

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District
held in Gorey Courthouse, Civic Square, The Avenue, Gorey
on Tuesday, 18th January 2022, at 2:30pm**

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr Pip Breen, Cathaoirleach,
Cllr Andrew Bolger,
Cllr Diarmuid Devereux,
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 Liz Hore, Director of Services/District Director,
Mr Philip Knight, Municipal District Administrator,
Ms Joanne Kehoe, Senior Executive Engineer,
Mr Barry Hammel, Executive Engineer,
Ms. Liz Stanley, Senior Staff Officer,
Ms Debbie Stanley, Assistant Staff Officer,
Ms Norma Quinsey, Love Gorey,
Ms Carolyn Godkin, Director of Services,
Ms Helen Frayne, Senior Staff Officer (Housing),
Ms Cliona Connolly, Environment Awareness Officer.

Offer of Sympathy:

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr P Breen called for a minute's silence at the beginning of the meeting in memory of the late Aisling Murphy which was followed by all members extending their sympathies.

Later in the meeting sympathies were also extended to the Kehoe Family, Craanford following the recent death of Julie Kehoe and to Joanne Kehoe, Roads Engineer on the recent death of her mother-in-law, Tara Manning.

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 MD held on December 21st, 2021, were signed, and adopted.

1.2 Matters Arising:

Members requested that the Chief Executive be invited to the February Meeting to discuss the re-development plans for Gorey Market House, proposed by Cllr D Kenny, and seconded by Cllr A Bolger.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin felt that the Council Chamber of the Market House would be an ideal place to display local historic artifacts pending any re-development plans.

Cllr J Sullivan asked Director of Services, L Hore to relay back to the Executive that GKMD members want the Gorey Market House and Esmonde Street Projects brought to fruition by the end of the current term of this Council.

No. 2 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

2.1 Love Gorey Presentation

Ms N Quinsey explained that the key objective of Love Gorey is to raise awareness of what is great in North Wexford through the promotion of local amenities, businesses, services and support local through various social media channels. Ms Quinsey added more recent additions include a jobs listings site and blogs featuring recommendations for activities, good news stories & community group news.

She explained how Love Gorey also rose to the challenge of the pandemic when footfall was down by encouraging businesses to take part in online social media videos, communicating adaptations they had to make. Ms Quinsey added that Love Gorey works alongside Visit Wexford to ensure that Gorey and North Wexford is represented in the overall tourism strategy.

The members complimented Ms Quinsey and how Love Gorey is a great marketing tool for Gorey & North Wexford. Cllr D Devereux added that Love Gorey has evolved greatly over the years and that it should be used to its maximum capacity by providing proper funding. He suggested that additional funding be streamlined from the GMA. Ms L Hore said that Love Gorey is a good example of how the local authority can work in partnership with businesses and said that a review would be held on its current needs and what funding resources are available.

2.2 Housing

Ms H Frayne presented the Housing Delivery Plan 2022-2026 for Co Wexford to the members. The Plan detailed future programme requirements, types of houses and targets with a minimum social housing delivery target of 1,150 units across the county including 297 to be delivered in the Gorey-Kilmuckridge District. Whilst members welcomed the Plan, they felt more Council-led developments on Council land is what is needed. Director of Services, Ms C Godkin said affordable housing will come through with Ramsfort & St. Walerans, through Part V changes and that the Council will be looking for land parcels to purchase in areas of demonstrated demand.

Members criticised the geographical distribution of social housing plans based on demands and Cllr A Donohoe suggested that areas like Craanford and Camolin be removed from the list as there is no sewerage capacity. Ms C Godkin agreed that infrastructure needs to be accelerated in villages to drive issues on. She said that Irish Water is setting up an Irish Water Towns & Villages Scheme to fast-track local Irish Water infrastructure which will engage members in the land & wastewater process. She said there was no further details of the Scheme yet but understood that it looked at delivering houses outside urban centres.

Cllr W Kavanagh again mentioned the delay in the delivery of social houses in The Ballagh and asked when those being allocated a house would be informed. Ms Frayne said that the AHO is currently assessing applicants and that the ESB are at the final stages of their work. Whilst no date was given, Ms Frayne envisaged houses being allocated in the early part of 2022.

