



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON THE 10th July
2024**

Present: Cllr. Pat Kennedy Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Peir Leonard, Leas-Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke
Cllr. Pat Kennedy
Cllr. Warren O'Toole
Cllr. Miriam Murphy

Officials Present: Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager
Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator
Ms. Damien Byrne, Executive Engineer
Ms. Lorraine Hayes ASO

Apologies: None

Press: Eoin MacRaghnaill

Public: Viktoria Bodley

Presentations: James Callery (Environment)
Mark Costello (Environment)

Item 1: Votes of Sympathy

The members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost a loved one.
A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on 8th May 2024 were proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald.

Item 3: Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Annual Meeting held on 28th June 2024 were not agreed upon as Cllr. Murphy asked if these minutes could be amended as they did not include her proposal of Cllr. Peir Leonard to Cathaoirleach. Amendment has been made; amended minutes will be available to be approved at the September meeting.

Item 4: Matters Arising

The following points were raised and discussed:

- ❖ Greenspace maintenance was discussed and Members were advised that the Municipal District only cut greenspaces that were originally maintained by the Town Council. There is no funding or agreement for cutting additional greenspaces. The Municipal District cut over 50 acres of grass in the Arklow town. Wicklow County Council encourages people to form Residents Associations and apply for any relevant funding streams. There are estate grants available to Residents Associations for Estate Maintenance
- ❖ R772 - Speeding – The engineer has advised that communication issued to the Residents with regards to speed concerns.
- ❖ Jack Chambers has committed that speed limits be reduced from 80kph to 60kph by the end of 2024.
- ❖ The €180,000.00 which was given by the department should be spent on rural roads. It was confirmed this amount is split by District Engineer to ensure best value for money.
- ❖ Monaluk and Kilcarra – Surveys have been carried out, we are currently looking at options, this not an easy fix as there are third parties and landowners involved.
- ❖ Resurfacing works in Castlepark is a great success. Line marking and bays have still to be completed.
- ❖ Phelan's Pub in Clash is subject to flooding as the drains fill with grit and water and needs attention. It was agreed to visit the area.
- ❖ The Wheelie Pump corner need attention as it is prone to flooding.
- ❖ Members raised concerns with regards the Council's policy with regards to the Dark skies initiative, concerns were discussed in regards to the quality of bulbs used and its effects on those with sensory or cognitive disorders.
- ❖ Arklow has only 1 wheelchair bus stop in the Town; members asked if more could be considered.

Item 5: Appointment of one Member to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative, (Deferred from Annual Meeting)

Cllr. Pat Kennedy Proposed Cllr. Bourke. Cllr. Leonard seconded this proposal.

Item 6: Considerations of Reports and Recommendations:

Jim Callery and Mark Costello presented an in-depth presentation on Arklow Decarbonisation Zone and also The Climate Action Plan.

There was a brief discussion and the following points were raised:

- ❖ Members were advised that AMD have made an application for extensive funding for a complete fabric upgrade to the Sports hall (Coral dry centre), this would also include new roof and flooring, upgrade to changing rooms, reopening of the viewing balcony and the addition of changing places unit, which would be the first in the south of the County. The application was made under the *Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund 2024*. The upgrade is in line with goals set out as part of the decarbonisation zone for Arklow.
- ❖ The licence for Echelon to discharge water is monitored and reviewed. Echelon has a proposed contract which ensures the electricity is dealt with through corporate power purchasing agreement.
- ❖ SSE should make payments to County Council.
- ❖ SSE's application for planning is private therefore they are not obliged to make any payments; they do however sponsor activities and festivals in the Town.
- ❖ Recycling has been reduced greatly since the new return scheme. Is it possible to have a machine with proceeds going to the men's shed? We will talk to waste management and revert. A letter of interest from the men's shed should be submitted.

DE Report:

**Municipal District of Arklow
District Engineer's Report
10th July 2024**

Roads

Restoration Improvement - €1,674,860

Proposed Works	Status
R-752 Ballybeg - Rathnew	Planned
L-2190 Coolgreany Road	Planned
L-6139 Ballyshane - Cappagh	Commenced on site 30/04/24, Works Completed
L-5155 Tullylusk to Kilmacoo	Preparation Works Underway, Tender Awarded
L-2196 Ballykillageer	Preparation Works Underway
L-6181 Tigroney to Knockanree	Preparation Works Underway, Tender Awarded
L-6168 Cronemore to Coolflake	Commenced on site 20/05/24, Works Completed

Restoration Maintenance

Proposed Works	Status
L-6150 & L-6129 Iron Bridge to Aughavannagh	Planned
L-2128 Pidge's Gate to Aughavannagh	Planned
L-6182 Knocknamohill to Ballymorris	Planned
L-6149 Castlehoward to Kingston	Planned
L-5153 Castlehoward to Sroughmore	Planned
L-2144 Mill Road	Planned
L-61983 Tomanier Lower	Planned
L-61981 Tomanier Lower	Planned

Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience

Proposed Works	Status
Retaining Wall at Knockmillar	Contractor Appointed

Safety Improvement Works

Proposed Works	Project	Status
R-755 Rathdrum to Laragh Road	Installation of Safety Barrier	Tender Awarded, Works Completed
R-752 Woodenbridge to Avoca	Installation of Safety Barrier	Tender Awarded, Works Completed
R-752 Rathdrum to Glenealy	Installation of Safety Barrier	Tender Awarded, Works Completed
Johnstown Village, Arklow	Installation of Safety Signage	To be Tendered

Former National Roads

€460,000

Proposed Works	Status
R772 Knockmore to Kish	Liaising with the NTA Team

Discretionary Funds 2023

Proposed Works	Status
Educational Signage - Beaches	Liaised with Biodiversity Officer
Footpath - Arklow Bearing Services	
Footpath - Kingsbrook to Centre Road	Works Completed
Public Realm - Arklow	
Public Realm - Rathdrum	
Infill Lighting Annacurra	
Public Realm Furniture Upgrade - AMD	
Heritage Signage for Villages	Survey Commenced, Order Placed for Phase One Need
Footpath Repair - Ferrybank	Response Received. Needs input from Law Department
Meeting Park - Bridge Repair	Completed
Bus Shelter in Aughrim	Site Works Completed
Bus Shelter in Annacurra	Follow up with Landowner
Public Lights at the Birches, Ballinaclesh	Lights Installed, awaiting ESB Connection
Public Realm - Rathdrum	Bollards and Planters Ordered
Footpaths at Templeraíne Heights	TBC with GSS, Site Survey Carried Out
Repair of Footpath at Currans Corner	To be discussed with Roads Department

Other Projects

Drainage works planned at Johnstown. Have agreement with Landowner. Additional application to be made for funding in 2025.

Running Track – Civil Works Complete, Light Standards are in place and Cables Pulled, Awaiting ESB for Final Connection

Footpath Extension on Beech Road – Commenced 24/06/2024, awaiting slipform installation

Abbey Lane – Conservation Works on Stone Wall Commencing on 09/07/2024.

Castlepark Car Park – Tarmacadam Works Completed, Outstanding Civil Works and Line Marking to be completed.

Item 7: Any Other Business set forth in the Notice of Convening the meeting.

No other business.

Item 8: Notice of Motions:

(a) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr S. Bourke received on 30th May 2024.

“That Arklow Municipal District completes the footpath from Barndarrig National School to the crossroads at the church and also provides a pedestrian crossing from the Red Gap to St Mary’s Crescent”

Proposed by Cllr. Bourke and seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald. All Councillors supported this motion. It was agreed to review this request.

Item 9 Correspondence:

- ❖ Letter received from the RNLI, they are seeking financial support from the Municipal District which will go towards the planned new lifeboat for Arklow.
Cllr. Leonard proposed a donation of €1000.00 and Cllr. Fitzgerald seconded this, all Councillors were in agreement with the payment.
- ❖ A letter received from Mr. Joe Weadick. He has requested the Elected Members consider a commemorate structure for the two Kavanagh brothers who rowed the Atlantic. The DA informed the members that this would be considered quite a big project and planning and engineering will be required. At present, a structure of this nature is not provided for within the MD’s policy or budget. Members agreed to defer a decision on this request to when the Flood Relief Scheme was complete and an alternative piece could be considered.
- ❖ The Rehab Resource Group requested that members consider providing a disability bay outside their new premises on Upper Main Street, Arklow. Members were advised that in order to provide one space, it would take away access to further parking in the area. The space could not be allocated solely to the Rehab Group. There was an existing “set down” space that would be suitable for drop off/pick up of clients. It was agreed that this area could be considered as part of the Bye-law review for the County.
- ❖ Viewmount Residents Association sent a letter and email which cited many problems that residents have with their houses and the estate itself. Members were advised of the following:
 - I. The planning compliance team have been liaising with both Residents and the Developer. The compliance team have reviewed everything submitted i.e. public roads, open spaces and infrastructure.
 - II. Paint issues with structures are the responsibility of the developer and residents.

- III. The developer has a responsibility with drainage issues in gardens.
- IV. The cash bond held with the Council is for public infrastructure.
- V. DM to check out the public files for drawings and revert; a report should be ready this autumn.

Item 10 Any other Business:

The Cathaoirleach requested that a letter of congratulations should be sent to Byrne's of Aughrim who recently celebrated 90 years in Business. This was proposed by Cllr. Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Bourke.

With the bi-century of Michael Dwyer in 2025, it was suggested that we invite Ned Buggy a relation of Michael Dwyer to the next Council meeting in September, all members were in agreement.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2023.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: _____
Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District

DRAFT