



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON

THE 11th March 2026.

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

Guest Speaker: Ms. Sarah McCullough, SEO, CERA
Ms. Grainne O'Neill, Administrative Officer, CERA

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 11th February were proposed by Cllr. Kennedy and seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald.

Item 3: Matters Arising.

Cllr. Leonard requested an update on the ESB.

LE said she will follow-up on this.

Item 4: Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

Update from the team from Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate

An update and proposal of works which could extend the life of the cemetery was delivered by Sarah McCullough and Grainne O'Neill.

There are sixty-seven unallocated plots remaining in the cemetery which will be used within the next eighteen Months.

The columbarian wall has fourteen of the forty units occupied. We will look at the prospect of installing a nice memorial garden here.

We are hopeful that we can increase the size of the cemetery in the long term as there is a lot of potential to do so. Every square foot of the area should be used. There is space around the edge where we can gain more plots. The main avenue is too wide and if narrowed we could gain more plots also. We will get the design team to look at developing the cemetery. This is a good new story. Drainage issues and landscaping will be explored. We can also put an EOI out for land which we could purchase while the upgrading work is being carried out.

The following points were raised:

- This is great news for the Town how long will it take for work to be carried out.
- Part of the cemetery is for different religions; this could cause problems.
- People may have issues with burial grounds being disturbed, the lodge is empty there and this has potential to be used for heritage development with history of the Town available.
- What do we do regarding drainage/flooding in the interim.
- Sarah McCullough responded that we need to progress with procurement, go to tender and then we will see a timeframe. It is very important not to disturb any burial grounds. Finance will come from budget once we can prolong life of cemetery.

AH is happy to work with the CERA team on this project.

Municipal District of Arklow

District Engineer's Report

4th March 2026

Restoration Improvement

€1,940,395

Proposed Works	Status
R-752 Ballybeg to Rathnew	Commenced
R-747 Vale Road	Liaise with NTA team
R-753 Aughrim	
R-754 Knockanree to Kilmacoo	

Restoration Maintenance

€440,910

Climate Adaptation

Proposed Works	Status
Beech Road	Drainage & Road rehabilitation
Stump of the Castle	Drainage Works

Discretionary Funding

Proposed Works	Status
Tree Management	Tree surgeon appointed
Castlemacadam Cemetery	Works completed
Footpath at Barndarrig NS	Waiting on response from Board of Management
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
2024 Footpath Repair Riverwalk	Some drainage works required in advance
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	

Other works

Rathdrum Traffic Study – Finalising the submissions and the CE Report. Working with the QS on the costing for funding

Seaview Avenue – Consultant working through designs based on submissions received.

Pedestrian Crossings – Rathdrum complete and Avoca complete next week

Footpath on Main St. – Resetting of cobbles in front of St. Mary's Park

The following matters were raised and discussed:

There are a lot of roads in the District in bad need of repair due to storm Chandra.

AH said the GSS are patching for now and we are waiting on Emergency funding to fully repair.

Cllr. Leonard requested an update on Currans Corner.

AH has discussed this with the Roads Department and Currans Corner is too big a project for AMD. It will be very disruptive to traffic, but she will get back to the Elected Members on this.

Cllr. Bourke enquired about the tactile paving loose at Condren's Lane and also what part of Beech Road is being done?

AH additional drainage is being installed near the pedestrian crossing.

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked about the footpath at The Bearings.

AH said this had been a notice of motion previously and the landowners would not give up the land.

Cllr. Kennedy requested the patcher go out to the Ballinabarney Road. He also said Kilpipe road is in terrible condition.

AH said patcher will be sent out, Kilpipe road is top of the list, but we are waiting for emergency funding. She explained the GSS are out daily routinely filling potholes but can't get to them quick enough and the weather and heavy traffic are washing the materials away.

Cllr. Kennedy said entrance to Woods estate is a through road and lorries are being hit constantly with trees.

AH will get Ian to look at this.

Cllr. O'Toole reported hole in footpath at Abbey St. and cobble lock missing.

AH will take a look at this.

