



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON

THE 9th July 2025.

Present: Cllr. Miriam Murphy, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke, Leas-Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Peir Leonard
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Pat Kennedy
Cllr. Warren O'Toole

Officials Present: Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager
Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator
Mr. Damien Byrne, Executive Engineer
Ms. Lorraine Hayes ASO

Guest Speaker Mr. Sean Keane SEO, Housing.

Apologies: None

Press: Hugh O'Farrell Walsh

Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.

The members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost a loved one. A minutes silence was observed.

Confirmation of Minutes.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Arklow dated 28th May 2025

The confirmation of Minutes for Meeting held 28th May have been deferred to the September due to Cllr. Leonard requiring an amendment to same.

3. Confirmation of Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Arklow dated 11th June 2025

Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Bourke and seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Arklow dated 11th June 2025

Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Bourke and seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald.

Item 5: Matters Arising.

Cllr. Bourke suggested a window prism could be a nice solution to replacing the pride crossing. Leonora Earls said we are hopeful of positive outcome as talks are ongoing with Wicklow Pride. Cllr. Murphy acknowledged the Wicklow Pride was a great event. Cllr. Leonard acknowledged work carried out by Dave Thomas.

6. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations:

To consider CE Report in respect of Part 8 for proposed construction of 2 no. houses at Vale Road, Arklow.

Sean Keane stated there were three submissions received for this development. These were from the HSE, Uisce Eireann and Planning in Wicklow County Council. There were no recommendations on the submissions.

Cllr. Fitzgerald supports this project.

Cllr. Leonard does not foresee any problems with the project and requested a clear up on the verge should be carried out.

Cllr. Fitzgerald proposed this project to go ahead and Cllr. Bourke seconded this.

It is hoped work on this project will start towards the end of 2025.

To receive a report from Damien Byrne, Executive Engineer.

Municipal District of Arklow

District Engineer's Report

8th July 2025

Restoration Improvement

Proposed Works	Status
R-752 Ballybeg to Rathnew	Tendered – Date TBC
R-754 Avoca Village	Tendered – Projected start date of the 18 th July TBC
L-29013 Laffin's Lane	Tendered – Start Date Confirmed as 08 th July
L-29013 Castlepark	Tendered – Start Date Confirmed as 08 th July
L-7137 Ballymanus-Reddenagh	Tendered – Tarmac Works Completed on 30 th June
L-2143 Aughrim-Ballinglen	Tendered – Estimated Tarmac works to be completed 03 rd July
L-6147 Ballymorris Lower	Tendered
L-6644 Ballinaclash-Ballard	Tendered
L-5665 Kilmacrea Pass	Tendered – Preparation Works ongoing
L-5163 Templelyon	Tendered – Preparation Works ongoing

Restoration Maintenance

Proposed Works	Status
R-753 Aughrim to Ballinaclash	Work by WCC
L-97532-0 Tinakilly to Three Wells	Completed
L-97531-0 Tinakilly Lower to R-753	Completed
L-97533-5 Tinakilly to Cloneen	Completed
L-2140-0 Ballyshane to Greenan	Completed, Some Overlay Works Required
L-7136-0 Cappagh-Coolballintaggart	Completed
L-97552-0 Knockrath	Completed
L-2120-0 Garryduff to Rathdrum	Completed
L-2116-0 Drumdangan - Barnbawn	Completed
L-5118-0 Drumdangan-Kilcandra	Completed
L-6117-0 Ballinakill-Bahana	Completed
L-2190 Coolgreany Rd to Curranstown	Completed
L-6187 Moneylane to Kish	Completed

Safety Improvement Works

Proposed Works	Project	Status
Johnstown Village, Arklow	Installation of Safety Signage	Signage installed
R-772 near rugby club	Installation of Safety Signage	Poles to be installed – Liaison with Contractor Ongoing
L-1113 Carrigmore Bridge	Installation of Safety Signage	Poles to be installed – Liaison with Contractor Ongoing

R-747 Woodenbridge to Aughrim	Installation of safety barrier	Tender awarded
R-752 Rathdrum to Glenealy	Installation of safety barrier	Tender awarded

