

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District
held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, The Avenue, Gorey
on Tuesday 16th April 2024, at 2:30pm**

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr Pip Breen, Cathaoirleach,
Cllr Andrew Bolger,
Cllr Anthony Donohoe,
Cllr Mary Farrell,
Cllr Willie Kavanagh,
Cllr Donal Kenny,
Cllr Fionntán Ó'Súilleabháin, Leas-Chathaoirleach,
Cllr Joe Sullivan,
Cllr Diarmuid Devereux,
Cllr Oliver Walsh,

Officials: Ms Liz Hore, Director of Services & District Director,
Mr Philip Knight, Municipal District Manager,
Ms Joanne Kehoe, Senior Executive Engineer,
Ms Debbie Stanley, Assistant Staff Officer,
Ms Eimear Kennedy, Volunteer Co-ordinator, Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2024,
Ms Paula Shortall, Senior Staff Officer, Housing, MS Teams,
Mr Oisín Boland, Executive Planner,
Mr Enda Brennan, Executive Engineer, Environment.

No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr O Walsh, seconded by Cllr D Kenny the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD, held on March 26th, 2024, were signed, and adopted.

1.2 Matters Arising:

Cllr W Kavanagh under Matters Arising sought an explanation from Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin as to how recent letters from him were circulated to community groups within the Kilmuckridge District outlining substantially incorrect grant funding allocations to them under the Amenity & Arts Grant Scheme. Cllr O'Súilleabháin replied that he felt that he had provided sufficient explanation at the plenary Council Meeting of the 8th of April and apologised for his mistake. A brief discussion took place around the issue.

Sympathies:

An Cathaoirleach proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of Betty Stanley, mother of staff member Liz Stanley.

Congratulations:

Members extended their congratulations to the following:

- ✚ Aoife Wafer, Ballygarrett – Ladies Six Nations Player of the Match
- ✚ Gorey Community School GAA – Junior Leinster Football Champions
- ✚ Coolgreany Handball – U-16 Leinster Champions
- ✚ Darren O’Toole
- ✚ Gorey Rangers – Upcoming FAI Junior Cup Final
- ✚ Wexford Lavender Farm – Celebrating 10 years in business.

No. 2 Consideration of Reports, Recommendations & Presentations

2.1 Fleadh Cheoil Volunteers Presentation:

Ms E Kennedy informed the members that up to 1,500 volunteers will be sought from across the county to cater for the 500,000 people expected to visit the county during Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann over the period August 4th to 11th. Ms Kennedy explained that there will be a variety of roles to fill such as street ambassadors, car parking, catering, Irish speaking volunteers, photographers, access volunteers and customer service.

Ms Kennedy advised that anyone from age 15 years can apply to become a volunteer and that mandatory training on GDPR, health & safety and child protection will be provided to all. Ms Kennedy asked for the member’s assistance in spreading the word and agreed to circulate posters, social media posts and a briefing document for their information and to share.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr P Breen thanked Ms Kennedy for her presentation.

2.2 Housing:

The Housing Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

Cllr A Bolger sought an update on the Ramsfort Affordable, St. Waleran’s and Creagh Social Housing Developments. P Shortall agreed to revert with an update from the Housing Capital Team in advance of the next District Meeting.

Cllr F Ó’Súilleabháin highlighted the disparity in HAP Payments for families living in North Wexford and South Wicklow and asked has the Council taken any action to bring rates in Gorey in line with rental rates in the area. Ms Shortall again agreed to revert.

2.3 Environment:

The Environment Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted. Mr E Brennan provided relevant updates on the following:

- ✚ Ballymoney North Beach access works,
- ✚ Maintenance & cleaning of the boardwalk in Morriscastle,
- ✚ Cahore Works including opening of public conveniences, draft layout of carpark, installation of rock armour and connection of water supply,
- ✚ Unauthorised littering within the district.

Cllr P Breen highlighted an issue with littering in Ballycanew resulting from unauthorised parking of caravans.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin sought an update on the Ahare River, the Ballyminaun Plant and the Redress Scheme for houses affected by pyrite. District Director Ms L Hore agreed to revert. Cllr Ó'Súilleabháin also reported polluted water entering the Bann River in Camolin.

Cllr M Farrell paid tribute to the hard work of the Rapid Response Unit and asked what plans are in place to target fly-tipping hotspots. Cllr Farrell also asked that dog fouling stencils used on footpaths be circulated to Tidy Towns Groups in Kilmuckridge and Ballygarrett.

Cllr D Devereux reported the collapse of eleven trees at Courtown North Beach and was advised that this falls under the remit of the OPW.

