

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District
held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, The Avenue, Gorey
on Tuesday 21st April 2026, at 2:00pm**

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr Donal Kenny, Cathaoirleach,

Cllr Nicky Boland,
Cllr Pip Breen,
Cllr Anthony Donohoe, Leas-Cathaoirleach,
Cllr Craig Doyle,
Cllr Mary Farrell,
Cllr Darragh McDonald,
Cllr Joe Sullivan,
Cllr Oliver Walsh,

Officials: Ms Liz Hore, Director of Services & District Director,
Ms Anita McLoughlin, Municipal District Manager,
Ms Joanne Kehoe, Senior Executive Engineer,
Ms Stephanie Furlong, Staff Officer,
Ms Debbie Stanley, Assistant Staff Officer,
Ms Angela Finn, Senior Staff Officer, Housing,
Mr Barry Browne, Senior Staff Officer, Housing,
Mr Enda Brennan, Executive Engineer, Environment,
Mr Eoghan Nolan, Executive Planner, via MS Teams,

Apologies: Cllr Paddy Kavanagh.

No. 1 Deputation from Rás na mBan

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. D. Kenny welcomed the Rás na mBan deputation to the meeting. The deputation outlined the background to Ireland's only international women's stage cycling race, highlighting its importance as a unique and essential platform for home-based riders to gain international racing experience. They also detailed how Stage 2 of the 2026 race will both start and finish in Gorey on September 3rd, with the start zone at Gorey District Park viewed as a cycling festival opportunity, to be delivered in close collaboration with local agencies.

District Manager Ms A McLoughlin agreed to liaise with Sports Active and Women in Sport regarding potential funding opportunities. She also indicated her willingness to assist with engagement with local schools and other relevant stakeholders in support of the event planned for Gorey District Park.

Members welcomed the return of the event to Gorey, expressing their support and agreeing to provide whatever assistance possible to help facilitate its success. An Cathaoirleach thanked the deputation for attending the Meeting.

The members agreed to take a break and resume with the Statutory Meeting at 2:30pm.

No. 2 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr D McDonald, seconded by Cllr C Doyle, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD, held on March 24th, 2026, were signed, and adopted.

2.2 Matters Arising from the March Statutory GKMD Meeting:

There were no Matters Arising.

Sympathies:

The members offered their sympathies to the families of the late Peter Byrne, father of Amanda Byrne, WCC Staff and Amy Heffernan, WCC Staff. A Minute's Silence was held.

Congratulations:

An Cathaoirleach Cllr D Kenny offered his congratulations to Ms Sinead Tobin on the successful hosting of the Ford Trad Festival in Craanford.

No. 3 Consideration of Reports, Recommendations & Presentations

3.1 Draft WCC Traffic and Car Parking Byelaws 2026:

Ms. S Lynn, AO Roads Department, provided an overview of the process undertaken to date to review and modernise the Council's existing Traffic & Car Parking Byelaws. She outlined the background to the proposed revisions, noting that the updated Byelaws are intended to provide greater flexibility and reduce the need for frequent amendments.

Ms Lynn also referenced the new Parking Permit Policy, which has been developed to operate in conjunction with the revised Byelaws. She explained that the new Byelaws will establish the legal basis for parking permits, while the accompanying Policy will set out the practical framework for their operation. Ms. Lynn further outlined the next steps required to finalise the Byelaws, including formal publication, public consultation, and adoption. Ms Lynn responded to queries raised.

Cllr N Boland raised the issue of parking discretion for district nurses, referencing a case where a nurse received a fine while attending a palliative care patient. Ms McLoughlin stated that permits are not issued to specific healthcare worker groups and that consistency must be maintained across all professionals, including doctors.

Cllr Boland proposed that the registration details of the district nurses' vehicles be recorded and that any future fines incurred while attending end-of-life patients be reviewed for possible waiver. Cllr M Farrell supported the use of discretion in exceptional circumstances, given the nature of district nurse duties. District Director Ms Hore agreed this was reasonable in terms of an appeal and said she would examine the matter further.

