

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District
held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, The Avenue, Gorey
on Tuesday, 21st June 2022, at 2:30pm**

Attendance:

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

Officials: Mr Diarmuid Houston, A/Director of Services/District Director,
Mr Philip Knight, Municipal District Administrator,
Ms Joanne Kehoe, Senior Executive Engineer,
Ms Liz Stanley, Senior Staff Officer,
Mr Barry Hammel, Executive Engineer,
Ms Debbie Stanley, Assistant Staff Officer,
Ms Helen Frayne, Senior Staff Officer (Housing),
Mr Eamonn Hore, Director of Services,
Ms Fionnuala Callery, Senior Executive Engineer,

Others Attending: Mr Jim Fitzgerald, Regional Operations Manager, Irish Water,
Mr Richard O'hEadhra, Regional Communications Lead, Irish Water,
Mr PJ Rudden, Aengus Consulting Ltd,
Ms Verona Murphy, TD – MS Teams.

No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr P Breen, seconded by Cllr A Donohoe the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD held on May 17th, 2022, were signed, and adopted.

1.2 Matters Arising:

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

No. 2 Creagh Water Treatment Plant Presentation

Mr Eamonn Hore, DoS, presented a Report commissioned by WCC to examine the events leading up to the Water Quality Incident at Creagh Water Treatment Plant last year. The Report was prepared by PJ Rudden of Aengus Consulting Ltd, who was appointed in September 2021 to carry out the task. Mr Hore provided the members with a brief incident outline and sequence of events from the 19th to 24th August 2021 during which time the contamination took place.

Mr Hore advised that following the audit of events which took place, Aengus Consulting Ltd made 13 recommendations to ensure that there is no recurrence of such an incident at Creagh Water Treatment Plant. He added that Irish Water has invested approximately €200,000 in Creagh in the past 6 months to improve the supply with a further €2m secured for plant upgrades over 2022 and 2023. Creagh has also been included in Irish Water's Audit of the Top 26 Water Treatment Plants.

Mr Hore responded to queries raised by the members, some seeking clarity on whether the changes made will be enough to prevent such an incident occurring again. Mr Hore said with absolute certainty that such an event will not happen again. An Cathaoirleach, Cllr D Kenny thanked Mr Hore for his presentation.

No. 3 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

3.1 Housing

Members noted the Housing Report. Ms Frayne informed the Committee that Irish Water have made the wastewater connection to The Ballagh Housing Scheme and once final documents are submitted and certification complete, handover should occur in the next 2-3 weeks. Cllr W Kavanagh was dissatisfied with the length of time it took for Irish Water to sign off and Cllr O Walsh felt that houses should not be allocated if the Council cannot handover keys. Ms Frayne advised that it is no longer an Irish Water delay and that it is not normal practice for the Council to allocate if they cannot handover keys.

Cllr A Donohoe sought an update on St. Walerans which he felt was proceeding at too slow a pace. Mr D Houston advised that the Architect is working on a revised design which he is hopeful will produce more housing. He added that noticeable movement will be seen in the coming months and said that the Chief Executive's priority is to bring this development to a conclusion as quickly as possible.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin called for steps to be taken for Wexford to be officially recognised as being unaffordable for housing so that the Council can access the Government's National Affordable Housing Fund. Ms Frayne said that Consultants have been engaged through the Planning Department to determine if there is the required affordability constraint to access funds via the AHF. She added that funding from the SSF (Serviced Sites Fund) has been approved for the proposed Ramsfort Park Affordable Housing Scheme.

Cllr J Sullivan asked would Wexford Street proceed to Stage 3 by the end of Q2-2022. Ms Frayne confirmed that having obtained Part 8 there was a 4-week turnaround for Stage 3 which will complete by the end of June 2022 with tender anticipated to go out early August.

Cllr Sullivan also asked about the Tobar Muire Housing Scheme and Ms Frayne advised that Solicitors have been instructed to close sale on the first 12 Units.

Cllr D Devereux referred to the fact that there are more than 6,000 vacant homes in County Wexford and called for emergency legislation to be put in place to deal with this. Ms Frayne advised that under '*Housing for All*' a Vacant Homes Officer is being recruited who will have a more pro-active role dealing with vacant homes and that it is likely to see more houses returning to occupancy.

3.2 Environment

Cllr A Bolger referred to a Leaving Cert Student involved in the Green Schools Committee and proposed that he present to the members at the September District Meeting, seconded by Cllr P Breen. Cllr M Farrell also extended an invitation to him at the next Environment SPC Meeting.

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

3.3 Planning

The members noted the Planning Report. Mr D Houston thanked the members for their contributions to the Development Plan.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin referred to rights of way and how it is crucial that the public have access to beaches in North Wexford. Mr D Houston said that a balance must be met, particularly in protected areas where some need to be diverted for the safeguard of species.

3.4 Roads

Members noted the Roads Report and Ms J Kehoe responded to issues raised by members including:

Cllr J Sullivan called for safe crossing measures to be implemented on the Old Arklow Road. Ms J Kehoe said she would keep this in mind for the next round of Active Travel Funding.

Cllr A Bolger highlighted a piece along the Red Row Footpath where the public are forced to cross and asked whether there was any Active Travel Funding. Ms Kehoe advised that the Council need the permission of the landowner before any works could take place. Cllr A Donohoe also enquired about Active Travel funding for the extension of the Coolgreany to Ballyfad Footpath.

Cllr D Kenny sought an update on the Ballyellis Speed Limit. Ms Kehoe said that this has been forwarded for review which is ongoing.

3.5 Water Services

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

3.6 Additional Departmental Reports

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

3.7 District Administrator's Report

Mr P Knight referred to the District Report which had been circulated to the members.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin asked about a timeline on the progression of the Gorey Men's Shed and what funding opportunities are available. Mr Knight advised some funding is in place

and that he was working with the Men's Shed and the Community Section to resolve some issues.

Cllr W Kavanagh enquired whether Shopfront Improvement funding would be available again this year for businesses in the District and Mr Knight said he would find out.

Cllr J Sullivan informed Committee members that the Ahare River Report will be presented on June 28th and asked that the District Administrator prepare a guest list of local interested parties.

Cllr J Sullivan referred to ongoing odour issues emanating from the compost factory at Ballyminaun and highlighted several days where odour density was medium to high. Cllr A Donohe said that the owner is trying to find a solution and has invited all the district members to visit the plant. He added that that the owner has already invested €2m in improvements to the plant along with a planning application at a cost of €600,000.

No. 4 Prescribed Business by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members

None.

No. 5 Notice of Motion from Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District

None.

No. 6 Correspondence

None.

No. 7 AOB

Cllr J Sullivan felt that Gorey's night-time economy could be extremely valuable for the town and suggested that the Main Street be pedestrianised from 6-9:00pm, Thurs-Sun, where businesses could remain open and on-street entertainment considered. Cllr D Devereux said that while the idea had been proposed in the past, there was no traction from businesses, particularly as the cost to business owners escalates after hours.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Daingnithe ar an _____ lá de _____ 2022

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