

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District
held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, The Avenue, Gorey
on Tuesday, 19th July 2022, at 2:30pm**

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr Donal Kenny, Cathaoirleach,
Cllr Pip Breen,
Cllr Andrew Bolger,
Cllr Mary Farrell,
Cllr Willie Kavanagh,
Cllr Fionntán Ó'Súilleabháin,
Cllr Joe Sullivan,
Cllr Oliver Walsh,
Cllr Anthony Donohoe

Officials: Mr Philip Knight, Municipal District Administrator,
Ms. Liz Hore, Director of Service
Mr Barry Hammel, Executive Engineer,
Ms Helen Frayne, Senior Staff Officer (Housing),
Ms. Therese Nolan, Executive Architect
Mr. Gerry Forde, Senior Executive Engineer,
Ms. Margaret Kelly, Clerical Officer

Apologies: Ms. Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner,
Ms. Joanne Kehoe, Senior Executive Engineer,

Others Attending:
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No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr A Bolger, seconded by Cllr W Kavanagh the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD held on June 21st, 2022, were signed, and adopted.

1.2 Confirmation of AGM Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr P Breen, seconded by Cllr W Kavanagh the Minutes of the AGM Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD held on June 21st, 2022, were signed, and adopted.

1.3 Matters Arising:

It was agreed to address Matters Arising during the various Reports.

No. 2 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

2.1 Housing

Members noted the Housing Report. Ms Frayne confirmed that the site works were scheduled to commence on the Ramsfort Park Affordable Housing Scheme development on the 20th of July. Information days in relation to the project would be held in the Civic

Offices over four days. The dates and times had been advertised. Cllr O'Súilleabháin welcomed the development, noting it was the first of its kind in decades in Wexford.

A public information leaflet for the project was distributed to those in attendance. Ms. Frayne informed the meeting that the houses would take eighteen months to two years to complete.

In reply to Cllr Kavanagh's question as to the price of the units Ms Nolan confirmed that the price would be dependent on the applicant's ability to pay.

Ms. Nolan informed the meeting that there were 22 Units planned for the Creagh development on 1.6 acres, which consisted of two apartment blocks (8 units per block), 4 two-bedroom bungalows and 2 three-bedroom houses. The Planning Permission notice would be advertised on the 20th of July. In answer to Cllr Bolger's query, Ms Nolan said she expected to present the scheme to the members for approval at the November meeting. In answer to Cllr Breen's query as to how the members could expedite the development, Ms Nolan said that the development is required to proceed through the legislative planning procedure. Ms Frayne explained that there was a criteria as to how the house were prices and the scheme involved a shared equity option.

Cllr. O'Súilleabháin requested that information be made available to members in relation to supports and finance available for vacant property refurbishment. Ms. Frayne informed the meeting that vacant property information would be published on the Council website. Cllr Kavanagh asked if vacant houses could be compulsory purchased. Ms. Nolan said that this was a lengthy process and advised vacant properties may be investigated as to the viability of using them for social housing. Director of Service outlined that CPO was a last resort. Cllr Sullivan noted building houses was the solution.

Cllr Breen informed the meeting that apartments in the Ballycanew area had been idle since 2011 despite single dwelling units required urgently.

Cllr Walsh welcomed the 16-house development in Baile na Loch but was concerned that the houses at the entrance were allocated first whilst building continued. Ms. Frayne said she would liaise with the developer in relation to this issue regarding a different building access being used.

In answer to Cllr A Donohoe's query in relation to St. Wallarans, Ms Frayne said that the draft plan is to be presented at September meeting and then the section 8 will proceed.

Liz Hore, Director of Service stated resources have now been made available to Wexford County Council and that building houses was a priority, but other options were also being considered. A Vacant Housing Officer is to be appointed as part of the Housing Programme.

Cllr Kavanagh congratulated Wexford County Council Housing section on the Ballagh Development.

Cllr Farrell said that she had spoken to the developer in Kilmuckridge and they said they would be there for the next two years.

2.2 Environment

Gerry Forde Senior Engineer Wexford County Council joined the meeting re teams and reported to members on current coastal works in the District.

Cllr Bolger raised the issue of noise from Paddy Blues bar reported to him by residents in the immediate area. Mr. Forde said that the matter would be referred to Brendan Cooney in the Councils Noise Department.

