



**Wicklow County Council  
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

**ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> February 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. Declan Marnane, T/Senior Engineer  
Ms. Christine Flood, Senior Executive Officer  
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:

Abigail Bracken, Anne Lee, Breda Dillon, Donie O Loughlin, Eva Bradley, Larry Cullen, Michael O Reilly, Milo O Keeffe, Noeleen Bolger, Olive Wilson, Patrick Lafferty, Sean Ivers, Teresa Lott, Tommy Mulpeter, William Cardiff.

A minutes silence was observed.

**Item 2 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Meeting, held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2018.**

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 were proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Bourke.

**Item 3 – Matters Arising:**

Ms McDonald reported that the phone system was to be upgraded on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018 and this should re-instate the landline 0402 42700 to the AMD offices. The Members welcomed this news.

A copy of the current derelict buildings register was circulated. Ms. McDonald advised the members that an internal working group has just been established in Wicklow County Council to look at compiling a complete asset register for Wicklow County Council.

Conary Waste Water – H Dennehy confirmed that this was a small scheme of 10 houses and IW may be taking it over when looking at Wicklow. Cllr Kennedy said it needed to be cleaned out every few weeks and an upgrade was urgently needed. H Dennehy A/DM said it may not be top of their list, Cllr Murphy asked if we need to put pressure on them. H Dennehy A/DM said there may be an issue over the status of the scheme and where it might fit and also a legacy issue.

**Item 4: To discuss the establishment of a Town Team in Rathdrum - Christine Flood Senior Executive Officer to attend.**

C Flood SEO responded to a question raised at the January meeting and complimented the existing Arklow Town Team on their engagement with stakeholders and commitment to achieve results. The establishment of a second Town Team in the district is a matter for the members and that it should not threaten funding available to the existing team. Where possible it may be an option to dovetail the MD budget with what the members want and this collaboration could make savings on projects. A low number of LEADER funding applications have been received and are slow to come in, the funding is there. There will also be other funding streams available in the near future. It was suggested to lay out the pros and cons of the proposal looking at ensuring that administrative resources are not over stretched. She suggested a sub group be formed first rather than a separate team.

Cllr Kennedy thanked Christine for her valuable input today and to the existing team, and to all involved. The team is successful and is spreading its wings with results coming in the next few months on the CCTV scheme. Acknowledging C Flood's suggestion, Cllr Kennedy proposed it would be the way to go as the knowledge base is already there. Cllr Fitzgerald seconded the proposal. Cllr McDonald also agreed and asked should it be discussed at the next Town Team meeting. Cllr Bourke asked how members could be selected – advertise? C Flood re-iterated that the ethos would be stakeholder engagement and there was a need to keep the team tight – people who will do things – would suggest 5 members would be plenty – 4 members from Rathdrum area and 1 elected member. The team should be representative of the whole area. The team should be primarily community based but would need to be broader and would absolutely need input from the business sector. Cllr McDonald said there was no need to re-invent the wheel. Cllr Bourke asked if we could suggest members and C Flood said options could be discussed.

**Item 5 : To receive an update from the Housing & Corporate Estate Directorate on Estates within AMD that have had upgrade works carried out on insulation.**

**Windows & Doors and Fascias & Soffit and a list of those estates yet to have work commence along with timeframes. Declan Marnane, T/Senior Engineer to attend.**

Cllr Annesley welcomed Declan Marnane to the meeting.

A list of the properties left to be assessed/upgraded in phase 1 was circulated. Phase 1 properties are upgraded (insulation) where the criteria for an upgrade are met. Phase 2 will generally consist of properties that could not be upgraded in phase 1, solid block and pumping insulation not possible, with the possibility of windows being part of this upgrade. All are included in the tender for this year and it is hoped that works will begin in early summer.

It was noted that there were mistakes in the original list and these have been amended. The letter circulated to residents advising them of a possible survey of their property did not request tenants to prepare for a survey. When the survey team start in an estate and find the first houses surveyed are unsuitable for the upgrade they will not continue with the full survey of the estate.

The cottage on the Annacurra Rd is to be valued and it is intended to sell the property. Demolishing and rebuilding on the site, taking the sightlines into consideration, would prove too costly. The disposal would be subject to a Section 183 agreement.

