



**Wicklow County Council  
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

**ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON THE 11<sup>th</sup>  
JANUARY 2023**

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

**Officials Present:** Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager  
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator  
Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator  
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer  
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, ASO

**Apologies:** None

**Press:** Eoin Mac Raghnaill

**Public:** None

**Presentations:** None

The officials and members welcomed Alvina Brehony to the meeting – appointed new District Administrator for Arklow Municipal District.

**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. A Minutes silence was observed.

**Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were proposed by Cllr Annesley and seconded by Cllr Murphy.

**Item 3: Matters Arising.**

No matters arising.

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

##### **District Engineers Report**

##### ***Roads Programme:-***

##### **Former National Roads**

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R772	Emoclew Roundabout to Knockmore	Resurfacing & line marking	Contractor has carried out essential repairs. Resurfacing proposed for 13 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb (Mid-Term break)

AMD will issue updates on social media in the run up to the works.

##### **Discretionary Funds**

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
Bus Shelter at Aughrim	Tendered & Ordered.
Bus Shelter at Annacurragh	Tendered & Ordered.
Footpath – Lower St. Rathdrum	Design to be considered after traffic survey
Footpath - Conary	Scheduled with GSS
Footpath - Thomastown	Complete
Footpath – Harbour Ct. Blackberry Glade	Scheduled with GSS
Footpath – Brewery Bends	Scheduled with GSS
Footpath – Mountain Bay	Complete
Footpath – Greenane	Commenced
Benches – Arklow Harbour	Delivered. To be installed in agreed locations
Woodview Park – Road resurfacing	Tender awarded

Footpath at Glenealy 50% complete, works will recommence next week (weather dependent)

##### **Other Projects**

Applying to different funding streams for Abbey Lane.

Waiting on feedback from The Pines Committee regarding proposal for the entrance.

##### **Comments –**

A Hill DE recommended that part of funding for the Glenealy works is transferred to the proposed job at the Beech Road (NoM 2020 SB). This was proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Leonard, all members in agreement. Cllr Fitzgerald asked for the distance the works will cover – L Earls DM confirmed that the distance will be 320m approx. A Hill DM confirmed that she would contact the residents to inform them.

A Hill DE confirmed that funding will be sought to clear Abbey Lane as a short term measure. Any works/measures carried out on the site will require prior agreement and approval.

Cllr Leonard expressed disappointment at losing €80k Fáilte Ireland funding – the site is an eyesore in the centre of the town and asked that this area is prioritised. The heritage of the area could be incorporated – it needs to be an area where people can congregate. L Earls DM stated that the funding was proposed for a covered outdoor dining area and on investigation the site requires more

preservation works and it was determined that the short term measure is a viable option. A Hill DE stated that the funding was initially sought for a structure that required foundations and the archaeological survey carried out restricts the site works for the moment. L Earls DM confirmed that AMD cannot meet the current grant requirements and this does not mean that AMD will not apply for funding in the future to refurbish the site.

Discussion about the condition of the site continued and suggestions made in relation to a planned design for the site. It was confirmed that WCC now own the site and the Part 8 application was also discussed. A Hill DE re-iterated that the permission was granted for the Pottery Museum subject to the findings of the archaeological survey. Long term plan for the site has not changed and AMD will now look at a short term plan to improve the area for residents and visitors alike. L Earls DM agreed to check that status of the Pottery Museum project with CCSD.

Cllr Annesley suggested that this area could be earmarked as a market area for the town. C Lawless DA stated that the Casual Trading Bye-Laws would need to be reviewed for that to be considered.

Cllr Bourke requested an update on LIS works and what roads would be done this year. A Hill DE stated that the funding has not been made available yet for this year and the MD will continue with the list in chronological order unless there was a major issue on a particular route. All applicants are contacted each year and updated on their application.

Cllr Kennedy stated that the rural roads in the district are in a shocking state following the severe frost in the last number of weeks – doesn't know where the funding will come from to address this. A Hill DE confirmed that a review of the roads was carried out with the GSS's and acknowledged that the roads are in a bad state and that WCC will do the best they can given that they are reliant on national funding. Roads will be ranked in order of disrepair and need for action. Cllr Kennedy asked the DM if there was any emergency funding available. L Earls DM confirmed that there was no emergency fund at the moment and this will be discussed with the Department and stated that WCC will maximise benefits from funding received. Cllr Kennedy requested that a copy of the review of rural roads is forwarded to the members.

