 2017).*

It was agreed that AMD would apply for funding for this.

### **Item 11: Correspondence.**

Ms McDonald asked for any views on the correspondence received from Nancy Quinn in relation to the right of way to Porters Rocks and was it private land.

Cllr Annesley said that right of way was established circa 1807 and would have concerns over the locked gate.

Cllr Fitzgerald said that R Mulhall had investigated this and DE J Kelly said he would talk to Rob about it.

### **Item 12 : Any Other Business.**

Cllr Kennedy was concerned about the reports of a homeless person sleeping rough in the doorway of the library building. Cllr Fitzgerald said that the individual has had plenty of assistance and was recommended for social housing.

Cllr Kennedy asked if there was a possibility of extra signage on the road to Van der Wels in Aughrim and DE J Kelly said he would look at this.

Cllr Fitzgerald said that the pedestrian crossings at the bridge junction were not in the right place and had become dangerous and it's only a matter of time before a serious incident occurs. DE J Kelly confirmed that M Hartnett had revisited the crossings and will present a revised plan. He did not envisage the crossings being moved but table top ramps may be added and painted accordingly. Cllr McDonald asked that she come and meet with the members before finalising the plans. DE J Kelly said he would mention the request to her.

Cllr Murphy commented on a project being undertaken by a UCD graduate, Sophie Meeres and that she had picked Arklow as the town for the project. She would like to make a presentation at the next meeting.

Ms McDonald asked all to make a note of the upcoming civic reception to be held to honour the achievements of The Elders to be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

Proposed by Cllr Bourke and seconded by Cllr Annesley.

Cllr Kennedy suggested that other presentations could run in conjunction with this event.

### **Item 10: Presentation from Wojciech Kostka on Irish/Polish Festival (5pm)**

The festival was established in 2015 and is an annual celebration of Irish/Polish friendships. A delegation from AMD and the town went to Poland in May 2017 for the Polska Eire Festival in Ruda Slaska. The Arklow Rugby Clubs ladies team took part in the festival.



Cllr Kennedy said he would not forget the wonderful experience of the festival and praised the Arklow Rugby Club ladies team for their participation and being wonderful ambassadors for Arklow. The Festival was run professionally and the Madame President attended all events.

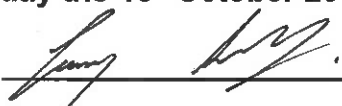
Cllr Murphy said it is fantastic to hear such positive feedback and it's great for the club to gain that experience.

Cllr McDonald said that the festival should be further facilitated and support given from WCC.

All agreed that we should facilitate a return visit and to start looking at how we could fund this event.

Cllr Annesley proposed that signage promoting the twinned towns of Arklow should be placed on routes into the town – they would cost in the region of €600.00 each and could be funded from the twinning fund. All agreed with the proposal.

**Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017.**

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

**Cllr. Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.**

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

**Ms. Linda McDonald, Arklow Municipal District Administrator**