



**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> MAY 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

**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 –

Ultan McCabe - retired from WCC, Rev Fr Joseph Doran, John Cassell, John O’Keeffe, Tomás Halpin, Sal Hughes, Mary Byrne, Tommy Byrne.

A minutes silence was observed.

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Cllr Leonard put forward a request to suspend the Standing Orders – L Earls DM confirmed that this can only be done with the agreement of the quota - two thirds of the members. No discussion was allowed until the members voted – quota for suspension of the Standing Orders was not reached.  
3 For /3 Abstained.

**Item 2 : Confirmation of Minutes from Ordinary Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022.**

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were proposed by Cllr Annesley and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald. An amendment to the minutes was proposed and confirmed. (Amendment attached.)

### **Item 3 : Matters Arising.**

No matters arising.

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

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

#### **Roads Programme**

Provisional roads programme is below.

#### **Regional Roads**

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R753	Aughrim to Ballinaclash	Resurfacing & line marking	Complete
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
R-754	Redcross - Barndarrig	Surface Dressing	Contractor on behalf of Irish Water

#### **Safety Improvements Works**

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R 747	Woodenbridge and Aughrim	Safety Barrier	Complete
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
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### **Former National Roads**

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R7572	Knockmore to Kish	Resurfacing & line marking	Tendered

### **Miscellaneous Roads**

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
L-2149-0	Avondale Road	Overlay and passing places	Ground work is complete. Overlay to commence towards end of the month. Has been tendered & awarded.

### **Footpaths**

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R747	Vale Road	Remove & replace extruded kerb and lay concrete path	Extruded kerb being broken out w/e 13/05

### **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](mailto:speedlimits@wicklowcoco.ie)

### **Housing Construction Update**

#### Avondale Phase 2

Construction work is continuing on the development of 20 new homes. The erection of timber kits and roof trusses has completed. Progress is continuing on the blockwork outer leafs and the installation of windows and doors is nearing completion. Scaffolding is being dismantled to allow for the commencement of the site drainage installation.

#### 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.

### **Community Monuments Funding**

Arklow received funding for two projects in the 2022 Community Monuments Funding.

- **€44,621** for Arklow Castle
- **€7,072** for Abbey Lane (Research & Interpretation of Archaeology)

The unsuccessful projects were;

- Abbey Lane – Capital works to wall (€35k)
- Kilbride Mausoleum Project (€37k)

### **Other Projects**

Gate at St. Gabriel's Cemetery has been refurbished

**Comments :**

Cllr Leonard expressed disappointment on behalf of the DE for not getting funding for Abbey Lane, A Hill DE stated that AMD are not giving up – Will monitor any funding streams available.

Cllr Leonard enquired about options to mitigate the look to the Irish Water tank to be situated near the castle walls – stone cladding a possibility, compliant with planning regulations. Extra design input at this stage could resolve this. Looking forward to when the river is clean, ORIS funding could be sought for pontoons. The area could be landscaped with a small amount of funding. L Earls DM to raise this with Irish Water.

Cllr Leonard stressed that the rural roads are in fierce bad condition and some are not on the list. A Hill DE replied that the 3 Year Roads Programme is in place, more will appear in next year's addition. The members should be mindful that the cost of materials is increasing and extra funding is not there to meet this increase. Cllr Murphy asked what the plan was going forward, A Hill DE replied that the GSS's are vigilant and drains will be kept clear and quick repairs will be carried out to mitigate further wear. Cllr Kennedy asked if line marking was planned, A Hill DE replied that there would have to be a budget for that and AMD may need to look at alternative revenue streams. Cllr Murphy asked that a review is carried out – disabled bays marking needs upgrading.

Cllr Bourke supported the request and added that a lot of markings at rural junctions need upgrading. He also raised a complaint received from the school transport companies – Ballyhad especially problematic and bus company may withdraw service.

Cllr Bourke noted thanks for the reduction of the bridge toe-path as requested. Questions also raised about the traffic configuration for Redcross on behalf of farmers and farming contractors, especially at busy times. A Hill DE replied that hold ups usually occur at peak booking in times for the caravan park and motorists are ignoring the yield sign in place to mitigate congestion – there will be additional line marking to go in with a yellow box to complement the yield sign - relying on motorists to obey the rules of the road. Cllr Leonard suggested reducing the speed limit, A Hill confirmed that a survey had been completed and speed does not seem to be an issue here.

Cllr Fitzgerald thanked the DE for the work to the gates for the cemetery on the Coolgreaney Road. A Hill DE said that AMD are hoping to have work completed for the blessing of the graves. Cllr Fitzgerald also supported the request for upgrading line marking – Coolgreaney Road in particular.

Cllr Leonard raised concerns about people parking all day in The Brook area – Can we do anything about this – Carers cannot access the area. Traders are parking when Castlepark is full – is there potential there to increase the number of spaces. Cllr Fitzgerald confirmed that the Primary Care Centre works will soon be complete which will alleviate the problem. Cllr Leonard suggested that a review of land owned by WCC is carried out with a view to providing more parking in the town.

The members discussed the condition of the road surface on Abbey St. with the current volume of traffic diverted via Lower Main St – this area should be prioritised for resurfacing once works are complete – A Hill DE stated that AMD will patch where possible and re-instatement is a condition of the infrastructural schemes.