Cllr Fitzgerald asked why it has taken so long to get to this proposal and D Marnane SE said that WCC has a number of long term voids and understood that there are structural issues with the building and that it is up to the members to agree to the disposal of the property. Cllr Fitzgerald and Cllr Kennedy said that the sightlines exist and shouldn't affect any housing decision, Cllr Kennedy asked if it was ok then for a private buyer to look for planning to improve the sightlines and D Marnane SE said that there may be the possibility that someone with other access may be able to improve the sightlines. Cllr Kennedy said there was no planning currently in Aughrim and is aware of a particular family in need and this property could work for them and will vote against the disposal. Cllr Fitzgerald asked if it was already advertised D Marnane didn't think so and if it were allocated to someone on the housing list, WCC would need to carry out repairs. It could be sold to someone on the list and not on the open market – he will check out this option. Cllr Murphy agreed with Cllr Kennedy and is shocked that a house on its own, suitable for a family with specific needs is still vacant and would support a case for funding application for an adapted property. D Marnane stated that all options would be considered and a case could be made to the Department for funding. Cllr Fitzgerald said it should be offered for sale. Cllr McDonald asked if the Section 183 was passed would we be guaranteed the funds would be used within the district.

Fabric upgrades in the town were discussed and D Marnane confirmed that the preference would be to do all the works together – insulation, windows and doors. Cllr McDonald asked if there was an alternative to pumped insulation for Churchview and D Marnane replied that this had not been decided yet and works would be part of phase 2. Cllr Annesley acknowledged that it was great to get 60 houses upgraded. Cllr Kennedy asked if windows and doors upgrade for Parnell Park was planned, D Marnane said most likely in phase 2 and would need to be assessed first. Cllr Kennedy said the fascias and soffits also needed to be replaced, D Marnane said that there was no funding for this at the moment; Cllr Kennedy said that these works were promised and it was scandalous that some houses had boards on the windows to cover the gaps. Cllr Fitzgerald said this was a county wide problem and Cllr Bourke asked if the tenants could do these works themselves, Cllr Murphy said that if tenants withheld rent would it be considered a black mark against them. D Marnane re-iterated that funding was a huge issue. Cllr Fitzgerald stated that tenants should not be advised to withhold rent. Cllr Annesley asked if D Marnane would look at Conary in particular and D Marnane said he would. Cllr Bourke said these were relatively new and D Marnane said they were suitable for phase 1 and older houses were not. Cllr Fitzgerald considered these issues to be a downside to districts over town councils. H Dennehy A/DM suggested discretionary funding be considered and Cllr Murphy said this would let WCC off the hook. Cllr Kennedy suggested that houses leased to tenants for over 40 years should get priority and D Marnane said this may be a possible option.

**Item 6: To agree the Municipal District Schedule of Works for 2018 (List of proposed projects attached for consideration by the members).**

Ms McDonald confirmed the IPB figure for public liability risk reduction works which would not be considered at this meeting.

Cllr Fitzgerald queried the amount for consideration and Ms McDonald confirmed the figures were provided by Finance Section and the lower amount could only be considered for the moment. Cllr Fitzgerald proposed that the discussion be deferred to the next meeting and the amount should be confirmed first. This was agreed with the proviso that 5 projects totalling €76000 could commence. Ms McDonald said she would go back to the Head of Finance to confirm the figures.

**Item 7: To discuss a request received from Fox McFadden Funfairs for use of a site at the Leisure Centre, Arklow.(correspondence previously circulated)**

The request put to the members at the January meeting was discussed and Cllr Annesley said that 2 thirds of the residents he spoke to had no problem with the proposals and Cllr Fitzgerald agreed with this. Cllr Fitzgerald said the proposed site was near the running track. Ms McDonald said there may be objections from users of the track. H Dennehy A/DM acknowledged that it would be good for businesses in the town and that a traffic plan would need to be presented. J Kelly DE agreed and

suggested that more information would be required. Cllr Annesley said that it would be competing with the Seabreeze festival and Garda resources would be stretched. H Dennehy A/DM suggested it be a part of the Seabreeze Festival. Cllr Fitzgerald said that there were a lot of elderly residents in the area and that there would be a lot of activity at that time anyway. Cllr Kennedy proposed that a vote be taken. All voted unanimously against it being set up at Seaview Avenue.

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

**a) Abbey Graveyard**

Work has completed on the rebuilding of the wall. Cost €21,111(inclusive of VAT). Negotiations are ongoing with the adjoining landowner in order to recoup some of the cost.

