



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON THE ZOOM PLATFORM ON THE

12th JANUARY 2022

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

Officials Present: Ms. Helena Dennehy, A/District Manager
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer
Mr. Rob Mulhall, Executive Engineer
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, ASO

Press : Mr. R Clune WP

Public: None

Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.

The Members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost loved ones, there have been a number of deaths over the last few weeks and a few known to all are –

Mary Greene, MJ Bolton, Philomena Keogh, James Vickers, Albert Webster, Angela Winterbotham, Kay Ward, Mary Doyle, Bill Connolly, Eddie Forde, John McManus, Helen Barrett, Peter Phelan, Pierce Caulfield, Brian McKay.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2 : Confirmation of Minutes from Ordinary Meeting held on the 08th December 2021.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 08th December 2021 were proposed by Cllr Bourke and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald.

Item 3 : Matters Arising.

Cllr Bourke expressed thanks to the DE – bins were installed since the last meeting.

Cllr Leonard reported that WCC have highlighted that the Notice of Motion (CJGaffney) from the last meeting may not be valid as there are legal issues with the motion – The motion will need to be re-written if it is to progress.

Cllr Kennedy requested updates on items from the last meeting –

Shortage of trees – Cllr Leonard replied that this was raised at the Climate SPC and confirmed that there are some initiatives that AMD can tap into – Libraries etc. Also meeting with Gary Coade to discuss projects in the area.

Twinning funding – It was confirmed that twinning funding is carried over.

Funding for the Marsh and meeting with NPWS – Claire Lawless DA replied that this will be discussed with the Heritage Officer and all options explored. Cllr Leonard asked that the Tidy Towns and Faith Wilson (Ecologist) are invited to the meeting.

Claire Lawless DA confirmed that the funding for The Marsh was a proposal and that no actual monies had been set aside. Cllr Fitzgerald recalled the proposal and was disappointed that it did not materialise.

Cllr Annesley stated that at the time the Town Council was abolished a fund was set aside for particular projects and no disrespect but that money was there. He suggested going back to the Cathaoirleach at the time to clarify this. He stated that he was not happy with the answer and asked that it be checked again. Claire Lawless DA confirmed that the initial request was for a lot less than the figure mentioned and would check for it again. Helena Dennehy DM suggested going back to the minutes. Cllr Annesley agreed and gave the date for May 2014. The members discussed the possibility that the complete amount has been spent and agreed to check back through the minutes.

Item 4 : District Engineers Report.

Our programme of works for 2022 will be finalised once we have confirmation of funding received.

Roads Programme

Regional Roads

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R753	Aughrim to Ballinaclash	Resurfacing & line marking	Contractor to confirm start date once temperatures increase.

Footpath Schemes

1. Rathdrum 95% complete – Contractor has commenced on site with the works.

2. R747 Vale Rd – Met with the Contractor and they need to replace the extruded kerb. This can't take place until the temperatures have increased. Footpath can be completed once this is done.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Redcross: Scheme is complete and Contractor has demobilised from site. Some bollards to go in but this will be done by AMD staff once it arrives. It is intended to resurface the road as part of the Road Programme 2022.

Local Improvement Scheme

Round 2 for the District to be completed, contractor to confirm start date.

- Clonkerin, Rathdrum
- Ballykillageer, Arklow

Community Involvement Scheme

Kilahurler, Arklow - Drainage works complete, contractor to surface.

Applications made for three schemes for 2022.

Fáilte Ireland Outdoor Dining Area

Next step is to get an Archaeological Assessment completed. An Archaeologist has been appointed and an application has been made to the National Monuments Service for test trenches.

NTA Schemes

The 2021 allocations for Arklow have been confirmed as follows. Projects are being led by NTA team in WCC with input from AMD.

Project Code	Project Name	Description
WCC/11/0004	Arklow – Woodenbridge - Shillelagh	Greenway project. Currently compiling the Planning Application.
WCC/20/0003	Arklow Transport Study	Baseline assessment is currently underway, next stage will be stakeholder engagement. AMD met with Consultant and NTA to discuss and walk site.
WCC/21/0007	Dublin Road to Wexford Road	Tender documents are being prepared for appointment of consultant.
WCC/21/0009	Arklow Main St to Train Station	
WCC/21/0013	Lower Main Street, Tinahask Road & Dock Road to South Quay	
WCC/21/0024	R747 Vale Road	NNR Crew is working on this at present.
	Rathdrum	Completed.

