



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON THE 13th APRIL
2022**

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

Officials Present: Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer
Mr. John Daly, Executive Engineer
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, ASO

SSE Presentation : Ms. Deborah Coleman, SSE
Mr. Kaj Christiansen, SSE

Press : None

Public: None

Item 1 : Votes of Sympathy.

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

Frances Sweeney, Roy Dempsey, Aine O'Shea.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2 : Confirmation of Minutes from Ordinary Meeting held on the 9th March 2022.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 9th March 2022 were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Annesley.

Item 3 : Matters Arising.

No matters arising.

Item 4 : Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

To receive a presentation from SSE Renewables on the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2

A presentation was given outlining the consenting regime changes that will affect the delivery date of the project. It was also noted that there is a newer spec on the turbines with no real change to the onshore designs or delivery. Newsletters will issue quarterly and the team are available to meet at any point. The Public Consultation period has been scheduled for quarter 4 2022.

Cllr Annesley expressed concerns over the availability of staff/contractors to SSE to get the works done – Kaj Christiansen countered that the supply chain element of the project is a specialist area and acknowledged that prices are increasing due to external factors and confirmed that SSE are already dealing with these same issues on UK sites. Deborah Coleman stated that they are a constant in the industry and stick to set targets – a robust system will be in place.

Cllr Kennedy queried the dimensions of the turbines and if there were any changes with these – Kaj Christiansen confirmed that there will be extra height on the turbines and the final spec has not been decided yet.

The members asked for details on the community funding element of the project – Deborah Coleman confirmed that the criteria for the scheme have not been finalised.

Cllr Bourke queried the impact of rising energy prices and how this would affect the scheme – Kaj Christiansen stated that energy prices are only going one way at the moment, making energy projects more attractive.

Cllr Leonard asked that community involvement is considered at the design stage especially for students in the area of marine habitat restoration, for example the NORRI Oyster bed restoration initiative, would this be possible now.

Cllr Murphy thanked both SSE representatives.

Item 5 : Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting.

District Engineers Report

Roads Programme

Provisional roads programme is below. Please be aware that cost increase is in the region of 25-35% on last year so the programme will be monitored closely and may change as the season progresses.

Regional Roads

| <i>Road No.</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Proposed Works</i> | <i>Status</i> |
|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| R753 | Aughrim to Ballinaclash | Resurfacing & line marking | Commenced 11/04 |
| R-754-0 | Redcross | Resurfacing & line marking | Tendered |

Local Roads

| <i>Road No.</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Proposed Works</i> | <i>Status</i> |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| L-2191-30 | Ballyduff Road | Resurfacing & line marking | Tendered |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------|
| L-6167-0 | Oghill Upper | Resurfacing | Tendered |
| L-6203-33 | Killaveny | Resurfacing | Tendered |
| L-2140-0 | Greenan Beg - Aughrim | Resurfacing | Tendered |
| L-2144-0 | Meetings to Ballinaclash | Resurfacing | Tendered |
| L-5665, L-5165, L-5164 | Ballykeane | Surface Dressing | WCC |
| L-5660 | Bonagrew to Ballyvaltron | Surface Dressing | WCC |
| L-2128 | Ballyboy- Aughavannagh | Surface Dressing | WCC |
| L-2137 | Aughrim - Ballyteige | Surface Dressing | WCC |

Safety Improvements Works

| <i>Road No.</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Proposed Works</i> | <i>Status</i> |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| R 747 | Woodenbridge and Aughrim | Safety Barrier | In progress |
| L 6126-0 | Kirakee Village, Glenmalure | Safety Barrier | Complete |
| R 753 | Ballinaclash and Rathdrum | Safety Barrier | Complete |
| R 754 | Barndarrig | Replacement speed ramp | To be tendered |

Work is continuing on the L-2149-0 Avondale Road. Overlay and passing places in advance of the opening of Avondale Forest Park.

Footpath Schemes

R747 Vale Rd – Extruded kerb will be replaced. Work starting this week on breaking out of existing.

Playgrounds

Arklow MD received €15k in funding for South Green Playground.

Speed Limit Review

The Pre-draft Consultation phase of the speed limit review has commenced.

Any submission can be discussed with DE or sent to speedlimits@wicklowcoco.ie

Housing Construction Update

Avondale Phase 2

The site consists of 20 houses. The Contractor is currently on site. Substructure and ground floor slabs are in place, Timber frames are insitu, roofs are constructed. External blockwork walls are progressing well and external rendering has commenced. 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. Structurally building closed up, doors windows brickwork and first fixing all in place. Irish Water connections are due to take place between 19th- 22ndApril. The road will remain open during this time. The conditions of the road opening licence include liaising with bus services to ensure there are no disruptions to services.

Comments :

Cllr Murphy sought clarification on how the proposed traffic disruption on Back St. is to be communicated – Avril Hill DE stated that this is a Housing Project and any queries should be directed to the Housing Section. Cllr Leonard asked if there was any way this disruption could be shortened – 4 days is a long time – Avril Hill DE agreed to pass on the request to Housing and stated that the licence was for 4 days but the lane closure will only be in place for as long as it takes to do the work.