Cllr Fitzgerald also noted that the local roads in the town are in need of repair and Cllr Kennedy confirmed that the issue of funding has been raised with the Minister. A Hill DE confirmed that she is aware of the areas in need of repair and re-iterated that the funding available to the district is not enough to cover all roads and an even spread of the funding will be maintained.

Cllr Leonard put forward a request from the traders on Upper Main Street to remove all day parking in the area. L Earls DM agreed to raise this with BMD as part of the Parking Bye-Laws.

Cllr Annesley requested that something is done about the potholes on Bridge St. – this has been reported over six months ago and we seem to be holding out for the FRS to fix this. A Hill DE confirmed that a solution is being sought for this – as soon as it is repaired the nature of wheel action on the turn is undoing the work. Acknowledge that major works need to be done here.

Cllr Fitzgerald stated that the number of HGVs will increase from the port and this will cause more damage to the Harbour Road area and the Bridge.

Cllr Fitzgerald raised concerns about the pedestrian crossing at Bridge St and requested that it is removed completely. A Hill DE confirmed that the belisha beacons were removed and signs were

erected in the interest of safety. This will be assessed with the upcoming transport study. The members discussed the issue and a vote to remove was suggested – it was agreed that rather than voting today it would be discussed further and the members would put forward suggestions.

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

Nothing brought to the meeting.

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

Nothing brought to the meeting.

**Item 7: Notice of Motion/s**

**(a) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Sylvester Bourke Received on 26/10/2022.**

*“That the council repair and renew the footpath at number 3 and 4 St. Mary’s Crescent, Barndarrig. This is to prevent flooding of the back yards of these properties”.*

A Hill DE confirmed that this is not a footpath and works to prevent flooding could be carried out. Cllr Bourke asked that the ivy clad light pole near the pump house is removed if works are being done there.

**(b) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Pat Kennedy, Cllr Pat Fitzgerald Received on 5/12/22**

*“That Arklow Municipal District look at providing funding for a further two bus shelters, one for the village of Aughrim and one for the village of Annacurra. This will bring to completion the number of bus shelters required for these two villages”.*

Cllr Fitzgerald seconded this motion.

**(c) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Pat Kennedy Received on 5/12/22**

*“That the kerbing along the footpath leading to The Birches housing estate in Ballinaclesh, in the interest of public safety, be re-aligned at both ends and that we also provide funding for the provision of two park benches to be installed alongside the footpath”.*

Cllr Bourke seconded this motion. Cllr Kennedy clarified that this may form part of the planning conditions and requested that the DE meet with the developer to review the plan for this space.

**Item 8: Correspondence**

No correspondence received.

**Item 9: Any Other Business**

Cllr Annesley requested that AMD remove the overhead Christmas sign coming over the Bridge, repair it and store it until next year.

Cllr Bourke asked that a section of road in Ballinvalley is assessed – it is subsiding into the gripe.

Cllr Fitzgerald raised concerns about the length of time taken to repair lighting in the town. L Earls DM acknowledged his concerns and confirmed that WCC is following up on this.

The members noted that part of the wall along the Navy Bridge has moved and that the footpath seems to be coming away from the wall. C Lawless DA confirmed that IR are due to carry out repairs here.

Cllr Leonard requested an update on plans for Kilbride Graveyard.

Cllr Leonard asked where the flagstones and kerbing removed from the Courthouse/ Parade Ground area have been stored.

Cllr Leonard highlighted the need to protect the dunes along the coast of Arklow and stressed that marram grass needed to be planted rather than ordinary grasses. This needs to be assessed all along the coast and recommended that a committee is formed to push this initiative.

Cllr Bourke retracted a former complaint made by a constituent about the Parade Ground works and informed the meeting that the constituent is delighted with the final result and wanted to credit WCC for the works.

Cllr Kennedy queried works at Templeusk Junction and funding. A Hill DE stated that Coillte have applied for a licence to clear trees – continuation of the Vale Road work – will wait on the outcome of this application.

Cllr Kennedy raised concerns about the layout of the junction at St Coleman’s Hospital and stated that it needs to be reviewed.

Cllr Kennedy requested that trees are pruned back at St Martin’s Drive Aughrim and also asked for an update on line marking for the district. A Hill DE confirmed that AMD are working on that.

Cllr Fitzgerald asked for an update on Woodview Park, Avoca works – A Hill DE confirmed that they are due to start.

Cllr Fitzgerald asked for an update on the Emoclew Rd works – A Hill DE confirmed that the public would be informed via social media before the works start and that they would be carried out during the school mid-term break to minimise traffic disruption.

Meeting concluded.

**Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.**

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

**Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.**

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

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