The archaeologist has assessed the damage that was done to some of the headstones during the storm. The damaged headstones (4) will now be pieced together and erected by a headstone expert. A price is awaited for same.

The graveyard should be ready to be re-opened in 4-6 weeks.

**b) Arklow Town Team**

2 meetings held to date in 2018.

5 projects have been identified that the team will focus on over the coming months.

CCTV Scheme for Arklow Town  
Flower Basket Scheme for 2018  
Clean up of the Vale Road  
Arklow to Woodenbridge Greenway  
Information Pack for School Leavers.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

**c) Arklow Courthouse**

Final plans have now been submitted for the first floor of the Courthouse. Following confirmation of same with the Architect the Fire Report can be completed. This will then allow works on both floors to be costed.

A meeting has been arranged with the Court Services for early March to ensure their continued commitment to the project.

**d) Coastal Protection Works on the North beach**

The area was visited by Boxer Moran Minister of State for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018. There has been no update or contact since this visit. Meanwhile Rob is working on a specification for a report.

**e) Redevelopment of the Parade Ground**

The Part 8 for the scheme was lodged last week and submissions from the public are being welcomed until the deadline of 26<sup>th</sup> February. Providing that permission is granted for the scheme, we will then start work on developing a more detailed cost and bill of quantities for the scheme that we can use for the tendering process. We would hope to be in a position to start tendering for the first phase of the scheme (funding permitting) in the second quarter of the year.

Cllr Fitzgerald has had a request from the parish priest for a meeting – agreed to meet on the Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> February. Cllr Fitzgerald also had contact from a business owner from the area and there is a lot of resistance from the businesses on the left hand side of the street. Ms McDonald confirmed that over 20 submissions had been received to date and she would prepare a report on these.

**f) Coastal Path Walk**

No update since the last meeting.

Cllr Annesley said the signs had blown down and appealed to J Kelly to look at possible repairs again. J Kelly DE and H Dennehy A/DM confirmed it was safest to keep the public off the walk. Cllr Fitzgerald asked if anything had come back from the Ministers visit – R Mulhall confirmed that nothing had been received to date. Cllr Annesley queried if the signs were enough and that gabions could be considered. J Kelly DE said that AMD may need to take legal advice on this first and couldn't do just half the works required. H Dennehy A/DM said that defence is not suitable until all coastal protection is sorted. Cllr Fitzgerald said that the original works started were never finished.

**g) Rathdrum Square**

The Sculpture has been fitted. ESB to carry out works shortly to allow the lighting to be switched on. Date for unveiling to be decided by the Members.

Ms McDonald proposed the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 11:30am. Cllr Kennedy said he would consult with the schools and confirm the date.

**h) Arklow Flood Relief Scheme.**

Wicklow County Council and the OPW are working towards submitting an application to An Bord Pleanala under Section 226 of the Planning and Development Act(s) later this year. The local authority has also strived to co-operate with Irish Water so that their proposed interceptor sewer on the South Quay can be accommodated in the Scheme. We are hopeful that we will submit before the summer, but the project is complex with many stakeholders.

**Item 9: To discuss the Road Traffic Management Plan proposal submitted by Daniel Wolohan and Pat Crotty. (Proposal attached).**

Cllr Fitzgerald proposed that they attend a meeting with a member of Roads Section staff in attendance also. J Kelly DE said the plans were aspirational but would be happy to meet with them. Cllr Annesley said the plans contained some controversial items – the bridge is a protected structure, proposed access/egress Coolgreaney

Road and St Mary's Road, South Quay area is majorly controversial and when works weren't part of the Bridgewater project they would hardly be considered now. It would be better to listen to them anyway. H Dennehy A/DM said the plan should have been incorporated into the Town Plan.

**Item 10: To discuss correspondence received form the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee – closing date for submissions is 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018.(correspondence attached).**

This was discussed at plenary level and held no change for Municipal District. Cllr McDonald said a comprehensive map could be viewed in Corporate Affairs Section. H Dennehy A/DM suggested to note at the meeting and make a submission from here that boundaries remain unchanged.

