

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District  
held in the Upton Court Hotel, Kilmuckridge, Gorey  
on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021, at 2:30pm**

**Attendance:**

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

Officials: Ms Amanda Byrne, A/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,  
Mr Michael Brazzil, Executive Engineer,  
Mr George Colfer, Executive Engineer,  
Mr Craig Innes, Senior Executive Engineer,

Apologies: Cllr Oliver Walsh,  
Ms Niamh Lennon.

**No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising**

*1.1 Confirmation of Minutes:*

On the proposal of Cllr D Devereux, seconded by Cllr A Bolger the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD held on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and the In-Committee Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD held on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were signed and adopted.

*1.2 Matters Arising:*

Cllr M Farrell asked whether any additional training had taken place regarding the Member's Portal. Ms A Byrne advised that the Working Group had met since the last District Meeting but that a second round of training had not yet commenced. She advised that additional staff had been brought on board though.

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

**Consider Motion submitted by Cllr. Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin**

*"That we produce a mural as one part of our Centenary Programme to honour local figures such as Liam Mellows, Seán Etchingham and Máire Comerford".*

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin queried the Notice of Motion of the day's meeting and why it was now only supported by one member when he had previously secured the backing of six additional members. Mr P Knight explained that various members had made contact to ask to have their names withdrawn from the Motion. Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin expressed his annoyance with the way his fellow councillors withdrew their support. Cllr D Devereux advised that he supported the Motion on the day it was drawn up and seconded the Motion at the meeting. He also felt a Sub-Committee should be formed to discuss other commemorative suggestions. A counter proposal from Cllr A Donohoe suggesting the substitution of the word "mural" with "fitting commemoration" was supported by Cllr P Breen, Cllr J Sullivan, Cllr A Bolger, Cllr W Kavanagh, and Cllr D Kenny.

## **No. 2 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations**

### *2.1 Water Services*

Members noted the Water Services Report. Mr B Hammel provided members with an update on the Creagh Water Treatment Plant shut down process and upcoming planned works for the Plant.

Cllr M Farrell felt more public information was needed around the role of Irish Water versus the role of WCC particularly what to do when there is an issue. Mr Hammel agreed saying that Irish Water is the point of contact in such instances and felt the public needed to be aware of this through increased advertisement or in the local media.

Cllr W Kavanagh expressed his frustration about being unable to access information relating to water issues in his area, but which fall under the remit of the Wexford District. Ms A Byrne advised that in such instances Reports would be brought to the Kilmuckridge councillors in the future.

### *2.2 Risk Remediation Programme Update*

Mr M Brazzil, Insurance Risk Management, provided an overview of Phase 1 Risk Remediation Works completed in late 2019 which concentrated on defective footpaths in areas of Gorey Town, Courtown & Camolin. He added that Phase 2 Works are ongoing in Gorey which consists of repairs of raised/sunken cobble and improvement to the bases of trees along the Main Street. Mr Brazzil also outlined details of intended works on Railway Road & Fort Road Gorey and St. Joseph's Terrace, Ballymurn.

The members acknowledged the works completed by the Insurance Risk Management Unit.

### *2.3 Housing*

Members noted the Housing Report and Ms H Frayne responded to member's queries. Members expressed their overall frustration with the housing crisis in North Wexford and emphasised the importance of housing units being delivered on time. Ms Frayne agreed that the demand for housing in Gorey is high and provided details of the First Home Scheme due to come on stream in the new year, changes to Part V which may bring additional delivery from 2021 onwards and looking outside the immediate town as an alternative option.

Members sought reassurance that the Council is actively looking for sites to build on, investigating vacant & derelict houses and sought confirmation of definite timelines for Part VIII on St. Walerans and that the Scheme of Priority Lettings for Ramsfort's affordable units was being progressed. Ms Frayne advised that the Architect is hoping to meet the Q1-22 deadline for Part VIII on St. Walerans, that it is contingent on the road alignment being agreed. Regarding the Scheme of Priority Lettings Ms Frayne said they cannot move until the Regulations issue.

Cllr W Kavanagh expressed his dissatisfaction again over the length of time taking to complete The Ballagh Housing Scheme and Cllr A Donohoe asked what issues held IW up. Ms Frayne advised she would find out and revert.

Cllr J Sullivan felt that the Council is not maximising its efforts and representing those looking for housing. Ms Frayne added that the Council is maximising to the extent that they can but advised she would make note of Cllr Sullivan's comments and bring them back to the Executive.

Cllr A Bolger proposed writing to the Department seeking urgent action and putting pressure on with issuing of Regulations for Priority Letting.

#### *2.4 Environment*

Members noted the Environment Report and Mr G Colfer responded to member's queries.

Cllr M Farrell expressed her concerns over the dangerous condition of Ballinamona Cliffs and the receding cliff-face in Morriscastle. Mr Colfer agreed that coastal erosion is a nationwide issue which can only be addressed on a phased basis.

