

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District
held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, The Avenue, Gorey
on Tuesday 15th October 2024, at 2:30pm**

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr Oliver Walsh,

Cllr Mary Farrell (Online),
Cllr Anthony Donohoe,
Cllr Fionntán Ó'Súilleabháin,
Cllr Nicky Boland,
Cllr Joe Sullivan,
Cllr Darragh McDonald,
Cllr Pip Breen,

Officials: Ms Liz Hore, Director of Services & District Director,
Mr Philip Knight, Municipal District Manager,
Ms Joanne Kehoe, Senior Executive Engineer,
Ms Liz Stanley, Senior Staff Officer,
Ms Lynda Lacey, Head of Finance
Ms Paula Shortall, Senior Staff Officer, Housing,
Ms Angela Finn, Senior Staff Officer, Housing Capital,
Mr Oisín Boland, Executive Planner,
Mr Enda Brennan, Executive Engineer, Environment,

Apologies: Cllr Paddy Kavanagh
Cllr Donal Kenny

No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr P Breen, seconded by Cllr D McDonald the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD, held on September 17th, 2024, were signed, and adopted.

1.2 Matters Arising:

There were no Matters Arising from the September District Meeting.

No. 2 Consideration of Reports, Recommendations & Presentations

2.1 Housing:

Ms P Shortall presented the the Housing Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated and updated the members on housing completions in the area.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin requested clarification on the rules around the affordable housing scheme regarding local applicants and requested an update for the next meeting.

2.2 Environment:

The Environment Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted. Mr E Brennan responded to queries raised at the September District Meeting and updated the members on works being carried out by the Environment Department at present.

The Members welcomed the recent appointment of the new Bio-diversity Officer, Wexford County Council. Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin expressed serious concern regarding the cutting down of trees in Gorey town and the District Manager advised that this was criminal activity and should be addressed by An Garda Síochána.

2.3 Planning

Mr O Boland presented the Planning Report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mr Boland advised the Members that this would be his last meeting as he was moving to alternative employment. The Director of Services and the Members wished Mr Boland every good wish and thanked him for all his work in the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin requested that a status list of derelict buildings be made available at the November District Meeting. Mr Boland agreed to circulate same.

2.4 Roads

Ms J Kehoe presented the Roads Report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting and the content was noted. She further advised that all roads are being surveyed and assessed at present for inclusion in next year's Programme of Works.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin requested an update on the status of the Ramstown Safety Measures for the November Meeting. Cllr Ó'Súilleabháin also advised that no lighting was in place from Naomh Eanna to Gorey Rugby Club, that the lights in Doire Fea are not visible due to an overgrown hedge and requested that these matters be addressed.

Cllr A Donohoe requested an update on proposed works at the Ballytegan junction with the Arklow Road and wondered if these works had gone to tender yet? He also requested a further update on improvement works on the Clogh and the Tinnock Roundabouts which require immediate attention.

Cllr P Breen requested an update on the roll out of the new speed limits and the time frame for when these would be implemented.

Cllr J Sullivan suggested that the bollards around The Monument and on the Paul Funge, Boulevard might require some attention as some of them are falling and not visually attractive and asked could they be rectified.

2.5 Additional Departmental Reports

The Community Development, Library Services and Wexford Fire Services Reports, copies of which had previously been circulated were noted.

2.6 District Manager's Report

The District Manager's Report was noted. Mr P Knight gave a brief update on ongoing projects within the district, such as the Gorey Market House THRIVE Project and the St. Waleran's Sports Complex and Riverchapel Community Complex. He also gave an update on what was a very successful Culture Night, a very positive Gorey Yellow Belly Comedy Festival and advised that the Big Switch On will take place on 30th November 2024.

Cllr M Farrell requested an update on the proposed Community Garden in Oulart and expressed concern at the length of time it was taking to deliver the project.

Cllr D McDonald expressed ongoing concern regarding the Eircode for Gorey District Park bringing people to the incorrect entrance on Hollyfort Road where no parking is available. The District Manager agreed to investigate this matter further before the next meeting,

The Chairman, Cllr O Walsh advised that the entrance to the Oulart Garden is prone to flooding and to ensure that this matter is addressed prior to any development going ahead. Cllr Walsh also requested confirmation that these funds could be transferred to 2025 budget if the monies were not spent prior to year-end and the District Manager agreed to discuss this matter with the Head of Finance prior to the November meeting.