Cllr D McDonald queried parking permits for carers of ill or elderly relatives and suggested limiting permits to one per household/extended family, requesting a review of the regulations.

Ms. Lynn sought approval in principle to proceed, proposed by Cllr A Donohoe, seconded by Cllr D McDonald.

3.2 Housing:

Ms A Finn introduced Mr B Browne as the newly appointed Housing Official for the district. An Cathaoirleach paid tribute to Ms P Shortall on her departure to a new position and extended a warm welcome to Mr Browne in his new role within the district.

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

Cllr A Donohoe requested an update on the St. Waleran's project. Ms Finn advised members that tenders for Section 4 had been assessed and were due to be submitted to the Department. Upon receipt of departmental approval, the Council will proceed with awarding the design and build contract. She further indicated that works are likely to commence on site in autumn 2026.

Cllr Donohoe also requested details on the number of applications received under the Affordable Housing Scheme. Ms Finn agreed to revert with this information.

3.3 Revetment Works Protection to Properties at Cahore North Beach:

Mr E Brennan presented the Part 8 Planning Submission for revetment protection works to properties at Cahore North Beach and sought the approval of the Committee, proposed by Cllr P Breen, seconded by Cllr M Farrell.

3.4 Environment:

The Environment Report, which was circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Mr Brennan addressed queries raised at the April District Meeting:

Coastal erosion between The Burrow and Courtown Golf Club: It is anticipated that a meeting involving National Parks & Wildlife, Coillte, Courtown Golf Club, the GKMD Manager and the Special Projects Team will take place in the coming weeks.

Bridges at Ballyconnigar & Clones: A temporary bridge at Ballyconnigar was successfully installed over the easter period. It was further noted that sand clearance works must be completed in advance of the planned installation of a temporary bridge at Clones.

Expansion of Service at Gorey Recycling Centre: Members were advised that ongoing engagement is taking place with the relevant team regarding the proposed expansion of services at Gorey Recycling Centre. Feedback is currently awaited, and the matter will remain on the agenda for further updates.

Morriscastle Viewing Stand: Members were advised that Mr Brennan is currently in discussions with the Special Projects Team regarding this matter.

Emissions: Members were informed that it remains unclear whether penalties will be incurred by the Council due to it being significantly behind target in relation to thermal and transport emissions. Mr Brennan further noted that a pilot scheme for Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) is currently underway.

Litter Fines: Members were informed that, to date this month, 70% of litter fines issued have been paid, suggesting that payment rates may be influenced by the timing of when fines are issued.

Dog Bins along the Paul Funge Boulevard and on Creagh College Road: Mr Brennan agreed to revert on this matter and advised that bins will be installed once the relevant areas have been mapped.

Cllr C Doyle requested that the boardwalk in Courtown be reopened for the summer season.

Cllr D McDonald highlighted the issue of overflowing bins throughout the town and requested the provision of general waste bins along Scholar's Walk. He also sought an update regarding the retention of sand behind the lifeguard hut in Courtown.

Cllr A Donohoe proposed that the Council introduce a campaign encouraging beachgoers to take their rubbish home, seconded by Cllr P Breen. Mr Brennan advised that this is already Council policy.

Cllr M Farrell requested a commencement date for the Summer Student Litter Picking Scheme. Mr Brennan agreed to revert on this matter.

Cllr M Farrell also raised concerns regarding bin collections over Bank Holiday weekends, requesting that bins be emptied on the Friday in advance to accommodate increased weekend waste, and again on the Monday.

