

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District
held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, The Avenue, Gorey
on Tuesday 18th February 2025, at 2:30pm**

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr Oliver Walsh,

Cllr Nicky Boland,
Cllr Pip Breen,
Cllr Anthony Donohoe,
Cllr Craig Doyle,
Cllr Mary Farrell,
Cllr Paddy Kavanagh,
Cllr Donal Kenny,
Cllr Darragh McDonald,
Cllr Joe Sullivan,

Officials: Ms Liz Hore, Director of Services & District Director,
Mr Philip Knight, Municipal District Manager,
Ms Joanne Kehoe, Senior Executive Engineer,
Ms Liz Stanley, Senior Staff Officer,
Ms Debbie Stanley, Assistant Staff Officer,
Mr Marcus Linehan, Executive Planner,
Mr Enda Brennan, Executive Engineer, Environment,
Ms Paula Shortall, Senior Staff Officer, Housing.

No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr D McDonald, seconded by Cllr A Donohoe, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD, held on January 21st, 2025, were signed, and adopted.

1.2 Matters Arising from the January Statutory GKMD Meeting:

Cllr A Donohoe asked is it policy that fire tenders are dispatched to all RTAs. Mr Knight confirmed that fire tenders are all despatched by central control.

Cllr D McDonald asked about the possibility of streaming library events online. Mr Knight said the library will seek advice from the GDPR Office.

Cllr J Sullivan requested details of the revenue generated from pitch bookings in the park in 2024. Mr Knight said that 156 hours @ €10.00ph had generated income of €1,560.00.

Cllr D Kenny asked whether any arrangement existed between Gorey Rangers and WCC. Mr Knight said that a Contract only existed prior to the handover of The Showgrounds to the Council.

No. 2 Consideration of Reports, Recommendations & Presentations

2.1 Housing:

The Housing Report, which was circulated prior to the meeting was noted. No queries were raised.

2.2 Environment:

The Environment Report, which was circulated prior to the meeting was noted and Mr E Brennan responded to queries raised.

Cllr J Sullivan again raised the issue of air pollution in the Ballyminaun area and urged the company to work with the Council and the EPA to negotiate a resolution in the interest of public safety. Mr E Brennan advised that independent consultants are currently involved in an ongoing investigation.

Cllr D Kenny sought an update on recurring fires at a property in Camolin. Mr Brennan confirmed that this case is still under investigation with the Council trying to establish ownership of the site.

Cllr D McDonald asked whether the Council actively monitors water in the town. He mentioned that videos have recently been circulating online of raw sewage entering Chuckies River in Gorey Town and called on the Council to address this issue. Mr Brennan agreed to investigate this matter and see where samples are taken.

Cllr D Kenny asked that a letter be sent to Uisce Éireann to expedite works at the Coolgreany Wastewater Treatment Plant, which, when expanded will facilitate more housing. Mr P Knight agreed to revert.

Cllr N Boland highlighted the recent closure to the public of a refuse yard in Scarnagh, Inch, where the Council has instructed that no further waste be accepted without a permit. Cllr McDonald clarified that the transfer of the licence to the late owner's sons is pending approval. Mr Brennan agreed to revert.

Cllr M Farrell felt that illegal dumping fines are insufficient to stop people actively dumping and called on higher penalties to be introduced. Mr Brennan said a huge amount of behind-the-scenes work is involved in getting an offender to Court but ultimately the severity of the fine depends on the judge on any day. Mr Knight informed the Committee that clearer guidance is emerging in relation to the use of CCTV while investigating illegal dumping, which will lead to the roll out of mobile cameras to regular dumping areas.

Cllr P Kavanagh asked about the provision of a road sweeper for Oylegate. Ms J Kehoe said Oylegate does not have an allocated road sweeper but is included in the Road Sweeper programme due to commence shortly.

Cllr P Kavanagh suggested that landlords should provide waste facilities to those renting, adding that a tax incentive could be put in place to allow them to claim it back as an expense. Cllr Kavanagh also asked what the Council is doing to promote the National Spring Clean. He felt the Council should be liaising with schools and organising National Clean Up Day. Mr Brennan acknowledged Cllr Kavanagh's suggestions and said a member of the Environment Section attends schools regularly to educate students on environmental issues.

2.3 Planning

The Members noted the Planning Reports which had been circulated prior to the meeting and Mr M Linehan responded to queries raised.

Cllr A Donohoe referred to An Bord Pleanála's decision to defer its decision on the addition of a new roundabout at Ballyloughlan and urged the Council to get An Garda Síochána to write to the Bord highlighting the urgency surrounding this matter.

