



**Working in Partnership Copeland**  
**Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership**  
**Held at The Lighthouse Centre, Haverigg on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022**  
**Commencing at 6.30pm**

**PRESENT:**

Mark Cullinan	Independent Chair
Cllr David Moore	Copeland Borough Council, Councillor & Nuclear Portfolio Holder
Cllr Dave Savage	Cumbria District Association of Local Councils (CALC)
David Faulkner	Private Resident
Kelly Anderson	NWS Community Engagement Manager (CEM)
Cllr Ged McGrath	Copeland Borough Councillor
Cllr Carl Carrington	Millom Without Parish Council
Cllr Maggie Cummings	Whicham Parish Council
Cllr Dave Billing	Millom Town Council (via Teams)
Cllr Doug Wilson	Copeland Borough Councillor

**SUPPORTING ATTENDEES:**

Chris Eldred	Head of GDF Geosphere Characterisation (via Teams)
Gill Thorne	Mid Copeland Communications Lead
Lucy Clarke	South Copeland Communications Lead
Anne Broome	NWS Community Engagement Coordinator
Dawn Walker	NWS Secretariat
Jonathan Cook	Copeland Borough Council Officer

**APOLOGIES:**

Fee Wilson	Copeland Borough Councillor
Barnaby Hudson	NWS Site Evaluation Manager

**AGENDA 1: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Voting members were recorded from each organisation.
- Any changes to voting members to be notified at the start of each meeting.
- No Declarations of Interest were received.

**AGENDA 2: APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION LOG**

Minutes were approved as a true reflection of the meeting subject to a small change to the wording on page four.

**COMMENTS ON ACTION LOG**

A discussion took place around the attendance of Officers at Partnership meetings and whether CALC Officers should be treated the same as RPLA Officers and be paid to attend Partnership meetings. The issue wasn't resolved at the meeting and attendees asked the NWS representative to take this back to NWS for discussion and a follow up meeting.



The CALC representative was also asked to clarify the position of CALC as it wasn't clear whether the CALC Executive had requested Officer attendance or not.

**Action: KA to discuss Officer attendance and reimbursement with NWS and set up a follow up meeting.**

**Action: CALC representative to clarify the CALC position re attendance of an Officer at Partnership meetings.**

There was also a discussion about the work that the Parish Clerks carry out on behalf of Parish Council representatives. Members requested that a reimbursement policy be put together by NWS so that Clerks could be reimbursed for time spent on GDF related activities. Although it may not be an issue now, members agreed that a framework needs to be put in place to recognise the potential future workloads of the Parish Clerks.

**Action: KA to discuss reimbursement within NWS and set up a follow up meeting.**

### **AGENDA 3: COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE**

**Gill Thorne introduced Lucy Clarke mentioning she would be taking over from Gill as Communications Lead for South Copeland GDF Community Partnership.**

Members were taken through the latest communications for South Copeland which had included a leaflet drop to all households, advertisements in the local press and social media posts. Communication had also been published in the Barrow Evening Mail, Whitehaven News and The Cumbria Guide. This had been well received and shared across social media channels. Members were thanked for their feedback on these articles before publication.

Slides were then shared covering communications metrics for the last 2 months, such as the number of visits to the website and the number of calls to the contact centre. The contact centre had fewer enquires in January than December, however, 604 people were now signed up to receive a Newsletter once the Partnership felt the time was right for publication.

Finally, there was information given regarding media coverage and whether this coverage was positive, negative, balanced, or neutral. This generated several questions about how positive, negative, balanced and neutral views were determined. It was confirmed that this was just an indication of whether the news story itself was positive/negative etc, not whether peoples' opinion of the story was positive/negative.

The Members concluded this information would become more informative as the Partnership and process moves ahead but did feel it would be more helpful if the information presented covered more about public perception.

**Action: Secretariat to share the slides from the communications update with all members.**

### **AGENDA 4: SEISMIC PRESENTATION**



Community Partnership members were given a presentation on the geophysical surveys which are due to take place over the summer.

Following the presentation, there were several questions:

Q – Have you had discussions with The Ministry of Defence regarding unexploded ordnance on the seabed?

