

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District
held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, The Avenue, Gorey
on Tuesday 21st May 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 Liz Stanley, Senior Staff Officer,
Ms Joanne Kehoe, Senior Executive Engineer,
Ms Paula Shortall, Senior Staff Officer, Housing, MS Teams,
Mr Enda Brennan, Executive Engineer, Environment,
Mr Oisín Boland, Executive Planner,
Ms Therese Nolan, Senior Architect.

No. 1 Deputation from Glenbrien National School

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr P Breen welcomed a deputation from Glenbrien National School which comprised of Principal Fiona Cleere, and students. The Group expressed the growing concerns of their school community and appealed for further infrastructure to be put in place to ensure the safety of their students.

The Members acknowledged the school's location on a busy road with limited parking. Cllr. M Farrell acknowledged the concerns of the deputation and praised the students who presented the issues.

Prior to the commencement of the statutory business, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr P Breen noted that this was to be the final meeting of that Municipal District prior to the local elections. He reflected on the many projects that had been completed during the term and looked forward to the forthcoming projects. He thanked the members and staff for their contribution that they had made to the north of the County.

Cllr P Breen remembered the passing of Billy Kinsella in the course of his duties. He then thanked Cllr D Devereux on his service with the Council and wished him well for his retirement. All members echoed these sentiments.

No. 2 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr A Donohoe, seconded by Cllr O Walsh the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD, both held on April 16th, 2024, were signed, and adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr D Kenny, seconded by Cllr A Donohoe the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD, both held on April 30th, 2024, were signed, and adopted.

2.2 Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

No. 3 Consideration of Reports, Recommendations & Presentations

3.1 URDF Call 3 - Update:

Mr T Banville updated the members on the status of the URDF funding available to tackle dereliction. He noted that there were few derelict properties in the Gorey Kilmuckridge District. The members voiced their approval of the initiative to reduce dereliction.

3.2 St. Waleran's Sports Hub Update

Mr P Knight District Manager updated the members on the progress of the St Waleran's Sports Hub project. He informed members that the Hub's Steering Committee (comprising the GKMD Chair, WCC officials and the partner clubs) was about to submit a funding application under the Large-Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund. Ms L Hore District Director added that a Part 8 planning application was required to be lodged as part of the funding application and sought the members approval for this. After a brief discussion approval was given by the members.

3.3 Courtown Riverchapel Town Centre First Update:

Mr M McCormack informed the members that the first meeting of the Courtown Riverchapel Town Centre First had taken place. He noted that an Cathaoirleach chaired the meeting. The members agreed that Cllr P Breen continue to Chair these meetings pending further discussion with the new Council.

3.4 Housing

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

Cllr F O'Súilleabháin asked when will the affordable housing scheme start. Ms P Shortall agreed to check the commencement date with the Housing Capital Team.

Cllr M Farrell queried if the grant aid for older people/disability can be used for people with intellectual disability. Ms Shortall agreed to revert.

Cllr A Donohoe requested an update on Stage 2 of St. Waleran's development. Ms Shortall said she would seek an update from the Capital Team.

Cllr M Farrell noted there were few properties available under the Cost Based Letting Scheme in Gorey.

In response to Cllr J Sullivan, Ms Shortall informed the members that Turnkeys and Part V properties are not put together and that the figure was 52 Units. Tobar Mhuire Units should be available before 2025 and may be delivered ahead of schedule.

3.5 Environment

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

Cllr A Bolger noted with disappointment that the Blue Flag status had been lost at Ballymoney.

Cllr F O'Súilleabháin asked if the boardwalk at Courtown could be reinstated. Mr Knight informed him that he had been liaising with the Coastal Engineer who stated that the rock armour coastal protection works were dangerous and that members of the public should not be attempting to reach the sea at that point.

Cllr M Farrell suggested that more bins were required at Morriscastle for the summer season. A general discussion ensued with several councillors noting the problem of littering throughout the district. The meeting noted that although it was primarily the responsibility of the individual not to create litter, the Council had a role to ensure that adequate bins were provided and maintained.

3.6 Planning Report

The Planning Report, copies of which had previously been circulated were noted.

Cllr M Farrell enquired if a mobile home is being replaced despite the original unit having been in situ since 1970, whether the Council required a planning application to be made. She asked if it was on site for over seven years was this requirement not statutory barred. Mr O Boland responded that although the statute of limitations had expired and could not be prosecuted, the caravan would still be unauthorised development within the meaning of the Planning and Development Acts.