Cllr Fitzgerald thanked the DA for the successful application for funding for South Green Playground. Cllr Leonard also expressed her thanks.

Cllr Bourke and Cllr Leonard raised concerns about pedestrians crossing at Burkes Shop, Lower Main St., this was raised before, drivers not stopping at the stop sign.

Cllr Kennedy asked the DE to review the traffic management in place on the R753 Ballinaclash to Aughrim – traffic has been diverted up by Macreddin. The DE confirmed that a number of complaints were received in relation to this and that the routes were being checked. Cllr Kennedy also requested the sweeper for the area.

Cllr Fitzgerald raised concerns about the increase in costs for scheduled projects and sought clarification on what the deciding factors would be if cuts back are required. Avril Hill DE confirmed that the recommendations would come from AMD if projects are to be halted and stated that there is already a priority list in place. Leonora Earls DM added that any decision making would be evidence based. Avril Hill DE stated that if required, projects would be removed rather than decreasing the distance agreed on any roads project. It was also agreed to look at other funding streams where possible.

Further discussion followed on particular areas of concern.

To discuss CLAR Funding 2022.

Claire Clawless DA confirmed that an application for Kilpipe has been submitted.

To discuss Festival Funding for 2022.

Claire Lawless DA confirmed that the scheme will be advertised and the closing date for receipt of applications will be the 06/05/2022 – Funding available for 2022 is €16500.

Discussion followed in relation to whether or not applicants would qualify if they have already received LEADER funding for an event. The members requested a more strategic allocation of funding this year. Leonora Earls DM agreed to discuss this further with the DA and come back to the members for their consideration at a later stage.

To agree allocation for Estate Development Grants.

The revised amounts were proposed by Cllr Bourke and all members agreed to the inclusion of one other group – application was received before the closing date in County Buildings in Wicklow.

Item 6 : Notice of Motions.

No motions were put before the meeting.

Item 7 : Correspondence

A letter was received from a group requesting funding toward a memorial event to celebrate the life of Archbishop Edward Lynch, a native of Arklow. Cllr Fitzgerald proposed an amount of €500 and Cllr Kennedy seconded the amount. Claire Lawless DA confirmed that this would come from discretionary spending for 2022.

A request for assistance was received from The Pines Residents Association – for completion of the works to the archway at the entrance to the estate. The members discussed previous options put forward. Leonora Earls DM asked if the residents would be open reconsidering their options for these works. Cllr Murphy proposed that the members meet with the residents – all agreed. Avril Hill DE suggested getting images of other options done before the meeting.

A request for assistance was received from a group of residents from Meadowvale Estate to hold a community event encouraging integration with neighbours and learning about biodiversity. Avril Hill DE confirmed that a resident's space would not be maintained by WCC. Cllr Leonard re-iterated that this was more a meet and greet event to get the ball rolling on establishing a residents group. Suggestions were made and Avril Hill DE confirmed that a number of litter pickers are available from the office if needed.

Correspondence was received from Anne O Connell in relation to the lack of bus stops in the town – This has been referred to Bus Eireann for their comments.

Item 8 : Any Other Business

The issue of parking conditions on Main St., were discussed – Cllr Fitzgerald said that cars are parking all the way down Main St. on Saturdays. Cllr Leonard asked for more set down areas on Upper and Lower Main St.

Cllr Annesley expressed his concern that the one way system would affect the Seabreeze Festival – no clear way to divert traffic for the weekend event – the Carpark will be used for the amusements.

Cllr Murphy agreed and said it is the highlight of the summer and it would be a shame to lose it. Cllr Leonard suggested using Dunne's Lane for the event to divert traffic. Avril Hill DE advised them to speak to the team over the Parade Ground works to determine what stage the works will be at for that point in time and go from there. Cllr Fitzgerald suggested the use of St Mary's Road and the Train Station Car Park as alternatives. Officials asked if the festival could be deferred - Cllr Annesley replied that there are too many fringe events that are connected to the event on those dates to defer it. Leonora Earls DM agreed that the DM and DE would talk to the engineer over the project and discuss diversionary routes available to the festival.

Cllr Leonard asked about progress and communication measures in place for the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway project – communication will be the key to its success. Leonora Earls DM confirmed that the liaison person process will be activated for this project and she will contact the lead engineer on the project.

Cllr Leonard put forward a proposal to acknowledge a particular person’s 60 year contribution to music and Arklow Town – Cllr Murphy also proposed that this person’s contribution should be acknowledged – A presentation will be organised after the ordinary meeting in May.

An update on the works to the railings at the Coolgreaney Road entrance to St Gabriel’s Cemetery was requested. The members discussed issues with the maintenance of the grounds at the graveyard and Avril Hill DE confirmed that a maintenance contractor is in place for the year. Also discussed was the option for water in the graveyard to deter people from bringing bottles to the graves and dumping them.

Cllr Leonard on behalf of the traders on the Main St. requested support from WCC during the period of works on the Main St. She asked that the DM and DA meet with the current chair of the Chamber of Commerce and discuss some options for supporting the businesses and to get them on-board with the regeneration of the town centre.

The members welcomed both John and Leonora to AMD and wished them well in their new roles.

Meeting concluded.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 11th May 2022.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: _____

Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District