



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th April 2018

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
Mr. Rob Mulhall, Executive Engineer
Ms. Margaret Hartnett, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, Assistant Staff Officer

Daniel Wolohan & Patrick Crotty – Traffic Plan Presentation

Observer – TY student with Margaret Hartnett

Item 1 - Vote of Sympathy:

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

Aidan Finn, Alice Nolan, Bridget Noctor, Claire Brennan Larmour, Richard Jackson, Dolly Heath, Gerry Phelan, Jim Ward, Jimmy Clancy, Jimmy Hogan, Jimmy Conlon, Johnny Doyle, Margaret Bracken, Mary Bergin, Mary Kealy, Mick Murphy, Noel Coster, Paddy Healy, Ritchie Kenny, Rose Myler, Timothy Cashman, Tommy Kinsella.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Meeting, held on the 14th of March 2018.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 14th March 2018 were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Murphy.

Item 3 – Matters Arising:

Matters arising were covered in the Agenda.

Item 4: Allocation of Estate Development Grants 2018.

The schedule of applications received was circulated and it was noted that only 9 applications were received and 2 of the 9 did not qualify for the grant. The recommended awards per applicant were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Bourke.

It was also noted that each group submitted details of projects to be undertaken.

Item 5: Presentation from Daniel Wolohan – Arklow Road Traffic Management Plan.

A plan to improve traffic flow through Arklow town was presented. The costs to implement the changes in traffic flow through the town were conservatively estimated at €18m. Implementation of a one-way system was discussed and Cllr Annesley reminded the chamber that the 2013 trial one-way system was abandoned due to opposition in the town. Cllr Kennedy noted the work that had gone into the plan and suggested that the plan be referred to officials in Wicklow County Council at the relevant SPC. Cllr Bourke said that unless traffic through the town is sorted, growth will not happen.

Further discussion took place on existing issues – Cllr Annesley suggested that “look right /look left” road marking may be a solution for Currans Corner. Margaret Hartnett suggested an axle ban on the bridge to ease pressure on the junction. Cllr Fitzgerald said it may not work. It was agreed that the problem was at this junction.

Discussion continued about the Ballinaclash Junction – LCSS. It was agreed to put it on the agenda for the next SPC meeting.

Item 6: To discuss and agree on project proposals under tourism funding - €10,000.

All agreed that the funding would be used on a project in the Parade Ground area.

Item 7: To receive an update on Parade Ground re-development.

Rob Mulhall met with senior planning official and will prepare the Managers Report as the next step in the planning process. This report will address the issues raised during the public consultation process. There will be some changes required to the original plans. The main issue identified was parking in the area and will be discussed at the May meeting. It was noted that many of the submissions from the public were positive. The planned removal of the railings around the statue of Fr Murphy may not go ahead as they are of historical significance. Jack Kelly DE reiterated that only the submissions already received can be considered at this stage.

Item 8: To agree on the acquisition of Street Furniture for the district for 2018.

Members were asked to identify preferred areas for the street furniture within the district. The severe weather has delayed progress on installing the furniture already purchased. Cllr Fitzgerald said that the bus stop areas should be a priority and Cllr Bourke noted that the downside of installing these in isolated spots would be the potential for dumping rubbish. All agreed that street furniture was essential in improving the district and agreed to set aside 10% of the budget for street furniture.

Item 9: To receive an update on the Roads Programme for the district.

Some of the planned works were put back due to the severe weather conditions in March. The works at Askinagap/Cappagh have been completed and Ballycoog/Mooreshill works are in progress. The works at Glenmalure will start after a letter drop to residents – local access issues – and should be a 6/7 day. Cllr Bourke asked if there was any progress with CIS/LIS applications and Jack Kelly DE said there may only be 1 or 2 for AMD.

Item 10: To receive an update on the following –

a) Abbey Graveyard

Members asked when the graveyard would re-open. Rob Mulhall EE said that there were issues with broken headstones and this was delaying the re-opening of the gates to the public. A specialist is carrying out the repairs and the gate should be open within 3-4 weeks. Cllr Annesley said that it needs to re-open as soon as possible.

b) Arklow Town Team

Ms McDonald reminded members that there was a meeting scheduled for later and gave brief updates on the following – 8/3/18

- International Women's Day event – 8//4/18
- Clean-up on Vale Rd
- Flower Basket Scheme 2018 – launched.

Members expressed their thanks to Coillte, AGB, Woodenbridge Hotel, An Garda Siochana and most of all the community who came out and got involved.

c) Arklow Courthouse

Plans for refurbishment have been delayed due to issues with plans in relation to the needs of the Prison Service on the days the court sits. The revised plans will need to be approved and any revision to be considered for inclusion in the fire report. The estimated costs will also be re-visited.

d) Coastal Protection Works on the North beach

An application has been completed for the start on a study of the coastal area which may be incorporated in a bigger proposal including other area along the coast. Cllr McDonald asked if this would go to the Minister and Michael Geaney DM confirmed that it would. Rob Mulhall EE said that all studies of the area would be referenced and recommendations would be made on the best solution for the area and would most likely form part of the solution. The study represents the best chance of progressing the protection works.

e) Rathdrum Square

The unveiling of the sculpture took place this morning and Cllr Kennedy wished to thank all who made it possible and a special thanks to the schools who attended the unveiling.

Item 11: Notices of Motions:

"That AMD members consider the installation of an outdoor power point in Avoca for use by the Christmas Lights Committee" (received 19th February 2018)

Jack Kelly DE said that this is not the responsibility of AMD – the committee should look for grant funding to cover this.

Item 12: Correspondence.

Michael Geaney said that a letter of thanks had been received from An Taoiseach acknowledging the work during and after storm Emma.

Cllr Annesley received a letter from the Joe Duffy Show thanking the people of Arklow for making Fiver Friday such a success.

Item 13: Any Other Business.

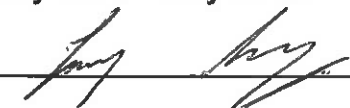
The homecoming for Mary Nolan Hickey was discussed and a Civic Reception to honour her achievement was scheduled for 25/4/2018 in Arklow Library.

It was also agreed to schedule a Civic Reception for the Boxing Club on the 23/05/2018.

The May Meeting is to be held in Allen Park, Aughrim – 09/05/2018.

Cllr Kennedy raised the issues around the National Planning Framework, in particular for rural areas and villages. The lack of IW infrastructure will cause planning and development to stagnate in the district. All agreed that clearer information must be requested from IW in relation to plans for the villages in the district.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 9th May 2018.

Signed:  _____

Cllr. Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed:  _____

Ms. Linda McDonald, Arklow Municipal District Administrator