Housing Construction

Delany Park Phase 2

The site consists of 47 houses, structurally all houses are completed with doors & windows in place, all external on-going, first fix M&E started, IW & ESB not connected to date. Revised programme indicates a finishing date of April 2022. Contractor is hoping to deliver 37 units in early January 2022 and remaining 10 mid-February.

Avondale Phase 2

The site consists of 20 houses. Successful contractor Cleary & Doyle now appointed for this project. Substructure and ground floor slabs are in place. Anticipated completion date is September 2022.

Sheehan Court (Old Fire Station)

The project consists of a terrace of 7 no., 2bed houses, and is now fully approved by the DHLGH. Timber frames are in place and roofs, doors and windows due next, the completion date is expected to be in July 2022.

Cllr Bourke asked if the kerbing repairs on the Vale Rd would be carried out by WCC – Avril Hill DE confirmed that the contractor would be doing the works at cost to them. Cllr Bourke asked if there was any update on CIS/LIS decisions for 2022 and Avril Hill DE confirmed that AMD have not been informed of any decision as yet and would notify the members as soon as the information is received by AMD.

Cllr Bourke asked about the Abbey Lane plans and if the outdoor dining area would encroach on the footprint for the proposed pottery museum. Avril Hill DE confirmed that no works could be carried out until an archaeologist's assessment has been completed and this would dictate what and if any works could be carried out on the site.

Cllr Bourke asked if there was a timeframe on allocating the social housing units – Cllr Leonard confirmed that the allocations may be completed by the end of January.

Avril Hill DE confirmed that that AMD would look into why the paint was peeling on the recently installed pride crossing on Main St. Arklow.

Cllr Leonard congratulated the engineers on the conservation works on the cobbles in Redcross village – would like to see a press release on that.

Cllr Leonard asked if the archaeologist's study could be recorded in some way for Abbey Lane and link in with heritage groups. Avril Hill DE said that the survey carried out on the Primary Care site should be available also.

Cllr Leonard asked for an update regarding the trial period for the street planters and outdoor dining spaces – Avril Hill DE said that any suggestions would be welcomed and stated that there has been very little feedback to date.

The members discussed the problem with the road surface at the Bridge – HGV’s are tearing up the middle of the road when turning up from South Quay – suggested a survey of the vehicles using the route might assist. Avril Hill DE has discussed the issue with a contractor and has agreed to sit down with them to find a solution that would improve the surface for longer. Cllr Murphy asked if the DE could report back with progress on this for the next meeting.

Cllr Fitzgerald queried the need to have bridge footpath closed on one side for IW works – People are crossing the road at a very dangerous spot – does it need to be closed when the contractors are not on site.

Cllr Kennedy highlighted the condition of some of the roads in the area – Avril Hill DE confirmed that Tigroney, Annacurra and Brooklodge areas were on the 3 year roads programme. Cllr Kennedy asked that the DE arrange for the white lining to be redone in Aughrim and Annacurra .

Cllr Annesley asked that the DE look at the repairs needed on Arklow Bridge – the crack is widening and needs to be looked at sooner rather than later. Also reported the big pothole outside the old “56” building on Main St.

Cllr Murphy asked that the motion already submitted for repairs on Abbey St outside the 7/11 shop is actioned – Avril Hill DE confirmed that the area was coned off and will be repaired.

Cllr Leonard has requested an update on the timeline for the Parade Ground works and is waiting on a response from the project team – Disability access for the area needs to be highlighted at this stage.

Cllr Kennedy put on record his thanks and appreciation of his fellow councillors, engineering staff and WCC for efforts in securing funding centrally for district works – standards are higher and asked that this is passed on to the Roads Dept. also. Cllr Murphy echoed the sentiment – right to want higher standards and secondary roads will get funding.