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

***To set a date for the Annual Meeting.***

The AGM will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

***To discuss the Cathaoirleachs Special Recognition Award.***

The recipient for the award was announced and the civic event will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm.

**Item 6 : Notice of Motions.**

**(a) Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard. Received on (24/03/22)**

*'That Arklow MD request WCC to fund a masterplan for Arklow Town Centre led by a local steering committee consisting of representatives of SME, heritage, environmental & community representatives and the arts, and that this masterplan be used as a template going forward to apply for URDF funding and similar future funding opportunities' .*

Cllr Leonard acknowledged that the LAP is in place for another two years but now is the time to put together a plan to connect the Flood Relief Scheme with the plans for the Harbour and the Parade Ground regeneration and further out to Avondale. Urban Realm Plan for the town needs to be considered. A Hill DE stated that elements of this are underway at the moment with the Traffic Study and the De-carbonisation Plan – focus on how things work together. L Earls DM mentioned that this will be considered at plenary level on a countywide basis – tying in all information to a masterplan. Cllr Leonard pushed for a visual strategy for the town to connect the individual plans – the town complete needs a design plan on paper. Cllr Murphy referred to the health check carried out previously and stated that this needs to be done again with a better focus on visuals.

Further discussion continued and comparisons made to Westport – a planned town.

Cllr Murphy asked that the plans for the pottery museum are discussed – A Hill DE stated that progress is dependent on the archaeologist's report and its findings – this will inform the steps going forward.

Potential for the promotion of walking and cycling routes was discussed.

All agreed with motion.

**(b) Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard. Received on (24/03/22)**

*'That Arklow MD host a presentation for local traders in Arklow Library in the next few weeks to inform them of all the projects which are currently underway and in the pipeline such as Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway, Arklow WWTP, Arklow Flood Relief Scheme, Arklow Parade Ground works, St. Marys Park, Medieval Arklow, URDF funding, Arklow Harbour together with an update on Arklow TT projects. This presentation is to have representatives of WCC present to answer questions on each project and representatives of the Economic Development Department'.*

Cllr Leonard urged AMD to engage with the traders and provide information on the projects underway in the town – look to growing the economy of the town and give them the opportunity to capitalise on the improvements. Leadership is needed and possibly a business task force should be put in place. L Earls DM suggested that incremental information sessions be held at the AMD meetings and representatives from the Chamber and the Traders be invited to attend.

#### **Item 7 : Correspondence**

A reply to the request to name the Primary Care Centre was received and the HSE suggested a wall plaque rather than naming a suite. Cllr Annesley agreed with this suggestion and C Lawless DA will reply to the HSE.

A proposal to purchase an anchor from a 150 year old schooner was received – this was discussed and agreed at a lower price and with a condition that storage was agreed prior to purchase.

Correspondence was received in relation to the lack of parking on lower Main St. (Plain & Pearl). Cllr Leonard said that this ties in with previous discussion on identifying areas for increasing parking spaces. A Hill DE stated that this is contradictory to government policy – encouraging people rather than cars into the town. L Earls DM stated that national policy leads funding.

The pros and cons of current parking laws in the town were discussed and areas where all day parking is being abused (permits) will be highlighted to APCOA.

#### **Item 8 : Any Other Business**

Cllr Murphy thanked the Fire Service and outdoor crew for clearing the remains of the bonfire in Inbhear Mor Park and the people who took part in the Spring Clean on the Vale Rd. L Earls DM suggested a letter drop to Inbhear Mor Park about illegal bonfires and the dangers they pose.

Cllr Kennedy highlighted areas where trees need to be cut back – A Hill DE will assess.

The progress on the greenway was discussed – Cllr Leonard asked that WCC is mindful of families losing some of their garden to benefit one day visitors and to look at all options. L Earls DM agreed to get the draft plans circulated to the members.

Cllr Kennedy wished the County Minor team well in their All Ireland Final and Cllr Bourke congratulated the Minor Ladies on getting through to semi-finals.

Cllr Fitzgerald asked if the request to fell a tree in the graveyard had been reviewed. A Hill DE stated that clearing briars from the area and pruning back some branches may be sufficient.

Cllr Annesley requested that the zebra crossings at the junction of Bridge St., Main St. and Lower Main St. are repainted.

Cllr Leonard voiced concern at not being allowed to attend meetings with members of the public who have sought representation and asked for guidance on how to ensure that this can change. L Earls DM confirmed that members are not prohibited from attending meetings and that experience informs us that allowing open, non-political discussion initially, works better for all concerned. This is not intended to exclude anyone or diminish the importance of local political representation and

AMD aim to improve communication with the public and members alike. We are committed to providing feedback and keeping all involved informed.

CLlr Fitzgerald raised the issue of derelict buildings in the town – how can you inspire people to shop in the town. CLlr Kennedy asked that an up to date list for the district is circulated to the members and a list of potential additions to the list. L Earls DM confirmed that this would be requested.

Meeting concluded.

**Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022.**

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

**Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.**

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

**Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District**

**ITEM 8**

**COUNCILLOR LEONARD AMENDMENT NO. 1**

**PROPOSED: Cllr Leonard**

**Agreed by members.**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

To add :

“Cllr Leonard asked that she meet with the traders and the District Manager in relation to the trader’s ongoing issues and concerns for their businesses due to the construction works - agreed by all members. Subsequently Cllr Pat Kennedy suggested that the Cathaoirleach Cllr Miriam Murphy also attend which was also agreed.”