



**Wicklow County Council  
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

**ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON**

**THE 14th January 2026.**

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

**Officials Present:** Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager (LE)  
Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator (AB)  
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer (AH)  
Ms. Lorraine Hayes ASO

**Apologies:** Cllr. Warren O'Toole

**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.

**Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes.**

The minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> December were proposed by Cllr. Bourke and seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald.

**Item 3: Matters Arising.**

Cllr. Leonard requested clarification on the An Taisce dereliction review. Also who is responsible if slates fall from the 56?

LE stated that after the walkthrough of eighteen premises there are five premises that required action. She will follow up with Helena Dennehy, DOS and revert. Liability for slates lies with the owner of the 56. A contractor has been engaged by the owner and works have commenced on 56. The property has been inspected by the Engineering team.

Cllr. Fitzgerald said he reported these buildings in 2014, he hopes to see a contractor start works soon. Painting a building is not enough after 12 years. He does not feel very confident much work will be carried out.

Cllr. Kennedy requested an update on the dereliction survey carried out in Rathdrum and Aughrim.

Cllr. Leonard an update on the invitation issue to ESB to an AMD Meeting.

LE has emailed ESB and has received no reply. She said she will keep chasing them but they are extremely difficult to contact.

Cllr. Bourke said the Pound Hill is in darkness and requested an update from Public Lighting.

**Item 4: Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.**

**Municipal District of Arklow**

**District Engineer's Report**

**7<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Restoration Improvement**

<b>Proposed Works</b>	<b>Status</b>
<a href="#">R-752 Ballybeg to Rathnew</a>	Date TBC

**Restoration Maintenance**

Complete

**Safety Improvement Works**

Complete

**Community Involvement Scheme**

Complete

**Local Improvement Scheme**

Complete

**Discretionary Funding**

<b>Proposed Works</b>	<b>Status</b>
Footpath at Barndarrig NS	Waiting on response from Board of Management
Castlemacadam Cemetery	TBC by RI contractor
Duck Pond	Review of Maintenance Requirements
Public Lighting in Greenane	Waiting on ESB connection
Heritage Signage for Villages	One sign to be installed in Greenane
Infill Lighting Annacurra	Civil works complete. ESB connection to be completed
Public Lighting at the Birches, Ballinaclesh	Waiting on ESB connection
Public Realm Furniture Upgrade - AMD	Some benches installed in St. Mary's Park
<b>Tree Management</b>	<b>Tendered for tree surgeon</b>
Footpath - Conary	Complete
2024 Footpath Repair Riverwalk	Some drainage works required in advance
Public Realm - Arklow	
Public Realm - Rathdrum	
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	

**Footpath Renewal**

Complete with current allocation

**Other works**

St. Mary's Park – Completed upgrade of lighting in bandstand.

Upgrade of Pedestrian Crossing – NTA funding received to upgrade crossings in Avoca and Rathdrum - ongoing

**The following matters were raised and discussed:**

Cllr. Fitzgerald said the works carried out on St. Mary's Park have been a huge improvement and has made a great addition to the Town.

Cllr. Bourke asked for an update on lights at Monument lane and when we could expect them to be connected. He also enquired about benches near Asgard Nursing home. He asked if there was an update on LIS works at Coolalug and Killeagh.

AH said Coolalug will be done first as it is an outstanding case and these works are carried out in chronological order.

Cllr. Kennedy stated Annacurra is waiting for two years for connection to ESB, Greenane and Ballinaclash were also waiting. He asked if a four-way-stop could be considered at Greenane as the crossroads are very dangerous.

Cllr. Bourke requested an update on the upgrading at Ballintombay junction.

AH will have a look at this.

Cllr. Leonard asked for an update on Curran's Corner. She stated there is a lot of paving lifting on the footpaths. Can bollards be installed at Asian Harvest and take a look at South Quay Junction? Also is there an update on line markings and what is the proposed signage for laneways of Arklow.

AH will look at South Quay. There is currently no funding for Lower Main Street. The heritage sign project is being worked on at present. We are trying to match design and fonts to existing signage.

Cllr. Leonard enquired if the NTA has any further proposed works due to commence, so the Elected Members can know before the public. Residents in the new houses on Vale Road need a layby or a triangle as they are having issues entering and exiting their properties, the current situation is dangerous.

LE explained consultants create design plus road safety has to be adhered to, the aim is to slow down traffic, she will discuss with Joe Lane.

Cllr. Fitzgerald does not think the situation is dangerous.

Cllr. Leonard stated she has to represent the people reporting their issue.

Cllr. Bourke supported Cllr. Leonard on the dangers on Vale Road and said Brian Brennan TD had been on to him reporting same. He also stated the access to the carpark on Main Street is an issue with people complaining.

AH explained amendments had been made in the carpark and four bollards had been removed, the bollards on the footpath are placed where traffic should not be and for pedestrian safety, there is adequate space for drivers.

Cllr. Leonard requested better lighting at the ARC and also the steps need attention as they are dangerous when they get wet as the surface is quite slippery.

AH will look at the steps and see what we can do regards surface she will also look at drainage and the prospect of installing a handrail. The lighting has been changed to LED which should help the area.

Cllr. Kennedy stated landowners trees are overhanging on roads particularly the Laragh Road.

