



**Wicklow County Council  
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

**ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON ZOOM PLATFORM ON WEDNESDAY  
12<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021**

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

**Officials Present:** Mr. Colm Lavery, District Manager  
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator  
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer  
Mr. Rob Mulhall, Executive Engineer  
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, ASO/Orlagh Hall CO

**Press :** Ms. E Dodd WP

**Public:** Ms Jennifer Kavanagh

**Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.**

The Members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost loved ones. The members paid tribute to Sadie Fitzgerald and her contribution to the town community.

A minutes silence was observed.

**Item 2 : Confirmation of Minutes from Ordinary Meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021.**

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 21st April 2021 were proposed by Cllr Annesley and seconded by Cllr Murphy.

**Item 3 : Matters Arising.**

No matters arising.

#### **Item 4 : To consider the draft Civic Memorial Policy**

The document circulated captures the policy for all memorials and will be presented at a plenary meeting for adoption.

Cllr Bourke commented that the policy document seems to be straightforward and is acceptable.

Cllr Leonard commented that it's great that the bench and tree memorial proposals will come before the MD meetings. Cllr Annesley also welcomed this and mentioned the bench at Clogga.

Colm Lavery DM re-iterated that the members have been asked for comments or suggestions in relation to the policy document and that the policy will be adopted at plenary level.

Cllr Bourke said that all seemed to agree with the policy today and would bring any comments to the plenary session. Colm Lavery DM asked that any comments or suggestions are brought back to either him or the DA before the plenary session.

#### **Item 5 : District Engineers Report.**

##### Roads Programme –

DTTAs have allocated funding at county level – planning is ongoing for the programme of works.

##### Safety Improvement works –

The seven proposed schemes are at varying levels of progress – 2 are complete, 3 have the tender awarded and 2 are at design stage.

##### Former National Roads –

The Wexford Road rehabilitation project is at preliminary design stage.

##### Footpath Schemes –

The Rathdrum scheme is 90% complete – awaiting agreement with landowner on main section to be infilled. The tender has been awarded for the Vale Rd project and works will be carried out by WCC.

##### NTA Schemes –

All NTA schemes may continue during the current Covid19 lockdown. Allocations for Arklow District have been confirmed – 5 STMG projects and 2 AT projects.

Funding has been received from the NTA to make the bus stops on Wexford Road wheelchair accessible.

##### Other Road Projects –

The status of the following projects remains unchanged due to Covid19 restrictions – Saville's Cross, Ballinaclash Junction.

##### Town and Village Renewal –

Tenders for the Redcross Scheme have been returned and are being assessed.

##### Level 5 Restrictions –

Essential works are currently being undertaken and preparations are being made for the surface dressing season.

Community groups have been provided with litter pickers, bags and hi-vis vests and AMD have assisted with reported clean up through Environment Section. Currently looking at bins in the area and providing more signs re dog fouling.

### Housing Construction –

Update was given on three sites – Delany Park Phase 2, Avondale Phase 2, Sheehan Court (Old Firestation)

Cllr Bourke thanked all involved in getting the barriers installed on the Woodenbridge to Aughrim road – It is an extremely dangerous road when the river floods. The barriers in Woodview Park Avoca look really well also and the resurfacing works for the area needs to be kept on the list.

Cllr Leonard passed on comments received in relation to concern about the installation of public lighting along the R752/R753 Rathdrum to Avoca road and feared that the lighting may be excessive and would have too great a light pollution impact on the insect biodiversity – there are concerned beekeepers in the area.

Avril Hill DE confirmed that public lighting is dealt with centrally and asked that Cllr Leonard pass on the email she received and she would communicate with the sender directly.

Cllr Kennedy said that while this concern should be considered we need to also keep in mind the vacant chairs at Christmas due to accidents along this stretch and that the safety concerns need to be considered foremost. The power and intensity of the lighting could be something to look into and asked the DM to pass on this suggestion.

Cllr Murphy said it is fantastic to see results especially in rural areas. The workload of the Tidy Towns group was also acknowledged and the footfall and activity around the Duck Pond area also noted. One bin in the area is not enough - Cllr Murphy requested that a member of the outdoor staff is assigned to clean-up duties in the area and that visibility of a staff member in the area may act as a deterrent to littering in the area. The area needs continuous maintenance.

Cllr Fitzgerald stated that the footpaths in the Mountainview Drive estate are in a disgraceful state – unfortunate that there is no discretionary funding available – contacted the engineer about doing something about the condition of the footpaths. The footpaths in the area of Garvey's Farm are too narrow – there is an issue with the footpaths from Woodlands Estate.

Cllr Leonard commended the Tidy Towns group on their efforts on the approach roads into the town – it really lifts the whole town. Cllr Leonard also commented on the need to stop waste going to landfill where possible and suggested analysing what is being thrown away.