Cllr. Leonard said the parking at South Quay needs to be reviewed. Can we install bollards.

AH this area is highlighted. We will possibly put double yellow lines there.

LE said a letter has been sent to Department of Transport and to An Taoiseach, we are actively seeking funding.

Item 5: Notice of Motions

(a) To consider the Notice of Motion in the names of Cllr Kennedy and Cllr P Fitzgerald. Received on the 19th December 2025

"That Arklow Municipal District provide funding for the upgrading and rehabilitation of footpaths in the village of Aughrim and also within the urban zone of St. Peter's Place Arklow. The existing footpaths in these areas require upgrading and improvements with respect to safety from a structural perspective. While in so doing the aim is to enhance public realm and safety. The areas in question are centred along the Main Street of Aughrim and St. Peter's Place Arklow"

This was proposed by Cllr. Kennedy and seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald.

(b) To consider the Notice of Motion in the names of Cllrs P Leonard. Received on 13th January 2026

"That Arklow Municipal District assess the condition of the paths and drainage in St. Gabriel's Cemetery and fund the necessary improvements to ensure the graveyard is maintained to an appropriate standard."

In recent years the graveyards paths have become degraded and the ongoing drainage issue causes distress to those visiting their loved ones in the eastern part of the graveyard. Funding necessary repairs to bring up to standard would mean so much to the local community "

Cllr. Kennedy said the paths are not fit for purpose in Aughrim and St. Peter's Place needs attention.

AH has looked at the figures and Aughrim is €46500 and St. Peter's Place €72000 these figures are to improve what is worst it is not for the full area.

All Members agreed to bring this motion back to the table at budget meeting.

(c) To consider the Notice of Motion in the names of Cllrs P Leonard. Received on 13th January 2026

"That Arklow Municipal District work with the WCC Cultural Team to identify funding gaps in the Arklow Laneways Project and provide discretionary funding as needed, particularly to enhance the Riverwalk and support works to mitigate the visual impact of the Irish Water storm tank beneath the historic castle walls.

This area is of considerable heritage importance and deserves investment and improvement"

AH hasn't spoken to the team as yet, Riverwalk is in good condition. Staff can save the footpath, drainage and replacement can be carried out. There was money set aside last year we can use for this.

All Elected Members agreed to bring this back to the table for the budget meeting.

(d) To consider the Notice of Motion in the names of Cllrs P Leonard. Received on 13th January 2026.

“That Arklow Municipal District provide funding to repair the paths on Lower Main Street and replace the worn and perished plastic bollards that detract from the appearance of the junction at Castlepark”

AH has looked at these the red plastic bollards can be replaced; the keep left and keep right arrows can be replaced. The approximate cost from Curran’s Corner to Hyland’s on Lr. Main St is €75000.

Cllr. Leonard said signage and bollards being replaced will be an improvement.

AH said Lr. Main St. is on the three-year programme but by doing this it will help.

All Members agreed to bring this back to the table for the budget meeting.

Item 6: Correspondence

AB read correspondence received from Arklow Girl Guides who are going to Munich to mark the 100-year anniversary of The Girl Guides. They are seeking any help to fund this trip.

Cllr. Murphy proposed €300 be donated and Cllr. Leonard seconded this.

Item 8: Any Other Business

Cllr. O’Toole sought an update on his previous notice of motion to erect a commemorative stone in the District to commemorate the 1916 rising.

Cllr. Kennedy requested Cllr. O’Toole gets a costing and some ideas.

LE reminded the Members we have some granite which might be suitable for this.

Cllr. Kennedy said the lighting in Aughrim and Avoca is still not working properly.

AH explained there is an issue with Heritage lights in Aughrim she will look into it.

Requests for benches from Elected Members were made however AB reminded the Elected Members of the survey and policy regarding Benches. We will replace benches and will take a look at the harbour office area. Members agreed the Memorial policy at a plenary meeting a few years ago.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th April 2026.

Signed: Cllr Miriam Murphy

Cllr Miriam Murphy, Cathaoirleach, Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: Abrehony

Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District