



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON THE 9th MARCH
2022**

Present: Cllr. Miriam Murphy, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Leas Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Tommy Annesley
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Peir Leonard

Via Conferene Call : Cllr. Sylvester Bourke

Officials Present: Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, ASO

Via Conferene Call : Ms. Helena Dennehy, A/District Manager

Press : None

Public: None

The members agreed to suspend the Standing Orders for the meeting to allow discussion of a notice of motion submitted to all by email from Cllr Leonard – It was agreed that this could be discussed at 5pm.

Item 1 : Votes of Sympathy.

The members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost loved ones,

Patrick Cox, M. Brauders, Tom Kavanagh, John De Courcy, Eileen Byrne, Jim Lavery, Charlotte Luck.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2 : Confirmation of Minutes from Ordinary Meeting held on the 9th February 2022.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 9th February 2022 were proposed by Cllr Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald.

Item 3 : Matters Arising.

No matters arising.

Item 4 : Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

No reports or recommendations brought before the meeting.

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

District Engineers Report

The programme of works for 2022 will be finalised once AMD have confirmation of funding received.

Roads Programme

Regional Roads

Resurfacing and line marking on R753 Aughrim to Ballinaclash due to begin once temperatures increase.

Work has commenced on the L-2149-0 Avondale Road.

Footpath Schemes

R747 Vale Rd – Extruded kerb will be replaced and then footpath will be completed.

Community Monuments Fund

AMD have made applications for the following locations;

- Abbey Cemetery – conservation of boundary wall
- Arklow Castle – Works to tower including archaeology
- Kilbride Cemetery – Repair/rebuild boundary wall

Playgrounds

New Viking ship play equipment is being installed in the playground at Seaview Avenue.

Speed Limit Review

The pre-draft consultation phase of the speed limit review has commenced.

Any submissions can be discussed with DE or sent to speedlimits@wicklowcoco.ie.

Comments :

Cllr Murphy enquired if there would be a meeting on the speed limit review – Cllr Fitzgerald stated that meetings were held previously – Cllr Murphy suggested that in committee meetings take place initially to discuss areas of note. A Hill DE confirmed that a query has already been received for one area of note and a traffic counter is now in place there. Cllr Leonard asked for a traffic counter on part of the current diversion route - A Hill DE confirmed that counters were already in place as part of the temporary one-way system. Cllr Bourke named some other areas of note for the speed limit review. Cllr Murphy re-iterated that all submissions are to be made by email to Avril or to the specific email address in the email notification received yesterday. A Hill DE confirmed that this is not the beginning of the process and that the review began in September – this is the pre-draft phase that is open for submissions and agreed to meet with the members to discuss any areas of concern.

Cllr Murphy requested that a ramp is installed at Barndarrig and A Hill DE said that funding would need to be made available for that request.

Cllr Leonard commended the AMD staff for the installation of the Viking playground piece.

Cllr Leonard commended the DE for the care and attention to the archaeological aspect of the works in the Abbey Graveyard – the works have been filmed and a local historian and an expert talked through the process

on the footage, this can be used at a later stage. A Hill DE confirmed that it is the only known undisturbed piece of ground in the town of that age.

Cllr Kennedy welcomed the fact that the L-2149 works have begun and asked that the speed limit review is highlighted in local papers and through the PPN. H Dennehy A/DM confirmed that this is the pre public consultation stage and confirmed that there will be a window for public consultation in the process. The estimated timeframe for the complete process including the issue of bye-laws will be 4 months – 6-8 weeks pre consultation and issue of bye-laws up to 8 weeks.

To note presentation delivered on the Parade Ground Public Realm Project.

Cllr Murphy said that the meeting with ARUP gave rise to a healthy discussion and questions were answered. Also clarified, was the need for a stronger communication strategy going forward – the team took on board our comments and will come back to us. Members agreed that the meeting went well.

Cllr Fitzgerald stated that people are adapting to using the South Exit rather than the North Exit off the motorway – this may affect the smaller shops on Main St.

Cllr Leonard requested that some support initiative is put in place for the traders – Poster campaign or something through the Chamber of Commerce. Cllr Murphy stated that there may be an issue with the traders not in the Chamber. Cllr Leonard suggested co-ordinating events to bring people into the town centre. C Lawless DA asked the members to keep in mind that the Ceremony of Remembrance will be held on the 20th March at the Bandstand and that the TT can share FB posts if the businesses are interested.

Cllr Annesley voiced his concerns on how the traders are being treated and that there is not enough parking on the street especially now with the temporary one way system – the yellow lines need to be removed. The location of the planters needs to be discussed – they are no benefit to the restaurants where they are at the moment. A Hill DE confirmed that she would check the markings on Main St. and that a filter lane would not be possible. Cllr Fitzgerald stated that there were a number of cars illegally parked on Saturday and Cllr Annesley confirmed that AGS were issuing tickets. The members requested that the parking availability on Main St. is increased while the works are ongoing.

