



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN ARKLOW LIBRARY ON WEDNESDAY

11th NOVEMBER 2020

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

Officials Present: Mr. Colm Lavery, District Manager
Mr. Rob Mulhall, A/District Engineer
Mr. Merlin Ovington, Administrative Officer – TWES
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator

Item 1: Vote of Sympathy:

The members expressed votes of sympathy to the families of those who have recently passed away, too numerous to name individually. All present acknowledged that this has been a very difficult time for those who have lost loved ones especially with restrictions on attendance at funerals.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 17th June 2020.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held in The Coral Leisure Centre, Arklow on the 17th June 2020 were proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald.

Item 3: Matters Arising.

Cllr Bourke referred to the public lighting proposal for Ballyrichard under the discretionary spending programme and has spoken to the landowner and confirmed that, the landowner would accommodate the installation of the public light on his lands.

Item 4: Rob Mulhall, A/ District Engineer to discuss –

Roads Programme 2020

All of the Restoration Improvement (resurfacing) works and Restoration Maintenance (surface dressing) works are complete for 2020.

Discretionary Works

With regard to the discretionary projects list of approximately 21 different projects agreed, each of the projects is at varying stages of progression as per the table below;

No. of Projects 2020	Projects Complete	Works ongoing/starting October/November 2020	Project to start/Discussion ongoing
21	18	2	1

Rob Mulhall DE also confirmed that building bricks for The Pines estate entrance pier are currently on order and should be delivered by the end of this week.

IPB Remedial Works

The Footpath/IPB Remedial Works commenced in Arklow on 21st September 2020, it is intended to close out the rest of the defects by the end of December. Agreement has also been reached with Irish Water to address approximately 50 trip hazards around water meters in Arklow Town including a number on Sea Road and Ferrybank. A contractor is currently on site carrying out these repairs.

Low Cost Safety Schemes

Civil works have been completed for the Wexford Rd. South, pedestrian crossing upgrade – Electrical connection to be completed. Civil works for the Wexford Rd. North, pedestrian crossing upgrade are to be completed by the 18th November. Works are complete on the Vale Rd safety barrier and the works for the Saville's Cross pedestrian crossing will begin by the end of the month (Own crew currently working on North Beach walk restoration works.)

Other Road Works –LIS & CIS Works

LIS works at Raheen, Beech Rd have been completed and works at Shroughmore Arklow are commencing week beginning 23rd November 2020.

Funding was secured for one CIS project in Arklow MD – Coolbawn, Aughrim – likely start date for works will be mid November 2020.

Additional Capital Projects 2020

All but one of the July Stimulus projects being funded by the National Transport Authority is at construction stage. In terms of the Arklow North project for new cycle lanes and footpath, discussions are ongoing between the WCC Roads Department and the NTA regarding the final design for the cycle lanes and footpath.

The resurfacing works on the L-6145-0 are being deferred until 2021 as the current weather conditions are not suitable for surface dressing.

North Arklow – cycle lanes and footpaths	€295,000(amended incorrect on report circulated prior to meeting)	Start date TBC (NNR crew) works may carry into 2021 – at design stage
R-752 Avoca – The meetings (footpath repairs)	€250,000	Works 60% Complete
R-752 The Meetings – Rathdrum footpath	€260,000	Works 40% Complete
Retaining Wall and Footpath Aughrim	€360,000	Works 50% Complete
L-6145-0 Ballinaclash Resurfacing	€180,000	Works deferred until 2021

Cllr Leonard asked if any input had been considered from local groups or is it solely a WCC design – is there any scope for this. Rob Mulhall DE replied that all cycle lanes are designed and installed to agreed standards and there is generally no variation to this.

Cllr Fitzgerald stated that cycle lanes are also needed on the south side of Arklow. Rob Mulhall DE replied that options on the south side of Arklow have been considered. Cllr Fitzgerald stated that footpaths from the Kish Bridge were also badly needed. Colm Lavery DM confirmed that other funding packages would come and WCC will apply – the July stimulus package was issued with such a short timeframe and WCC will be better prepared for future packages. The members need to let AMD know now about proposals before packages are announced.

Members discussed current proposals that should get priority – walkways and cycle lanes – Kish into town, Arklow to Woodenbridge, Cllr Bourke asked of there was any update on the proposed greenway – Colm Lavery said he would ask the engineer for an update on that – waiting on a statement from the consultants. Rob Mulhall re-iterated that it was a priority to get cycle lanes and pathways to the outskirts of the town – important both commercially and for residents. Cllr Fitzgerald said that development levies would be coming in and Cllr Murphy said that TD's also need to be lobbied. Cllr Kennedy agreed with the other members and that funds would be available.

