

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District
held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, The Avenue, Gorey
on Tuesday, 21st February 2023, at 2:30pm**

Attendance:

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

Officials: Ms Elizabeth Hore, Director of Services/District Director,
Mr Philip Knight, Municipal District Administrator,
Ms Joanne Kehoe, Senior Executive Engineer,
Ms Liz Stanley, Senior Staff Officer,
Ms Debbie Stanley, Assistant Staff Officer,
Ms Paula Shortall, Senior Staff Officer, Housing,
Mr George Colfer, Coastal Engineer,
Mr Philip Mansfield, Executive Planner,
Mr Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer (MS Teams),

Apologies: Cllr Mary Farrell,
Mr Barry Hammel, Executive Engineer.

Sympathies

Members proposed a Vote of Sympathy to the families of those recently bereaved, the late John Kirwan, Nancy Kavanagh, Colm Donnelly, and Caroline Redmond. RIP.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr D Kenny informed the Committee that the 1st Anniversary Mass for the late Billy Kinsella, former Council employee will be held in Our Lady of the Nativity Church, Ballyfad, on Thursday, 23rd February at 9:30am.

Congratulations

Cllr D Devereux paid tribute to Sam Kennedy who recently retired from the post of Lifeboat Operations Manager with Courtown RNLI after 37 years' service.

No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr W Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr P Breen the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD held on January 17th, 2023, were signed, and adopted.

1.2 Matters Arising:

It was agreed to deal with Matters Arising under each relevant Report.

No. 2 Consideration of Reports, Recommendations & Presentations

2.1 Housing

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

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin asked for details of the number of vacant private dwellings, the number of units brought back into use and whether there were any plans for Modular Housing for the outskirts of Gorey.

Cllr J Sullivan again called on WCC to prioritise the Ramsfort Park Affordable Housing & Tobar Muire developments and that recommendations for Gleann an Ghairdin be thoroughly researched in advance of allocations.

Cllr W Kavanagh suggested that houses handed back to the local authority in bad repair be sold to existing tenants in their current condition to renovate.

2.2 Environment

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

Cllr A Bolger sought an update on the Ballymoney Beach Access Plan. Mr Colfer advised that funding approval was imminent, after which time they would be moving to the detailed design stage.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin sought confirmation that a full-time warden will be operating in the Courtown, Ballymoney, Cahore & Morriscastle areas during the summer months to monitor litter, parking, and jet-ski use. Mr Colfer confirmed a warden will be in place.

Cllr J Sullivan questioned how it was permissible to cut a channel at Tacumshane lake to release excess water when the same action could not be taken at Ahare. Mr Colfer explained that a channel is cut by the National Parks & Wildlife Service in March each year as a wildlife protection measure and in instances where a property is at risk, WCC will also cut a channel to release water. He added that there is no risk to property at Ahare.

Cllr Sullivan said there is a road safety issue at Ahare, which could be resolved by cutting out the swell of water. Mr Colfer said there would be a lot of hurdles involved in cutting a channel at the Ahare River due to the strict environmental legislation introduced.

Cllr P Breen referred to the sandbar in Courtown which is blocking access to the harbour and Mr Colfer said the situation is being monitored.

Cllr P Breen enquired about the Rock Armour for Cahore. Mr Colfer advised that the OPW has raised some queries which Consultants are currently addressing.

Cllr D Kenny asked that bags, picks, and skips be made available to Community Groups for large litter picks taking place from March. Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin also suggested commencing

the NW2K Clean earlier this year, as rubbish gets covered up with new growth. Mr Colfer advised he would speak to the Environmental Education Officer.

2.3 Planning

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

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin referred to the Heritage Council Community Grant Scheme currently open to applications from communities to support capital projects that improve access and inclusion to heritage sites and suggested some projects which may benefit from such funding, namely the Sean Etchingham Centenary, Market House accessibility and Kilnivor Graveyard. District Director, Ms L Hore advised that this is an Open Call for funding and asked that the members encourage Community Groups to apply.

Cllr J Sullivan asked why the planning permission refusal rate for the district was much higher than the county. Ms L Hore advised she would look at the January & February refusal reasons and revert.

2.4 Derelict Sites

The Derelict Sites Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted. Mr T Banville informed the members that continuous monitoring and investigation of derelict properties is being carried out within the district.

