



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON THE 14th February 2024

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

Officials Present: Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager
Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer
Ms. Philippa O'Connor, CO

Apologies: Cllr. Sylvester Bourke

Press: Eoin Mac Raghnaill

Public: None

Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.

The members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost a loved one, all of the members acknowledged that it is an especially tough time of year to lose a loved one.

Gladys Lynch (nee Hemstock), Bridget Murphy (nee Corcoran), Lester Carroll, Lorraine Kelly (nee Greene), Sr De Lourdes Dillon, Donald J Barrett, Annie Berry (nee Murphy), Monica Coughlan (nee Walsh), Jim Condren, Patrick Boyle (Paddy), Baby Jackson Edward Mills, Goretti Dunne (nee Cullen), Breda Fitzgerald (nee O'Connor) Pauline O'Boyle (nee Lyons), Deborah Kearns (nee Moorehouse) Sean Hannon, Marcella (Stella) O'Brien (nee Lenehan), Francis Moules, Eamon Darcy, Hugh Trainor, Jimmy Murphy, Anastasia (Ann) Whiston (nee Driver), June Dowds (nee Kelly), Bridget Driver (nee Kavanagh), Rudolph Dorrepaal (Rudie), Tommy McNabb, David Leech.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 10th January 2024 were proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald.

Item 3: Matters Arising

- L Earls reported that Uisce Eireann had informed WCC that connections to the WWTP were being processed through their connections department via the contractor.

At this point Cllr Kennedy proposed a suspension of Standing Orders seconded by Cllr Annesley, to discuss the public lighting on the Wexford Road at 5pm. All agreed

Item 4: Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

Municipal District of Arklow

District Engineer's Report

9th February 2024

Roads

Restoration Improvement & Restoration Maintenance

Working from multi-annual roads programme. Dependent on funding received.
Tenders prepared to issue once funding is confirmed.

Discretionary Funds 2023

<i>Proposed works</i>	<i>Status</i>
Footpath in Greenane	Works to back of path to be completed
Public Realm	Waiting on prices for planters
Tree Management	Reports completed and Tree surgeon appointed who is currently working through the list
Footpath at RNLI	Scheduled with GSS. Weather dependent
Footpaths at Templeraíne Heights	Scheduled with GSS. Weather dependent
Bus Shelter in Aughrim	Site ready for installation
Bus Shelter in Annacurra	Liaising with adjacent landowner
Public lighting at The Birches, Ballinaclash	Liaising with lighting designer
Public Realm, Arklow	Putting scope of works together
Repair of footpath at Curran's Corner	DE liaising with Roads Department
Footpath at Ferrybank	Contractor in place, confirm ownership with businesses

Other projects

Contractor appointed for Community Recognition Fund projects in Arklow & Rathdrum.
Consultant has gone to tender for conservation works to Abbey Lane wall.
Works are continuing on the Running Track lights.

A Hill reported that maintenance was being carried out on the public toilets in St Mary's Park. This involves power hosing, painting and repairs to the area.

With regards to tree management the amount of work carried out will be dependent on budget available.

Cllr Leonard wished to acknowledge the amount of work done by AMD especially in Abbey Lane and enquired if the Town Team or Climate Action funding could help with the final part of the tidy up where the remains are.

Cllr Kennedy acknowledged the huge amount of work carried out by AMD on the roads in the District. He requested being informed before the purchase of planters or any work is done on the Rathdrum public realm. A Hill agreed to keep him informed.

Cllr Kennedy also raised the poor condition of the L6201 at Kilpipe and asked if any work could be carried out. A Hill stated the PSCI rating wasn't poor enough for it to be repaired at the moment, but suggested a CIS.

Cllr Kennedy also thanked L Earls for all her work in securing extra funding for the Districts roads.

Cllr Murphy raised the issue of the condition and flooding of Johnstown Road. A Hill said they are investigating the existing drainage which AMD have funding for; however any works to improve the drainage would require additional funding which could possibly be sourced from the Climate Action fund.

Cllr Murphy also noted her concerns regarding the ramp at Hills Garage. A Hill will pass her concerns to the NTA team.

Cllr Murphy raised concerns regarding the surface of the footpath at Ferrybank. A Hill reported AMD need to establish ownership of the footpaths as AMD can only repair public footpaths, not those in private ownership. L Earls to seek advice from Law Agent on this.

Cllr Leonard asked if there was a timeline to the works to be completed on Abbey Lane. A Hill stated any works had to be done under the supervision of the archaeologist as the ground has to be protected while the wall is being repaired. Cllr Leonard requested black opaque netting around the area. A Hill said the disadvantage of this was more anchoring would be needed for the fencing.

Cllr Annesley noted the road to the Rock was prone to flooding and please could it be looked at. He also noted that there have been no lights on Old Ship Lane since before Christmas. A Hill said there is an order to replace the lighting however traffic management for the laneway is required

Cllr Annesley also stated there were potholes on the Riverbank, Currans Corner and at the ramp at Ferrybank and was of a view that Uisce Eireann should be responsible for these repairs.

Cllr Kennedy said that at Aughrim Oaks the old style lantern street lights were replaced with LED lighting and wanted to know if this was permanent. L Earls said this is a matter for the public lighting team and she would refer it to them.