Cllr Kennedy asked if trees near the Avoca depot had been removed – Rob Mulhall said AMD would do that.

Cllr Bourke asked for an update on the bus shelters under the CEP scheme – Rob Mulhall replied that the foundations were in and shelters were to be delivered within the next few weeks and civil works contractor would finish the floors of the shelters.

Item 5: To consider the adoption of the 2021 Draft Budgetary Plan for Arklow MD.

Colm Lavery DM advised all there have been a few CPG meetings since the plan was issued and it was mentioned that there was no GMA provision this year, bar the sponsorship scheme amount and Brian Gleeson HOF proposed that the GMA provision be re-introduced - €54,000 for AMD. For the purpose of the meeting today, the members could only consider the original Draft Budgetary Plan and could only adopt the original amount of €21,000.

Cllr Kennedy stated that a lot of work has gone into the budget process and the knock on effect of the LPT decision had to be considered. The recent workshop helped to put issues in perspective and all now know that discretionary spending is not there for the year ahead. Management is dealing with the unprecedented effects of Covid 19.

The Draft Budgetary Plan was proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Kennedy.

Other funding options were discussed including IPB funds and Colm Lavery DM re-iterated that capital account funds could not be used for revenue spending.

Item 6: To consider Festival Funding for 2020.

The following funding proposals for 2020 were put to the members –

Arklow Christmas Festival Committee	€1,000
Arklow Halloween Festival Committee	€ 800
Aisling Nolan – Release Wellness	€1,000
Light up Avoca	€ 700

The grants were proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Kennedy.

Item 7: To consider the Part VIII report for the proposed development of storage facilities for Fishers at South Quay, Arklow.

Merlin Ovington AO briefed the members on the CE report for the Part VIII development proposed for the South Quay in Arklow.

Cllr Leonard asked for the number of licensed fishermen for the area – Merlin Ovington AO replied that the vessels were registered on the DAFM Fleet Register rather than individuals and that there were a number of non commercial fishermen using the South Quay. WCC will request that the all existing licences are surrendered with a view to reviewing all licences. The units will be developed so that utilities can be connected in the future. Further questions were raised about collection of fees and access to the huts – Area is monitored via CCTV.

Merlin Ovington AO stated that the proposed works would be carried out in two phases – 6 units at a time. Owners will be required to dispose of their own container / units.

Cllr Fitzgerald stated that monies due had not been collected over the years – Merlin Ovington AO confirmed that the billing and collection process is in place.

Cllr Leonard commented that although not happy with the location, the proposal is a good one and shows progress – also requested the following be considered –

- One unit to be converted to toilets
- Gaps between the units are extended.

Merlin Ovington AO confirmed that the gaps could not be extended as the space is not there. The members stressed that the inclusion of toilets at some point is necessary – Merlin Ovington AO agreed but indicated that the provision of a toilet would have to be a separate project, funding is not one off as there are significant ongoing costs in providing toilet facilities.

All members voted in favour of the proposal and approved the Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, for – Development of Storage Facilities for Fishers at South Quay, Arklow.

Item 8: Notice of Motions

(a) Motion in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard (Received on 29/05/20)

"That Arklow Municipal District repair the coastal walkway at North Beach, Arklow as a matter of urgency as it is a health and safety hazard for the public and an extremely important public amenity for the people of Arklow".

These works are currently underway and are due to be completed by 20th November. The projected cost of carrying out these works is in excess of €34,200.00.

The members commended the progress made on making the repairs.

(b) Motion in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard (Received on 29/05/20)

"That Arklow Municipal District creates a walkway on the top of the embankment at South Beach to the area known as the Cove Beach, parallel to the existing road when funding allows".

The location of the proposed walkway is on private land and therefore we would be unable to do this work. The ownership of land and roadway at South Beach was discussed and Cllr Leonard asked that this is clarified.

(c) Motion In the name of Cllr Pat Fitzgerald (Received on 25/6/20)

"That restoration works are carried out on the Ballyduff road commonly known as the Johnstown road as soon as possible. The section of road in question is from the water treatment plant to Foxtons corner. "

The Restoration Improvement Programme for 2021 is already in planned and so these works cannot be completed in 2021. This project will be considered for the Restoration Improvement Programme in 2022. This road (L-2191-30) is approximately 1,800 metres in length and approximately 5 metres wide. The total cost of completing these works would be in the region of €180,000.

