



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th JULY 2018

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

Officials Present: Mr. Michael Geaney, District Manager
Ms. Linda McDonald, District Administrator
Ms. Helena Dennehy, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. Brendan Doyle, A/District Engineer
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, Assistant Staff Officer

** It was agreed that an update on parking would also be given with Item 4.

Item 1 - Vote of Sympathy:

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

Brendan Flannery, Peter Monaghan, Mary Burke, Betty Kelly, Michael Byrne, Fred Humphrey, Jonathon Wheeler, William Tyndall, Leslie Williams, Kim Rushe, Eamonn Byrne, Tony Hickey, Kathleen Scott, John Hanlon, Michael Bolger.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Annual Meeting, held on the 13th of June 2018.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Annual Meeting held on the 13th June 2018 were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Kennedy.

Item 3 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting, held on the 13th of June 2018.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 13th June 2018 were proposed by Cllr Bourke and seconded by Cllr McDonald.

Item 4 – Matters Arising:

A reply was received from IW and the lack of communication regarding the recent boil water notice was discussed. IW replied that the standard communication tools were used in this case.

A reply was received from Chief Superintendent JP Quirke and Cllr Fitzgerald said the reply was a bit late but good and he also commented that a training centre was needed in the county. The appointment of a new sergeant in Rathdrum was welcomed but concern expressed at the low numbers in the district. The riverwalk area was noted as particular area of concern. Ms McDonald suggested that the members meet with the Chief Superintendent again in September.

Item 4a: To review the Wicklow County Council Burial Ground Policy (previously circulated)

Ms Helena Dennehy SEO noted that the policy had been discussed at both MD and plenary level and all proposed amendments were adopted and were now back to the MD to adopt. Cllr Kennedy raised the issue about locals only and it was agreed to allow the change in wording. The proposed amendments were approved by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Bourke.

Further discussion took place about St Gabriel's Graveyard in Arklow and the ongoing maintenance requirements. The members were asked to keep in mind that there are 13 graveyards in the district. It was also noted that if funding for maintenance was increased in the budget it would be at the expense of other expenditure within the district's budget. Mr Brendan Doyle A/DE stated that it is not intended to place a fulltime caretaker at St Gabriel's and that the maintenance will be carried out as part of the overall duties of the current outdoor staff.

** The current tender process for parking throughout the county was discussed and Ms Dennehy hoped that the contract would be awarded by the end of September and that she would notify the District Administrator when the decision is made.

Cllr Kennedy said that having looked at the figures the cost far exceeds the income from parking and proposed that the district abolish pay parking. Both Michael Geaney and Linda McDonald re-iterated that this is the only means of enforcement of parking regulations. Cllr Bourke asked if the bye-laws could be amended locally and Helena Dennehy SEO replied that advertisement of and public consultation on any changes would be a requirement.

The abuse of disabled parking spaces was discussed Cllr Murphy suggested adopting the system used in Wexford where a text can be sent to the warden.

Item 5 : To discuss the proposed reserved functions that may be performed by MD's (previously circulated).

Cllr Murphy referred to the discussions at plenary session and acknowledged that the document was very detailed and asked for clarification. Ms McDonald DA gave a summary of the document and discussed the proposed changes around the reserved functions.

Cllr Bourke and Cllr Kennedy said that had the proposal gone through earlier there may have been a different outcome for the demolition of the property in BMD.

Ms McDonald suggested meeting with L Gallagher SEO before the September meeting.

Item 6: To discuss the location of the Bus Eireann stop on the Wexford Road.

B Doyle DE said that no other location reviewed was suitable for the bus stop and removing it was not an option as from all other aspects it is in the correct place. Cllr McDonald commented that the seat installed may improve things and that the possibility of putting up a shelter should be considered. Cllr Murphy said there has been no support shown for installing shelters and B Doyle DE said that the conversation would be opened on the issue. Cllr Kennedy also requested that any conversation include the need for shelters in Rathdrum.

Item 7: Right of Way – Kynochs Walkway

The landowner has received correspondence and will have 4 weeks to reply. If a reply is received it will be discussed further.

Item 8: To receive a report from Brendan Doyle Senior Executive Engineer on the following works - .

2018 Roads Programme

Road Strengthening - 4 of the 7 projects now complete and the 3 remaining projects will be completed through July and August.

Surface Dressing - list of works completed. Snagging continues on the L6197 and L2143 projects and a programme for completion requested.

Discretionary Projects

15 different projects agreed and at varying stages of progression with 2 completed. Contractors have been selected for projects commencing in July with the availability of contractors an issue for the remaining projects.

Footpaths / IPB Remedial Works

A number of locations have been identified with contractor due to commence works in July.

Low Cost Safety Schemes

4 pedestrian crossing schemes identified -

- 2 Coolgraney Rd
- 1 Vale Rd(Sunbeam House)
- 1 Dublin Rd

Procurement of signal and beacon equipment has commenced. Contractor to be selected and works should commence late July.

The footpaths on Coolgreaney Rd were discussed and B Doyle DE agreed to look at the width of the paths.

Item 9: to Receive a report from Linda McDonald District Administrator on the following projects:

- **Arklow Courthouse**

Meeting held with Court Services and CE to discuss costs and approval to proceed to tender stage. It was noted that the first floor will not be accessible to disabled clients. Cllr Murphy suggested that a ground floor space be made available.

- **Redevelopment of the Parade Ground**

Irish Rail is not in a position to allow free use of the car park for Sunday mass times. The planning report will be prepared and circulated to the members at the Council meeting in September.

- **Moments in Time – Dementia Friendly Garden**

Works progressing and official opening scheduled for 10/08/2018 at 11am.

- **Skua Lightship Lantern Project**

Preparatory works on base for roundabout have begun. It is hoped to have the lighthouse installed before the Maritime Weekend.

- **Flower Basket Scheme/ Irrigation Scheme**

210 baskets purchased and irrigation system installed. Tidy Towns involved in watering baskets not on irrigation line.

- **Ronnie Delany Sculpture**

Evaluation panel to review 3 tenders and Leader application is to be completed by end of August.

- **Coastal Path Walk**

Waiting on approval from OPW to fund a study which will include the Arklow coastline

- **Flood Relief Scheme**

Discussion with OPW and design team has taken place about Urban Realm options, when drawings are complete they will be made available to Council Members. A public consultation process will be part of the An Bord Pleanála process.

The Members expressed their disappointment at the lack of drawings and information available to them. Members of the public are asking questions and they cannot reply and this is unfair.

- **Arklow Waste Water Treatment plant.**

The Scheme is progressing through final detailed design stage.

Item 10: To update the Members on the AMD Revenue Expenditure for 2018

The Revenue Expenditure report was circulated.

Item 11: To circulate updated report on Housing Grants for the AMD

To be reviewed at SPC meeting.

Item 12: Correspondence

An application from the Seabreeze Festival Committee to use 43 spaces in the Main St Car Park for the carnival was received. Cllr Annesley confirmed that this will not include any of the disabled parking spaces. Dates from 19/07/2018 to 23/07/2018. The Members gave their approval to this request.

Item 13: Any Other Business.

Cllr Bourke requested that the grass be cut at Riverview Heights on the Vale Rd, B Doyle DE said this was cut last week. He also raised the issue of Japanese Knotweed in the Avoca area and B Doyle DE agreed to look into this.

The placing of benches and signage in the district was discussed and it was agreed that a list would be presented for approval. The upgrading of signage in the town area was also discussed.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 12th September 2018.

Signed: Miriam Murphy

Cllr. Miriam Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: Linda McDonald

Ms. Linda McDonald, Arklow Municipal District Administrator