

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District  
held remotely on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 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: Ms Amanda Byrne, A/Director of Services,  
Ms Liz Stanley, A/District Manager,  
Ms Joanne Kehoe, Senior Executive Engineer,  
Ms Debbie Stanley, Assistant Staff Officer,

**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: Mr Barry Hammel, Executive Engineer,  
Ms Michele Bridges-Carley, Administrative Officer,  
Ms Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner,  
Mr Gerry Forde, Senior Engineer,  
Mr Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer.

**Vote of Sympathy**

Members extended their sympathies to the Kielthy Family on the recent passing of Nancy Kielthy.

**Offer of Congratulations**

Cllr D Kenny expressed his gratitude to those involved in the successful litter picking event which took place in the Craanford Parish on the 13<sup>th</sup> March.

**No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising**

*1.1 Confirmation of Minutes:*

On the proposal of Cllr M Farrell, seconded by Cllr D Kenny the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District held on the 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 were signed and adopted.

*1.2 Matters Arising:*

Cllr D Devereux asked the Chairman whether he would be dealing with the re-development works at Gorey Town Park at this meeting and the Chairman advised that the matter would be discussed later in the meeting.

## **No. 2 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations**

### *2.1 Planning*

Members noted the Planning Report and Ms N Lennon responded to queries raised. Cllr F O'Súilleabháin requested that the taking-in-charge of Carrig Vale, Kilanerin, The Heath, Ramsgate Village and Creagh Domaine be expedited.

### *2.2 Environment*

Members noted the Environment Report and Mr G Forde responded to queries raised. Other items discussed included:

- ❖ Coastal Erosion at Ballinamona & Morriscastle Beaches;
- ❖ Oil Spillage in the Ounavarra River;
- ❖ Closing of the Burrow Road, Courtown;
- ❖ Ahare River Survey.

In relation to a request for funding for access works to Ballinamona Beach, Mr. Forde advised that the OPW only fund coastal erosion works but assured members that the Council is currently working on a potential solution and he hoped to be in a position to update the Committee at the April meeting.

Mr. Forde informed the Committee that the recent oil spillage in the Ounavarra River is currently under investigation by the Gardaí and a further update would be available at the next Committee meeting.

The Senior Engineer explained that the Council was considering closing the Burrow Road in Courtown on a trial basis as it appeared that there were far more pedestrians using this stretch of road than vehicles.

Cllr Devereux was not in favour of this proposal due to the fact that the vast majority of vehicles using the road are elderly people who wish to access the woods. He also added that access to a container parked at the end of the Burrow Road which stores equipment belonging to the local surfboard water safety unit would also be an issue. Mr. Forde agreed to discuss this matter with representatives from the local community before implementing any changes.

Cllr M Farrell sought further information regarding Leader Funding which has been approved for a Community Training Programme entitled '*Understanding my Area's Biodiversity*' and it was agreed that an update would be provided on this matter also.

### *2.3 Housing*

Members noted the Housing Report and Ms M Bridges-Carley addressed queries raised including the cost of implementing 'crash beds' for homeless people in the District. Ms. Bridges-Carley explained that we are governed on a regional basis and that the homelessness budget is allocated to the Regional Lead in Waterford, who in turn allocate to the five local authorities within this region. Whilst the cost would not be known until it is discussed at regional level, Ms. Bridges-Carley confirmed that the Council would have to fund a fraction of the cost.

### *2.4 Derelict Sites*

Members noted the Derelict Sites Report and Mr. T Banville addressed queries raised in relation to properties in Ballycanew, Ballyedmond, Garden City, Eire Street & Railway Road

and Hollyfort. Mr Banville agreed to follow up on the progress of a CPO on a property in Coolgreany and update the Members at the April meeting.

## **2.5 Roads**

Members noted the Roads Report and Ms J Kehoe responded to queries raised, including:

- ❖ Active Travel Projects;
- ❖ Funding for Bicycle Racks in Gorey Town;
- ❖ Local Improvement Scheme and Community Involvement Scheme Applications;
- ❖ Activity of Patching Unit throughout the District;
- ❖ Auctioneer Signs on Crossroads.

Members welcomed the Restoration Improvement & Maintenance Schemes outlined in the SMDW 2021 but named additional areas throughout the District in serious need of repairs, including Coolinteggart, Ballinahillen, Boley Road, Kilcorkery Lane and Kilmichael Road. Ms Kehoe said she hoped these could be included in Roads Programmes in the coming years.

Ms Kehoe also agreed to follow up on the legal timeframe permitted for auctioneer 'For Sale' signs to be displayed along roadsides.

## **2.6 Water Services**

Members noted the Water Services Report and Mr B Hammel responded to queries raised. Cllr A Bolger expressed concern regarding on-going water bursts on the Fort Road and Mr Hammel advised that funding should be secured by year end for a replacement pipe.