Cllr Murphy stressed that this road is a very bad state - Cllr Fitzgerald proposed that works are commenced on this stretch as soon as possible, Cllr Murphy seconded this. Rob Mulhall DE confirmed that the funding would be sought outside of RI Programme funding – the earliest it could be considered under RI would be 2022.

(d) Motion In the name of Cllr Pat Fitzgerald & Sylvester Bourke (Received on 01/7/20)

"That urgent works on the Ballydonnell to Blindwood road are carried out as soon as possible. The road resembles a dirt track at present. "

The L-6167-0 is not currently on the Roads Programme. It could be considered for the roads Programme in the future however it would not be a priority project given the small numbers of traffic using the roadway. There are only 4 properties located along it. The length of this road is approximately 2,000 metres and the average width is 3.5 metres. The approximate cost of resurfacing this roadway would be in the region of €150,000. The roadway would be a good candidate for a future Community Involvement Scheme if the residents were interested in making an application. The project will be kept in mind for any future funding schemes that become available e.g. similar to the Climate Change Adaption Funding received recently. AMD will continue to maintain the road in the meantime and will address any drainage issues where required.

(e) Motion In the name of Cllr Pat Fitzgerald (Received on 06/7/20)

"That Wicklow County Council produce a report on what space is available in St. Gabriel's graveyard, Arklow for future burials".

The number of plots remaining was confirmed at 150 – The number of plots remaining was confirmed at 150 – approximately enough for the next 6 years at the current level of demand.

The members discussed how plots were given out and it was stated by members that double plots were not available for purchase; however, Merlin Ovington AO noted that this was not the case and that double plots could still be purchased. Merlin Ovington AO confirmed that the pre-selling of plots was no longer possible since 2019 and this is the newer policy. The members asked that the policy be circulated to them. The members stated that the issue has been on the agenda a long time and WCC need to be pro-active about the future of the graveyard.

The members asked for an update on the proposed Columbarium Wall for the graveyard – Merlin Ovington AO confirmed that AMD needed to find funding for this project and suggested that the members consider all options – new graveyard or extend. Cllr Kennedy suggested that this issue goes back to the SPC. Potential sites were mentioned and Merlin Ovington confirmed that Part 8 approval would be required. Cllr Murphy requested that this item remain on the agenda for the next meeting.

(f) Motion in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard (Received on 13/7/2020)

"That Arklow Municipal District agrees to allocate sufficient green field site in proximity to Arklow Duck Pond for a Community Dog Park when funding becomes available."

AMD are currently looking at the possibility of engaging a consultant in 2021 (funding permitting) to look at an overall design for the Duck Pond/Leisure Centre/Running Track area. It was confirmed that Arklow Tidy Towns has received €6,000 in funding to create a dog park in the area of the duck pond. The proposed location for the dog park is half way along the duck pond, behind the existing sea defence structure. The installation of the park fencing will commence before the end of November 2020.

Cllr Annesley requested that the location of the park is well away from the area where the birds are fed. Rob Mulhall DE confirmed that this had been a consideration when choosing the location for the park. Cllr Leonard asked that any works in the area be carried out after a consultation period.

(g) Motion in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard (Received on 13/7/2020)

"That Arklow Municipal District agrees to install a footpath from the new pedestrian crossing on the Vale Road to the area known as Ballyraine, Arklow."

Footpath located on the R-747 and would be approximately 150 metres in length. The overall cost of completing this work would be in the region of €25,000. This project would be a very worthwhile project and a good candidate for discretionary spending in 2021/2022. The pathway would enable clients at Ballyraine, particularly those in wheelchairs to access the existing pedestrian crossing safely.

Cllr Fitzgerald supported this motion – pathway needs to be finished.

(h) Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Pat Kennedy (Received on 18/07/20)

“That the members of Arklow Municipal District provide funding to continue the footpath from the Ballinaclash Junction along the Arklow Road for a distance of 300m. This footpath can be installed in one or two phases. This is an extremely busy road where there are young children and a guesthouse.”

It may be possible to execute these works in 2020 if sufficient funding remains following the completion of the NTA scheme or The Ballinaclash junction realignment. If funding is not available in 2020 it was suggested that it could be considered for discretionary funding in 2021/2022.

The footpath would be located on the R-752, would be approximately 300m in length and would cost in the region of €30,000 to construct.

(i) Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, and Cllr. Tommy Annesley (Received on 18/07/20)

“That the members of Arklow Municipal District provide funding for two public toilets, one for Rathdrum and a second to be located on the South Quay in Arklow. These toilets are a much-needed facility in both locations.”