AH will send a request to the GSS to have a look at the area.

Cllr. Kennedy enquired if we had a list for public road tarring this year.

AH yes we have a list at present we are looking at roads which have been recently damaged.

Cllr. Kennedy asked when we apply for safety barriers.

AH we are waiting on roads for that.

Cllr. Fitzgerald said the Vale Road is getting worse and in bad need of repair. There is a lot of speeding and people are driving trying to avoid potholes.

AH confirmed Vale Road is on the programme for this year.

Cllr. Leonard said South Quay needs work. She also enquired if reps can be put on a spreadsheet for the Elected Members for records.

AB confirmed reps are kept on CRM system and if matters are discussed at Meetings they are documented in the Minutes. We record all reps on CRM including housing, one rep for Elected Member and one for the tenant so there are no breaches in GDPR.

LE said while we find CRM works for us in AMD it was introduced as pilot and we are lucky to have the system. Office 365 is being rolled out to all staff,

#### **Item 5: Notice of Motions.**

None.

#### **Item 6: Correspondence.**

AB acknowledged receipt of email from Cllr. O'Toole and said herself and AH will put a response out to the Elected Members.

Letter received from Dean Dickenson notifying Elected Members that the St. Patrick's Day Committee has disbanded. After ten years the Committee feel it cannot be organised due to lack of Committee Members, rising costs of insurance and lack of stewards. Dean stated the Committee are grateful for the assistance received from AMD in the organisation of the event in previous years.

Cllr. Murphy is extremely saddened to hear this news; she understands how difficult volunteering can be. She said the event had always been very well run and thanked the Committee for all their hard work and asked can we acknowledge same.

Cllr. Fitzgerald expressed it was very difficult to know what to say as it was great over the years.

LE thanked the Committee and said the same happened in Wicklow last year, an appeal was launched and four people stepped in and organised the parade and are doing so this year also. If we can help a new Committee we certainly will. She advised that staff in AMD were not in a position to take over the organising of the St. Patrick's Day Parade but will advise on road closures event permits etc.

Cllr. Kennedy suggested we let people know through the press and social media that we need a new Committee to come together and make the parade happen. He thanked the Committee and Dean for all their hard work and also the District Manager and District Administrator.

Cllr. Bourke is in support of having the parade it would be sad for the new generation to not enjoy a parade.

Cllr. Leonard said she will roll up her sleeves and formulate a plan. The parade can be covered under the Town Team's insurance. She expressed her gratitude to the out-going Committee for all their hard work. It is important to meet as a Community. We need to plan and maximise our resources to help with this. Put a solid plan in place. This could be great for the Arts and economics of the Town.

AB explained any event run under the Town Team insurance will have to operate under the governance of the Town Team and funding will have to be processed through the Town Team. The new Committee formed will have to sit as a sub-committee. Getting volunteers for The Christmas Festival proved extremely difficult as people on road closure duties need to be qualified, insurance in Arklow is higher than in other Towns. Arklow Town Team has no extra funding for Festivals. It was agreed to bring the matter to the Town Team for consideration.

#### **Item 7: AOB:**

Cllr. Leonard requested an analysis of housing stock to be put on the next agenda.

Cllr. Leonard acknowledged work done by SVDP shop in recent years and asked if a letter be sent to the Headquarters people are worried a new SVDP shop will not open.

Cllr. Fitzgerald said it is wrong that the shop is gone, that is had a long presence in Arklow Main Street.

All members agreed that a letter should be forwarded to the SVDP headquarters.

Cllr. Bourke is concerned with the amount of dumping in St. Gabriel's Cemetery and thinks the rubbish bin is in the wrong place.

AH expressed there are notices in the Cemetery not to leave rubbish. That the rubbish is collected by MD staff on a regular basis.

Cllr. Bourke acknowledged Residents in Oaklands are not happy as a pole had been replaced on the wrong side of the road.

Cllr. Kennedy looked for an update on a new cemetery; we are six years discussing this issue. Will AMD contact Environment section to see how much burial ground is available in the County?

Cllr. Fitzgerald stated you cannot buy graves now and we need to take action with regards buying land for cemetery.

LE said she will reach out to the Directorate with responsibility for the Graveyard.

Cllr. Leonard asked for an update from WCC on the land owned by the Council.

LE explained a new property management section has been set up. A significant amount of work has been carried out and a lot has to be done between the Law Department and Property Management Section.

Cllr. Fitzgerald said huge money is being invested in the old Eir building and it will be great for Arklow when complete.

Cllr. Bourke asked for an update on land at Old Forge, Aughrim.

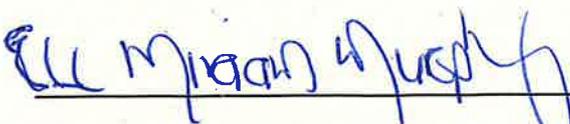
AB confirmed that this land is privately owned.

AB stated Seaview Masterplan closed and consultants are delighted with submissions received. Part 8 for Rathdrum also closed this week and there has been good interaction on that also.

AMD are delighted to be a part of Arklow Autism friendly Town champion.

Michael Dwyer 200 event has been nominated for a LAMA award.

**Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

**Cllr. Miriam Murphy, Cathaoirleach, Arklow Municipal District.**

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

**Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District**