

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District
held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, The Avenue, Gorey
on Tuesday 21st January 2025, at 2:30pm**

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr Oliver Walsh,

Cllr Nicky Boland,
Cllr Pip Breen,
Cllr Anthony Donohoe,
Cllr Craig Doyle,
Cllr Mary Farrell,
Cllr Paddy Kavanagh,
Cllr Donal Kenny,
Cllr Darragh McDonald,
Cllr Joe Sullivan,

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,
Mr Sean Meyler, Senior Engineer, Special Projects,
Mr Daniel Roche, Senior Executive Engineer, Special Projects,
Mr Marcus Linehan, Executive Planner,
Mr Enda Brennan, Executive Engineer, Environment,
Ms Paula Shortall, Senior Staff Officer, Housing.

No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes:

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

1.2 Matters Arising:

There were no Matters Arising.

Congratulations:

Cllr O Walsh expressed his gratitude to those involved with The Ballagh NS Active Travel Application which successfully secured funding of €250,000.

Vote of Sympathy:

Cllr P Kavanagh offered his sympathies to BNY Mellon employees and their families following the recent announcement of the company's decision to close its office in Wexford. All members wished to be associated with Cllr Kavanagh's sentiments.

No. 2 Consideration of Reports, Recommendations & Presentations

2.1 Housing:

Members sought updates on the St. Waleran's Housing Development and the 5-Unit Scheme in Monamolín. Ms P Shortall agreed to revert in advance of the February District Meeting.

2.2 St. Waleran's:

Mr S Meyler explained to the members the timeline of the Inner Relief Road works and the three phases of the St. Waleran's Project. He informed the Committee that a Part 8 proposal will be brought before the members later in the year.

2.3 Environment:

The Environment Report, which was circulated prior to the meeting was noted and Mr E Brennan responded to queries raised.

Cllr M Farrell referred to the ongoing issue of fly-tipping and the reporting system in place. Cllr Farrell felt the public is reluctant to come forward in such instances as they must stand up in Court to give evidence. Mr Brennan said that an anonymous complaint can be made to CSU and in some instances the Council can find evidence within the rubbish. He added that it is only as a last resort that a member of the public would be required to go to Court.

Cllr J Sullivan referred to the ongoing odour issue from the compost facility in Ballyminaun and felt the Council has a responsibility to work with the facility to find a solution. Mr Brennan advised that the matter has been investigated by the Council and a solution offered, which the owners did not engage with. He agreed to raise this matter again with Management.

Cllr D Kenny referred to recent fires at a property in Camolin and Mr Brennan confirmed that this case is currently under investigation.

2.4 Planning

The Members noted the Planning Reports which had been circulated prior to the meeting and Mr M Linehan responded to queries raised.

Cllr A Donohoe asked were the Council aware of the timeline of An Bord Pleanála's decision on the roundabout at Ballyloughlan. Mr Linehan said he would get the Senior Planner to contact the Bord to see if any date is imminent.

2.5 Roads

Ms J Kehoe informed the Committee that the Roads Programme Budget for 2025 would be confirmed shortly.

Several lighting issues throughout the district, were raised by the members including:

- ✚ Lights not working on the Craanford Road, in Garden City and Clonattin.
- ✚ Pedestrian Crossings not lighting in Riverchapel and at Naomh Éanna and an assessment of lighting at all Pedestrian Crossings.
- ✚ Public Lighting Contracts.

It was agreed to invite Mr Tim Murphy, SSE Roads to an upcoming District Meeting where the members could raise any lighting issues with him.

Ms Kehoe also addressed the following matters raised by the members:

- ✚ Concerns raised by residents of Woodlands Manor & Drive in relation to the condition of roads because of Ramsfort Park Housing Development Works.
- ✚ Installation of bus shelters once bus stops are relocated above the Garda Station.
- ✚ Concerns raised by residents of Garden City about road width, overgrown hedges and parked cars blocking driveways.
- ✚ Timeline for the Arklow Road Upgrade Works.
- ✚ Potholes along Clondaw to Raheenduff.
- ✚ Assistance with traffic management where landowners are falling trees with ash dieback.
- ✚ Clarification of the works being carried out by both the OPW and the Council in Oulart.

2.6 Additional Departmental Reports

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

Cllr D McDonald asked about the possibility of streaming library events online and Mr Knight agreed to refer this to the Senior Librarian.

Cllr A Donohoe asked is it policy that fire tenders are dispatched to all RTAs. Mr Knight agreed to follow up with the CFO.

2.7 District Manager's Report

The Managers Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted. Mr P Knight informed the Committee that several projects which secured funding in 2024 will progress this year, including the Riverchapel Community Centre, St. Waleran's Sports Complex, the Gorey Market House THRIVE Project, Esmonde Street Regeneration and Oulart Community Garden.