3.5 Planning

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

On the matter of town zoning, Cllr A Donohoe sought an update on the current position regarding business and commercial zoning. He stated that Gorey is losing businesses to Arklow and emphasised the need for the Council to act by zoning additional commercial and business lands around the town. District Director Ms L Hore advised that resources are currently focused on progressing variations to other Area Plans that have expired. She noted that the Gorey Area Plan is due to expire in June; however, variations must be progressed before July before work can commence on a new Gorey Plan.

3.6 Roads

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

Ms Kehoe informed the Committee that works under the Restoration Improvement Schemes are progressing well, with several roads having been completed in recent weeks.

Cllr J Sullivan enquired about progress on the installation of a pedestrian crossing outside Gorey Youthreach, as well as the lack of public lighting in the area. Ms Kehoe advised that a request for such works would need to be submitted to Active Travel for consideration under future funding applications.

Cllr D McDonald sought an update on the feasibility study for Mill Road, stressing its urgency considering increasing planning permissions in the area. Ms Kehoe stated that an application for funding would need to be made under the Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund and agreed to follow up with the Senior Engineer.

Cllr A Donohoe expressed disappointment that no emergency roads funding has yet been received. Ms Kehoe advised that she had not received any update in this regard.

Cllr Donohoe also requested an update on submissions relating to the proposed left-turn only system off Church Street and asked whether any alternative route options had been considered. Ms Kehoe stated that she had not yet reviewed the submissions but would provide a Report at the next District Meeting.

Cllr D Kenny highlighted that the bridge on Baldarrig Lane needs repair. Ms Kehoe agreed to inspect the bridge and include it in the programme for repair works.

Cllr D Kenny also requested an update on the pipe installation planned by Uisce Éireann on Limerick Lane. Ms Kehoe advised that Uisce Éireann is still progressing planned upgrades for Camolin but that she had no further update at present.

3.7 Additional Departmental Reports

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

3.8 District Manager's Report

The District Managers Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted. Ms A McLoughlin provided relevant updates on:

-  Gorey Market House THRIVE Project
-  Esmonde Street Redevelopment Works
-  Riverchapel Community Complex
-  Gorey Tidy Towns

Ms McLoughlin informed the members that she intends to organise a recognition evening for community groups within the district that are due to receive an Amenity & Arts Grant or Residents Association Grant.

Cllr M Farrell sought an update on the Kilmuckridge Playground and the Oulart Community garden. Ms Hore advised that the Planning Department are currently reviewing some of the technical plans and the site services to enable the playground in Kilmuckridge to be designed and constructed around them. Ms McLoughlin said there is no additional update on the Oulart Community Garden but advised she is available to meet with the Community of Oulart Women's Group for further discussion.

Cllr D McDonald sought an update on Gorey Athletic Club's involvement with the East Coast Sports & Activity Hub. Ms Hore advised that the facility is intended to cater for minority sports and will ultimately be open to all such groups. She noted, however, that current commitments remain with the groups involved from the outset of the project, while confirming that once the facility is operational, it will be accessible to all groups.

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

4.1 Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD Schedule of Municipal District Works Programme 2026

The Gorey-Kilmuckridge Schedule of Municipal District Works Programme for 2026 was proposed by Cllr A Donohoe, seconded by Cllr O Walsh.

Cllr D McDonald enquired as to the source of funding for additional drainage works in Gorey District Park. Ms McLoughlin advised that provision for these works has been made under the Parks Budget.

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

None.

No. 6 Correspondence

None.

No. 7 AOB

7.1 Consideration of Deputation Request from Ballycanew Men's Shed for May District Meeting

Consideration was given for Ballycanew Men's Shed to make a deputation before the Committee at the May Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD Meeting, proposed by Cllr C Doyle and seconded by Cllr A Donohoe.

Ms Hore informed the members of upcoming roadshows being organised by the Economic and Regeneration Teams, where the public can learn about the various supports offered by the Council, including Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants and Business Supports Grants. She advised that the first of these roadshows is taking place in Gorey Library this afternoon.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

Daingnithe ar an _____ lá de _____ 2026

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