A- We won't be touching the seabed, so this is not required. The water depths that the vessel will be sailing in are 10-12 metres and the vessel equipment will not be more than 5 metres below the surface.

Q- Are you putting any plans in place to cover any disruption from groups who may come into the area to disrupt the vessels work?

A- Yes, we have appointed a specialist contractor to support the survey vessel while it is in the process of carrying out its survey. The survey vessel will depart from Liverpool and not come into port for the three weeks of the survey, it will then return to Liverpool.

Q – What about disruption on land?

A – The security we have put into place is marine based security specifically to support the survey vessel, land-based security is a separate issue and will be overseen by the police.

Q - You talked about compensation for commercial fisherman, but have you made any provision for other sea users whose activities may be affected? How far does the compensation scheme go?

A - The current position is that the compensation for disruption only covers commercial activities and in particular the fixed gear fishermen who will have to move their gear from the area. It is normal for other activities to work around the survey vessel.

The Members stated that for clarity, the area of the geological survey should be referred to as 'the West Cumbrian coast off Copeland', as if referred to as 'the West Cumbrian coast' that would also include Allerdale and could lead to confusion.

Q - Will there be any interference with the wind turbines?

A - No there is an exclusion zone from this area of approx. 1 km

Q - What about Marine protection zones?

A - We have carried out environmental studies in conjunction with MMO and Natural England and they do not have any concerns regarding this, we have now submitted formal applications into the organisations for them to confirm that.

The Members also asked for it to be noted that the survey will take place over the holiday season, and NWS should be mindful of any impact on this regarding tourism in the area.

Q - Is the survey weather dependant?

A – No, the vessel operates in all weather conditions, but the survey has been timed to take advantage of the likelihood of good weather conditions to minimise disruption to the survey.

Q – Can you tell us a little bit about the data you will be collecting and what information you expect to receive?

A – We will be looking at the Mercia mudstone group of rocks which is a volume of rock off the coast of Cumbria. We have some data which we have looked at to give us a first view of the thickness,



presence, and formation of this mud stone and this has been used to inform which area we will carry out the 3d seismic survey. The area we will be surveying is a 250 square kilometre area which sits over this part of the Mercia mudstone. The high-resolution seismic results will give a good understanding of the bedding and the potential location of faults and structures in that rock mass. We will also carry out some 2D tie lines. What these do is branch across to existing boreholes which are present from historical drilling by oil and gas companies. Using all this information we can build up a good 3D knowledge of the area.

**Action: Secretariat to share the slides from the seismic update with all members**

#### **AGENDA 5: COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUNDING FEEDBACK**

At the first Community Partnership meeting there were several questions raised about Community Investment Funding (CIF). Panel members asked that these be discussed by the CIF panel members at a separate meeting.

The results of that discussion were due to be discussed with CP members before the first funding meeting. Unfortunately, due to the last CP meeting being postponed and after consultation with the Panel Members, it was decided to progress with the first funding meeting without reporting back to the Community Partnership first.

CIF Panel members reported that the concerns raised relating to the CIF panel Terms of Reference had been addressed and Panel members were now happy with them. However, they now needed approved by the Community Partnership. Panel members assured the Partnership that the concerns raised had now been addressed and recommended that the Partnership approve the Terms of Reference which was seconded by the members.

It was explained that under normal circumstances the CIF Panel would usually meet two weeks prior to the CP meeting and a full update of the applications that had been considered would be given at the CP meeting. Unfortunately, due to the postponement of the last CP meeting this meant the CIF Panel had only just met earlier in the day, therefore a full update of the outcome from this meeting could not be given as notification had not as yet been sent to the applicants.

Members were given a brief update on the number of CIF enquiries received the number currently receiving pre-application support, and the number that had progressed to full application.

Q – Will the minutes of the Panel meeting be shared with the Community Partnership?

A - Yes these will be shared with the Partnership

Q - Are the Terms of Reference specific to the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership or are they general?

A - The terms of reference are specific to the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership.

#### **AGENDA 6: MEMBER SELECTION PROCESS**



Members were taken through slides highlighting the relevant excerpts of Policy relating to membership. Some Members felt that the skills set of existing Members was unknown and it would therefore be helpful to compile an audit of existing skills before looking at any gaps. Members also felt that they didn't know each other and felt it would be helpful to take some time to consolidate and get to know each other, so they could work together more effectively moving forward.