A quotation was sought from an independent company for the provision of a public toilet system. This system would remain on lease for the period of 15 years and the maintenance and cleaning of this unit would be their responsibility. The cost associated with a 15 year rental and maintenance agreement (per unit) would be €24,000 per annum (CPI indexed linked). There would also be an initial cost of €3,000 for the delivery and installation of each unit. Each unit would also require a connection to the Irish Water foul sewer network. This project could be considered for discretionary funding in 2021/2022, with the lease and rental agreement being paid for through discretionary funding in subsequent years.

Cllr Bourke commented that the costs would have a big effect on AMD budget and asked if self financing ones were an option – Colm Lavery DM confirmed that one of the other districts had one and the costs were not covered by fees charged.

(j) Motion In the name of Cllr Pat Fitzgerald (Received on 05/08/20)

“That the footpath between Marian Villas and Fernhill is upgraded and also that lights are installed through the green area.”

A footpath currently exists at this location however it is in poor condition and undersized. A new footpath would be approximately 150 metres in length and 1.5 metres in width. To illuminate the footpath it would be necessary to install electrical ducting along the path and ducting to the closest ESB supply point. Six– seven lighting columns would also be required. An ESB connection fee of approximately €1,500 would also apply.

The overall cost of completing these works would be in the region of €32,000. This project would be worthwhile project and worth considering for discretionary spending in 2021/2022. The pathway is heavily utilised by children going to/coming from school.

(k) Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Pat Kennedy, (Received on 13/09/20)

“That we procure the necessary professional services to design an internal pedestrian bridge at Rednagh Bridge in Aughrim. Rednagh Bridge is well in excess of 200 years old and was not constructed with motorised traffic in mind. This has left it extremely dangerous for pedestrians of whom there are a large amount given the proximity of the Ciaran Shannon Walk and the Aughrim Community Field. This will only increase with the proposed Shillelagh to Arklow Greenway.”

Rednagh Bridge is located over the Aughrim River on the L-2143-0 outside Aughrim. The bridge is over 200 years old and features beautiful stonework. Prior to doing any work on this project or securing funding for a design it would first be necessary to liaise with the WCC Heritage Officer to ascertain if there could be any issues with installing a new modern bridge adjacent to the existing. In the event that there are no issues around heritage, then it would be possible to procure the services of a consultant to develop a design for the structure. This project may be a good candidate for discretionary funding in 2021/2022. It is important to highlight that a Part 8 would be required for a structure to be constructed at that location.

(l) Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Pat Kennedy, (Received on 13/09/20)

“That we provide funding for the upgrade of the Centre Road, Ballygannon, Rathdrum. This road is in a very poor state of disrepair.

The L-6122 (Centre Road) is a local secondary road. It measures approximately 200m. The approximate cost of resurfacing this road would be in the region of €20,000. This roadway is unlikely to make it onto the roads programme but could be considered for discretionary funding in 2021/2022.

(m) Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Pat Kennedy, (Received on 13/09/20)

“While the Main Street in Rathdrum is due to be resurfaced next year, 2021, can we please look at the possibility of bringing this date forward as the area from Savills Cross to Market Square is in a deplorable, disgraceful, and unsafe condition.

The R-755 on Rathdrum Main Street is located in an urban area and as a result should be overlaid with Stone Mastic Asphalt to ensure that road noise from vehicles traversing it is minimised. The temperatures at this time of year are not suitable for laying hot asphalt. Recommendation would be to leave this project until the summer of 2021 when the temperatures are more favourable. This project is currently on the 2021 restoration improvement programme.

Item 9: To consider bringing forward the date of free parking for the Christmas period to the 16th November 2020

The members voted in favour of bringing forward the date for free parking to the 16th November 2020 – Proposed by Cllr Bourke and seconded by Cllr Kennedy.

Item 10: To consider carrying out an overall plan for the Seaview Avenue area.

Item deferred to next meeting.

Item 11: To receive an update on Port Charges for Arklow and Wicklow

The different levels of charges in both harbours were discussed – discussions are ongoing in relation to streamlining the charges. Previously charges were set by the officials of the independent Harbour Authority. It is intended to have proposals ready for January 2021.

Item 12: Correspondence

No correspondence presented.

Item 13: Any Other Business

Rob Mulhall DE confirmed that the Part VII for the works in Redcross were currently on display and the public could make submissions in the normal way.

Cllr Kennedy referred to a recent explosion in Rathdrum and damage to public lighting and asked that the public lights in that area are fixed as soon as possible.

Cllr Leonard highlighted issues with the flood defence scheme – Cllr Bourke asked that any concerns be emailed to all for further discussion.

Cllr Bourke wished all well and closed the meeting.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 10th February 2021.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: _____

Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District