

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District
held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, The Avenue, Gorey
on Tuesday 20th May 2025, at 2:30pm**

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr Oliver Walsh, Cathaoirleach,

Cllr Nicky Boland,
Cllr Pip Breen,
Cllr Anthony Donohoe,
Cllr Craig Doyle,
Cllr Mary Farrell,
Cllr Donal Kenny, Leas-Chathaoirleach,
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 Colin Moriarty, Heritage Officer,
Mr Marcus Linehan, Executive Planner,
Mr Enda Brennan, Executive Engineer, Environment,
Ms Paula Shortall, Senior Staff Officer, Housing,

Apologies: Cllr Paddy Kavanagh.

An Cathaoirleach Cllr O Walsh opened the Meeting, paying tribute to the Firefighters, Roads Crews and Gardaí for their professionalism in dealing with the fire incident at Tara Hill. All members and staff wished to be associated with this recognition and special thanks was also given to the communities of Tara Hill and Castletown, in particular farmers, for all their contributions.

No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr P Breen, seconded by Cllr D McDonald, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD, held on April 15th, 2025, were signed, and adopted.

1.2 Matters Arising from the April Statutory GKMD Meeting:

Cllr A Donohoe had requested a map outlining residential zoning in Gorey Town. District Director Ms L Hore explained that the County Development Plan is currently being reviewed and that it is her intention to provide a full update to the members at the July District Meeting.

Cllr D McDonald sought an update on the taking in charge of Ardamine Court. Ms L Hore said that the estate is on the Priority List but due to the level of works required, it may need to be done on a phased basis due to the cost.

No. 2 Consideration of Reports, Recommendations & Presentations

2.1 Housing:

The Housing Report, which was circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Ms P Shortall responded to queries raised by the members relating to Monamolin, Gleann an Ghairdín and Upton Meadows housing developments.

2.2 Environment:

The Environment Report, which was circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Cllr D McDonald expressed his disappointment on hearing that the Water Safety Programme in Courtown and Cahore would not be re-instated due to health and safety concerns and asked were the RNLI and Water Safety Ireland involved in this assessment. District Manager Mr P Knight explained that all public realm events must be assessed by the Health & Safety Officer but agreed to follow up Cllr McDonald's concerns.

Cllr A Donohoe asked if the Council had any plans going forward to lifeguard beaches from 1st May. Mr E Brennan advised that lifeguard dates are linked to water testing for Blue Flag Beaches which commences at the end of May each year. Mr P Knight added that the logistics of availability for the season is also a contributing factor as students are only available from June onwards.

Mr Brennan also responded to queries raised about the beach wheelchair in Curracloe, bins and overflow carpark in Morriscastle, access to Ballinamona Beach, household bin inspections and rock armour at Cahore.

2.3 Planning

Ms L Hore introduced the Council's recently appointed Heritage Officer to the Committee. Mr Moriarty outlined a breakdown of the Work Programme under Heritage which includes the development of a countywide Heritage Plan. The members welcomed Mr Moriarty to his new position.

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

Mr Linehan informed the Committee that he will be leaving his current position as Executive Planner to the Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD to take up a promotion in Waterford. The members paid tribute to Mr Linehan's achievements in the short time he worked in Gorey and wished him well in his career.

2.4 Roads

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

Ms J Kehoe responded to several issues raised including:

- ✚ Consideration of Stewart's Bridge, Hollyfort for the Small Road Safety Improvement Works Scheme,
- ✚ Road Strimmer for Kilincooley, Kilmuckridge,
- ✚ Address Stop Lines at Limerick Lane Junction,
- ✚ Double Yellow Lines in Sean O'Byrne Park,
- ✚ Bridge Wall unfinished at Ballinvalley,
- ✚ Relocation of Bus Stop to Gorey Hospital and installation of a 2nd Bus Stop with Shelter at the bottom of the town,
- ✚ Removal of two parking bays on North Parade to allow better flow of traffic, particularly at school times.

A discussion took place regarding Ballytegan Road Works. Cllr D McDonald asked had the design and funding application for a roundabout at the bottom of the Coach Road progressed. Ms Kehoe said a draft design was drawn up a few years ago which would need to be reviewed, costed and brought before the members. Cllr J Sullivan said a roundabout was an immediate requirement at this site. Cllr A Donohoe felt once traffic lights are installed at the bottom of the Coach Road, it will be much safer and Cllr D McDonald agreed, saying the situation should be assessed once permanent traffic lights are installed.

Ms Kehoe advised that this junction has always been an issue and whilst the Department have highlighted several accidents at this site and provided funding for current works, new design guidelines have restricted where roundabouts can be installed. She added that smart technology traffic lights was the preferred option for pedestrians and cyclists.

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.

Cllr M Farrell expressed her frustration over the delay with the Oulart Community Garden and called on the Council to work with the community and to get a commitment from Uisce Éireann. Cllr O Walsh also expressed his disappointment over the numerous delays with this project, most recently following the discovery of a septic tank in the area which does not have planning permission. He felt that a decision needs to be made as to whether the project will proceed or not, adding that going forward greater investigations should be conducted before funding applications are made for such projects.