Q Returning to the earlier matter of Member expenses, before we recruit new Members, we need to be aware that those organisations may incur expenses and therefore we need clarity on this point. The Partnership also felt that they needed to build a trusting relationship with NWS, as this was only the second meeting, and the relationship was only in the early stages. There was also a desire to learn from other groups about how they have approached member selection and recruitment.

It was agreed that these things needed to be done before recruiting new Members.

Q- Can the four Copeland Borough Councillors have a vote if the members agree to it?

A - It is not in the power of this Partnership to extend a vote to other District Councillors or County Councillors; it is written in Policy that the vote is the vote of the Principal Local Authority. Those members could apply to join the Partnership as individuals or representing another body, but the RPLA cannot have more than one vote.

Q – At what point can we remove the word Interim from the group's membership? Surely this is up to the Panel to decide whether we are now established as a group that can take this forward.

A - The Chair agreed that there was no need to continue to use the word Interim if the Panel was happy with the current Members and could take a pause before recruitment of additional members. It was noted that all skills are valid, it is the mix of skills/experience of the Partnership which will be looked at e.g., youth, farming, community, engagement etc.

**Action: Future meeting to spend time looking at the existing skills set of members and getting to know each other.**

**Action: Look at how other Partnerships are approaching membership**

## **AGENDA 7: RECRUITMENT OF A CHAIR**

Members were taken through the relevant excerpts from policy and the CPA relating to the recruitment of a Chair. They were then presented with a range of options for recruiting a permanent or temporary Chair of the CP.

Q- Could we have a rotating Chair? This would allow all representatives of the community to have an opportunity to Chair and it wouldn't be dominated by one group.

A- Yes. There is nothing in Policy to state that you could not have a rotating Chair. However, it may be helpful to have a Chair who is seen to be the Chair between CP meetings as there may be a role to play outside of CP meetings.

The current Chair took members through the range of options available to them and each one was discussed.



Members agreed that the Chair should be appointed from the existing membership for a term of one year.

The current Chair then asked if anyone wanted to put themselves forward. Ged McGrath put himself forward and this was then proposed and seconded by the members.

Assurance and clarity were sought that the proposed new Chair would not be representing the RPLA and that any political preferences would play no part in the Partnership.

The proposed Chair agreed to this and gave his assurance to work within the guidelines of a fair and unbiased Chair as set down in Policy.

Members agreed to the appointment and a vote was not required.

**AGENDA 8: FUTURE MEETINGS**

Proposed dates were put to the Partnership, and it was agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 18.30. NWS to share future dates by email.

Members proposed that the time was right to start hosting meetings in different parts of the Search Area and Kirksanton Village Hall was agreed as the next meeting venue subject to availability.

**Action: Secretariat to email members with proposed future dates and venues.**

**AGENDA 9: AOB**

- Members requested that future meetings were face to face rather than hybrid meetings.
- The proposed Yonder survey has been cancelled. The approach to future surveys will be discussed with the Partnership.
- The outgoing Chair and the former IP were thanked for their services to the Partnership.

Meeting Closed 9.00pm

Next Meeting: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

Venue: Kirksanton Village Hall

Ref 030322	Meeting Action Log	
Agenda 2 030222 01	<b>KA to discuss Officer attendance and reimbursement within NWS and set up a follow up meeting.</b>	KA
Agenda 2 030222 02	<b>CALC representative to clarify the CALC position re attendance of an Officer at Partnership meetings.</b>	DS
Agenda 2 030222 03	<b>KA to discuss reimbursement within NWS and set up a follow up meeting</b>	KA



Agenda 3 030222 01	<b>Secretariat to share the slides from the Communications update with all Members.</b>	Secretariat
Agenda 4 030222 01	<b>Secretariat to share the slides from the Seismic presentation with all Members.</b>	Secretariat
Agenda 6 030222 01	<b>Future meeting to spend time looking at the existing skills set of members and getting to know each other.</b>	KA
Agenda 6 030222 02	<b>Look at how other Partnerships are approaching membership</b>	KA
Agenda 8 030222 01	<b>Secretariat to email members with proposed future dates and venues.</b>	Secretariat