2.4 Planning

The Planning Reports, copies of which had previously been circulated were noted and Mr O Boland responded to queries raised on bringing vacant homes back into use and the policy on log cabins.

2.5 Roads

The Roads Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted. Ms J Kehoe either responded to or agreed to revert on the following issues:

- ✚ Drainage Works from Inch to Coolgreany,
- ✚ Review of safety issues at Coolgreany NS,
- ✚ Line-marking at The Rock Junction,
- ✚ Removal of unauthorised Fingerpost Signs,
- ✚ Lighting Connections at PH Doyle, Clonattin and Courtown Road,
- ✚ Update on Coach Road Roundabout,
- ✚ Improvement Works at Craan,
- ✚ Ballyeden to Tullabeg,
- ✚ Timeline for Esmonde Street Works,
- ✚ Parking on footpath at Sean O'Byrne Park.

Cllr J Sullivan called on the Council to take-in-charge the Ballysprings HE, Ballywilliam which he said the Council was legally obliged to do so as planning permission was granted in 2009. Ms L Hore advised that the Planning SPC is working on a new TIC process to go before the May Full Council for adoption. She added that a Reserve Capital Budget has been set aside for such older estates and agreed to revert.

Ms Kehoe informed the Committee that the ESB will commence upgrade works on Lower Main Street and continue out the Arklow Road and St Michael's Road later this month which could take up to a year to complete. She said the works will have very little impact on traffic flow around the town other than some parking bays closed off near the junction and that the main work will happen at night.

2.6 Additional Departmental Reports

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

2.7 District Manager's Report

The District Manager's Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

Mr P Knight referred to the recent Public Consultation drop-in event and workshops held at Gorey Market House and Gorey Shopping Centre where the public shared their opinions on the potential uses of the building ahead of the submission of an application under the THRIVE Funding Scheme. He added it is encouraging to see that the Council is on the same wavelength as the public and advised that all feedback received will be incorporated into the design.

Mr Knight also informed the members that the district is continuing to work on summer and autumn festival programmes.

Cllr M Farrell asked for a Progress Report from the Community Engagement Meeting held in Kilmuckridge in May 2023. Mr Knight agreed to pursue any outstanding issues and to arrange a follow-up meeting with the community groups.

Cllr A Donohoe asked could the plans for the Market House be circulated once available. Ms L Hore said that a Special Meeting of the Committee will be called prior to the submission of the funding application.

Cllr M Farrell asked that a letter be sent to the editor of the Gorey Guardian regarding the absence of a photographer at district events. Mr Knight advised that they are in the process of appointing one.

No. 4 Prescribed Business by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members

None.

No. 5 Notice of Motion from Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District

None.

No. 6 Correspondence

6.1 03.04.2024: Correspondence to the Office of Mr. Roderic O'Gorman, T.D., re: St. Therese's B&B, Mount Alexander, Gorey.

6.2 03.04.2024: Correspondence to the Gorey Guardian Office re: Enniscorthy Guardian Publication.

6.3 10.04.2024: Acknowledgement from the Office of Mr. Roderic O'Gorman, T.D., re: St. Therese's B&B, Mount Alexander, Gorey.

The above correspondence was noted. Cllr D Devereux felt that no further correspondence should be sent to the Office of Mr. Roderic O'Gorman as the family of this establishment have no intention of selling the property to be used as an IPAS Centre.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin requested that the pressure be kept on the Minister for a suitable response. It was proposed by Cllr J Sullivan, seconded by Cllr A Donohoe that the issue be put to a vote, with a roll call, for or against writing to the Minister. The vote was as follows:

Cllr A Bolger	Against
Cllr P Breen	Against
Cllr D Devereux	Against
Cllr A Donohoe	Against
Cllr M Farrell	Against
Cllr W Kavanagh	Against
Cllr D Kenny	Against
Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin	For
Cllr J Sullivan	Against
Cllr O Walsh	Against
For Writing to the Minister	1
Against Writing to the Minister	9

Nine members voted against writing to the Minister and one member for.

No. 7 AOB

Cllr A Donohoe referred to reports of a Middle Eastern investment consortium advancing plans to build an international airport in Arklow and declared he would not be endorsing any such plans. Apart from putting North Wexford into a flight route, Cllr Donohoe said there is a fully serviced airport less than an hour away and with expansion plans underway at Waterford airport, there is no requirement for it. Most members were also in agreement.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin sought an update on Tara Studios and Cllr A Donohoe advised that they are in the process of putting finances together with works due to commence Q4-2024.

Mr P Knight informed the Committee that he had received a request from Glenbrien NS to present at the next District Meeting. The members agreed to this request.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Daingnithe ar an _____ lá de _____ 2024

**Pip Breen,
Cathaoirleach,
Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District**