**Item 11: Notices of Motions:**

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

*"that some road repairs are carried out on the road surface in the Abbey Street area as soon as possible. In putting down this motion I am aware that the road will be dug up when works on the sewerage systems starts circa 2021". (Received 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018)*

J Kelly DE responded that he had arranged for the filling of potholes on this street in the coming weeks. In view of the imminent start of works for the Arklow Sewerage System I am recommending that no significant surfacing works take place.

**(b) In the name of Cllr Miriam Murphy**

*"that Arklow Municipal District seek funding for re-surfacing the road in the area of "Wood Lane" Ballyrush, Kilcarra". (received 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018)*

J Kelly DE responded – this notice of motion refers to the L6204 Local Road, which runs in a northerly direction from Ballygriffin to Kilcarra East.

The southern end of the road was surface dressed by Moriarty's in 2016 after the laying of cables for the Raheenaleagh Wind Farm. This section of the road is in good condition.

The Northern end of the road has a number of potholes and is not in as good a condition. I have arranged for the repair of these potholes in the coming weeks.

**(c) In the name of Cllr Miriam Murphy**

*"that Arklow Municipal District seek funding to install a wheelchair friendly swing in the playground at the Leisure Centre Arklow". (received 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018)*

Cllr Murphy said that something should be installed. Ms McDonald said that S Dunne had done some research on this and suggested that this could alienate some users and recommended a change to an inclusive item. Cllr Murphy agreed and Cllr Bourke seconded this. Ms McDonald said a grant to re-surface the playground had been received and works should commence shortly.

**Item 12: Correspondence.**

Correspondence was received confirming that the Polish delegates declined the invitation to visit in May as it was too near local elections.

**Item 13: Any Other Business.**

The 2018 Road Strengthening Proposal was discussed and priority given to projects 1 through to 6 and 8 on the list (7 in total). Cllr Annesley raised the issue of broken kerbing and potholes on the old N11 – opposite the Applegreen garage. Cllr Fitzgerald suggested bollards be installed to prevent heavy goods vehicles parking there. Cllr Annesley said that safety is an issue also. Cllr Bourke said that the road markings on the Ballycoogue Rd near Deadmans Bend were very poor.

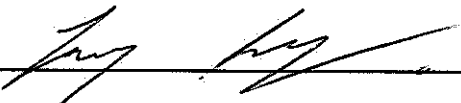
Cllrs Murphy and Bourke advised that they had recently attended a meeting with the Ballycoogue residents and were now asking for all members of AMD to meet with them. Following a short discussion on same the members agreed to meet Mr. Wolohan and a small number of the residents at 3.00pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Ms. McDonald agreed to contact Mr. Wolohan by email.

Cllr Murphy asked if the sign robbed from the cul-de-sac at Kilahurler could be replaced and the signs at McGraths Cross need to be repositioned as they are not visible. Cllr Annesley said a pothole at McGraths Cross needs to be filled.

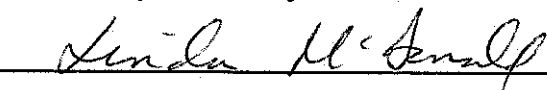
Cllr Fitzgerald said that the road lining on the Wexford Rd (Mellows Ave, Pearse Tce) was not centred and driver behaviour was reflecting this.

Cllr Annesley asked if the MD were in a position to sponsor Oisin Byrne €2000 for an upcoming Tak Wan Doo competition abroad. Ms McDonald said that funding was already stretched and H Dennehy A/DM asked if they had considered approaching the Local Sports Partnership in CCSD.

**Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018.**

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

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

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

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



14/2/18 .

**ITEM 7**

**COUNCILLOR AMENDMENT NO. 3**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. Tommy Annesley

**SECONDED:** Cllr. Pat Kennedy

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

To remove the sentence "Cllr. Annesley said that it would be competing with the Seabreeze Festival and Garda resources would be stretched".

**REPLACE WITH:**

"Cllr. Annesley said that it **might** be competing with the Seabreeze Festival and Garda resources would be stretched".

**ITEM 13**

**COUNCILLOR AMENDMENT NO. 4**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr. Pat Kennedy

**SECONDED:** Cllr. Sylvester Bourke

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

To remove the sentence "Cllrs Murphy and Bourke advised that they had recently attended a meeting with the Ballycoogue residents and were now asking for all members of AMD to meet with them"

**REPLACE WITH:**

Cllrs Kennedy and Bourke advised that they had recently attended a meeting with the Ballycoogue residents and were now asking for all members of AMD to meet with them"