Cllr A Donohoe asked that the District Administrator write to the Minister for Housing regarding short-term lets. He felt that regulation on short-term lets such as Air B&Bs are forcing landlords out of leasing. The DoS advised Cllr Donohoe that regulation around short-term lets (Air B&Bs) are a planning rather than a housing issue.

2.3 Environment

Members noted the Environment Report and Ms C Connolly responded to members queries.

Cllr D Devereux acknowledged the enormous effort made by Community Groups who have continued organising clean-ups throughout the pandemic. Cllr M Farrell also recognised these community clean-ups and felt their huge effort needed to be acknowledged publicly.

Cllr Devereux asked about the restoration of bins in the Burrow Road as rubbish is building up. Ms J Kehoe advised that the bins had been removed due to a rodent problem which was making it impossible for crews to collect the rubbish. She added that a lot of domestic rubbish had been dumped and that the rodent issue will need to be controlled before a decision is made on whether the bins will return.

Cllr Devereux asked about the disposal of hazardous waste such as paint and whether it was possible for recycling centres to accept such waste more frequently. Ms Connolly advised she would speak to the relevant Engineer but often staff and costs limit it to one location.

Cllr A Donohoe noted the high failure rate in septic tank inspections and asked what financial support is in place to assist. Mr P Knight advised that grants are available but that a lot of the issues come from the fact that tanks are not cleared out regularly enough.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin asked that the NW2K initiative run again in 2022. Ms Connolly said the initiative is run by GKMD but that they will support whatever the district decides, adding that North Wexford Groups have always been very active in this area.

Cllr J Sullivan called for further engagement from the Council regarding ongoing pollution issues from a factory in Ballyminaun and to ensure that all efforts are made to alleviate these problems.

Cllr J Sullivan praised the Tara Hill & Courtown Walking Trail works but highlighted one area in Tara Hill near Hill Lane in need of some hardcore cover.

Cllr M Farrell highlighted issues with the public tap near Morriscastle Beach which is causing drain blockages and asked for this issue to be addressed.

Cllr M Farrell expressed her annoyance where some Council tenants continue to dispose of domestic waste in their gardens which often lead to rat infestations. Ms Connolly said that the Council could service Notices to ask people where they are disposing of waste and Mr Knight added that in several cases where people haven't responded to these letters, court cases are pending. He said that they are aware of problem estate areas and that letters have been sent to them all.

2.4 Planning

Cllr A Donohoe sought reassurance that St. Waleran's would be back on the agenda before the end of Q1-2022.

2.5 Roads

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr P Breen acknowledged the hard work and commitment of the Roads Staff who responded to the emergency flooding throughout the county over the Christmas period. This sentiment was expressed by all Committee Members and the District Administrator & Roads Engineer.

Cllr A Bolger expressed his concerns over the lack of public lighting along the Gorey-Courtown Footpath. Ms Kehoe advised that significant funding would be required for this and that any funding granted would probably be released over several years. Cllr J Sullivan highlighted the lack of public lighting in Gorey District Park describing it as reckless and neglectful and asked that this be brought to the attention of the Director.

Cllr D Devereux highlighted insufficient lighting in La Verna estate, but Ms Kehoe advised that the estate would need to be taken in charge by the Council to assist with lighting. Other areas such as Willow Park Wood & Park Avenue, Gorey and Oulart were also highlighted, and Cllr J Sullivan called for a Review of Street Lighting to be commissioned. Ms Kehoe advised that a survey was carried out whilst LEDs were being fitted and that some problem spots had been identified which need to be followed up with.

Cllr A Donohoe referred to the significant damage to roads caused by the recent flooding, some of which had only been re-surfaced as recently as 2021. Ms Kehoe asked for details of where issues were, adding that roads may just need time to settle in after the event, but that repairs would be looked at.

