



**Wicklow County Council  
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

**ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE 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  
Mr. Brendan Doyle, A/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:

Mary O'Connell, Henry Agar, Betty English, Mark Hughes, Markie Hughes, Barry Byrne, Eamon Byrne, Paddy Kinsella, Tom Butler, Andrew Sheridan, Sylvester O Byrne, Charlie Byrne, Mrs Kennedy.

Cllr McDonald expressed sympathy at the recent death of a former BMD staff member and Cllr Fitzgerald asked all to think of those that are seriously ill at this time.

A minutes silence was observed.

**Item 2 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Meeting, held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2018.**

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018 were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Annesley.

### **Item 3 – Matters Arising:**

Cllr Kennedy asked if any update had been received from IW – none to date – this highlights the problem yet again, Cllr Fitzgerald said we are back to square one.....no information. The problem with communication about recent boil notice in Aughrim was discussed and disappointment at the lack of communication was noted.

The issue of parking in Aughrim was raised and the conclusion reached was that the site identified cannot be transferred. Cllr Kennedy said that every avenue on this issue was exhausted.

Cllr Murphy raised the issue of replacement staff for recent and upcoming retirements – Brendan Doyle DE said that the replacement of 2 GO's is progressing favourably and that 1 more GO position and a Tradesman position will also be filled and the recruitment process should be completed by August. The lack of succession planning and frustration at leaving positions vacant was discussed and Cllr Murphy asked both the DM and DE to push on the filling of posts.

Ms McDonald shared the reply received from Chief Superintendent JP Quirke stating that there were no incidents in Arklow that were not responded to. The issue of Garda numbers throughout the district was discussed and Cllr Kennedy welcomed the fact that a Garda may be resident in Aughrim at some stage. Cllr Murphy proposed that AMD write to the Commissioner about the issues and Cllr Annesley noted that they are doing a great job even though numbers are low for the County.

### **Item 4: Housing Report.**

Ms McDonald reported that WCC do not have funding for one off housing in general and the cottage in Aughrim may be advertised for sale with a few other properties to existing tenants or to those on the housing list.

Cllr Kennedy said he would check into the reply on one off housing as this had been raised as a Parliamentary Question to the Dáil and stated that he would not support the sale of this property and it needs to go to a local family in need of social housing. Cllr Bourke said he would have to agree with Cllr T Cullen in that WCC should not sell what they need. Cllr Annesley said this was raised at the recent SPC meeting and the cost of renovation versus the purchase of a different property had to be considered. Cllr McDonald said that there were exceptional circumstances with the family Cllr Kennedy referred to and we need to act on this reply. Cllr Annesley agreed to raise it again at the next SPC meeting.

Ms McDonald DA reported that a Part V housing scheme was to commence on the Vale Rd, which would yield 3 Social Housing Units.

Cllr Fitzgerald said this was great news for Arklow and members should have been notified.

The members questioned the report received on housing grants as numbers didn't tally with applications made.

#### **Item 5 : To discuss the spending of Festival Funding for 2018.**

The following proposal was discussed and proposed by Cllr Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald –

€20000 –Christmas festival outdoor lighting for Rathdrum and Arklow.

€ 5000 – advertise grants for local festival groups within the district

#### **Item 6: Maintenance of St. Gabriel's Graveyard**

Cllr McDonald tried to raise this at plenary level and was informed that it was not the correct forum for this discussion.

The post has been vacant for 18 months and asked has the funding for this 18 months been absorbed elsewhere. The graveyard needs to be continually maintained – distressing for families visiting graves. The issue was further discussed by the members and Cllr Bourke suggested that the Tus employees may be in a position to assist.

Brendan Doyle DE said there was a body of work to do – some to be done mechanically and some manual – and the GSS has assured me that the work will be completed in time for the blessings. Michael Geaney DM stated that the post vacated would be absorbed into general staff and that there was no plan to have a fulltime caretaker there. Brendan Doyle DE stated that it was not intended to have a fulltime caretaker there but that the work would be apportioned over the whole outdoor crew. Both agreed that once it was maintained it would be kept in good condition and would keep members updated.