Cllr Breen reported that Cahore extremely busy over the weekend. The volume of camper vans using the carpark emphasised the need for sewerage systems for coastal resort areas. Cllr O'Súilleabháin agreed with Cllr Breen and stated that a Community Warden was required for North Wexford beaches, especially at the weekends.

Mr. Forde thanked the landowners for facilitating beach Car Parks and noted that his Dept had received both complaint and compliments in relation to toilet facilities. He explained that due to maternity leave there was only one warden for last two months but that a replacement was to start next week. A full time Warden for Morriscastle northwards should be in place next month. Mr Forde explained that a public sewerage unit for Morriscastle, similar to the unit being planned for Vinegar Hill was being considered and that a request for similar unit for Cahore is to be referred to SPCC.

In reply to Cllr Sullivan's observation that the barrier had been lifted and taped at Cahore Mr. Ford said that his Dept are currently working on resolving this matter.

Cllr Farrell raised the issue of facilities for camper vans in the District. She emphasised that adequate facilities should be provided to encourage all tourist types to visit the District.

Director of Service stated that Tourism Section would be happy to work with the Environment Section regarding facilities for camper vans in the North Wexford area.

Cllr Devereux sought clarification whether ORIS Funding has been made available to Courtown. Mr Knight said he would check with the SEE, Environment and revert.

The Chairman, commended the Clean Up Crews on their excellent work. He welcomed the beach mat initiative. He noted camper vans were valuable to the tourist industry in the area. He also emphasised that there were laws to guide the issue of noise pollution and that these guidelines should assist in a successful resolution being arrived at.

2.3 Planning

The Members noted the Planning Report

2.4 Roads

The Members noted the Roads Report.

Cllr O'Súilleabháin noted the Barracurragh/Coolataggaret (Lacken) road required attention. He acknowledged that work had been carried out on the Hollyfort to Gorey recently and the Annagh road had been tarred and chipped. Barry Hammel, Water Engineer advised that

chippings were added to provide slip resistance on that road. Cllr Kavanagh complimented the work being carried out by the Council roads crew.

2.5 Water Services

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

2.6 Additional Departmental Reports

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

2.7 District Administrator's Report

Mr Philip Knight, District Administrator referred to the District Report which had been circulated to the members.

Cllr A Bolger noted the state of disrepair of the Market House and asked if there were any long-term plans in place for the building, and if there was anything the GKMD can do. The District Administrator stated that the property needs to be in use and that was part of the problem. Director of Service informed the meeting that the Market House was a Council building and that she will arrange for the Property Department to investigate.

Cllr Farrell enquired as to whether tribute bands were the way to go with the Market House Festival and if a headline act would not be more appropriate. She also hoped that there would be more control at this festival. The District Administrator stated that in determining the line-up for the festival, the committee considered the demographics of attendees and availability of acts following the pandemic.

Cllr Farrell queried as to who would be make the decision to remove the train in Courtown. The District Administrator advised that driving a mechanically propelled vehicle on a public footpath was prohibited by law. He stated it therefore would not be appropriate for this Council to sanction the use of any mechanically propelled vehicle on a public footpath. Also, the new Plaza ground surface was not designed to take the weight of vehicles.

Cllr O'Súilleabháin asked if the awnings/skirts around barriers at cafés for the Outdoor Dining initiative could be improved. Some of the existing ones had started to look shabby. He also expressed his concern at the Market House building falling into disrepair and believed it needed to be inspected for water damage. In reply, Cllr Pip Breen said he had recently been in the Market House and that it was not as bad as it looked. Remedial works and regular maintenance were required, but the main issue was that it was not in use. Cllr A Donohoe pointed out that the multitude of cable that run the length of the Main Street need to be tidied up/boxed in.

Cllr O'Súilleabháin also was concerned that Centenary projects in this District was a bit behind other areas and wondered if there was anything further that could be done. The District Administrator agreed to investigate the causes of the delays.

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

None.

No. 6 AOB

Cllr Kavanagh wished to express sympathy to family and work colleagues to John Byrne Enniscorthy Municipal District.

Cllr O'Súilleabháin proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of Jim Byrne.

Chairman proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of Declan McParland, former Councillor.

Cllr Sullivan proposed a vote of sympathy to the District Chairman Donal Kenny and his family on the recent death of his mother-in-law

On the proposal of Cllr Bolger, the members agreed to receive a deputation from Sean O'Leary to give a presentation to the members of a Green School initiative he was developing.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Daingnithe ar an _____ lá de _____ 2022

**Donal Kenny,
Cathaoirleach,
Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District**