Cllr Bourke asked if there has been a recent TVR announcement and asked that the members are informed of the areas that have not yet received funding. Comments were also requested on the following –

- Arklow Dog Park
- LIS – possible late addition?
- Discussion about measures for Main St. outdoor dining areas.

Cllr Annesley added that the Tidy Towns group promoted the plan for the dog park and that its location could be controversial.

Rob Mulhall EE replied –

One scheme under the CIS in Killahurler would be going ahead and confirmed that the contribution had been paid. There has been no allocation to the LIS yet – applicants can apply and their interest will be listed – older applications will be prioritised and there may be a 2-3 year wait on works being carried out.

The works on the dog park are at a standstill due to current Covid restrictions – waiting for the contractor to fence off the area.

Gorey has introduced areas on the Main St. for pubs and restaurants and previous attempts on making the Main St in Arklow were not successful and seeing how well it works in Gorey has prompted me to ask again that the members review the one way system as an option to introduce outdoor dining areas on Main St. The members need to agree on options before progressing this.

Cllr Fitzgerald commented that the width of the Arklow's Main St. would be an issue if compared to Gorey's Main St. and space would be very tight. There would be more space up the street. The members are on board, it is the people that have issues with these plans and public consultation would be required. Although things are changing around the country it will be difficult to get this through.

Cllr Leonard said we need to do something different and suggested that using the existing parking spaces could be a precursor to introducing a one way system and that we need to try. AMD should provide little areas across the town to create an atmosphere. Some traders had an issue with the direction of the one way and we should consult with them individually.

Avril Hill DE confirmed that an application was with NTA to utilize the parking spaces.

Cllr Bourke said no one is using the parking spaces and he would welcome it and should not be ruled out.

Cllr Murphy stated that accessibility to the area and design would need to be considered in any plans for the Main St. or other areas – parents with buggies for example, the footpaths on Main St. are dreadful – Businesses need outdoor dining options.

Cllr Annesley asked all not to forget the impact of previous plans for the one way system on businesses on the street.

Cllr Annesley asked for clarification on the dog park plans – a resident close to the site is very upset and is adamant that the location is wrong – no one approached the resident and she feels it's too close to the duck pond and wildfowl. Cllr Annesley acknowledged the engineers vision for the town.

Rob Mulhall EE replied that a lot of consideration has been given to the location, it will be totally fenced off to give a confined space and will not interfere with the wild fowl in the area – he refuted the claim. The area is heavily utilised by dog owners.

Cllr Murphy agreed that it is a good idea and enquired if there was any consultation on this plan.

Cllr Leonard confirmed that the notice of motion was passed – was sceptical at first but the area will be behind an island of trees and hedging – looks exposed at the moment and further planting can be carried out. A year's growth will make a difference.

### **Item 6 : To receive an update on the Parade Ground redevelopment**

The preferred contractor has been selected and the contract signing is imminent. It is hoped that the works will begin in the summer months.

Cllr Bourke welcomed the news.

Cllr Annesley asked for further discussion on dining on the street. Cllr Bourke asked if an application for funding had been submitted.

Rob Mulhall EE confirmed the option of removing parking spaces for the installation of seating. Decarbonisation will also be a factor in this and changes will be made. Other modes of transport will be prioritised.

Cllr Fitzgerald asked for clarification on what parking would remain – Rob Mulhall confirmed that the disabled parking bays and loading bays would be retained.

Cllr Kennedy stressed the importance of getting the transport study completed – funding is needed – suggested that the street could be coned off for a temporary period to carry out a simple test of how it could work.

Colm Lavery DM stated that GMD carried out similar temporary works – planters and seating – narrowing the carriageway for use by the cafes and restaurants, using Stimulus Package funding and it was problematic at first but there is buy in there now amongst the community. It has been a great public realm area during the lockdown and may become permanent now that acceptance has been garnered.

Cllr Kennedy asked if all would support the DE in planning for this proposal – temporary cone system. Avril Hill DE confirmed that the proposal will be considered with the support of the members. Cllr Murphy asked that the members are kept informed as plans develop.

Cllr Leonard asked the members to consider a time capsule as part of the Parade Ground works – for the next generation.

### **Item 7 : To discuss Festival Funding for 2021**

The funding amount available is to be confirmed by email to the members – Cllr Bourke asked if the amount could be rolled forward – Claire Lawless confirmed that some funding was carried over from last year and will be used for the SEAnannigans festival – we could do the same this year. It is hoped the festival will go ahead in October. Cllr Annesley said it was unlikely that the Seabreeze Festival will take place this year – no way to restrict numbers.

Cllr Leonard suggested that small scale events to support artists affected by Covid could be planned – lost revenue and livelihoods – possible over the summer months. Cllr Fitzgerald countered that a lot more than artists were affected, Cllr Leonard replied that only the festival funding would be used.

