

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

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr Oliver Walsh,

Cllr Anthony Donohoe,
Cllr Mary Farrell, (Remotely)
Cllr Paddy Kavanagh,
Cllr Donal Kenny, Leas-Chathaoirleach,
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 Margaret Kelly, Clerical Officer,
Ms Paula Shortall, Senior Staff Officer, Housing,
Mr Oisín Boland, Executive Planner,
Mr Enda Brennan, Executive Engineer, Environment.
Mr. David Codd, Chief Technician Roads.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially Matthew McGrath who was in the public gallery.

No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes of May 2024 Statutory Monthly Meeting:

On the proposal of Cllr Donohoe, seconded by Cllr Breen the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD, held on May 21st, 2024, were signed, and adopted.

1.1a Confirmation of Minutes of Annual General Meeting:

On the proposal of Cllr Donohoe, seconded by Cllr Kenny, the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD, held on June 25th, 2024, were signed, and adopted.

No. 2 Consideration of Reports, Recommendations & Presentations

2.1 Speed Limit Review Presentation:

Mr. David Codd presented the national changes to speed limits on rural roads to the members. He noted that local authorities could create byelaws to increase the speed limit if appropriate.

Mr. Codd responded to members questions confirming this was a national initiative and that this would include changes to the speed limit signage. Mr Codd stated in response to Cllr

Kenny that there would be separate county wide review of speed limits around schools in 2025. The members welcomed the change in legislation and thanked Mr Codd for his presentation. Mr Codd added that observations on the new speed limits can be submitted to speedlimits@wexfordcoco.ie

2.2 Active Travel Presentation

Mr V Gallagher presented plans for the proposed footpath from Gorey to Courtown. Mr Gallagher told the meeting that several options had been considered regarding extending the footpath at the Bridge but that the shared surface approach was the viable option in terms of cost and delivery.

Cllr A Donohoe asked if the proposed segregation of cycle lanes would be by bollards. Mr Gallagher confirmed that bollards would be used as finance was not available to install raised lanes. He said that the contractors will not be starting the project until October.

Several of the elected members voiced concerns over the proposal to reducing the flow of traffic across Ballinatrav Bridge. Cllr A Donohoe suggested that a second bridge would be a viable alternative for pedestrian traffic and would create a tourist attraction.

Cllr J Sullivan raised concerns over the environmental impact of the proposal and noted the difficulties that it would present for children trying to get to school. Mr Gallagher replied that it was proposed to implement a Park and Walk system for travel to school. Cllr M Farrell asked if the Council had reverted to the schools that had made presentations in the Chamber with updates. She also pointed out that many schools had missed out on the Safe Schools Routes initiative because of COVID.

An Cathaoirleach posited that there were too many state agencies dealing with the Safe Schools projects and it would be more prudent to combine the funding and identify the schools on a need basis. An Cathaoirleach thanked Mr Gallagher for his presentation.

2.3 Housing:

Ms P Shortall presented the the Housing Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated.

Cllr F O'Súilleabháin expressed his disappointment at the progress of the Affordable Housing/ Serviced Sites Scheme.

Cllr M Farrell requested clarification regarding grants for persons with intellectual disabilities. She also commented that there were very little houses available on the Choice Based Letting app to people in the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District.

Cllr A Donohoe queried if the amounts of the Housing Improvement Grants for the elderly and people with disabilities was adequate. DoS Ms L Hore said she will ask the Housing Section to review the amount. In response to Cllr A Donohoe's question on the St Walleran's Development she told the meeting that Stage 2 documents were ready for the construction stage.

Cllr D Kenny noted the lack of four-bedroom houses available. Ms Shortall replied that the Housing Section were actively looking for larger units.

Cllr M Farrell asked, when would the two-bedroom units in Gleann an Gairdín be available. Ms Shortall stated 40 Units should be ready in the next few weeks and that the Blackwater houses were at snagging stage.

2.4 Environment:

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

Mr E Brennan informed the meeting that the contract for Cahore Car Park has been awarded and works are planned commence in the autumn.

Mr Brennan took several questions and agreed to revert in advance of the September Meeting regarding the following:

- Progress on coastal protection works (Cllr P Breen)
- Additional bins for Morriscastle and upgrade of signage (Cllr M Farrell)
- Progress on the bridge at Clone beach (Cllr F O'Súilleabháin)
- Improved facilities for campervan parking in the north of the county (Cllr M Farrell)

Cllr D Kenny praised the Clean Up Crews in response to several littering complaints.

Both Cllrs Kenny and Boland noted the condition of railings in the Courtown Harbour. The District Manager agreed to liaise with the Health & Safety Officer around whether there was a need to reinstate the railings.

Cllr A Donohoe queried why Ballymoney Beach had lost the Blue Flag status. Mr Brennan responded that this was chiefly due to run-off from agricultural land in recent downpours.

Cllr P Kavanagh queried if a new sewage treatment facility was required for planning of an extension when a septic tank was already in place and serving the property. Ms L Hore said that the Planning Technician visits the site for the planning application and recommends that the system needs updating if necessary.

Cllr P Kavanagh noted issues with the sewerage system at Oylegate. He said an upgrade had been promised by the Council before the infrastructure had been taken over by Uisce Eireann and he asked when this upgrade would be carried out. District Manager Mr P Knight said he would contact the Senior Engineer in Water Services for a response.

2.5 Planning

Mr O Boland presented the Planning Report, copies of which had previously been circulated were noted.