## **2.7 Additional Departmental Reports**

Members noted the Community Development and Library Services Reports.

## **2.8 District Manager's Report**

Ms L Stanley provided Members with an update on the following projects in the District:

- ❖ TVR Schemes (Standard & Accelerated Measures);
- ❖ GKMD Christmas Lights Grant Scheme;
- ❖ Feasibility Study for Multi-User Community Facilities;
- ❖ WCC Prohibition of Overnight Camping in Courtown Bye-Laws;
- ❖ St. Patrick's Day.

### **Outdoor Dining:**

The District Manager advised the Members of a proposal to allocate a small number of car spaces for outdoor dining on the public road adjacent to three coffee shops. This temporary measure was recommended to support local business whilst also accommodating the public as there is no area available at present for outdoor dining. Members were advised that this work would commence as soon as possible and be available as soon as current restrictions are lifted to allow members of the public dine outdoors. The members welcomed this initiative and recommended that the works proceed.

### **Town Park Re-development:**

Cathaoirleach, Cllr J Sullivan expressed continuing concern regarding Gorey Town Park Project and in particular the upward trajectory cost of the project. Ms A. Byrne advised that €1.2m had been set aside in 2016 as an initial budget for proposed future work and advised that no detailed designs or plans were available at this time. The Contract for this work was

signed in 2018 and at this stage greater detail was available to provide an estimate of costs involved but the project has been amended and improved upon since development works commenced.

The Director of Services said the full project history and breakdown of costs would be forwarded to the members and stated that everyone wanted to bring this project to completion as quickly as possible adding that the Contractor could only return on site once construction restrictions are lifted.

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

#### *3.1 GKMD Schedule of Municipal District Works 2021*

The Schedule of Municipal District Works 2021 for the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District was adopted, proposed by Cllr P Breen and seconded by Cllr D Devereux.

#### *3.2 GKMD Amenity & Arts and Residents Associations Grant Schemes 2021*

The Amenity & Arts and Residents Association Grant Scheme Applications 2021 had been circulated to all members on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and allocations presented at the Meeting were proposed by Cllr A Bolger and seconded by Cllr D Kenny.

### **No. 4 Notice of Motion**

None.

### **No. 5 Correspondence**

5.1 Correspondence to the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government re HAP Rates in North Wexford;

5.2 Acknowledgement from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government re HAP Rate in North Wexford

The Correspondence outlined above was noted by Members.

### **No. 6 AOB**

With regard to the withdrawal of the Transformation Payment to postmasters at the end of June 2021, Cllr W Kavanagh asked that the District write to the Minister calling for the continued payment of this subsidy until the issue of keeping Post Offices open has been resolved. Ms L Stanley agreed to do so.

Cllr A Bolger referred to the number of casual trading “horse box” coffee shops popping up throughout the District. Ms L Stanley agreed that there has been an increase in applications recently but confirmed that the District’s Bye-Laws only permit trading in Market Square, Gorey and Courtown. She added that for any other areas to be considered would mean a change to Bye-Laws which can be a lengthy process.

Cllr D Devereux referred to the Farmer’s Market in the Community School Car Park each Saturday and asked could the bin adjacent be emptied each Friday evening. Ms L Stanley thought the bin was in ownership of the school but agreed to check it out.

Cllr F O'Súilleabháin called for a 'dirt biking' facility for the young people in Gorey. He said Ramsfort Woods had been used but jumps were removed when paths were being installed. Ms L Stanley asked Cllr O'Súilleabháin to submit further details but stated that the woods were in the ownership of Coillte and insurance implications would also be a concern.

A discussion took place regarding the provision of campervan sites in North Wexford. At the February District Meeting Ms A. Byrne confirmed that the Council had no plans to construct such facilities but would encourage private operators to do so and the Planning Department would welcome any pre-planning queries.

Cllr M Farrell sought clarification regarding the setting up of such sites as she referred to the strict planning guidelines in place regarding fully serviced sites and how they will not give permission to any ad-hoc sites. Cllr Farrell felt people should be encouraged to visit the area, pointing out that most motor homes are self-sufficient and that the only facilities required would be fresh water and waste disposal facilities. Cllr P Breen agreed that it was essential that campervan spaces are provided this summer but agreed that waste will be a major issue.

Cllr M Farrell commended Cllr D Kenny on the recent litter picking event which took place in the village of Craanford and surrounds. She praised local groups in Kilmuckridge for their work over recent weeks, acknowledging how they had taken all precautions by not gathering in large numbers and adhering to all HSE guidelines.

Cllr Farrell asked that the Council support these groups by making bags and pickers available to them. Ms L Stanley advised that each family should contact the Customer Service Department in Wexford County Council where arrangements would be made to issue litter pickers, bags etc and also pick up this rubbish once a clean-up is completed.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

**Daingnithe ar an \_\_\_\_\_ lá de \_\_\_\_\_ 2021**

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