Cllr C Doyle sought an update on the basketball court at Willow Park. Mr Knight advised that funding has been made available, and a detailed costing will be sought.

Cllr A Donohoe sought an update on Market House redevelopment works. Ms L Hore advised that the design has been tendered, and an architect appointed who is due to meet with District & Special Projects staff, the Steering Group and Design Team to set out a timetable of works.

Cllr A Donohoe sought an update on the HSE building in Camolin. Ms L Hore advised that the building is currently being reviewed by Housing Capital, but no further update is available.

Cllr D McDonald asked for a commitment to be made to meet with residents and businesses on Esmonde Street to discuss the plans going forward. Ms L Hore said regeneration works are due to commence later this year and advised that a meeting will be held to inform local businesses and residents of the plans.

Cllr D McDonald expressed the concerns of local clubs who have had their facilities damaged when funfairs are held in the town. Mr Knight said if the event is held on private land, the Council cannot intervene apart from looking at an applicant's proposals under the Events Licence for the different types of attractions. He added if the applicant submits public liability and safety certificates, the Events Licence cannot be refused. In response, Cllr McDonald asked if a Traffic Management/Safety Plan is submitted for such events. Mr Knight agreed to investigate this matter and revert.

Discussions also took place about installing an autistic swing in Gorey District Park, lighting up civic buildings for events and a towns bus link for schools.

Mr P Knight informed the Committee that he has made several recommendations to the Director of Services in relation to new regulations for the licensing of mobile saunas. Ms L Hore added that they are seeking legal advice whether existing licensing legislation in place can be used. She said if these legislations are in place applications can then be referred to the relevant bodies to ensure they meet with the required standards. Cllr D McDonald asked whether there is a specific timeline for this to be carried out, to which Ms Hore said as Wexford County Council is the first local authority to pursue this course of action, it is uncertain how long it will take.

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

3.1 Declaration of Public Road (Taking-in-Charge)

The Declaration of Public Road (Taking-in-Charge) of Millquarter, Units 109-159, Knockmullen, Gorey was proposed by Cllr J Sullivan, seconded by Cllr D McDonald.

Cllr D McDonald asked what avenues of safety improvements have been investigated. Ms. J Kehoe advised that a Draft Traffic Calming Policy is due to go before the SPC but that funds are not in place to implement this.

Ms. Kehoe also said that parking provisions in the current Development Plan have not changed significantly from previous Plans. She added that national policy recommends

walking and cycling and so parking provisions have not increased because of this. She said that a 30km speed limit could be brought in.

3.2 Declaration of Public Road (Taking-in-Charge)

The Declaration of Public Road (Taking-in-Charge) of Millquarter, Units 1-3, 4A, 6-19, 20A, 21A, 22A, 23A, 24A, 25A, 26A, 27A, 28-53 and 70-90, Knockmullen, Gorey was proposed by Cllr N Boland, seconded by Cllr C Doyle.

3.3 Part 8 Kilmuckridge Playground

Ms L Hore explained the Part 8 process of the Kilmuckridge Playground to the Committee. She advised that planners are currently reviewing all submissions received and that the Chief Executive is due to make a report to the members by June 4th with a decision to be made by July 16th.

Cllr M Farrell expressed her disappointment that this 10-year long project has been delayed again. She said this latest plan was put together after all four Kilmuckridge District members met with the Playground Committee and Development Committee in Kilmuckridge where suggestions were made going forward. Cllr Farrell said these suggestions have not been listened to by the Planning Department. Ms L Hore insisted delays did not result from the Planning Authority, rather delays on site.

3.4 Shortlist of Nominations for GKMD Civic Honours Awards 2025

It was agreed by the members to hold this agenda item In-Committee once this Meeting concluded, proposed by Cllr C Doyle, seconded by Cllr D McDonald.

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

Consider Motion Submitted by Cllr Darragh McDonald

“That this Council writes to the Commissioner of an Garda Síochána and asks for the current permanent Garda numbers in Gorey and Courtown stations and for clarification on the basis of which new permanent guards are allocated to the district especially considering the recent increase in population and crimes.”

Cllr D McDonald expressed his concern over Garda numbers in the Gorey/North Wexford area with figures suggesting it is significantly under the average number of Gardaí per civilians. He added that Courtown and Riverchapel would probably have the lowest ratio in the country and considering population growth, major Garda operations and the increased number of smaller incidents, he called on the Garda Commissioner to explain the reasoning behind the allocation of Garda resources.

Members agreed with this Motion, proposed by Cllr C Doyle and seconded by Cllr M Farrell.

No. 5 Correspondence

None.

No. 6 AOB

None.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Daingnithe ar an _____ lá de _____ 2025.

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

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AGENDA ITEM HELD IN-COMMITTEE:

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

3.4 *Shortlist of Nominations for GKMD Civic Honours Awards 2025*

A discussion took place regarding the full list of nominations submitted for a GKMD Civic Honours award. Following amendment, the list was agreed by the members, proposed by Cllr C Doyle, seconded by Cllr D McDonald.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Daingnithe ar an_____ lá de _____ 2025.

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