



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON THE 13th September 2023

Present: Cllr. Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, Leas-Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke
Cllr. Pat Kennedy

Officials Present: Mr. John Bowe, A/District Manager
Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator
Ms. John Daly, Executive Engineer
Ms. Lorraine Hayes, ASO

Apologies:
Cllr. Miriam Murphy
Cllr. Peir Leonard

Press: None

Public: None

Presentation: Hilary Sharpe, Arklow Meals on Wheels
Catherine Kavanagh, Arklow Meals on Wheels
Nelly Carr, Arklow Meals on Wheels

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Annesley made a presentation on behalf of the members to Arklow Meals on Wheels which was in recognition of their hard work and service over twenty one years.

Hilary Sharpe provided the members with a brief outline of their work, she told the Members that during Covid they prepared over 1000 meals and it had been a very challenging time. They currently prepare approximately 120 meals per week for distribution around the town.

They are hoping to have a new location soon which will allow them to increase the number of meals prepared and distributed. Most of the service users come from referrals from Hospitals and Social Workers as well as local referrals. HS Meals on Wheels was very appreciative for the recognition by the Municipal District Members.

Comments:

Cllr Bourke congratulated the volunteers for their hard work and commitment.

Cllr Fitzgerald said he witnessed first-hand those that were in real difficulty and said only for Meals on wheels people would be suffering more.

Cllr Kennedy offered a heartfelt thank you from the whole Community.

Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.

The members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost a loved one, those mentioned were –

Eileen Clandillon(née Tancred), Capt. Frank Forde , Lillie Lambert(née Mangan), Dora Jarvis(née Djemil), Draga Cretu, Capt. Thomas (Tommy) Myler, Siobhán Dunne(née O'Donel), Marie Dunne(née O'Reilly), Mary O'Reilly(née Bulman), William (Billy) Hayes, Cecily Short(née Kavanagh), Kirwin Kelly, James (Jim), Anna May Cox(née Brauders), Margaret Doherty(née Bryan), Rosemary (Rosie) Flynn(née Wadden), Joseph (Joe) Hughes, Robert Hannan, Garry Doyle, Josephine Byrne, Brid Kiernan(née Sheerin), Denis Kenny, Mary Townsend(née Gannon), Elizabeth (Lilian) Harpur (née Proctor), Michael (Mick) O'Neill, Nuala Healy, Josephine Byrne, Carmel Nowlan(née Kelly), Michael Humphries, David Deacon, Elizabeth (Liz) O'Shea(née O'Rourke), Evelyn Lalor(née Murphy), Helen Kavanagh(née Houlihan), Gearóid Nicholl, Cyril Kelly, Leo Moran, Seamus Busher, Stephen O'Connor, Anna Christine Ryan(née Ferguson), George Greene, Patrick (Paddy) Geoghegan.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 12th July 2023 were proposed by Cllr Annesley and seconded by Cllr Kennedy.

Item 3: Matters Arising.

Cllr Kennedy asked for an update on the sports ground in Rathdrum as well as the running track.

AB said she would request an update in relation to Rathdrum from the relevant section.

AB explained that the running track in Arklow had been approved for two grants. One was to provide some public lighting and one was for maintenance to the running surface area. Lighting is ready to go we are just awaiting final approval from the department to go ahead, the surface that is currently there will be repaired. To upgrade the surface completely would require extensive funding.

Cllr Bourke voiced his concern on Ash die back trees. He said something needs to be done regarding same as a tree fell on a lady during the storm and it was unbelievable that no one had died.

AB said she had previously contacted the Department of Agriculture who is responsible for Forestry and they had provided some information which was distributed however AB will follow up with any further updates

Cllr Annesley asked whose responsibility is it to clear the roads of fallen trees.

JD explained that due to Health and Safety concerns if the County is under a yellow or red warning that Council staff may not be in a position to attend immediately however crews will go out but the warning has passed and it is safe.

Item 4: Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

District Engineers Report

Municipal District of Arklow District Engineer's Report

6th September 2023

Roads

Restoration Improvement

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
L-6137 / L-6183 Ballymorris	Complete

L-2140/L-6141 Macreddin to Ballyshane	TBC with Contractor
L-2172 Snugborough - Barniskey	TBC with Contractor
L-5155 Tullylusk to Kilmacoo	Commenced 5/9/23
L-6154-6155 Tigroney	TBC with Contractor
L-6200 Killacloran	TBC with Contractor
L-6902 St. Mary's Road, Connolly St., Griffith St.	Completed
R-755 Glasnarget	TBC with Contractor

