

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District
held remotely on Tuesday, 16th February, 2021, at 2:30pm from the Council
Chamber, Offices of the Municipal District, Civic Square, Gorey, Co. Wexford**

Attendance (In Chamber):

In the Chair: Cllr Joe Sullivan, Cathaoirleach,

Officials: Mr Michael Drea, District Manager,

Attendance (Microsoft Teams):

Councillors: Cllr Andrew Bolger,
Cllr Pip Breen,
Cllr Diarmuid Devereux,
Cllr Anthony Donohoe,
Cllr Mary Farrell,
Cllr Willie Kavanagh
Cllr Donal Kenny,
Cllr Fionntán O'Súilleabháin,
Cllr Oliver Walsh,

Officials: Ms Amanda Byrne, A/Director of Services,
Mr Barry Hammel, Executive Engineer,
Ms Liz Stanley, Senior Staff Officer,
Ms Debbie Stanley, Assistant Staff Officer,
Ms Anita McLoughlin, Administrative Officer,
Ms Tanya Lawlor, Method Consultants,
Mr Sean Meyler, Executive Engineer,
Ms Michele Bridges-Carley, Administrative Officer,
Ms Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner,
Mr Gerry Forde, Senior Engineer,

Apologies: Ms Joanne Kehoe, Senior Executive Engineer.

Vote of Sympathy

Members extended their sympathies to families of the recently deceased which included the late Nicky Stafford, Mick Lyons and Margaret O'Flaherty.

No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr P Breen, seconded by Cllr M Farrell the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District held on the 19th January, 2021 were signed and adopted.

1.2 Matters Arising:

Cllr D Devereux asked that Courtown CDA be kept up-to-date on the extension of the Gorey-Courtown footpath.

Presentations:

Section 40 Representations

A presentation on Section 40 Representations was given to Committee members by Ms. A McLoughlin outlining the changes in the protection of constituent's personal information. Cllr A Bolger agreed to sit on the relevant Working Group.

Method Consultants – Feasibility Study for a Multi-User Community Hub in Gorey

A presentation was given to Committee members by Ms. T Lawlor, Method Consultants, the contract holders appointed to conduct a feasibility study for a multi-user community hub in Gorey. Ms. Lawlor provided an overview of proposed work, outlining how the study will be conducted and how consultations will be managed. Ms. Lawlor advised that once a proposed site has been identified a draft outline will be presented to GKMD in the first instance.

Gorey Town Park

Mr. S Meyler provided members with a Progress Report on Gorey Town Park, advising that once restrictions are lifted and subject to Sub-Contractors being able to resume work on-site, the timeframe for completion of external works will be a minimum of two months. He added that landscaping is an issue and that it will be next season before planting can take place. Other facilities such as play, adult gym and changing facilities will only be installed once the Contractor has completed. Cllr D Devereux expressed grievous concerns about the performance on site and the execution of the project, concerns which were re-iterated by all members. When asked about penalty clauses, Mr. Meyler explained that Public Works Contracts only cover liquidated damages caused by late delivery of a Contract and this needs to be justifiable and proved beyond doubt that the delay is down to the Contractor and not of other factors. Mr. Meyler said the Council shares the member's displeasure at these delays but is confident that external works will be completed and the park will open to the public in the near future.

No. 2 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

2.1 Planning

Members noted the Planning Report and Ms Niamh Lennon responded to queries raised by members. Cllr F O'Súilleabháin asked that the taking-in-charge of Carrig Vale, Kilanerin be expedited.

2.2 Housing

Members noted the Housing Report and Ms Michele Bridges-Carley addressed queries raised including flooding at Hunter's Hill and the issue of Pre-Tenancies causing delays with allocations.

2.3 Environment

Members noted the Environment Report. Mr G Forde informed the Committee that there was no update on the restrictions imposed by the Data Protection Commission on the use of CCTV in illegal dumping cases. Mr Forde also informed members that it is likely Ballymoney beach will lose its Blue Flag this year due to water quality.