To agree Discretionary Budget for 2022

Following the previous meeting, the members received a document outlining the budget proposals.

The budget was proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Kennedy – All members agreed with the figures proposed with an amount left for decision throughout the year.

The members discussed the public lighting on the Wexford Rd and A Hill DE re-iterated that the lighting has been deemed adequate – Cllr Leonard proposed a compromise of solar powered lights in planters – This can be investigated.

Cllr Leonard also mentioned that the sponsors for the harbour seats needs to be discussed – Cllr Kennedy asked that no advertisement is allowed on any seating in the district. Cllr Leonard agreed and is hoping to discuss a design with the Maritime Museum, with a possible addition of a QR code with a link to a trail.

To discuss CLAR funding 2022.

The closing date for submission of applications is 06th May – the potential applications were discussed – Ballinacor and Kilpipe. Criteria requirement for the applications are not ideal.

To agree allocation for Estate Development Grants.

All agreed with the proposed grants provided applications are complete.

To receive an update on the Arklow Primary Care Health Centre.

The progress of the build on site was discussed and all are eager to see the building open and are hopeful about with the list of services that will be available – can the members talk to the HSE about other services that can be made available in Arklow – Cllr Fitzgerald agreed to relay that message and Cllr Leonard also agreed to ask. Cllr Kennedy suggested inviting the Director of Community Care to meet with us and have a list for them – get the ball rolling. A Hill DE confirmed that that the builders hope to be off site in May-June and that the building will be open from July. The members will also request clarification on where, if any, the access to Main St. will be.

Cllr Murphy noted her concern at the fact that no Changing Places had been installed.

Item 6 : Notice of Motions.

In the name of Cllr. Peir Leonard and Cllr Miriam Murphy. - “ That Arklow MD in consideration of the impact of the Parade Ground works on local traders introduce a 7 week free 2 hour car parking during this critical part of the project which sees two main arteries of traffic closed into Arklow Main Street simultaneously.”. (Received on 9th March 2022)

C Lawless DA confirmed that any change to parking bye laws would need to go before a plenary session. H Dennehy A/DM confirmed that nothing new can be brought before a special meeting. Cllr Leonard asked that all efforts to look at parking availability currently would be welcomed.

The procedure for making changes to bye-laws was discussed and also the frustration of the traders on the Main St. whose day to day business has been affected by the works. Cllr Annesley was very irate that the traders pay rates and need to meet payroll costs with no extra support. The members agreed with the proposal to change the bye-laws and will bring it to the next plenary session if necessary. C Lawless DA will check procedure for this request.

Item 7 : Correspondence

No correspondence received.

Item 8 : Any Other Business

Cllrs Fitzgerald and Bourke requested that AMD look at the previous request to install handrails at the Coolgreaney Rd entrance to St. Gabriel’s Cemetery – this was promised before and not done. Cllr Kennedy suggested that the cost comes from discretionary funding. A Hill DE agreed to look at this proposal. Cllr Leonard asked that the trees are pruned back at the steps.

The members discussed applications for funding for the St. Patrick’s Day parades in the district. The Proposed amounts were agreed by all – proposed by Cllr Annesley and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald -

Arklow	€1000
Rathdrum	€ 750
Aughrim	€ 750

Cllr Annesley raised concerns about holding events going forward with rising costs and the fear of committees failing. The added issue with the ongoing Parade Ground works may mean that the Seabreeze Festival will not go ahead this year – the space needs to be available and the committee needs to know now so that plans can be made. There is a lot relying on this festival going ahead. A Hill DE suggested talking to the Public Realm Team to get a clearer idea of finishing dates for the works. Cllr Annesley agreed to contact the engineer overseeing the works.

C Lawless DA informed the members that the ORIS funding stream is now open for applications – Measure 1 30k. Measure 2 200k. Measure 3 500k. – Cllr Kennedy suggested that the funding required to extend the Sean Linehan Walk could come under this scheme. Cllr Fitzgerald stated that he had discussed the possibility of applying for funding with the DA for Glenart. Cllr Leonard suggested that parking could be available in the Ballyraine area – private landowner. The trails could be developed and could tie in with the Greenway. C Lawless DA confirmed that any suggestions will go back to Carol Coade.

H Dennehy A/DM recused herself from the meeting for discussion of a previously discussed NoM – Gaffney Family – Mary Kate WD30.

Cllr Leonard reported that the NoM was blocked from going to the meeting and cannot give a reason why some get through and some don't. Firmly believe that CJ Gaffney's rights have been denied and it is the only avenue left – he has done everything right. Clarification is required on the decision to exclude it. The family have been chasing this for 15 years. The members discussed the implications for following through if a NoM is deemed illegal and discussed how best to proceed on the matter. The Motion is not threatening and is requesting a report, nothing more. The suggestion of independent legal advice was mooted. All agreed that it is important that CJ gets to tell his story and all acknowledged that this is a very complex case.

Meeting concluded.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 13th April 2022.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: _____

Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District