



**Wicklow County Council  
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

**ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON THE 10<sup>th</sup> MAY  
2023**

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

**Officials Present:** Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager  
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer  
Ms. Philippa O'Connor CO

**Apologies:** Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator

**Press:** Eoin Mac Raghnaill

**Public:** None

**Presentations:** None

**Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.**

The members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost a loved one, those mentioned were –

Alvina Kelly, Austin Gayer, Eamon Burke, Selcuk Kolluk, James Carroll, Brian Nolan, Phyllis White, Anne O’Flaherty, Mary Newsome, Michael Kenny, Kathleen Byrne, Michelle Henry, Jim Byrne, Bridget McDonald, Rev Fr Chris Conroy O Carm, Dan Morley, Sean Killoran, Jim Kelly.

A minutes silence was observed.

**Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 were proposed by Cllr Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Leonard.

**Item 3: Matters Arising.**

Cllr Fitzgerald asked for an update on the progress of the Columbarium wall. A Hill DE said that it had gone out to tender for both a double and single sided wall. The tenders will be received and assessed by the Environment section and work should start this year. Cllr Fitzgerald expressed his thanks to everyone involved for progressing it.

**Item 4: Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.**

**District Engineers Report**

**Roads**

**Restoration Improvement**

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
TBC	Tender Award

**Restoration Maintenance**

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
TBC	Roads Dept. to complete designs

**Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience**

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
Retaining wall on R754 at Knockanree	Work due to commence week beginning 02/05

**Safety Improvement Works**

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R747 Woodenbridge & Aughrim	Tender awarded. Work commencing week beginning 02/05

### Former National Roads

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R772 Knockmore to Kish	Finalising design with NTA team

### Local Improvement Schemes

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
Ballinacor, Greenane	Awaiting confirmation from Roads that scheme will go ahead.
Drumdangan, Glenealy	
Coolahulle, Aghrim	

### Discretionary Funds 2023

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
Footpath – Brewery Bends	Scheduled with GSS
Arklow South Peir - Removal of sand	Completed
Upgrade of footpaths 130-204 Fernhill	TBC with GSS
Footpath in Greenane - Completion	Tender awarded for kerb
Repair verge behind 3-4 St. Mary's Crescent Barndarrig	TBC with GSS
Bus Shelter in Aghrim	Seeking Quotations
Bus Shelter in Annacurra	Seeking Quotations
Public lighting at The Birches, Ballinaclesh	Liaising with lighting designer
Public Realm - Arklow	Putting scope of works together
Public Realm - Rathdrum	Seeking prices for bollards & planters
Educational signage at beaches	Liaising with Cllr. Leonard
Repair of footpath at Curran's Corner	TBC with GSS
The Pines	TBC with Residents Association
Footpath at Ferrybank	TBC with GSS
Footpath at RNLI	TBC with GSS
Tree management	Putting scope of works together
Contingency (footpaths at Templeraíne Heights)	

### Other Projects

Consultant has been appointed for Rathdrum Traffic Study

Business case has been put together for Abbey Lane

**Comments –**

A Hill DE stated that under 'Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience' the start date for the retaining wall at Knockanree was delayed to 22/05.

The bus shelters for Aughrim and Annacurra (under Discretionary Funds) are to be ordered next week.

Cllr Kennedy asked when the Rathdrum Traffic Study would be available – A Hill DE said she wasn't sure but would find out.

The Business case for Abbey Lane includes repairs to the wall between the Cemetery and Abbey Lane and the placing of planters to enable the removal of the temporary fending.

R747 'Safety Improvement Works'. Cllr Kennedy stated it was good to see the safety barrier, and was wondering if more could be done. A Hill DE explained it was more complicated in other parts as there was nowhere to fit a safety barrier by the river, so more funding needs to be sought to extend the works.

Cllr Leonard requested a formal meeting with Roadstone regarding the poor state of the road.

Cllr Leonard also asked that the repair of the footpath on the Wexford Road could be completed and the gravel part replaced with tarmac. A Hill DE said that funding would be needed to complete this and to be clear once complete the residents would no longer be able to park as it would be all footpath.

Cllr Leonard asked about the Tigroney-Conary works. A Hill DE said the worst part would be done this year, Cllr Leonard asked for a programme of works; A Hill DE will talk to the contractor. Cllr Kennedy pointed out there was a family with medical needs on this road and could that part be prioritised, A Hill DE will look into it.

Cllr Bourke wanted to acknowledge the good work done on the roads around Redcross and to thank the Roads section for the high standard of work. Cllr Kennedy also acknowledged the good work done in places, but also wanted to reiterate that more funding was still needed for rural roads. L Earls DM said she had spoken to a representative of the Department Of Transport recently and they are aware of the condition of many of the roads. They wouldn't commit to add funding but said they would be in contact with WCC when funding was available.

Cllr Fitzgerald pointed out there appeared to be an uneven distribution of funding around the country and particularly for rural roads.

Cllr Leonard wanted to bring up the topic of creating short term parking for businesses on Upper Main Street.

Cllr Annesley talked about the crossing on Currans Corner, this has been removed on request of the Councillors but he requested an alternative crossing point, perhaps at the Bridge Hotel. He was of the opinion that although the markings have been burnt off it still appears there is a crossing there. He also wanted to know an end date of the Dublin Road NTA works – L Earls DM said it was her understanding it will be completed by the end of June.

Cllr Kennedy asked A Hill DE to review in the near future alternative locations for a crossing on Bridge Street.

