

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District
held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, The Avenue, Gorey
on Tuesday 19th September 2023, at 2:30pm**

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr Pip Breen, Cathaoirleach,
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 Diarmuid Devereux, via MS Teams,
Cllr Oliver Walsh,

Officials: Ms Liz Hore, Director of Services & District Director,
Mr Philip Knight, Municipal District Administrator,
Ms Joanne Kehoe, Senior Executive Engineer,
Ms Liz Stanley, Senior Staff Officer,
Ms Debbie Stanley, Assistant Staff Officer,
Mr Sean Meyler, Senior Executive Engineer, Special Projects,
Mr Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer, Planning,
Mr Mick McCormack, Town Regeneration Officer,
Ms Paula Shortall, Senior Staff Officer, Housing,
Ms Rachel Jordan, Administrative Officer, Housing,
Mr Enda Brennan, Executive Engineer, Environment,
Mr Philip Mansfield, Executive Planner.

No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr, O Walsh, seconded by Cllr D Kenny the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD held on July 18th, 2023, were signed, and adopted.

1.2 Matters Arising:

It was agreed to deal with Matters Arising under each relevant Report.

No. 2 Consideration of Reports, Recommendations & Presentations

2.1 URDF Call 3 Allocation for Wexford County Council

Mr T Banville reminded the Committee that this third round of funding support is specifically designed to address long-term vacancy and dereliction across the four URDF towns whilst assisting with the acceleration of the provision of residential accommodation.

He explained that this fund will be available to cover the acquisition costs of a property or site along with any civil or design costs which may be required for onward sale and that it is

intended this fund will be replenished from the proceeds of each sale, allowing the Council to put in place a revolving fund, thereby eliminating significant borrowing and financial risk.

Mr Banville said of the 217 vacant and derelict properties/sites submitted to the Department, 169 were included on their approved list with an allocation of €6.5m. He advised that five properties have so far been identified in Gorey Town and that he will require the support of the members when acquired properties are brought to them for S.183 disposal approval.

Following the presentation Mr Banville addressed any queries raised by the members.

2.2 Esmonde Street Redevelopment




Mr S Meyler referred to previous Esmonde Street redevelopment plans brought before this Committee. He explained that a Mobility & Transportation Framework is planned for 2024 and felt the way forward now was to proceed with footpath improvement works and putting overhead cables underground in the short-term, the alternative being to wait until the completion of the Framework and proceed with all works at that stage.

A discussion took place regarding the best way forward for Esmonde Street & Esmonde Lane and members felt new public realm works need to combine upcoming Uisce Éireann works at the same time to minimise disruption to businesses.

Members spoke about the pedestrianisation of Esmonde Street, incorporating a cycle-lane down the right-hand side of the street only, allowing the re-introduction of additional parking spaces along the left-hand side and public seating linking through Esmonde Lane. Whilst not all members were in favour of a cycle-lane, Mr Meyler explained excluding them from a project can compromise funding. Cllr A Donohoe proposed re-visiting the original plans, incorporating the suggested changes and that any works run in conjunction with Uisce Éireann works. All members were in agreement.

2.3 Housing

The Housing Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted. Ms P Shortall provided relevant updates to the Committee regarding:

-  Choice-based Letting Scheme Properties.
-  Tenant-in-Situ Scheme Properties.
-  Commencement of Survey of Social Housing Assessments.

Ms Shortall circulated plans for the proposed playground in Kilmuckridge seeking consent to proceed with Part 8 approval, proposed by Cllr M Farrell, seconded by Cllr O Walsh.

Cllr J Sullivan again expressed his disappointment over the lack of progress with the Tober Mhuire development. He said several properties were within weeks of being ready and called on the Council to work with the developer.

Cllrs Sullivan and Bolger also expressed their frustration over the lack of progress with the St. Waleran's Development & Ramsfort Affordable Housing Scheme. Ms. Shortall explained that normal tendering and procurement processes are taking longer than normal and agreed to revert with an update on both.

Ms. Shortall also agreed to revert with queries raised on the Monamolin Housing Projects, Part V Affordable Housing and Modular Housing for St. Walerans.

Cllr Sullivan asked that any housing queries raised during District Meetings be responded to within seven working days.