Discretionary Funding

Proposed Works	Status
Footpath at Barndarrig NS	Lighting survey to be completed. – Ongoing Liaison with Landowner and Board of Management, awaiting agreement before proceeding with works
Castlemacadam Cemetery	TBC by RI contractor
Duck Pond	Review of Maintenance Requirements
Public Lighting in Greenane	Commissioning 14/07 – Road Crossing for Electrical Power to be Completed
Heritage Signage for Villages	Installation Commenced – Only 3 Signs Currently to be installed
Footpath Repair - Ferrybank	Complete. Further request for bollards – Liaison with local businesses and homeowners required
Pottery Cross	Works Completed, Line Marking to be upgraded
Infill Lighting Annacurra	Tender Awarded, start date to be confirmed
Public Lighting at the Birches, Ballinaclesh	Completed
Public Realm Furniture Upgrade - AMD	Ordered replacement benches for St. Mary's Park
Tree Management	Arborist is working through areas and completing reports.
2024 Footpath Repair Riverwalk	Some drainage works required in advance
Public Realm - Arklow	
Public Realm - Rathdrum	
Footpath - Conary	Tender awarded, start date to be confirmed
Educational Signage - Beaches	Liaised with the Biodiversity Officer - Awaiting Further Information
Pedestrian Crossing - Rathdrum	Considered as part of Traffic Study
Repair of Footpath at Currans Corner	
Footpath - Arklow Bearing Services	

Community Involvement Scheme

Proposed Works	Status
Ballinaclea	Works Completed

Local Improvement Scheme

Proposed Works	Status
Kilcassell, Aughrim	Contractor to Confirm Dates – Prep Work Ongoing
Toberpatrick, Tinahely	Contractor to Confirm Dates – Prep Work Ongoing
Westaston, Kilmacurra	Contractor to Confirm Dates – Prep Work Ongoing
Ballymorris, Aughrim	Contractor to Confirm Dates – Prep Work Ongoing
Ballard Upper	Contractor to Confirm Dates – Prep Work Ongoing

Footpath Renewal

Work continuing on cleaning Main Street. Areas for repair have been identified. Tender awarded, scheduling of works ongoing to fit around traffic management requirements and resources available

Other works

Topographical Survey completed on Rathdrum Main Street. Information to go to consultant Masterplan of Seaview Avenue – Request for Tenders sent to Design Teams, awaiting responses.

The following requests/matters were raised by Elected Members.

Cllr. Murphy requested a review of maintenance at the duck pond. Damien Byrne (DB) said this was part of the overall plan regarding reed beds and sustainability and we also have to work with nature.

Cllr. O'Toole stated it is important to be conscious when planting at duck pond, DB explained we are working within Environmental restrictions and engaging with an arborist.

Cllr. Murphy requested to view the plans for Seaview. DB said the plan is being prepared for the tender process and once this is complete an update will be provided to Members.

Cllr. Bourke asked if the road from Ballinaclash to Aughrim could be looked at as there are a lot of sharp stones and tyres are getting cut. DB said he will investigate this.

Cllr. Leonard made time to thank Damien, Avril and all AMD staff on works carried out on footpaths at Curran's Corner. She also enquired who owns the site.

Cllr. Leonard requested a dog bin be installed on South Quay. She stated there is raw sewage in the harbour due to the WWTP not fully connected. DB said the foul network is under the remit of Uisce Eireann and it is up to them to remedy any issues or install new connections.

LE explained that Uisce Eireann is aware of the issues. The concerns of the Elected Members should be brought up at the LRSD. LE feels this is the quickest route to get results as Wicklow Co. Col have no remit in this area.

Cllr. O'Toole said the pipe on the Emoclew road is constantly leaking and UE are extremely slow in responding to any queries. Once again Leonora stated that the LRSD is the quickest route to state complaints.

Cllr. Leonard enquired about the flood relief and Harbour road stating water is ponding when valves are closed it is a recurring issue. DB is working in conjunction with Flood Relief and UE, inspection works will be carried out but this has to be done at low tide.

Cllr. Bourke enquired when will the WWTP be de-commissioned; LE stated that this was a matter for UE.

Cllr. O'Toole praised the works carried out in the cemetery but there is regular vandalism and a dumping ground, can CCTV be installed. LE said Graveyards are under the remit of The Environment Section. Cllr. Fitzgerald thinks there may be a GDPR issue with CCTV in graveyards, LE will enquire and bring her findings to the September meeting.

