



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON THE 08th
FEBRUARY 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. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer
Mr. John Daly, Executive Engineer
Stephen Pearce Howes, Technician
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, ASO

Apologies: None

Press: Eoin Mac Raghnaill

Public: None

Presentations: AMD Rural Roads
GIS – Benches & Bins

Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.

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

Liam Walker, Gerry Doyle, Thomas Byrne, Audrey Boyd, Maria Byrne, Rose Grehan, John Kirwan.

A Minutes silence was observed.

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 11th January 2023 were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Bourke.

Item 3: Matters Arising.

A Brehony DA confirmed that the Christmas lights on Bridge Street have been taken down for repair/storage and thanked the members for their patience.

Cllr Leonard asked for an update on Kilbride Graveyard – A Hill DE confirmed that an application for funding has been submitted to the Heritage Council. Cllr Leonard stated that the community needs to know what the plans are for the pyramid and asked to be kept informed on any progress.

A Hill DE stated that the Parking Bye-Laws would be discussed at a later date.

A Hill confirmed that any materials removed from the Parade Ground that can be re-used have been safely stored and welcomed any suggestions on how these materials can be re-purposed.

Item 4: Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

District Engineers Report

Roads Programme:-

Former National Roads

| <i>Road No.</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Proposed Works</i> | <i>Status</i> |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| R772 | Emoclew Roundabout to Knockmore | Resurfacing & line marking | Contractor has carried out essential repairs. Resurfacing proposed for 13 th – 17 th Feb (Mid-Term break) |

Discretionary Funds

| <i>Proposed Works</i> | <i>Status</i> |
|---|---|
| Bus Shelter at Aughrim | Contractor advised they're being installed 2 nd /3 rd Feb. |
| Bus Shelter at Annacurragh | Contractor advised they're being installed 2 nd /3 rd Feb. |
| Footpath – Lower St. Rathdrum | Design to be considered after traffic survey – Money transferred to Avondale temporarily. |
| Footpath - Canary | Due to commence 8 th Feb. |
| Footpath - Thomastown | Complete |
| Footpath – Harbour Ct. Blackberry Glade | Commenced week of 31 st Jan. |
| Footpath – Brewery Bends | Scheduled with GSS |
| Footpath – Mountain Bay | Complete |
| Footpath – Greenane | Commenced |
| Benches – Arklow Harbour | Delivered. To be installed in agreed locations |
| Woodview Park – Road resurfacing | Waiting on start date from contractor. |

Business case for footpath on Beech Road from Templemichael Junction to Raheen was approved. Works will be undertaken by MD staff.

Tendered for surfacing works at Greenane footpath.

Other Projects

Application is being made to The Heritage Council under the Historic Town Initiative 2023 for Abbey Lane, Arklow Castle, and Kilbride Cemetery.

Waiting on feedback from The Pines Committee regarding proposal for the entrance.

Presentation

A Hill DE gave a presentation on rural roads in the district and described how the roads were rated using the PSCI system – this information is used in compiling the rolling 3 year roads programme.

A Hill DE gave a presentation on the current location of benches and bins in the town.

Comments –

The members asked if certain areas were still in the programme for works. A Hill DE replied that not all got done and confirmed that third party contractors carrying out works are conditioned as necessary to re-instate road surfaces. The funding received does not cover the full programme and the criteria and standards for works are set by the Department of Transport and the use of the PSCI system. The members agreed that the rural roads in some areas are in a dangerous condition and the DE cannot be held responsible – politicians need to step up and engage with central government. L Earls DM stated that WCC are engaging and acknowledged that there are 31 other LA's to be dealt with. The members agreed to draft a letter for all to sign from the MD. The members asked that the breakdown on rural roads is published on social media so that members of the public are kept informed.

The 150 benches have been assigned a condition rating with a view to replacing the benches in poor condition and any new locations will be decided ensuring an even spread throughout the town. The members suggested some locations that could be considered – from applications already received the members agreed to locate a bench at the H2H sign and 3 at South Beach.

Cllr Leonard requested that the sand is cleared away from the pier entrance – L Earls DM agreed to engage with the Environment Section about this request. L Earls DM asked the members to consider a cohesive approach to installing benches and memorials plaques in the district – the policy at the moment is to replace rather than add new bench locations and a policy will be drafted for plaque placement in the future. Cllr Leonard stated that the members needed a little discretion around this and L Earls DM agreed.