Members raised queries on derelict properties in Old Garden City and Éire Street. Mr Banville agreed to follow-up with the Housing Section on the intended use of 7 Garden City and advised that a decision is still pending from An Bord Pleanála regarding 8 Éire Street. Mr Banville confirmed that levies have been applied on this property and that it will continue to be levied until it is either in the ownership of WCC through CPO or the dereliction is removed.

Cllr W Kavanagh raised concerns over the status of a derelict property in Oylegate and Mr. Banville agreed to speak to Engineers to take action to secure it.

Cllr P Breen queried the status of two derelict properties in both Ballyedmond and Ballycanew. Mr. Banville advised that the properties in Ballyedmond are currently awaiting valuation for the purpose of applying levies and that the other two properties in Ballycanew are being investigated and pursued.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin felt developers who were granted planning permission at Coill na Giúise over a year ago should be penalised for not commencing. Mr Banville confirmed that significant levies are being applied on an annual basis, but greater pressure can be applied by the Residential Zone Land Tax.

2.5 Roads

The Roads Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted. Ms J Kehoe informed the Committee that the countywide allocation has been received and a breakdown per District will be available shortly. Ms Kehoe confirmed the district will receive a fair allocation, being the largest District in the county.

Ms Kehoe also responded to issues raised by members including:

- ✚ Low-Cost Safety Improvement Funding for the Ballytegan/Arklow Road Junction
- ✚ Condition of Cranacrower & Ballinamona Roads
- ✚ Additional car parking spaces within Newborough HE.

2.6 Water Services

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

2.7 Additional Departmental Reports

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

Mr P Knight informed the Committee that €16,000 has been approved for Courtown playground repairs and that suppliers have been selected to carry out works. He advised that they would move on site once equipment has been received.

2.8 District Administrator's Report

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

Cllr J Sullivan said that the Community Development Groups of Ballymoney, Castletown & Tara Hill would like the opportunity to present to this Committee, findings from a recent survey conducted. Mr Knight had no issue with this deputation at the next District Meeting.

Cllr D Devereux asked could the newly formed Gorey CDA have access to the completed Gorey Community Centre Feasibility Study. Mr Knight agreed to circulate the Study to the members in the first instance, which will be available to the wider public thereafter.

Cllr A Bolger asked could Gorey Park Run have access to the Dressing Rooms in the District Park. Mr Knight agreed to meet with the organisers to see what assistance they require.

Cllr W Kavanagh thanked the District Administrator and Local Development Officer, Ms Ann Marie Laffan for their support throughout the Oylegate Playground development.

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

Consider Motion submitted by Cllr Fiontán Ó Súilleabháin and Cllr Diarmuid Devereux

“Following a major public meeting attended by several community organisations on the 9th February 2023, this Council notes that the meeting voted unanimously in favour of the Council working with the newly formed Gorey Community Development Group to explore

the need to keep the Market House in public ownership, restore the Market House as a cross functional community, heritage building and explore the development of a multi-use community centre to the rear of the Market House”.

The Motion was unanimously passed by the members.

No. 5 Correspondence

- 5.1 Correspondence from Minister for Justice re: Garda Numbers.
- 5.2 Correspondence from Road Safety Authority re: Driving Test Waiting List.

The Correspondence outlined above was noted by Members.

No. 6 AOB

Cllr A Donohoe again asked for a full breakdown of Capital Projects for all the Districts from 2014 to date. Mr P Knight confirmed he is waiting for this information.

Members raised concerns over plans for a vote on the proposed land swap in Courtown and sought clarification on this matter. Ms L Hore informed the members that Courtown Community Council will launch their Smart Village Plan on the 13th of March and will be invited as a deputation to present their plans to this District Council prior to any decision being made. Members expressed further concerns that the necessary information would not be available to them to make an informed decision and Ms Hore stressed that Section 183 legislatively provides for this. She re-iterated that all the necessary information on this proposal will be provided to this Committee prior to the initial briefing meeting so that members will have adequate time to consider. Ms Hore advised following endorsement by this District Council, final decision will go before the Full Council for approval or not.

Following a discussion on upcoming St. Patrick’s Day celebrations, it was agreed to proceed with the original March Municipal District Meeting date of Tuesday, 21st March.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Daingnithe ar an _____ lá de _____ 2023

**Diarmuid Devereux,
Leas-Chathaoirleach,
Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District**