Cllr Bourke recommended that the funding be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Item 8 : To receive an update on Arklow Town Team Projects**

Claire Lawless shared a presentation on the projects being undertaken by Arklow Town Team –

Flower Basket Scheme 2021

Visit Arklow Website

Harbour 2 Headwaters

SEAnanigans Seafood Festival

Glenart College Biodiversity Garden

Kilbride Graveyard

The Goods Store – Arklow Train Station

Cllr Bourke commented on the great work done to get the projects off the ground and thanked all involved.

Cllr Fitzgerald said it was great to see the traders contributing to the Flower Basket Scheme where they can in this tough year.

Cllr Kennedy commented on the work going on in the background and would encourage looking at developing an economic side to the Goods Store project, Cllr Leonard agreed – needs to be revenue positive. Cllr Kennedy also thanked J Kavanagh for her commitment to Kilbride graveyard and said it will be a hidden treasure. Cllr Leonard thanked the team working on the H2H project – D O Keeffe, A Ryder, J Rees and Y Whitty.

### **Item 9 : Notice of Motions**

#### **Motion 1 - in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard. (Received on 01.04.21)**

*“That Arklow Municipal District resurface the L-6181 at Tigroney, Avoca when funding becomes available”.*

Avril Hill DE confirmed that this stretch of road is on the shortlist and will be considered when funding becomes available.

#### **Motion 2 - in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard. (Received on 01.04.21)**

*“That Arklow Municipal District install the necessary speed ramps / traffic calming measures at the L113 road when funding allows and to make a commitment to review the speed limits and any unauthorised use of this rural road by heavy goods vehicles as a matter of urgency”.*

Rob Mulhall EE confirmed that residents from the area attended a public meeting and that a review is to be carried out later this year and submissions can be made as part of this process. Local haul routes are to be clarified in relation to planning conditions that are in place. The issue is with the Planning Enforcement section and is being investigated. AGS have investigated speeding complaints and have not recorded any incidents. AMD are in constant communication with the residents in relation to speed and also size of vehicles.

Cllr Leonard asked if any other traffic calming measures could be considered. Rob Mulhall EE confirmed that options would be considered and that line marking is an option and also the use of VMS digital signs. AMD are not aware of the use of ramps in the countryside and that vertical deflection would be the last measure and could not be considered. Colm Lavery DM commented that the use of ramps in an 80km zone would throw vehicles off the road and WCC follow national policy in relation to traffic calming measures – ultimately the public are entitled to use the road. Covid restrictions will delay the review and it is proposed to begin the review within 6 months of the restrictions being lifted for the whole country. Submissions will be invited from all relevant agencies – AGS, TII etc.

Cllr Kennedy said that resurfacing would increase speed on the road and he would not look for ramps ever to be installed on a rural road.

Cllr Leonard acknowledged all comments and stressed that residents were at the end of their tether and were reaching out for assistance – HGV's are the real issue and welcomed the suggestion of VMS digital sign which would be appreciated.

Colm Lavery DM re-iterated that anyone who pays motor tax is entitled to use the road and this is considered when choosing where to live and it is unfair to comment that anyone is being treated differently.

### **Item 10 : Correspondence**

Claire Lawless informed the members that WCC has received correspondence from the Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine confirming that funding has been received for the Arklow Harbour Area.

### **Item 11 : A.O.B**

Cllr Fitzgerald noted that 3 headstones in St.Gabriel's Cemetery have been knocked and 2 completely removed – possibly as a result of poor driving. Public should not have access to drive across the bottom of the cemetery. Bollards are needed for the area. Legal action may be taken if no response from WCC is forthcoming.

Rob Mulhall DE confirmed that bollards would be installed once they were received – also noted that 1 of the 3 mentioned was already behind a barrier and so it could not have been vehicular damage.

Cllr Annesley asked the DE to look at parking outside the Sunbeam Services premises on Lower Main St. with a view to putting a bus bay there – drop off and pick up can be difficult some days. Avril Hill DE agreed to look into this request.

Cllr Bourke asked that the cemetery kerbing policy is put on next month's agenda.

Cllr Kennedy asked the DE to assess the junction at St.Colman's in Rathdrum for possible re-alignment – there is a new housing estate being built there which will mean there are 5 access points.

Cllr Kennedy asked that the bottle banks in Rathdrum are cleaned.

Cllr Fitzgerald commended the DE and EE on securing funding for upgrading to wheelchair access bus stops.

Cllr Murphy received a call from a member of the public about the misuse of disabled parking bays – can this be highlighted with the parking contractor.

Colm Lavery DM will advise the members about and lifting of restrictions that may affect holding a meeting, closer to the June meeting.

Cllr Bourke closed the meeting.

**Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021.**

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

**Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.**

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

**Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District**