



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON

THE 9th of SEPTEMBER 2026.

Present:

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

Officials Present:

Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator
Ms. Joanne O'Dowd, A/District Manager
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer
Margaret Birchall, Senior Executive Librarian
Ms. Lorraine Hayes ASO

Guest Speaker:

Mr. Ben Mullen, Architect
Mr. Kevin Mann, Contractor
Ms. Sarah McCullough, SEO Environment
Ms. Grainne O'Neill, Administrative Officer, Environment

Press:

Hugh O'Farrell-Walsh

Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.

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

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes.

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

Item 3: Matters Arising.

PK Sought Clarification was sought on the playgrounds and roundabout scheme.

AH stated There are 21 playgrounds in our remit this figure includes outdoor gyms also. The tender for repairs has gone out to tender, once received a contractor will be appointed to commence repairs necessary.

Item 4: Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

Aughrim Library Presentation – Presentation on proposed Part 8

Following on from the Aughrim Library Presentation – Presentation on proposed Part 8 the following issues were raised.

- Overall, the Members are pleased with the development as it well thought out and fits in well to the area, it is an exciting time for Aughrim. Congratulations were delivered to all involved in bringing the development to this stage. Everything has been covered in the design.
- Are five parking spaces sufficient.
- Once planning is approved it is hopeful the library will be finished within 16 Months.
- Site notice is ready to go.
- All Members agreed to proceed with the part 8.

Update on St. Gabriel's Cemetery regarding appointment of Multi-Disciplinary Team.

Following on from the updated delivered the following issues were raised.

- Despite EOI being sent out there were no responses for land to purchase for a new cemetery.
- There are 50 unallocated plots in the cemetery at present.
- sites along the wall that are vacant, can ownership be identified.
- People are not happy with the school traffic parking at the cemetery.
- There is a lot of fly tipping/dumping in the cemetery.
- Can we look at closing cemetery gates after hours.
- Unfortunately, we cannot change people's behaviour as they will continue to park and use the cemetery to turn cars around, this is causing damage to graves.
- As part of the process there will be no vehicular access.
- Can we look in to buying back plots which have been pre-purchased.

Sarah explained all the above queries would be addressed as part of the overall design which will be carried out by a multidisciplinary design team.

To receive a report from Avril Hill, District Engineer.

Municipal District of Arklow

District Engineer's Report

2nd September 2026

Roads

Proposed Works	Status
R- 747 Vale Road	Complete
R-753 Aughrim	Partially complete. Remainder during mid-term
R-754 Knockanree to Kilmacoo	Complete
L-2167 Schoughmore-Kilmacoo Upper	Complete
L-2172 Redcross to Barniskey	Complete
L-7712 Rosnastraw to Coolafancy	Complete
L-7212 Killaveny to Rosnastraw	Complete
L-6202-0 Kilpipe	Complete w/e 04/09
L-6203 Tomnaskela to Kilaveany	Commencing 07/09
L-62033-0 Coolalug	
L-6150 Rosahane	
L-6629-0 Mucklagh – Ballyteige	
L-6150 Mucklagh to Macreddin West	
L-6139-02 Cappagh Hill	
L-97541 Beggar's Lane	
L-2196-0 Johnstown to Ballykillageer	
R753 Aughrim to Ballinaclash	
R747 Aughrim to Tinahely	
L-2140 Glen Rd - Chapel Lane Drainage	Complete

Discretionary Funding

Proposed Works	Status
Johnstown/Ballycoog Signage	Scheduled w/e 11/09
Footpath at Fairgreen	90% Complete
Footpath at Aughrim	Complete
Footpath at Barndarrig NS	Complete
Heritage Signage for Villages	Complete
Footpaths at St. Peters Place	Works Reviewed, contractor to be appointed
Footpaths at Lower Main Street	Reviewed with Contractor, Awaiting Starting Date

Duck Pond	Review of Maintenance Requirements - Assessed as part of Seaview Avenue Masterplan
Public Lighting in Greenane, Ballinaclesh and Annacurra	KLS has been appointed to recommission and get public lighting connection operational
2024 Footpath Repair Riverwalk	Some drainage works required in advance
Educational Signage - Beaches	Liaised with the Biodiversity Officer - Awaiting Further Information
Pedestrian Crossing - Rathdrum	Part of Traffic Study
Repair of Footpath at Currans Corner	

Climate Adaptation

Proposed Works	Status
Beech Road	Detailed design stage
Stump of the Castle	Complete

Local Improvement Schemes

Proposed Works	Status
Ballymoney	Contractor appointed, district staff are completing the initial works.
Clogga	
Coolmore	
Greenane	
Cronbeg	
Blindwood	
Rockstown	

Other Projects

- Rathdrum Traffic Study – Designer appointed, Road Safety Audit is complete and comments being incorporated into the tender drawings and specification.