Cllr. Kennedy enquired regarding safety improvement works at Merrigans Corner and also Briars overgrown on Riverwalk. DB will have a look at both issues.

DB also stated there are scheduled works to be carried out on the Road through Aughrim Village. There are currently maintenance works being carried out at the Meetings of the waters.

To consider draft guidance document on Discretionary funding allocation to individual/groups.

Cllr. O'Toole suggested increasing the €3000 and not to have to put it back into a contingency fund. LE suggested that the document re-issue with the amendments and the Members can make a decision at the September meeting and at September meeting.

AB stated that the funding needed to be awarded within the year and to try distributing funds as evenly as possible. As this funding is Discretionary groups need to know it is coming from the Elected Members.

AB stated groups apply for Festival funding and then also apply to the Discretionary funding so this document is necessary. This may be considered duplicate funding from the district.

Cllr. Leonard stated if groups get funding they should disclose this on their community funding application as we should not be double funding groups.

7. Other business set forth in Notice of convening the meeting.

None

8. Notice of Motions.

(a) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. M. Murphy received on the 19th May 2025.

"That Arklow Municipal District erect directional signage from Johnstown Church to Ballycoog"

This motion was proposed by Cllr. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald.

DB agreed to investigate this.

9. Correspondence.

None

10. Any Other Business.

Cllr. Bourke asked for an update on the location of the playground in Meadowvale. LE will look into this. Cllr. Leonard said residents do not want it up there as it is not suitable for the area. A new site is needed for the playground however the builder is obliged to comply with his planning permission.

Cllr. Leonard was enthusiastic with how well the tall ship project is progressing and requested notifying the twinning committee of the project as the project will raise awareness for Aberystwyth.

AB said the twinning committee had made a request for funding; they did not apply for funding in 2024.

Cllr. Fitzgerald proposed this and Cllr. Bourke seconded it.

LE said the Maritime Museum have been granted permission to put carriages into the Memorial garden.

Cllr. Kennedy requested a presentation on the Arklow to Shillelagh greenway. LE said Joe Lane had ensured a meeting will happen with the Elected Members.

Cllr. Kennedy asked for an update on access to North Beach. LE stated there is no court date at present.

Cllr. Kennedy enquired if Wicklow County Council had been in touch with the IDA to encourage new business into the town with the WWTP in place. LE had a meeting with the IDA and they are extremely active in pursuing new business for the town.

Cllr. Kennedy congratulated the rowers on their fantastic achievement and suggests a letter be sent to them.

Cllr. O'Toole asked for a piece of land at the running track as the athletics team need storage space. AB had reached out to the Athletic club and asked for a meeting. Insurance and lease agreement will both have to be looked into. LE said we could try to bring them in through the CCSD and discuss insurance, lease etc. as we didn't realise it was a building the original plan was a container, which had already been refused.

Cllr. Murphy stated Groups regularly have events without going through the proper channels and that event forms had to be filled out in advance. Cllr. Leonard suggested encouraging people to use safe public spaces for events. AB said road closures are time sensitive and very necessary for any event; this is a huge health and safety issue. We have used social media to educate people regarding holding events.

AB said the last set of works at the running track has been completed, the track itself needs to be rolled, which is depended on favourable weather. Signage in line with the funding allocation requirements had been ordered. A lot of work has been carried out underground in order to future proof the track for the years ahead. There has been some anti-social behaviour at the track with scramblers and scooters, signage has been ordered so hopefully this might deter this behaviour. However it was difficult to enforce.

Cllr. Leonard asked for bollards at Lamberton to be replaced, DB said the NTA had been contacted for the specifications so we can order the same again.

Cllr. Leonard said the bricks used for Kynocks yard are in the depot. They are from the base of chimney and she will send on the information, it is hoped to use these bricks as part of the Kynocks project.

Cllr. Murphy thanked all present and said to enjoy the August break.

Cllr. Leonard took the time to thank Eoin Mac Raghnaill for all the work he has done to date and welcomed Hugh O'Farrell Walsh.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th September 2025.

Signed: Cllr Miriam Murphy

Cllr Miriam Murphy, Cathaoirleach, Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: Alvina Brehony
Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District