Cllr M Farrell queried the current waiting time for a pre planning appointment. Mr Boland noted that the average time for a meeting was now 60 days and hoped this would reduce further with the recent appointment of an Assistant Planner. Ms L Hore welcomed the

appointment of the Assistant Planner and said that the target for the time frame for pre-planning meetings was 56 days.

Cllr A Donohoe noted that the Gorey Town Plan would be reviewed during the life of the newly elected council and said that the plan needed to be kept in focus and not extended. Cllr F O'Súilleabháin asked if there would be a new Town Plan for Riverchapel. Mr Boland said that plan would be available in 2026.

2.6 Roads

Ms J Kehoe presented the Roads Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

Cllr J Sullivan queried the timeline for repairs on the Ahare Bridge. Ms Kehoe stated there was a small pool of contractors suitable for these repairs.

Cllr D Kenny noted the improved/additional road signage at Island Crossroads (Steadmans Cross) but told the meeting that it does not seem to have any effect on motorist's behaviour. Ms Kehoe said that the road markings would be painted when the stone chippings on the new surface bedded down.

Cllr P Breen requested that remedial works be carried out on the R741 at Ballycanew to fix the subsidence. Ms Kehoe stated the subsidence would be addressed with the resurfacing works.

Cllr Donohoe asked if land could be CPO'd at Island Cross to stagger the junction. Ms Kehoe agreed to investigate the matter.

Cllr P Kavanagh asked if the applicants on the LIS Scheme could be circulated to the members. Ms Kehoe agreed to this.

Cllr P Kavanagh noted that kerbing had been installed on the edge of the grass verge at Ballymotey Cross. There was a brief debate on the implications of this for traffic on rural roads. Cllr Kavanagh agreed to provide Ms Kehoe with the locus of the potentially dangerous kerbstones. Ms Kehoe mentioned that the installation of high kerbs did create a liability issue for the property owner.

Cllr F O'Súilleabháin asked if the Road Health & Safety issues can be addressed during the development of the site at Ramstown. Ms Kehoe was hopeful that funds for these works should be available shortly.

Cllr N Boland asked if the line markings could be re-painted at the Tara Rocks Crossroads. Also, the white lines at Ballymoney Crossroads and the sign at this junction is hidden by the hedge growth. He also asked if the uneven surface at the footbridge at Courtown could be investigated and rectified.

An Cathaoirleach complimented Ms Kehoe on the work carried out under the Roads Programme.

2.7 Additional Departmental Reports

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

2.8 District Manager's Report

The Managers Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted. Mr P Knight gave a brief overview of events happening over the summer and autumn.

Mr Knight informed the meeting that the application for funding for the St Waleran's Sports and Activity Hub had been submitted and that planning permission was being sought under Part 8 of the Planning & Development Act. Cllr A Donohoe asked if the plans for the sports hub could be circulated. He also asked if the current construction entrance was temporary. Ms L Hore confirmed it was and noted that any observations on the development should be made through the Part 8 process.

Mr Knight informed members that the THRIVE funding application had passed the first stage and that the next step was a clarification meeting with a representative of the Southern Assembly with the internal THRIVE Team. Ms Hore added that a decision on the funding was expected around mid-August.

Cllr F O'Súilleabháin complimented the staff of the Council on organising the various events. He also asked that work on the Commemorative Reflective Garden could commence in the autumn to be ready for next year.

Cllr M Farrell asked if the documents requested by the designer for the Oulart Community Garden had been sent. Mr Knight confirmed they had. Cllr Farrell asked if the Fleadh events in Kilmuckridge could be advertised more. She also commented on the music line up for the Market House Festival. She said she only recognised two of the bands listed. In response, Mr Knight said the Committee had selected Acts to cater for a range of ages and tastes.

Cllr D McDonald asked what Governance was in place for finished projects and could the members have a briefing note of the licence agreements made for the project. Ms L Hore informed him that as part of the assessment criteria a governance and operating structure had to be in place.

Cllr P Breen complimented Ms L Hore on the St. Walerans Sports Hub and Market House projects.

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

The Section 183 Rectification of Tomsollagh, Ferns was proposed by Cllr P Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr P Breen.

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

Consider Motion Submitted by Cllr Fionntán Ó'Súilleabháin

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“This Municipal Council congratulates Kayleigh Byrne (and Gorey Boxing Club) on her huge achievement in securing a bronze medal for Ireland at the recent European Junior Boxing Championship in Sarajevo and will honour her and her Club with a Civic Reception”.

The members agreed to send congratulations to Ms Kayleigh Byrne and the Gorey Boxing Club on her recent achievements and agreed that she would be included in the Annual Civic Reception.

An Cathaoirleach stated that he would review proposals for Notice of Motions to avoid duplication with motions put before the plenary council.

No. 5 Correspondence

6.1 06.06.2024: Correspondence to the Gorey Community School from Amanda Byrne

6.2 15.07.2024: Correspondence from Gorey Ballygarrett CCE to thank the Council for the launch of the Fleadh event

No. 6 AOB

Cllr M Farrell asked if Uisce Éireann could consider measures to be put in place for unplanned outages of electricity causing water to be cut off as well.

Cllr P Kavanagh noted that Wicklow County Council had sent out a map outlining the new electoral area. The members had all received similar correspondence.

Cllr A Donohoe suggested a public lighting survey be carried out. There were still outstanding repairs and some very dark areas that required to be lit up at night.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Daingnithe ar an _____ lá de _____ 2024

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