Ms Kehoe also addressed other concerns raised by the members, including:

- ✚ Ballinamona Road.
- ✚ Road markings at the T-Junction at Craan Hill.
- ✚ Speed Signs at Ballyellis.
- ✚ Safety issues in the Ramstown Area and from the Paul Funge Boulevard to Gorey Business Park.
- ✚ Cycle Lanes blocked along Scholar's Walk during school times.
- ✚ Water leaking on Blackwater bridge.

Cllr A Donohoe asked could the Gorey to Tinahely Road be included on the Salting Programme as it is a busy road which has seen many accidents. Ms Kehoe agreed to request this but added that focus is generally on regional & national roads and as this is a local road, it may not be considered.

Cllr A Donohoe urged the Council to look at linking towns & villages via footpaths and asked whether there was a budget for this in Wexford. Ms Kehoe said that Active Travel could be looked at for this but that areas of choice would need to be decided upon.

Cllr M Farrell referred to requests she had received from locals who want Old Bawn Beach to have its original name of Newtown restored. Cllr A Donohoe felt that this change might present a challenge to visitors travelling to the beach from other counties and it was suggested that both names go on the sign. Ms Kehoe advised she would speak to the Coastal Engineer about the correct title for the beach.

Cllr M Farrell sought an update on School Wardens for The Ballagh and Monamolin and Ms Kehoe advised that contact had been made with green schools and that they would push for further application. She added that an update would be provided at the next meeting.

2.6 Water Services

Members noted the Water Services Report and Mr B Hammel responded to members questions.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin sought an update on works in Garden City and Mr Hammel said that visits were taking place locally to resolve some issues.

Cllr J Sullivan sought reassurance that the people of Ballymoney and Tara Hill will have a sustainable water supply with the arrival of any tourist season. Mr Hammel advised that works have been approved for the Ballymoney booster pump to resolve issues and that this is a priority.

Cllr M Farrell acknowledged the work carried out by Water Services Staff over the Christmas period but said that water in Beechbrook was still causing problems most recently when an electricity outage impacted on water quality. Mr Hammel advised that the pump has been replaced in Beechbrook and that they are continuing to monitor chlorine levels in the water network.

2.7 Additional Departmental Reports

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

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin acknowledged the many initiatives highlighted in the Library Services Report and commended the Arts & Library Staff for their amazing work and the service they are providing through their many activities.

2.8 District Administrator's Report

Mr P Knight informed the Committee that following the grant of Part VIII planning, RPS Consultants were progressing with a detailed design on the Esmonde Street Regeneration. He said Site Investigation Works completed in September 2021 will feed into the design and that Irish Water has also approved sewerage upgrade works which will require an additional investigation. Mr Knight expects works to commence by the end of 2022.

Mr Knight advised that TVRS Works are continuing in Courtown and provided an up-to-date account of these works.

Cllr A Bolger referred to defibrillators in Gorey Town that are missing pads or batteries and felt it might be difficult to get the correct pads, due to the age of these machines. Mr Knight advised that he has been in contact with the Gardaí and that one working defibrillator is now in Gorey Garda Station being checked regularly.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin asked that the District Administrator write to the National Ambulance Service regarding the appalling service North Wexford is experiencing in recent times. He said it is an issue across the county that needs to be addressed. Mr Knight added that it is a national problem.

Cllr D Devereux called for additional funds to be secured for Christmas lighting & decorations in 2022. He praised the team involved in the Christmas presentation in town and asked that this matter be included on an agenda in 2022 for discussion again.

Cllr A Donohoe referred to an article in The Journal.ie on the recent Special Meeting of the Full Council which was held following SIPO's ruling against the Chief Executive and asked that it be put on record that what was experienced at this meeting did not bear any resemblance to the content of that publication's article. Cllr P Breen & Cllr M Farrell agreed.

Cllr D Kenny sought an update on the Craanford TVRS project and Ms L Hore said that whilst there had been initial delays it would be addressed in the coming weeks.

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

None.

No. 5 Correspondence

All Meeting Correspondence was noted.

No. 6 AOB

Mr P Knight informed the members that community or voluntary groups can be nominated for funding for Disability Awareness & Participation. He encouraged as many local groups as possible to get involved and put their names forward for consideration.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Daingnithe ar an _____ lá de _____ 2022

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