Cllr Murphy wanted to thank the outdoor staff for their hard work in removing the May Day fire rubbish and bonfire piles, and to the Arklow Fire Service for all their hard work.

At this point all the Councillors wanted to congratulate John Daly and his wife Avril on the birth of their baby Jessica.

**Item 5: Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members.**

Nothing brought to the meeting.

**Item 6: Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting.**

***To set a date for the Annual Meeting.***

The AGM will be held on the 12th June 2023. Proposed by Cllr Bourke, Seconded by Cllr Murphy.

All agreed.

**Item 7: Notice of Motion/s**

**(a) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Tommy Annesley Received on 15/02/23**

*“That Arklow Municipal District look at replacing the Footpaths at Templerainey Heights”*

Deferred from April meeting.

Seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald.

Agreed

A Hill DE said allowance has been made from the discretionary funding for this work.

**(b) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Tommy Annesley Received on 15/02/23**

*“That Arklow Municipal District look at installing a footpath between Arklow Bearing Services and Arklow Recycling Centre in Croghan Industrial Estate”*

Deferred from April meeting.

Seconded Cllr Fitzgerald

Cllr Fitzgerald pointed out that some of the grass verge where the footpath would need to go is privately owned. Cllr Bourke suggested approaching the owner to donate. A Hill DE said there is no money in the discretionary funds to do any work on the footpath this year.

Agreed subject to landowner's permission.

#### **Item 8: Correspondence**

Cllr Leonard had requested a 3-D model from Irish Water of works under the pyramid at Arklow Castle. She wanted to thank Irish Water and L Earls DM for their work, a presentation was made by Irish Water to the elected members in County Buildings with information on the plans.

#### **Item 9: Any Other Business**

##### **Beech Road**

Cllr Bourke raised the issue of no road markings on part of Beech Road.

A Hill DE to look into it.

##### **Avoca National School**

Cllr Bourke said there is no footpath between the school entrance and the crossing. A Hill DE suggested the school apply directly to the NTA to be part of the 'Safe Routes to School' programme

##### **Barndarrig – Proposed Traveller Accommodation Units**

Cllr Leonard asked if AMD could write to the Traveller Accommodation Committee to communicate with the local community to keep them informed. L Earls DM said she would direct this request to the relevant DOS.

##### **133 Bus Route**

Cllr Leonard expressed her concern about the sudden cancellation of some bus services with no prior warning. She emailed the NTA regarding this but has received no response. There needs to be a Community Survey for what the community wants and needs.

L Earls DM said the buses were outside the remit of AMD but she will push the NTA for a meeting to discuss. Public transport is a huge concern for the people of Arklow

##### **Knockmore Bus Shelter**

Cllr Fitzgerald asked when the bus shelter would be put up – A Hill DE said it would be at the end of June/beginning of July.

##### **Rental Scheme for Council Houses**

Cllr Fitzgerald raised the subject of the rental scheme for council houses - there was some discussion regarding the recent press coverage of Council Tenants being able to rent out a spare room in their houses and earn up

to €14,000 tax free. There was concern that this had been on all the front pages, but that it hasn't been officially announced by the Department of Housing.

The Councillors are being asked questions about it but can't give answers as they don't have any information.

L Earls DM to talk to the Director of Housing about this.

#### **Pitch and Putt**

Cllr Annesley said the residents want to know what is happening here. There is a lot of anti-social activity going on at the pitch and putt course.

L Earls DM will contact CCSD to discuss.

#### **Town Team Planters**

Cllr Leonard said Tidy Towns were looking for financial help to supply compost for the planters on the bridge.

A Hill DE said there is no money in discretionary funding for this – Cllr Kennedy suggested all can look into any possibilities for funding.

#### **Kilbride Cemetery**

Cllr Annesley mentioned Jennifer Kavanagh is looking for secure storage on site for maintenance tools for the cemetery, possibly a container. Cllr Bourke to ask developers on site next door if some of their storage could be used.

#### **St Gabriel's Graveyard**

Cllr Kennedy mentioned there was concern about the need for an extension to St Gabriel's graveyard as it is filling up. It needs to be kept on the agenda.

Cllr Fitzgerald agreed as the population will grow with the completion of the WWTP, the Columbarium wall would not be everyone's choice.

L Earls DM to raise with the DOS over Environment.

#### **Ash Dieback**

Cllr Kennedy raised the issue of Ash dieback. He suggested AMD should ask land owners to check trees on their boundaries and remove those that are unsafe.

Cllr Bourke said removal of trees can be a very expensive business and suggested there should be government funding for this as it is a national issue and it is unfair to put the financial burden on landowners.

Cllr Leonard will raise this at the Climate Group.

Cllr Kennedy proposed L Earls DM write to the Minister to bring in a scheme to fund.

Seconded by Cllr Murphy.

**South Wicklow Ambulance Service**

Cllr Kennedy said there was concern about the level of cover in South Wicklow. He would like to invite the ambulance service to do a presentation on the cover.

Cllr Leonard sent an email to the HSE about service cover, and was told there was 24/7 service except on a Tuesday, when the National Ambulance Service cover it.

**Pharmacy in Primary Care Centre**

Cllr Fitzgerald raised the subject of no access from Main Street through to the Primary Care Centre and the pharmacy there has closed down. It is a breach of the Planning Permission and L Earls DM raised this with the developer and has referred it to Planning Enforcement.

L Earls DM to follow up with Planning Enforcement.

**Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023.**

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

**Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.**

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

**Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District**