

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District
held on Tuesday, 21st September 2021, at 2:30pm in the Council Chamber,
Wexford County Council, Carricklawn, Wexford**

Attendance (In Chamber):

In the Chair: Cllr Pip Breen, Cathaoirleach,

Councillors: 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 Oliver Walsh,

Officials: Ms Amanda Byrne, A/District Director,
Ms Joanne Kehoe, Senior Executive Engineer,
Mr Barry Hammel, Executive Engineer,
Ms Mary Kinsella, Clerical Officer,
Mr Tom Enright, Chief Executive,
Mr Philip Knight, Senior Staff Officer,
Mr Eamonn Hore, Director of Services,
Ms Fionnuala Callery, Senior Executive Engineer,
Ms Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner,

Attendance (Microsoft Teams):

Officials: Deputy Verona Murphy,
Michael Mahon,
Inspector Pat Cody,

Apologies: Cllr Diarmuid Devereux.

No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. A Donohoe, seconded by Cllr. M Farrell the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District held on the 20th July 2021 were signed and adopted.

1.2 Matters Arising:

Cllr P. Breen sought agreement to alter the agenda for Water Services to be dealt with first.

Chief Executive Mr T Enright stated that a very serious incident had occurred at the Creagh Water Treatment Plant in Gorey and apologised to the people of Gorey. He advised that a full investigation would be conducted into the failure at the plant and

whatever measures found necessary would be put in place. He stated that the water quality for the last four weeks was excellent throughout Gorey Town.

Mr E Hore, Director of Services, read through the Water Services Report.

Mr E Hore & Ms F Callery, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services responded to members queries. Areas of concern raised by the members included the following:

- Breakdown of testing results before 23rd August,
- How often testing is carried out on a routine basis,
- The lack of a backup system in the event of power failure,
- The importance of a thorough & transparent investigation,
- More investment required in the Gorey network with upgrade of pipes etc.,
- Inadequate communication of the incident.

Mr E Hore & Ms F Callery advised that a full investigation will be undertaken and that testing regimes at the plant are to European Standard with a thorough testing process in place. They advised that currently there is no backup generator in place but that one has been requested from Irish Water. They added that the problem with the Scada Alert System is resolved and that there will be investment on the pressure system which will help with proper distribution. They noted also that the Fort Road is prioritised for investment.

6.1 AOB

The Cathaoirleach invited the Chief Executive to give an update on Courtown Waterworld Ltd. Cllr P Breen stated that he visited the Active Tribe facility in Courtown with Ms L Stanley in August and that there were extensive improvements underway.

Mr Enright outlined that the total owed from Courtown Waterworld LTD to Wexford County Council was €534,350.31. Following the liquidation process the Council received €372,134.81 of the total amount due. Mr. Enright advised that €30,000 is allocated in the budget each year to cover the monies owed to the Council by Courtown Waterworld.

Mr Enright suggested that rather than repaying that debt with the Liquidators payment that the money received be used to finish the Gorey to Courtown footpath. Cllr. A Bolger supported the proposal and Cllr D Kenny seconded it. Cllr F O'Suilleabhain offered an alternative proposal that the money be used to purchase the woods. This proposal was not supported by any other member. Mr Enright stated that the woods were always privately owned, and that the public access already in place was secure into the future.

The proposal to use the funds received to finish the footpath was supported by all members present and the proposal was carried.

Cllr J Sullivan asked Mr Enright about a letter sent regarding the District Park. Mr Enright responded that a comprehensive report would issue to him shortly.

Ms A Byrne asked to raise a further matter relating to Courtown Woods, she advised that Courtown Community Council have concerns regarding an application for ORIS funding for bridge design which they had previously provided a letter of support for. Ms Byrne suggested that support be secured from another relevant local group and that the application proceed. She added that as the application was for design only and should it be successful any development would involve Part VIII Planning with public consultation and environmental screening. The members agreed with this approach.

Cllr W Kavanagh asked if a sewerage system be put in place in Oylegate before any bypass, Cllr A Donohoe asked if every village be then looked at. Mr T Enright responded that there will be a new policy that will provide funding for a small number of villages and said that Councillors would be invited to give a shortlist with schemes to be completed over time.

Cllr A Donohoe asked about progress with St Walerans. Mr T Enright stated that a Part VIII Planning application should be ready by the year end and that the Council will seek Expressions of Intent to build affordable housing when the level of funding available is known.

Ms A. Byrne gave update on St Joseph's, adding that approval from the Department was expected within a few days, with a Part VIII Planning application to be lodged in November.

