



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON THE 13th November 2024

Present: Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Peir Leonard, Leas-Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Miriam Murphy

Officials Present: Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager
Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer
Mr. Damien Byrne, Executive Engineer
Ms. Lorraine Hayes, ASO
Ms. Sinead Kelly, CO

Apologies: Cllr. Warren O'Toole

Press: Eoin Mac Raghnaill

Public: Ross Hetherington

Presentations: Mr. Brian Gleeson, Head of finance

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 9th October 2024 were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Bourke.

Item 3: Matters Arising.

None

Item 4: Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

To receive a report from Engineers Engineer (for noting)

Roads

Restoration Improvement

Works completed.

Former National Roads

Works completed.

Safety Improvement Works

| <i>Proposed Works</i> | <i>Project</i> | <i>Status</i> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Johnstown Village, Arklow | Installation of safety signage | To be tendered |

Discretionary Funds 2024

| <i>Proposed Works</i> | <i>Status</i> |
|--|---|
| Educational Signage - Beaches | Liaised with Biodiversity officer |
| Tree Management | Scope finalised. |
| Heritage Signage for Villages | Installation commenced. |
| Footpath repair - Ferrybank | Contractor appointed. |
| Pottery Cross | Out for tender. |
| Bus Shelter in Aughrim | Minor works to be completed |
| Bus Shelter in Annacurra | Follow up with landowner |
| Public lighting at The Birches, Ballinaclash | Lighting installed, waiting on commissioning. |
| Public Realm - Rathdrum | Bollards & Planters ordered |
| Footpaths at Templeraíne Heights | 100% complete |
| Repair of footpath at Curran's Corner | To be discussed with Roads Department |
| Pedestrian Crossing - Rathdrum | Considered in wider scheme |
| Public Realm - Arklow | |
| Public Realm Furniture Upgrade - AMD | |
| Public Realm - Rathdrum | |
| Footpath - Conary | |
| Infill Lighting Annacurra | |
| Footpath - Arklow Bearing Services | |

Local Improvement Schemes

| <i>Proposed Works</i> | <i>Status</i> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kilpipe | Contractor to confirm dates |
| Ballinabarney | Contractor to confirm dates |

Community Involvement Scheme

| <i>Proposed Works</i> | <i>Status</i> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ballinclea | Contractor to confirm dates |

Other Projects

- Running Track – Lighting installed and certified waiting ESB connection.
- Abbey Lane – 80% complete. Lighting to be installed and re-setting of some paving in the lane.
- Multi-use pitch at Coral Leisure – Construction commenced.
- Beech Road Footpath – 90% complete. Road surface to finish.

Updates:

- Maisie Kelly roundabout – have a look to see what could be done their for safety
Reviewed. Barriers are not appropriate, and footpaths cannot be widened.
- Grass cutting at Delaney Park
AMD do not have the resources to undertake any additional grass cutting. Our grass cutting in estates is limited to those historically undertaken by ATC.
- Seats around outdoor gym
All seating in Arklow Town has been surveyed and a condition rating has been assigned. We will replace as budget permits. (There is money from 2023 and 2024 Discretionary for public realm in Arklow. Some is ear-marked for Seaview Avenue but the rest could be spent on upgrading public realm furniture)
- Look at entrance to Templerainey Heights for Double Yellow Lines
Will be reviewed and added to 2025 Line Marking works if appropriate
- Coolbeg Bridge – Safety improvements.
An application has been made to DTTAS for safety improvements as recommended by them.
- Look at the entrance and road in Castlemacadam cemetery
Email with approx. costing sent to environment section to see if there is funding available for possible works in 2025.
- Aqua planning reports = Aughrim (straight mile possible).
GSS has inspected and there are no issues with the drainage. Property owners are responsible for the drainage pipes under their driveways.
- Finish cleaning Beech Road
Added to list of general maintenance works
- Greenane – Grotto. Look at line marking
This has been added to 2025 Line Marking
- Extension to Skate Park
Will form part of the Masterplan for Seaview Avenue and will be applied for as and when funding is available.
- Footpath/zebra crossing at Aldi/Bridgewater
I discussed this with the Active Travel Team. This is not an appropriate location for a pedestrian crossing. There is no footpath on the Aldi side. This raised area is a buffer for cars parking in Aldi to prevent them from entering onto the public road. It is also in the ownership of Aldi. To use this as a footpath would not allow for safe pedestrian movements given the proximity of vehicles parking and them overhanging this area.
Furthermore, there are walls outside Starbucks which allow for the Part M access and these would obstruct the sightlines for both pedestrians and motorists.

