



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON

THE 28TH MAY 2025

Present: Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Peir Leonard, Leas-Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Miriam Murphy
Cllr. Warren O'Toole

Officials Present: Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager
Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer
Ms. Lorraine Hayes ASO
Mr. Damien Byrne, Executive Engineer

Apologies: None

Press: None

Member of the Public: Tammy Byrne

Item 1: To discuss the allocation of Discretionary funding.

The following points were raised and discussed:

- Discretionary funding should provide value for money; need to create a fairer system.
- Not all Councillors are as proactive with notice of motions as others.
- By creating a fairer process of allocating funding so all Councillors are happy where funding is allocated.
- Perhaps funding should be ring-fenced for Sports and Academic Bursaries.
- The current allocation of funding is the most democratic way.
- The current process benefit's all.
- While notice of motions are proposed and seconded it does not mean the project goes ahead immediately, the project goes on a list for review of all initially agreed projects, the project is

assessed by the Technical Team and proposed costs are allocated, it then reverts back to the members for agreement.

- A measure of value in communities does vary from place to place.
- As previously discussed a draft protocol should be ready for July's meeting for the amount of funding to be set aside from the Discretionary budget for allocations for groups, individual, sports and/or academic bursaries.
- Currently, Notices of Motions, correspondence received and projects discussed under AOB are considered for Discretionary funding allocation.

Cllr Leonard expressed concerns about the treatment of Members and a lack of transparency. She made reference to being bullied. LE stated that she took this matter very seriously and would attend to this matter.

Cllr Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach called for a vote.

The following motion was called

"To change the way the discretionary funding is divided per member rather than the current arrangement through notice of motions"

In favour

Cllr. Leonard
Cllr. O'Toole

Against

Cllr. Bourke
Cllr. Fitzgerald
Cllr. Kennedy
Cllr. Murphy

4 against the proposal, 2 in favour of the proposal, no abstentions, and the proposal is dismissed.

Cllr Bourke proposed the discussion for allocation of funding go ahead at this meeting. Cllr. Fitzgerald seconded the proposal.

Cllr. O'Toole proposed the discussion wait until next available the meeting. Cllr. Leonard seconded this proposal.

The following motion was called

"Proposal to proceed with the discussion on discretionary funding allocation"

In favour

Cllr. Bourke
Cllr. Fitzgerald
Cllr. Kennedy
Cllr. Murphy

Against

Cllr. O'Toole

Abstain

Cllr. Leonard

4 in favour of the proposal, 1 against the proposal, 1 abstention, and the proposal proceeds.

The discretionary budget proposals for 2025 were discussed as set out in the list provided to the Elected Members with the Agenda.

The following items were raised:

- **Barndarrig** €45,000.00 for footpath only from the National School to the crossroads at the Church. While the footpath is complete more work needs to be carried out for the pedestrian

crossing, the issue lies with land ownership. The DE will revert to the Members when progress has been made.

This project was proposed by Cllr. Bourke and seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald. All members agreed with the proposal.

- **Castlemacadam Cemetery Upgrade:** €52,000 the works to include refurbishment to the front of the graveyard. This was proposed by Cllr. Bourke in 2024 and seconded by Cllr. Leonard, all Members in agreement to support this motion.
- **Duck Pond** should be part of an annual clean-up of the area. €20,000.00 should be reserved for this. This was proposed by Cllr. Murphy and Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald, all Members were in agreement.
- **Tall Ship Maybe Project** €2500.00 allocated to Sail Training, this was proposed by Cllr Leonard and seconded by Cllr. Murphy. All Members were in agreement
- **Greenan Public lighting:** €15,500 for Installation of public lighting in Greenan, this was proposed by Cllr. Bourke and Seconded by Cllr. Kennedy. All Councillors are in agreement.
- **Michael Dwyer 200:** €20,000 to support the Michael Dwyer 200 Committee with their events to commemorate the 200th anniversary of his passing. Cllr. Bourke proposed and Cllr. Fitzgerald seconded this.
- **Annacurra Public Lighting:** Additional funding of €12,135 sought to complete works from 2023 Notice of Motion. It was proposed by Cllr Bourke and seconded by Cllr Kennedy.

Discretionary funding remains to cover other projects as they arise as well as some contingency funding that may be required.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th September 2025

Signed: Cllr. Miriam Murphy

Cllr Miriam Murphy, Cathaoirleach, Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: Alvina Brehony

Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District