No. 2 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

2.1 Housing

Members noted the Housing Report

2.2 Environment

Members noted the Environment Report which had been circulated prior to the Meeting. Mr P Knight informed the Committee that the incident on the boardwalk had been referred to Mr George Colfer. He noted that there had been a very successful mattress amnesty and there has been lots of enforcement activity.

Cllr M Farrell asked with regards to air quality what is a 'quiet area' to which Mr Knight said he would consult with Mr G Colfer.

Cllr M Farrell stated that the issue with dogs on the beach is still a major problem. Mr. Knight said that there is Beach Byelaws in addition to existing laws but there are only two dog wardens for the whole county.

Cllr J Sullivan requested an update on a previous complaint on the air quality for the residents at Ballyminaun, Mr. P Knight agreed to refer this to Scientist Mr. Brendan Cooney.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin stated that the river at the back of Sean Doire is wildly overgrown with a rat infestation. Mr Knight offered to bring this to the attention of Mr Gerry Forde.

2.3 Planning

Members noted the Planning Report and Ms N Lennon responded to member's queries.

Members sought updates on Taking-in-Charge Applications for Charlotte Grove, The Heath, Shannon Court and Carraig Vale. Ms J Kehoe responded that The Heath has been investigated, issues are being addressed and the application is progressing.

2.4 Roads

Members noted the Roads Report and Ms J Kehoe responded to member's queries and provided members with an update on Surfacing Works in the District.

Cllr M Farrell thanked Ms Kehoe and the Roads Staff for their work at the Kilmuckridge Walking Trail.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin expressed his thanks from himself and residents for works done in Monaseed, Hollyfort and Kilanerin. He also raised the issue of speeding in Cluainin.

Cllr A Donohoe expressed concerns that some parts of Gorey Town are very badly lit and asked if a Lighting Survey be carried out. He also enquired if the granite kerbs could be sandblasted, and the cobbles be power washed on the Main Street.

Cllr O Walsh also highlighted safety concerns at Tobergall Cross adjacent to the grotto.

Cllr P Breen highlighted concerns with traffic at the Educate Together Secondary School. Ms J Kehoe agreed to examine the matter.

2.5 Water Services

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

- The level of leak repairs now is curtailed at present due to staff shortages.
- Creagh is the only Water Treatment Plant without auto shut down or 'go to waste'.
- Capital Maintenance Allocations have increased.
- They have a quotation for a generator and will process as soon as possible.
- Plant Remedial Works due in October.
- Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin asked whether the Biodiversity proposal could be furthered.
- Cllr J Sullivan stated that priority for the Council should be that staffing levels are maintained at the highest possible level.

2.6 Additional Departmental Reports

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

2.7 District Manager's Report

Ms A Byrne provided members with an update on specific projects and upcoming events taking place in the District:

- Digital Innovation Programme.
- Town & Village in Courtown making good progress.
- Halloween – A Family Fun Day is being planned for 30th October in the District Park.
- World Mental Health Day – The Market House will be lit up in green.
- Uplighters on the trees on The Avenue will be repaired so these for future use.

District Park Update:

- Playground and gym equipment to be installed by 30th October.
- Building will not be complete by that date.
- CCTV will be operational by late this week/early next week.
- Camper Van Parking – charging structure and how to legally manage the site needs to be considered.
- Ms A Byrne proposed Byelaws for some form of Pay Parking for the District Park if it becomes an issue in the future.
- Ms A Byrne to check regarding accessible equipment for the playground.
- Ms A Byrne stated that Ms L Stanley will have a report on monies unspent for the Festivals and circulate for the next meeting.
- Cllr A Donohoe enquired about Esmonde Lane which does not have a great surface for mobility scooters. Ms J Kehoe responded that funding was sought under three different schemes but was refused each time.

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

None.

No. 4 Notice of Motion

None

No. 5 Correspondence – None

No. 6 (2) AOB

Votes of Sympathy

Members extended their sympathies to the families of recently bereaved, The Doyle Family (Allenwood Drive), The Power Family (Annagh), The Redmond Family (Raheenduff), The Nolan Family (Ballinastraw/Glenbrien), The Tuohy Family (Monaseed), Beth Doyle (formally Ballycanew).

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin called for an audit of all defibrillators in Gorey town. Ms A Byrne stated that an audit is being undertaken now by the Gardai.

Offer of Congratulations

- Cllr W Kavanagh offered best of luck to all teams playing at the weekend.
- Cllr D Kenny expressed his congratulations to the Wexford Camogie Team.
- Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin offered congratulations to Paul McCluskey, winner of Art Agility Award, Arts Council.
- The Members welcomed Mr Philip Knight to his new position.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Daingnithe ar an _____ lá de _____ 2021

**Pip Breen,
Cathaoirleach,
Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District**