2.4 Environment

Mr E Brennan informed the Committee of the impending installation of a Dryloo System at Cahore. Members welcomed this news and Cllr M Farrell asked for assurance that adequate access will be provided particularly as a wheelchair accessible cubicle is being installed.

The Environment Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted and Mr Brennan provided a response to queries raised by the members at the July District Meeting.

Cllr J Sullivan expressed serious concerns with flooding at the Ahare River and called for urgent action to be taken by Wexford County Council before serious injury or even loss of life occurs. Ms L Hore acknowledged that a Flood Alert System was to be installed and agreed to meet with Senior Management to discuss moving forward.

Members expressed serious concerns over the possible conversion of the former St. Therese's B&B establishment, Mount Alexander, Gorey, into a Direct Provision Centre. The members unanimously agreed the property to be completely unsuitable for such a facility due to its rural location, on a narrow road with no footpath, no public lighting, a proprietary sewerage system without sufficient capacity and no nearby shops.

It was proposed by Cllr A Donohoe, seconded by Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin to write to Minister Roderic O'Gorman expressing the members concerns.

2.5 Planning

The Planning Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted and Mr P Mansfield responded to any queries raised.

2.6 Roads

The Roads Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted. Ms J Kehoe provided relevant updates to the Committee including:

- ✚ Additional funding for Restoration Improvement Works.
- ✚ Local Improvement Scheme Round 2 Funding pending.
- ✚ Proposed One-way System on Redmill Lane.

Ms Kehoe also either responded to queries raised or agreed to revert with answers at the October Meeting on the:

- ✚ Relocation of Bus Stops to Paul Funge Boulevard.
- ✚ Speed Limit at Ballyellis NS.
- ✚ Surface Works at The Waste, Camolin.
- ✚ Street Lighting issues at Hillcrest and in Ballymurn.
- ✚ Coach Road Roundabout & Courtown Footpath.
- ✚ Overgrowth obscuring road signs.
- ✚ Timeframe for road-marking outside Blackwater NS.

Cllr D Kenny paid tribute to the District Manager and Road Crews on managing the traffic flow throughout the town during the Market House Festival weekend.

Cllr A Donohoe asked for figures on Planning Contributions collected in the last 4 years in Gorey and Ms L Hore agreed to revert.

2.7 District Administrator's Report

The District Administrator's Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted and Mr P Knight highlighted various events held during the summer. Mr Knight paid tribute to the Market House Committee and the various teams which worked over the festival weekend which attracted an estimated 40,000 visitors to the town. Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin suggested a Special Needs Area in front of the stage and market stalls in the park on the Saturday might attract more people.

At 5:30pm it was proposed by Cllr D Kenny and seconded by Cllr A Bolger to continue the meeting.

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

3.1 Proposed Taking-in Charge – Hunters Hill, Gorey

On the proposal of Cllr. A Donohoe, seconded by Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin, it was agreed to take Hunters Hill, Gorey, in charge under S.11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and S.180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended).

No. 4 Notice of Motion from Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District

Consider Motion submitted by Cllr Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin

"This Municipal District Council notes that the Chief Executive has committed to providing motorhome/campervan facilities in 3 locations in the County, especially for Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2024. This Municipal District Council asks that one will be provided for the Gorey District."

Cllr M Farrell seconded the Motion. Motion was carried unanimously.

No. 5 Correspondence

None.

No. 6 AOB

The members agreed that the Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD submission for the WCC Annual Report 2022 proceed.

Cllr J Sullivan asked who had authorised the use of CCTV in The Burrow, Courtown over a weekend in August. Mr P Knight agreed to investigate this matter.

Sympathies:

Members proposed a Vote of Sympathy to the families of those recently bereaved, the late Mary Keane Hearne, Nicholas Masterson, Nancy O'Connor, Very Reverend Canon Felix Byrne, Monaseed and Very Reverend Father Séamus Canon de Val (Wall), Bunclody. RIP.

Congratulations:

Members extended their congratulations to the following:

- ✚ Naomh Eanna – Senior & Junior A County Champions (Hurling).
- ✚ Craanford Fr. O'Regan's – Intermediate A & Junior B County Champions (Hurling).

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Daingnithe ar an _____ lá de _____ 2023

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