Cllr Kennedy also acknowledged the hedge cutting in Rathdrum and requested a road sweeper to tidy up there.

Cllr Fitzgerald noted there was a street light out on St Mary's Road which needed to be logged.

Item 5: Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members.

No other business set forth.

Item 6: Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting

No other business set forth.

Item 7: Notice of Motion/s

(a) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllrs P. Kennedy, P. Fitzgerald, T. Annesley and S. Bourke. Received on 3rd January 2024

“That Arklow Municipal District provides some funding towards the restoration of the historic organ in St Mary & Peters Church. This church forms a significant part of the public realm streetscape of Arklow Main Street. It is of the utmost importance to the culture and heritage of Arklow that this organ is preserved for future generations”

Cllr Kennedy proposed, Cllr Fitzgerald seconded and all agreed this motion.

Cllr Fitzgerald said it was difficult for the Church to raise all the money needed so he would like to give a contribution from the Discretionary Fund.

Cllr Kennedy said a funding contribution would help preserve the organ for another 150 years.

(b) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllrs P. Kennedy, P. Fitzgerald. Received on 3rd January 2024

“That Arklow Municipal District provide funding for seating and some replacement bins in the village of Aughrim”

Cllr Kennedy proposed and Cllr Annesley seconded this motion.

This is an opportunity to promote the District through Tidy Towns and to support villages.

Item 8: Correspondence

None

Item 9: Any Other Business

A Brehony stated the Estate Development Grant funding had been advertised with a closing date of 1st March 2024 and that AMD will only accept fully completed applications with the requested documentation included.

A Brehony extended an invitation to the Members from Uisce Eireann to visit the WWTP on 23rd February. A Brehony is to respond to Uisce Eireann with numbers.

Cllr Fitzgerald has been contacted the Chair of the Oireachtas Transport Committee regarding his concerns on insufficient capacity on trains and if there were plans to increase capacity. The Transport Committee said there were new carriages planned for 2024. Cllr Fitzgerald will keep requesting additional capacity as it is a very poor service from Arklow to Dublin and Dublin to Arklow on the train.

Cllr Murphy agreed and added the timetable is inadequate for the population of Arklow.

L Earls said she has shared the Members frustrations regarding public transport with Irish Rail and the NTA regarding service and capacity and will continue to raise the issues and keep pressure on to improve it.

L Earls suggested Irish Rail could be invited to the plenary meeting of the Council. She is to write to the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council to invite Irish Rail to the meeting.

Cllr Leonard suggested putting pressure on the TD's to talk to Irish Rail.

Cllr Leonard informed the meeting that use of the Goods Store has been approved by CIE.

Cllr Leonard stated that at the last Creative Arklow meeting it was decided that the Breen Brothers should be acknowledged with a Cathaoirleach award. Cllr Annesley stated the Breen Brothers are to be presented with a Cathaoirleach award. A Brehony to liaise with Cllr Annesley on possible dates for the award.

Cllr Leonard was also hoping community recognition could be given to the RNLI, AGS and the Fire Service after their joint rescue operation in Arklow Harbour in December where 2 lives were saved. Cllr Leonard to forward the relevant information to L Earls and A Brehony. A Brehony to look into a suitable form of acknowledgement of the event.

Cllr Kennedy acknowledged all the work done to help get the St Patricks Day parades road closures organised.

There was a suggestion from Cllr Kennedy that the new cycle and footpaths be extended on the old N11 and to Gorey – with cooperation from Wexford County Council. L Earls said the design of the cycle lane on the Wexford side of the border is very different to those north and south of Arklow. The NTA haven't previously carried out a cross border scheme and L Earls will bring it back to the NTA.

Cllr Annesley put out an invitation for all AMD Council to attend the Arklow St Patricks Day Parade, 2pm at the Grandstand.

4.45pm Suspension of Standing Orders

Cllr Kennedy noted there had been several calls to the Members regarding lighting on the Wexford Road.

L Earls – there have been 2 studies carried out and the conclusion is that the lighting is adequate.

Cllr Murphy stated this issue had been on the table since 2016 and needs to be concluded.

Cllr Leonard said that if the opinion is that it is too dark can an extra light be put up and that would be the end of it. There is a perception it is dark possibly because of the vacant properties on that stretch of road even though the street lighting is adequate.


L Earls - in February 2019 a survey of lights was done and illumination was found to be above standard. Again a survey was carried out in June 2023 at 11.40pm and 12.40am, 30 points were checked at the darkest points, furthest away from the lights when all retail units were closed and there were very few cars. Following that it was found that illumination was above the minimum acceptable level. It seems to be a public perception that the lighting is not adequate, however AGS do not believe the lighting is an issue in any anti-social behaviour here.


AGS are supportive of an extension of the CCTV coverage in the town to cover this area. AMD are liaising with them to install CCTV in 8 possible locations and what civills are needed to install it. AMD can also ask PLEEP to look at the lighting and assess it.

A business case is needed for funding for CCTV and assessment of lighting. But as there are 2 comprehensive reports, is an additional study needed?

Cllr Kennedy said he would welcome an additional assessment of the lighting and the extension of the CCTV in the town. It was agreed to ask PLEEP to carry out a third and final assessment of the public lighting on Wexford Road.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th February 2024.

Signed: 
Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

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