The layout of the centre has been designed that cars using it have a set-down area off the carriageway or can utilise the car park.
- Jetting of sewage lines in Parnell Park before they go into public sewer
Will review with Housing Maintenance.

Comments

- Is there an update on the traffic survey for Arklow?

With the proposed construction of new houses in Arklow this is essential; traffic needs to be kept flowing. We are currently trying to get the survey over the line and are waiting from transportation department to get back to us.

- Coastal erosion at North Beach.

We are currently looking at a solution to repairing the rock armour at North Beach. An engineering solution is necessary. The current condition is worrying due to health and safety grounds and members may need to consider closing it for safety reasons.

Item 5: Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting

To consider report on the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal Districts in respect of the year ending 2025.
(for decision)

Brian Gleeson, Director of Finance delivered the draft budget plan for the Elected Members to agree the discretionary funding for the amount of €296,650.00. He acknowledged that each District needs more funding and explained there is scope for an MD to generate income through an increase of parking. He said that tough decisions may need to be considered for the continuation or increase of services in the Municipal Districts.

A discussion took place and the following comments were made:

- Today's vote has no impact on the overall budget it is just adoption of the discretionary funding.
- Member asked was there plans for additional resources for outdoor staff, members were advised that there was a workforce plan in place and any additional needs would need to be considered as part of that.
- Vacant sites and derelict buildings will bring in revenue for the District but it is looking like it will be the end of 2026 before fines for these can be circulated due the WWTP not being commissioned until 2025.
- AMD need to generate funds to upgrade local roads as we could not rely on central funding.
- Any rent increase will be ring-fenced to repairs and maintenance in the budget.
- As there are some vacant houses in Arklow it was decided to check with housing if they can be renovated to house people.
- It was agreed to re-circulate the schedule of Municipal District Works for 2024 to the Members.

The discretionary budget was proposed by Cllr Bourke and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald, all Councillors were in agreement.

Item 6: Notice of Motions

(a) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr M. Murphy received on the 18th September 2024.

“That Arklow Municipal District resource funding for a major clean-up of the area of the Duck Pond Walk. The reason is it has got overgrown, some of the area needs cut back and the pathway in areas are certainly in needs of repairs.

This area is of huge numbers using the walk and it’s popular with locals, tourist and especially community groups.

I would like to see it maintained on a yearly basis.”

Motion was proposed by Cllr. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald.

Cllr Murphy requested that the MD crew look at crucial maintenance for the whole area. It was agreed that Technical staff would meet with Cllr Murphy, to identify specific areas and that the Members could consider funding for next year.

Comments

Perhaps we can look for discretionary funding to update signage in that area also. The DA agreed to look at all streams of funding that may be available.

9. Correspondence

A letter was received from Aughrim Tidy Towns. The letter set out their plans going forward and offered their appreciation for the good relationship between the MD and their committee.

10. Any Other Business

Members raised the issue of the continuing issue with the lack of working public lights at Aughrim and Oaklands. Members were advised that this is as a result of a new contractor being appointed and as well as issues following damage to lighting columns and pillars.

It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders and complete the necessary business until 5.30pm. It was proposed by Cllr. Kennedy and seconded by Cllr. Bourke

Cllr Murphy asked why the Wicklow People had removed the Arklow notes in the Wicklow People, it was agreed to write to the Editor to enquire and ask for them to re-instate.

Members were advised that the tender for road markings for 2025 is being prepared at present.

Cllr. Leonard asked that DE look at rainwater planters and assess if they are suitable for Abbey Lane. It was agreed to investigate.

Members were advised that extension of footpath at Rednagh Hill retaining wall has to be done. We will carry out a costing and work from there.

Pedestrian lights on Abbey Street seem to have a problem for the visually impaired, it was agreed to check these.

Members were advised that music on Main Street for Christmas is not feasible for this year. There would be an issue with connections, and finances at present would not cover this. The application for an IMRO licence would also need to be considered.

Members were advised there was some unclaimed festival funding which could be reallocated if not claimed. It was agreed to give one more chance for this to be claimed, all agreed on this matter.

The Elected Members, Management and Staff of Arklow Municipal District offered their Best Wishes to the candidates standing in the General Election.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th December 2024.

Signed: _____
Cllr. Pat Kennedy
Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

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

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