No. 3 Prescribed Business by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members

3.1 Consideration of the Draft Budgetary Plan (GMA) 2025

Ms L Lacey, Head of Finance, presented the GMA allocations for 2025 to the Members and highlighted that in 2024 a once off additional discretionary allocation of €170,000 or €5,000 per member was included in the Budget 2024. She advised that it was hoped to repeat this allocation in the GMA for 2025 if approval to retain the local adjustment factor at the 2024 level which is 15% confirmed funding for the next 5 years was agreed by the Councillors.

Cllr P Breen referred to a discussion which took place at the Full Council Meeting the previous day, where a vote was taken to retain the 15% increase to the LPT for the next 5 years and that the result had been very divisive with 23 Councillors in favour and 11 against.

Cllr Breen proposed that the discretionary fund be withheld from the 11 Councillors that had voted against the LPT motion the previous day. This proposal was seconded by Cllr A Donohoe and recommended that the funding be distributed between the 23 councillors who had proposed to retain the 15% increase in the LPT for the next 5 years.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin was aghast at this proposal and stated that electioneering was at play and the proposal was totally undemocratic. Cllr N Boland agreed with Cllr Ó'Súilleabháin and felt that the proposal was grossly unfair.

The Head of Finance explained that this retention will generate €1.9 million for this Council over the next 5 years and without the 15% retention, these funds would have to be generated from existing funds which would have a detrimental impact on the Councils finances.

Cllr J Sullivan advised that the retention of this 15% increase equates to almost €10 million over a 5-year period and it would be short sighted to vote against this proposal as it represents a significant amount of funds for the County.

A vote was then taken on Cllr Breen's proposal to withhold the discretionary funding from the Councillors that had voted against the retention of the 15% increase in LPT with the following Councillors agreeing with the proposal, Breen, Donohoe, Farrell, McDonald, Sullivan and Walsh. Cllrs Boland and Ó'Súilleabháin voted against this proposal.

A counter proposal to continue to allocate funds generated via the LPT through all councillors was proposed by Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin which was seconded by Cllr N Boland with Cllrs Breen, Donohoe, Farrell, McDonald, Sullivan and Walsh voting against this counter proposal.

Cllr J Sullivan asked if there was any legal issue with the initial proposal from Cllr Breen and Ms L Hore, Director of Services advised that the regulations around this matter need to be clarified. The Chairman agreed to seek legal advice before proceeding any further with this discussion.

On the proposal of Cllr A Donohoe seconded by Cllr D McDonald, the GMA was agreed as outlined and presented by the Head of Finance.

3.2 Consideration of the Variation of the Lease of Lands at Seamount, Ardamine, Gorey to Courtown Sailing Club.

On the proposal of Cllr P Breen seconded by Cllr A Donohoe the members agreed to the extension of the lease of its lands at Seamount, Ardamine, Co. Wexford as outlined in the memo dated 18th September 2024 from Ms L Hore, Director of Services which was circulated at the meeting.

3.3 Section 183 Disposal of Property at Ramsfort Park, Gorey (WX53103F)

The Section 183 Disposal of Land at Ramsfort Park, Gorey was proposed by Cllr J Sullivan, seconded by Cllr D Mc. Donald.

No. 4 Notice of Motion from Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District

Consider Motion submitted by Cllr F Ó 'Súilleabháin

The Members discussed Cllr Ó'Súilleabháin's Motion to use the "Killarney Cup Project" as a model to develop a "Gorey Cup Project" as a pilot programme.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin proposed that a keep cup should be developed and used in all the coffee / tea outlets in the town. The District Manager advised that he had met with several restaurant outlets in the town approx. a year ago and most businesses were not very receptive to this proposal.

The District Manager agreed to investigate this proposal further through the Chamber of Commerce and Love Gorey Partners.

No. 5 Correspondence

None

No. 6 AOB

None

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Daingnithe ar an _____ lá de _____ 2024

**Oliver Walsh,
Cathaoirleach,
Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District**