Cllr J Sullivan sought an update on the Ahare River Report. Mr Colfer said there was no further update and that it would take several months before the Consultants would have the Report available.


Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin sought an update on a site for the Coastguard Unit and Mr Colfer confirmed that they were looking at sites and would follow up.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin asked about the status of the North Beach Breakwater & Feasibility Study and Mr Colfer advised that this project is now under the remit of the Special Projects Office.

#### *2.5 Roads*

Members noted the Roads Report and Ms J Kehoe provided members with an update on Active Travel Projects, Road Strengthening & Surface Dressing Schemes and Community Involvement & Local Improvement Schemes.

Ms Kehoe also responded to and/or agreed to follow-up with issues raised by members including:

-  Trimming back of trees off the Rams Arms Carpark.

- ✚ Lighting Issues around the town, including Hollyfort Road, Gorey District Park, Newborough, Creagh Road, Clonattin Road, the Carnew Road (PH Doyles) and Sean O'Byrne Park.
- ✚ Sweeping of Kilnahue Lane.
- ✚ Additional cycling measures along Fort Road and Inner Relief Road.
- ✚ Ballymurn Footpath.

On the matter of lighting in the town Ms Kehoe advised that several issues were picked up when updating LEDs in the town. She acknowledged that some lights are out because light fittings are required, and this could account for blackspots.

On the topic of traffic congestion on the Fort Road and Inner Relief Road Cllr A Donohoe suggested investigating staggered school opening times in the future adding that it would require Schools, Bus Providers, and the Council coming together to address the traffic issue. Ms A Byrne agreed that it would be a huge opportunity to encourage children to cycle to school and reassure parents and children that it is safe to do so.

## *2.6 Additional Departmental Reports*

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

## *2.7 District Administrator's Report*

Mr P Knight informed the Committee that it is decided to cancel Gorey's "Big Switch On" event due to rising Covid-19 cases in the community. Mr Knight advised that alternative plans are being put in place, including a new Christmas Campaign Video which will be filmed early next week. He added that funding has been made available for Live Street Performances which will consist of interactive entertainment each Saturday & Sunday on Main Street & Esmonde Street during the month of December.

Mr Knight informed members that the Courtown/Riverchapel Local Policing Fora is being re-introduced and sought a third nomination to join the Committee. Cllr A Donohoe proposed Cllr D Devereux, seconded by Cllr. J Sullivan.

Mr Knight advised that all Districts would operate free Off-Street Parking from 11:00am on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> December and again from 11:00am Monday 20<sup>th</sup> to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December.

Cllr D Devereux commended the significant public realm works ongoing in Courtown and felt this was an ideal time for Courtown Community Council to meet with the members to progress this project and more. Mr Knight informed the members that he had recently met with representatives from the Group where they discussed works complete and the way forward. He referred to Standing Orders whereby members may by resolution decide to receive a deputation. It was proposed by Cllr J Sullivan to invite Courtown Community Council to the December Meeting, seconded by Cllr. F Ó'Súilleabháin.

Cllr A Donohoe proposed that plans for Twinning be discussed at the December Meeting, seconded by Cllr D Devereux. Ms A Byrne put it to the members that

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consideration should be given to what is Gorey's priority over the next 5 years, that they should look for somewhere compatible in Europe and to be strategic in choosing a town from whom we could learn from.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin asked that consideration be given to the allocation of a €500 grant to Community Groups in the event of any remaining discretionary funds.

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

#### *3.1 Proposed Taking in Charge – Anvil Court, Ballymurn*

On the proposal of Cllr J Sullivan, seconded by Cllr W Kavanagh, it was agreed to take Anvil Court, Ballymurn, in charge under S.11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and S.180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended).

#### *3.2 Proposed Taking in Charge – Hazeldene & Hazelwood, Blackwater*

On the proposal of Cllr M Farrell, seconded by Cllr D Kavanagh, it was agreed to take Hazeldene & Hazelwood, Blackwater, in charge under S.11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and S.180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Mr C Innes informed the Committee that Irish Water continue to engage proactively and are approving money to resolve issues.

#### *3.3 GKMD Residents Association Grant Scheme 2021*

The Chairman advised that a Residents Association Grant Application had been received from Hunters Green Residents Association and on the proposal of Cllr J Sullivan, seconded by Cllr A Bolger, it was agreed to provide a grant of €500.

### **No. 5 Correspondence**

All Meeting Correspondence was noted.

### **No. 6 AOB**

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr P Breen thanked Sean Doyle for agreeing to hold today's District Meeting in the Upton Court Hotel and the staff for their hospitality.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

**Daingnithe ar an \_\_\_\_\_ lá de \_\_\_\_\_ 2021**

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