Item 5 : Notices of Notice

(a) Motion in the name of Cllr Miriam Murphy. Received on 17/11/21

“That Arklow Municipal District put in place a safety barrier at the corner of the crossing in the area of the corner of footpath at the Corner House, similar to the barrier on the opposite side of road. This is for the safety of children crossing coming from four schools. ”

This was looked at previously and it is not feasible. There isn’t sufficient space to facilitate the barrier without making the path too narrow to be useable. An option to widen the footpath will be considered and something will be done. NTA team are also looking at safe “routes to school” programme options for parents and children.

(b) Motion in the name of Cllr Pat Fitzgerald. Received on 01/12/21

“That an assessment of the roads in housing estates in Arklow is undertaken with a view to carrying out work where needed. I understand that works can only take place if funds are available. I would like to mention Fernhill and Father Redmond Park as two estates where roads need to be improved”.

This exercise is already undertaken by WCC. A PSCI Rating is assigned to each public road on a rolling 2-year basis. The rating of the road is uploaded to the PMS system and it is used together with other information to inform decisions on the roads programmes. The latest surveys in Fernhill and Fr.

Redmond Park took place in Feb. 2021 and for the most part, the roads have a rating of 7/8 out of 10 (with 10 being the best).

(c) Motion in the name of Cllr. Peir Leonard. Received on 01/12/21

“That Arklow MD purchase 4 no concrete benches for distribution around the harbour area to be etched with local poetry and artistic designs inspired by our maritime heritage and that signage be installed to place mark the area known to locals as ‘The Fishery’ ”.

This project could be included on the list for the Councillor’s Discretionary spend – Helena Dennehy DM clarified that discretionary spending should be used for public realm projects only.

Cllr Fitzgerald stated that with two sponsors on board already there shouldn’t be any issue. Cllr Leonard said she would have more details on design and cost for the next meeting.

(d) Motion in the name of Cllr. Peir Leonard. Received on 01/12/21

“That Arklow MD construct a new stone roundabout at the Vale Rd. / Coolgreaney Rd /Wexford Rd /Upper Main St Junction which consists of etched panels showcasing each village and town in our municipal, as per diagram to be provided ahead of meeting”.

Space is limited on this roundabout, you can see where tyres have marked the new whites lines, so any proposal put forward would have to fit within the confines of the existing roundabout and not interfere with the sightlines. An application can be made to a suitable funding stream.

Item 6 : Correspondence

No correspondence received.

Item 7 : A.O.B.

Cllr Bourke raised his concerns about the speed of traffic using the diversion in place near the Duck Pond – vehicles are travelling too fast and it is hazardous for pedestrians. Can AMD check the H&S report submitted by the contractor Ward & Burke.

Cllr Bourke asked that AMD support the request made by Arklow Meals on Wheels for an operational space in the new primary care centre. A recent request was denied. Cllr Fitzgerald supported this and stated that the Meals on Wheels group will continue in Arklow regardless.

Cllr Fitzgerald informed the members that he had been invited to visit a new business in the town – Green Treats – Anyone can call in to see the facility to see the great work being done. The members acknowledged the new business and some have also been on site to visit and noted that it is a LEO success.

Cllr Fitzgerald confirmed that he was following up on a notice of motion from last month’s meeting and has spoken to TD Charlie McConologue at length about this but very little progress has been made.

Cllr Annesley requested a pizza-box bin is installed at Upper Main St. and Cllr Kennedy requested that bins are installed in Rathdrum – severe lack of bins there and no dog poo bins. Cllr Leonard

reported that she has been contacted about dog poo bins in Arklow especially around the schools – If we could get the schools on board this would help educate all about serious effects of some diseases associated with dog poo. She also suggested piloting the provision of dog poo bags beside the bins.

Cllr Kennedy asked if there was any update on the access to North Beach in Arklow - Avril Hill DE will pass on the update to the members. A physical meeting was suggested ahead of the Planning workshops for the CDP – need to provide infrastructure for expansion and this needs to be discussed by all – will feed into LAP. Cllr Murphy proposed that they meet after the 24th January.

The members requested more resources for the district’s parks and open spaces – AMD are currently under resourced and tourism will depend on these areas being maintained – Outdoor staff are under pressure.

Cllr Murphy asked that a letter is sent to The Tidy Towns group for the great result recently.

The members congratulated Rob Mulhall on his recent promotion and expressed their appreciation for all his hard work over the years – will be missed by all.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 09th February 2022.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District

Signed: _____

Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District