#### **Item 7: Right of Way – Kynochs Walkway**

The members discussed the issue of establishing a right of way over these grounds and recent works carried out by the landowner. Cllr Fitzgerald stated that the right of way could not be extinguished as it was built for Kynochs and that the enforcement team was working on it. Cllr Murphy asked that all information gathered from local people be passed on the Sean Quirke and a report would be prepared. Cllr Bourke asked that it be kept on the agenda. Cllr Kennedy said that it was a valuable amenity to the district and gave access to a sand beach.

#### **Item 8: To receive an update on the Arklow Sewerage Treatment Plant**

Ms McDonald gave a report from Kevin Scanlon -

Arklow Sewerage TP is progressing through its final detailed design stage. There has been a lot of progress in recent months relating to the WWTP building design and the sewerage network design. The Strategic Infrastructure planning application to An Bord Pleanala is planned for August. Way leave and CPO letters have issued to relevant parties and discussions are continuing with IW and their valuers. The EIAR (Environmental Impact Assessment Report) is currently being drafted for inclusion with the planning application.

Cllr Kennedy asked how long would the ABP process take, Michael Geaney DM replied possibly 9-12 months.

**Item 9: 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 June, July and August.

**Surface Dressing** - list of works compiled and issued to Roads Dept. Works are due to commence in the last week of June with the final schedule to be finalised. 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 6 projects ready to commence and 5 at design stage.

### **Footpaths / IPB Remedial Works**

A number of locations have been identified with contractor pricing under review with a view to works commencing in the coming weeks. It is hoped all works will be completed over the summer months.

### **Low Cost Safety Schemes**

4 pedestrian crossing schemes identified -  
2 Coolgraney Rd  
1 Vale Rd(Sunbeam House)  
1 Dublin Rd

Works out to tender and should progress to works during July/August.

Cllr Annesley asked about plans for the timing of the works on Ferrybank and Brendan Doyle DE said that a letter drop would be carried out to residents in the area. Cllr Kennedy asked that the stretch of road at Annacuara be reviewed – part of snagging.

**Item 10: to Receive a report from Linda McDonald District Administrator on the following projects:**

- **Abbey Graveyard**

General maintenance and gardening to be completed over the coming days and should re-open by 20<sup>th</sup> June.

- **Arklow Courthouse**

Roof refurbishment complete and once fire cert obtained the budgetary estimates for internal refurbishment will be considered.

- **Redevelopment of the Parade Ground**

Part VIII manager's report stalled – waiting on reply from Irish Rail regarding permission for Sunday parking between 11am and 1pm.

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

Chosen location is Seaview Avenue – discussion about transfer with landscape architect well advanced and it is hoped to have the garden in place by next month's meeting.

- **Skua Lightship Lantern Project**

Approval granted to begin refurbishment and civil works at roundabout location. Lantern should be in place by end of August.

- **Arklow Town Team**

Meeting this evening – number of projects on-going.

- **Flower Basket Scheme/ Irrigation Scheme**

Installation of irrigation system due to start and will be installed block by block to allow phased hanging of the baskets. Will not be installed at Lower Main St following opposition from local residents.

- **Ronnie Delany Sculpture**

3 Tenders received - to be evaluated early July. LEADER application being prepared.

- **Former Pitch & Putt Site**

Site clearance on-going – works due to commence shortly.

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

All correspondence to be emailed to members.

1. St Benedict's – upgrade of running track – arrange a meeting with the club.
2. Parking Spaces at Leisure Centre – may need to be re-painted.
3. Review of Burial Ground Policy - refer to the July meeting.

**Item 13: Any Other Business.**

Cllr Fitzgerald raised the issue of potential charge/fee for use of recycling centres and stated that he did not agree with this proposal while acknowledging the cost of running the centres – may encourage more dumping/littering. All members agreed that it is not the solution.

Cllr McDonald raised the request to move the bus stop on the Wexford Rd – deferred to July meeting.

Cllr Kennedy commended the fire services in the Rathdrum area for response to fire in the Glenmalure area. Rathdrum has been entered in the Pride of Place awards covering 4 features.

**Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018.**

Signed: Miriam Murphy

**Cllr. Miriam Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.**

Signed: Linda McDonald

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