Mr Forde agreed to follow up some queries raised by members, including the separation of coloured glass at local bottle banks, the clean-up of an overgrown area at Sean Doire and the increased problem with dog fouling throughout the District.

2.4 Roads

Members noted the Roads Report. Mr B Hammel advised that he would refer queries regarding re-surfacing works at Coolmain-Kilmallock, Ballymurn, Cooney's Cross-Ballylucas and Boley Road to District Roads Engineer, Ms J Kehoe.

Cllr Donohoe felt the Council's policy of 'tar & chip' was not fit for purpose and asked could the Roads Engineer look into the cost difference of a tarmac or asphalt top surface. Other members expressed their concerns with the condition of rural roads in the District and called for additional government funding to be made available.

2.5 Water Services

Members noted the Water Services Report and Mr B Hammel responded to queries raised.

2.6 Additional Departmental Reports

Members noted the Community Development, Library Services and Wexford Fire Services Reports.

2.7 District Manager's Report

Mr M Drea provided Members with an update on specific projects in the District in particular TVR Schemes, GKMD Christmas Lights Scheme and the Arts & Amenity and Residents Association Grant Schemes.

Cllr M Farrell suggested that the District light up a building green to mark St. Patrick's Day to which Mr Drea agreed to look into.

Cllr A Bolger called for action to be taken with an unsightly building at the bottom of Esmonde Street. Mr Drea advised that some engagement was made with the owners of this building when re-generation plans for Esmonde Street were being progressed and once a decision on funding is made in the next couple of months this engagement will continue.

Cllr D Devereux sought clarification on what role the Municipal District will have in the development of new campervan sites in North Wexford. District Director Ms A Byrne confirmed that the Council has no plans to construct such facilities but would encourage private operators to do so. Mr Drea added that the four-bay site in the Town Park is the extent of what the Municipal District will be providing but agreed there is a need for campervan sites and that the Planning Department will welcome any pre-planning queries.

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

None.

No. 4 Notice of Motion

4.1 Consider Motion submitted by Cllr. Fiontán O'Súilleabháin

"That Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Council acknowledges that if ratified later this month, the CETA Trade Agreement could potentially have an adverse impact on local farmers as well as on food and environmental standards in our Municipal Area. That this Council will follow the example of others in writing to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade &

Employment respectfully asking that international trade agreements, such as CETA (which provides a right to multinational corporations to sue Ireland outside the democracy of the ordinary legal and democratic systems) should be fully and properly scrutinised by the Oireachtas before any Dáil vote on ratification. Also that TD's should be allowed a vote of conscience on such an important and far-reaching issue"

Motion seconded by Cllr M Farrell.

Cllr A Donohoe stated that he would not support the motion. He felt TD's and Ministers scrutinise each piece of legislation and that writing to the Minister on this occasion would set a precedence. Cllrs Kavanagh, Breen and Sullivan were also opposed to writing to the Minister and so the matter was put to a vote: Against (8) For (2). Cllr F O'Súilleabháin's Motion was defeated.

4.2 Consider Motion submitted by Cllr. Fionntán O'Súilleabháin

"That Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District Council acknowledges that despite higher rents in the Gorey Area, the HAP Rates for the Gorey District are far lower than those in neighbouring areas such as Arklow or Carnew. That we will write to the Minister requesting that our HAP Rates be updated so as to be brought up to a more realistic level and in line with that of Co. Wicklow"

Motion seconded by Cllr M Farrell.

No. 5 Correspondence

None.

No. 6 AOB

Members paid tribute to departing District Manager, Mr M Drea and the huge contribution he made to Gorey during his 17 months tenure. Members and District Staff wished him well in his new position in the Housing Department.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Daingnithe ar an _____ lá de _____ 2021

**Joe Sullivan,
Cathaoirleach,
Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District**