In response to several queries regarding the taking-in-charge of different estates, Ms L Hore advised that the current list of estates in charge is being updated and that a draft list will be circulated to the members on completion.

3.7 Roads Report

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

Ms J Kehoe District Roads Engineer informed the meeting that the works to Coolcross had been completed and that the works to Ballyellard would be completed shortly.

Cllr A Bolger asked if a pedestrian crossing would be incorporated into the Arklow Road €150,000 Road Improvement Works.

Cllr O Walsh asked if the speed limit and line of sight could be looked at outside the Ballyvaloo Retreat Centre. In response Ms. Kehoe said that she had already spoken to the owners of the Ballyvaloo Centre.

An Cathaoirleach Cllr P Breen highlighted the substantial grass growth in the last couple of weeks and that there were some crossroads very overgrown. Cllr M Farrell said that the junction at Wells was also very overgrown. Ms Kehoe said that she would investigate the viability of cutting back at junctions.

Cllr A Donohoe noted that some election posters were impeding line of site at some crossroads. Ms Kehoe said that all such posters should be reported to the Council Office.

Cllr J Sullivan said that the residents in Ballymoney were looking for a STOP sign at the junction.

Cllr F O'Súilleabháin said that it was disappointing that government funding for roads is not dependant on road condition. He noted that Cork got three times the funding for their secondary roads.

3.7 Community Development, Library Services and Fire Services Reports

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

3.8 District Manager's Report

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

Mr P Knight highlighted the upcoming events including the visit of the British Ambassador, the Gorey Market House Festival, Rás na mBán, Culture Night and the Yellowbelly Comedy Festival.

Mr Knight thanked the members for the courtesy shown to him and his team and extended his good wishes to the members in the forthcoming elections.

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

4.1 Section 183 Rectification of Boundaries at Knockina, Gorey (Folio WX7614F)

The Section 183 Rectification of Boundaries at Knockina, Gorey was proposed by Cllr D Kenny, seconded by Cllr A Donohoe.

4.2 Section 183 Transfer of Land at Ballinaslaney, Oylegate (Folio WX60325F)

The Section 183 Transfer of Land at Ballinaslaney, Oylegate (Folio WX60325F) was proposed by Cllr W Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr O Walsh.

4.3 Section 183 Disposal of Land at Camolin, Kilcomb ED

The Section 183 Disposal of Land at Camolin, Kilcomb ED was proposed by Cllr D Devereux, seconded by Cllr D Kenny.

4.4 Draft Estate Naming Policy

Ms T Nolan informed the meeting that easy names were chosen and that names will be brought to the district meetings for discussion and approval. She said the names were considered on a case-by-case basis and the name would be agreed before planning application was lodged.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin suggested that old signage might be considered for place names as it is visually attractive. He did not think that there was a difficulty with Irish names and did not feel it was necessary to include an English translation on the name plate. Cllr A Donohoe disagreed stating he felt that English names were easier for Irish speakers.

Ms L Hore informed the members that for private housing estates the name selected must suit the estate locale and historical surroundings. She said it is good practice to propose three names for consideration.

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

Consider Motion submitted by Cllr F O 'Súilleabháin

"That this Municipal District recognises the importance of our local cultural heritage, the Irish language and our beautiful landscape.

That we establish a small grants scheme for local communities to assist with the installation of rock markers with the original Irish placename and that celebrate our local cultural heritage", (beautiful examples of which can be seen in Kilanerin / Coill an Iarainn, among other places).

Ms L Hore agreed that this was appropriate for village enhancement but that the budget was fully committed for this year and suggested that the villages interested in this apply through the Amenity & Arts Grant Scheme in 2025. She noted that the erecting of all stones would have to be in consultation with the District Roads Engineer. Cllr O Walsh told the members that as this was their last meeting it would be unfair to pass a motion that would commit the incoming members.

No. 6 Correspondence

None.

No. 7 AOB

Cllr D Devereux thanked Wexford County Council Officials, his colleagues, the Chairman and the media and said the Council had made good progress over the last five years. All the members individually wished Cllr Devereux all the best in the future.

Cllr M Farrell asked if the members would facilitate a deputation from Monamolín School regarding school safety issues. The District Manager asked that the school principal contact him.

Cllr W Kavanagh proposed a vote of sympathy to Jim & Imelda Mernagh on the death of their son.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin proposed a vote of congratulations to Gorey Boxing Club for their recent achievement in placing 4th in an All-Ireland Title.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Daingnithe ar an _____ lá de _____ 2024

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