QS appointed to run tender competition. Drawings due back from consultant on 9th October.

The following matters were raised and discussed:

Cllr. Kennedy requested a breakdown of what roads were done out of the €1.9m allocated for the next meeting.

Cllr. Bourke reported flooding on road to Barniskey- Ballinaclea.

AH stated the problem occurred due to hedge cutting but drains had been cleared so all should be ok.

Cllr. Kennedy fears Aughrim maybe flooded in the future and requested DE to look at gullies and provide spare sandbags for winter.

Cllr. Kennedy requested a contractor to cut hedges and boughs.

AH explained this is the responsibility of the landowners. The MD would take a look at the hedge at Knockenrahan

Cllr. Kennedy said trees in graveyard are very overgrown.

AH will get an Arborist report.

Cllr. Kennedy asked for an update on one-way system in Rathdrum.

AH confirmed that Damien Byrne met with the consultant today. Tender will be issued mid-October with a view to appointing a contractor by the end of 2026 with work to commence early 2027.

Cllr O'Toole said surface water and no handrail at St. Mary's carpark is an issue. Flood relief is too far away to wait. There is no light there also.

AH said the light had been adjusted, and she would follow up on the handrail.

Cllr. O'Toole asked if the shower could be removed from the new public toilets as it would be damaged.

AH explained this is an issue for the Harbours and will follow up with them.

Cllr. Kennedy enquired if we applied for the low-cost safety scheme.

AH no forms have been received yet.

Cllr. O'Toole requested a list of vacant homes in the District.

AB said that Housing would provide this information. The MD would only have a record of houses that the team are currently working on for relet.

Cllr. Leonard asked if we got a list of development notices.

J.O'D said all this is available online through Building Control.

Cllr. O'Toole stated he is unhappy with the findings of the discharge in the river.

AB said it is an environmental issue not in the remit of AMD.

Cllr. Leonard is concerned that no water samples were taken. The reconnection issue with Uisce Eireann needs to be addressed. A meeting with Senior management of Uisce Eireann and the Harbours is needed as it is serious.

AB will ask Environment to meet with the Elected Members outside of the MD meeting.

Cllr. Leonard said a meeting is also necessary with Environment Department to discuss the development of the Noritake and the waste disposal there.

Cllr. O'Toole asked who conducted work in the Harbour area in July.

AH will check the road opening licenses.

Cllr. Leonard said dredging and silt removal need to be removed before flood relief starts.

AB explained responsibility for this is with the Environmental Department.

Cllr. O'Toole believes studies will prove these need to be removed.

AB advised that this was a matter for the Flood Relief team.

5. Correspondence

Correspondence received from CBS seeking financial assistance with their twinning partnership with St Mary's for Wurzburg.

Cllr. Kennedy proposed a payment of €3000 from discretionary funding and Cllr. Fitzgerald seconded this proposal.

The Arklow Twinning Committee contacted AMD to organise the handover of funds and documents as they are stepping down.

Cllr. Leonard acknowledged how difficult it is and how much work they have put in over the years he also thanked them for great work. She feels discussion is needed going forward.

AB told the Members we had no contact with Aberystwyth for some time. Local Government work differently and we are missing out on opportunities if we do not continue with the twinning.

Chateaudun could be promoted more through schools as more schools teach French.

6. Any other business

- Cllr. O'Toole sought an update on the proposed commemorative stone.
- AH informed the Members the stone we had was not viable. Damien Byrne is currently working on sourcing and costings for the stone.
- Cllr. Murphy is concerned regarding the safety at Laragh School.
- Cllr. Kennedy said due to the footpath being so narrow and it is a regional road there nothing that can be done. Planning permission may need to be sought to improve safety.
- Cllr. Leonard enquired if ramps could be put in.
- AB will check and confirm speed limits.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Thursday 22nd of October 2026.

Signed: _____

Cllr Peir Leonard, Cathaoirleach, Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: _____

Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District