A Hill DE agreed to issue a breakdown on the number of bins in each town in the district.

Cllr Kennedy asked for an update on the junction at St. Colemans – A Hill DE stated that this cannot be examined until the traffic survey results have been reviewed. Cllr Kennedy asked for an update on line-marking – J Daly EE stated that works would 70% complete by the end of next week.

Discussion followed on dog fouling in the district and solutions to the problem – a sensor activated voice message system for public areas was suggested, they have been installed in other areas around the county and they work well.

Cllr Leonard asked that the green area at the centre of the running track is mowed to allow kids to play there – J Daly EE stated that the ground is too wet at the moment to take the heavy machinery required to cut the grass back and the GSS will get to it as soon as possible.

Cllr Kennedy complimented all involved in the Active Travel initiatives – this is a positive step forward with an investment of 1.2m. The total investment will reach nearly 3m in AMD and acknowledged all the work being done. L Earls DM acknowledged this and stated that the 8.4m investment countywide is a good news story for WCC. Cllr Leonard asked that some PR is done around the schemes and clarification is required on schemes already underway.

Cllr Murphy asked that AMD write to Minister Ryan to request that the public transport buses stop at St. Vincent’s Hospital and L Earls DM agreed if all members were on board with the suggestion.

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 receive an update on the Columbarium Wall

A Brehony DA outlined the design proposals and confirmed that a location has been agreed and that the tender documents are being prepared. Cllr Fitzgerald stated that it is a great initiative for the town and welcomed the update. A Hill DE stated that the tender process would dictate the timeframe for the project. Cllr Annesley put forward the proposal to design a plot where urns can be buried. L Earls DM agreed to bring this suggestion back to the Environment Section. The members agreed to progress the columbarium wall project. Cllr Leonard suggested that both the columbarium wall and the urn plot should be considered. L Earls asked the members if they wanted to proceed with the tender process for the columbarium wall and all agreed to proceed.

To discuss the announcement of the allocation of Active Travel funding for the District

Discussed under Item 4.

Item 7: Correspondence

No correspondence received.

Item 8: Any Other Business

A Brehony informed the members that the 2023 Estate Grants have been advertised and that the Festival Funding Grants will be advertised next month.

The members discussed the upcoming Cathaoirleach’s Awards event agreed on 11 nominations.

Cllr Bourke asked if funding would be available for St. Patrick’s Day parade committees and A Brehony DA confirmed that funding would be available on application and will be allocated post event.

A Brehony confirmed that the request for €3000 twinning funding from the CBS has been reviewed and stated that AMD need to engage with all schools in this regard. The proposal from the CBS was proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Bourke. Cllr Bourke suggested a reception to meet with the Cathaoirleach could be held in the Chamber.

Cllr Leonard acknowledged the importance of the civic reception and twinning funding and suggested that work needed to be done on the protocol around both.

The location for the Schooner Anchor was discussed and the Seafarers Garden was agreed as a location assuming the dimensions of the garden were adequate to accommodate the anchor. A Hill DE confirmed that an information lectern would also be installed with the anchor. The members agreed that the installation costs would come from the 2022 discretionary budget.

Cllr Bourke asked that assistance is provided to a member of the community who is currently in Rehab and will need to have his residence adapted to suit his needs. L Earls DM suggested speaking to the Housing Section about this.

Cllr Murphy raised concerns about anti-social behaviour at the laneway near Park Ave and Tesco – Cllr Leonard stated that this is not a throughway and will pass on details about it. L Earls DM confirmed that there is a formal process involved if a right of way is to be extinguished. A Hill DE agreed to look into this issue.

Cllr Bourke asked if there was enough salt stock on hand if the weather gets colder – A Hill confirmed that there would be enough salt in stock. Cllr Bourke also requested that salt is delivered to certain estates – A Hill DE confirmed that the GSS in the area would do this when requested. L Earls DM asked if the particular estate had a salt store/bucket in place and that CCSD grants may cover this if they apply.

Cllr Leonard asked for an update on parking at Ennereilly Beach – A Hill DE confirmed the issue has been referred to the Environment Section. L Earls DM agreed to get an update on this for the members.

The members discussed the need for toilet facilities on the beaches in the district – A Hill DE confirmed that there is no funding for this in the budget. Cllr Annesley suggested using discretionary funding for this and A Hill DE agreed to get quotes for installing the facilities over the summer months.

Meeting concluded.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 8th March 2023.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: _____

Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District