Restoration Maintenance – 18.6km

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R-747 Vale Road	Complete
L-1113 Coolbeg Bridge to Deputy's Pass	Complete
L-5156 Kilcandra to Barndarrig	Complete
L-6203 Tomnasklea - Killaveaney	Complete

Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
Retaining wall on R754 at Knockanree	Complete

Former National Roads

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R772 Knockmore to Kish	Finalising design with NTA team

Local Improvement Schemes

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
Ballinacor, Greenane	Confirmation of schemes. To be scheduled with Contractor
Drumdangan, Glenealy	
Coolahulle, Aghrim	

Discretionary Funds 2023

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
Footpath – Brewery Bends	Scheduled with GSS
Arklow South Peir - Removal of sand	Completed
Upgrade of footpaths 130-204 Fernhill	TBC with GSS – Prioritising locations
Footpath in Greenane - Completion	Works ongoing on site
Repair verge behind 3-4 St. Mary's Crescent Barndarrig	Complete
Bus Shelter in Aghrim	Order Placed
Bus Shelter in Annacurra	Order Placed
Public lighting at The Birches, Ballinaclash	Liaising with lighting designer
Public Realm - Arklow	Putting scope of works together
Public Realm - Rathdrum	Seeking prices for bollards & planters
Educational signage at beaches	Order Placed
Repair of footpath at Curran's Corner	TBC with GSS
The Pines	Complete

Footpath at Ferrybank	Contractor in place, currently speaking to business owners
Footpath at RNLI	TBC with GSS
Tree management	Putting scope of works together
Footpaths at Templeraíne Heights	TBC with GSS

Other Projects

Rathdrum Traffic Study: We have extended the scope of the study to include the junction at Lower Street and the R-752. Consultants have advised the additional survey is scheduled for September.

Comments:

Cllr Fitzgerald asked for an update on when the line marking would be completed at St. Marys and Griffith Street. He also questioned the plans for the front of the school at St. Marys.

JD said once works are fully completed in the area, that the same company return to complete the line marking. JD advised that there was other works to be completed on the road at school.

Cllr Annesley said there appears to be problem with the height of some kerbs at Griffith Street.

JD said he will talk to Avril regarding this.

Cllr Kennedy expressed concern that Rathdrum had been waiting two years for wheelchair space to be repainted and to have line markings completed. He also pointed out that flower pots need to be moved in the area.

JD said the larger roads receive priority due to health and safety, however the contractor will return to paint the yellow box and wheelchair parking bay, he will follow it up.

Cllr Annesley said planters at age friendly car parking spaces in Arklow are too near the spaces and need to be moved as they are impeding some people from getting in and out of their cars.

Cllr. Annesley referred to the South Quay and asked for confirmation that it will be a two way street.

JD confirmed it will be one way with a cycle way and more public spaces.

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

No other business set forth.

Item 6: Notice of Motion/s

Motions have been deferred until the next Meeting as Cllr. Leonard was absent.

Item 7: Correspondence

Email from Aisling Connolly regarding the state of the road at The Crescent, Brittas she is questioning if the Council will resurface the road. There was also concern expressed in relation to speeding in the area.

JD explained that as this is a private road so it will not be resurfaced.

AB said that usually a speed detection survey would be carried out and the results will give an idea of the next steps to be taken.

Cllr Bourke asked if a footpath and lighting from Jack Whites to Brittas Bay would be considered. There was also concern relating to the number of public lights not working in the district.

JD addressed the issue of lighting and said it is a huge undertaking and that the policy relating to dark skies had to be considered.

AB will email public lights regarding this issue of lights not working in the area.

Cllr Fitzgerald expressed his concern about the public transport system in the district. He mentioned in particular, the number 2 bus service from Arklow. He also referred to the train service and the small number of carriages provided on the line.

Cllr Kennedy said there are huge problems with the school bus services, also a shortage of Doctors, Dentists and Garda also no broadband in many areas and it is terrible that Bus Eireann cannot provide bus drivers. PK requested that the DA would send a letter on behalf of the members to the Department responsible for the school bus service. Cllr Bourke and Cllr Fitzgerald supported the request.

Cllr Fitzgerald suggested School children on the Local link routes could use the Local Link for transport to School.

Cllr Kennedy questioned the role planning played in regard to providing suitable childcare facilities in the County, he suggests that the model used is wrong and the Council need to support sustainable childcare in the County.

Cllrs Bourke and Fitzgerald agree totally with this.

JD said that the provision of childcare facilities was a matter for the County Development Plan and that members should refer to the Forward Planning Section in Wicklow County Council.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th September 2023.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: _____
Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District