Cllr O Walsh felt the wrong perception is going out about log cabins with the public believing they won't be able to attain planning permission. Cllr Walsh suggested that additional information be supplied about where log cabins will be allowed, rather than the Council just issuing outright refusals. In response, Mr M Linehan highlighted longevity issues with log cabins stating they are not certifiable in terms of building control beyond 10 years. He added that whilst log cabins may be a short-term housing solution for people, senior planning need to work with building control to ensure standards are met.

Cllr M Farrell urged the Council to revisit policy and act more favourably to those in crisis. Mr Linehan agreed to speak to the Senior Planner.

2.4 Roads

The Members noted the Roads Reports which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Ms J Kehoe either responded to or agreed to revert on the following issues:

- ✚ Potholes in Hollyfort and Ballinamona Road.
- ✚ Trees at Sean Lios and Park Avenue.
- ✚ 64-North Parade Traffic Light Junction.
- ✚ Footpath Works in Oulart.
- ✚ TIC Ford Haven.
- ✚ Pump at Crossroads in Kilmuckridge.
- ✚ Drainage Works at Clondaw-Raheenduff.
- ✚ Street Sweeper Schedule in Gorey.
- ✚ Traffic Management Assistance for Ash Dieback.
- ✚ Kyle Cross Safety Improvement Funding.

Ms Kehoe circulated a Report on the Public Lighting Development Fund Completed Works throughout the District from 2019-2024. Several lighting issues throughout the district were also raised by the members including:

- ✚ Lights on the Craanford Road and in Garden City.
- ✚ 12 X Street Lights in Camolin.
- ✚ Traffic Lights at Coolamain, Oylegate.

Cllr McDonald asked why so many connection issues exist, and Cllr J Sullivan asked what Service Level Agreement exists between WCC and Killaree Lighting.

Cllr McDonald urged the Council to establish a parking facility for workers on the outskirts of town as the all-day car parks are being filled by them.

Members asked about revisiting roads which now fall within the new reduced rural speed limit and raised concerns about insufficient signage erected. Ms Kehoe directed members to raise these concerns through the speedlimits@wexfordcoco.ie email address.

2.5 Additional Departmental Reports

The Community Development, Library Services and Wexford Fire Services Reports, copies of which had previously been circulated were noted.

2.6 District Manager's Report

The Managers Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted. Members welcomed the news that the district is embarking on a programme of works on roundabouts on the outskirts of the town. Mr Knight also referred to ongoing projects and upcoming events within the district.

Cllr N Boland asked that the district look at providing a sensory swing in the Town Park and that funding could be sourced through the Community Recognition Fund. Cllr McDonald felt that the Council's Access Officer should determine what would be appropriate in such a setting. Mr Knight advised that the Council receives funding through Creative Ireland primarily around festivals and events and how to make them more accessible to neuro-diverse people. He said that a person of expertise has been employed to come up with a set of guidelines for Gorey and that this request could be included under this survey.

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

It was agreed by the members to hold the March Statutory District Meeting on Tuesday, 25th March 2025.

Nomination to the County Wexford Norman Forum

Cllr D Kenny was nominated, proposed by Cllr P Breen, seconded by Cllr J Sullivan.

Casual Trading, Market Square

Mr Knight sought the members support to cease casual trading in Market Square, Gorey and for the carpark to revert to parking only due to the significant demand for parking, particularly on Saturdays. He said there is only one licenced trader operating a stall on Saturdays, who is currently out of licence. Mr Knight proposed writing to this trader and informing them of a privately run market outside GCS each Saturday morning which may be worth pursuing as an alternative location. Proposed by Cllr P Breen, seconded by Cllr D Kenny.

Unauthorised Advertising Signage

Mr Knight informed the members that this issue was raised by the CE. He told the Committee that he will be writing out to business owners with unauthorised signage advising that if such signage is not removed, action will be taken under planning legislation. Mr Knight advised that exemptions include temporary signage for community events.

LPT & Rates Provision for Project Development 2024 (Gorey)

Mr Knight informed the members that as Meals on Wheels, Gorey & Courtown, did not enter into a Service Level Agreement with Wexford County Council, that funds are now available for reallocation. The Gorey members agreed to meet to discuss reallocating these funds.

Cllr A Donohoe asked again that the district raise the deferral of An Bord Pleanála's decision on Ballyloughlan with An Garda Siochana and that a letter be sent to the Bord explaining the serious nature of this decision, seconded by Cllr D Kenny. Mr Knight agreed to invite the Gardaí to the March District Meeting.

Cllr M Farrell issued an invitation to her female colleagues to the International Women's Day event being held in the Upton Court Hotel on the 6th of March.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Daingnithe ar an _____ lá de _____ 2025.

**Oliver Walsh,
Cathaoirleach,
Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District**