Cllr M Farrell sought an update on the Oulart Community Garden. Mr Knight advised that the Uisce Éireann Engineer is dealing with legacy issues and that the design has been drawn up and due to go to tender shortly.

Cllr Farrell also sought an update on the Kilmuckridge Playground. District Director Ms L Hore confirmed that a planning application has been lodged.

Cllr Farrell referred to the Community Consultation Evening which took place in Kilmuckridge over 2 years ago where officials and elected members met with Community Groups to compile a list of priorities for the district. Cllr Farrell asked when works will progress. Mr Knight advised that he has a schedule of issues raised which he will circulate.

Cllr Farrell sought an accurate contact list of staff and their departments. Mr Knight agreed to request this from the HR/Communication Team.

A discussion took place regarding the new, increased Gorey District Park Pitch Booking Charge Structure recently introduced. Mr Knight explained that a booking charge had always existed but with the introduction of the new online system, it provided an opportunity

to review the ongoing cost of the pitch. He added whilst the new booking charge will not cover the full cost of maintaining the pitch, the Parks Budget will also subsidise this cost.

Cllr J Sullivan requested details of the revenue generated in 2024 from pitch bookings which Ms L Hore agreed to report back on. She added that there needs to be a nominal charge to cover ongoing pitch costs along with the Council Subsidy.

Cllr D McDonald asked if the Shopfront Improvement Scheme will be brought back for businesses in the town. Mr Knight advised that the Scheme was previously run under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme to help revitalise towns and villages post Covid-19. He agreed to review the Scheme and see if any funds are available.

Cllr McDonald also asked if the Council would assist businesses on Esmonde Street while redevelopment works are carried out this year. Ms L Hore advised that the rates paid by these business owners has been re-invested back into the Street. She assured members that the Council will keep in communication with the businesses during ongoing works. Cllr P Kavanagh suggested fortnightly meetings, giving business owners the opportunity to meet with the District Manager, Cathaoirleach and Contractor.

Cllr Kavanagh also suggested that the North Wexford 2K-Clean be launched earlier this year to allow for a longer lead-in time.

Cllr N Boland felt strongly that Gorey Town should have a Tourist Office. Mr Knight explained that the Tourist Office was previously run by the Chamber of Commerce and that it had been their decision to close. He said Gorey Development Group were offered a short-term let, conditional on Market House redevelopment works and grant funding to run the premise. The Group, however, felt it was not sustainable as they could not make the repayments. Mr Knight said that the Council supports Love Gorey which carries out most of the district's tourism promotion in conjunction with a very pro-active Visit Wexford Committee. He also said that additional funds have been reallocated to the District's Tourism Promotion Budget.

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

None

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

None

No. 5 Correspondence

None

No. 6 AOB

Cllr A Donohoe informed the Committee that he was recently contacted by a member of the public about setting up a mobile sauna at Cahore Beach. Cllr Donohoe asked did the Council have a policy in place about mobile saunas trading in public spaces. Ms L Hore

said she was aware of these units operating in the south of the county and agreed to investigate the matter further.

Cllr D McDonald referred to funding allocated to Meals on Wheels Gorey-Courtown. Mr Knight advised that he sought a Service Level Agreement and that discussions are ongoing. Cllr McDonald suggested that if no SLA had been signed within two weeks the funding should be relocated. This was agreed by the elected members.

Norman People of Europe Programme – Norman 2027

Ms L Hore said as Wexford is key to this event, the Council will be setting up a Programme of Events around the Norman theme. She added that the County Group will be seeking District Managers and one elected member from each District to sit on the Working Group.

Fleadh 2025

Ms L Hore confirmed that Gorey will be hosting the County Fleadh again in 2025 and that a Programme of Events will be co-ordinated throughout the district.

Gorey Market House Festival

Mr P Knight confirmed that the Gorey Market House Festival will take place over the weekend of 18th to 20th July and sought nominations from the members to sit on the Festival Committee. Cllrs. D McDonald, N Boland and C Doyle were nominated, proposed by Cllr M Farrell and seconded by Cllr P Kavanagh.

Cllr McDonald enquired of any funding changes to festivals this year and Ms L Hore advised that whilst there will be no cut in the Market House Festival budget for 2025, the Council will be looking at maximising private sponsorship.

Cllr N Boland suggested that a festival be held in Courtown this year and An Cathaoirleach Cllr O Walsh asked that the community submit a proposal that might fall under the Fringe Fleadh. Cllr McDonald also asked that the district look at holding a family fun day in Courtown during the summer.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Daingnithe ar an _____ lá de _____ 2025.

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