

Minutes of The South Copeland GDF Community Partnership

Millom, Guide Hall, 16th October 2024 at 5.30pm

Present:

Ged McGrath	Chair
David Billing	Millom Town Council
Kelly Anderson	Nuclear Waste Services (NWS)
Maggie Cumming	Whicham Parish Council
John Sutton	Sustainable Duddon

Carl Carrington	Millom Without Parish Council
Kate Willshaw	Friends of the Lake District
Cllr Bob Kelly	Cumberland Council
Bill Amos	Business Sector
Andy Pratt	CALC
Karen Warmoth	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council

Supporting Attendees:

Jonathan Cook	Cumberland Council
Anne Broome	Operations Manager
Jodie Dougherty	Community Partnership Assistant
Lynne Purbrick	Community Engagement Co-Ordinator
Lucy Clarke	Regional Communications Lead
Amy Shelton	Principal Community Engagement Manager
Chris Keenan	Head of Community, Operations & Land

Apologies

Apologies were received from Chris Gigg. Karen Warmouth attended in his absence.

Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date:	16 th October 2024	Time:	17.30 - 20.30
Meeting Type:	Phone Call <input type="checkbox"/>	Virtual/Conference <input type="checkbox"/>	In Person <input type="checkbox"/>
Location:	Guide Hall, Millom		
Additional Material enclosed?	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Agenda			
Item No.	Time	Description	Lead
1	17:30-17:35	Welcome & Introductions. Declaration of Interest.	Chair

2	17:35-17:40	Approval of minutes/Action Log	Chair
3	17:40-17:55	Chairs Update to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to new staff Discussion with Jamie Matear NWMO Vienna Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) 	Chair
4	17:55-18:25	Presentation on Property Value Protection (PVP)	Chris Keenan
5	18:25-18:35	Delivery Plan 6 month update	Kelly Anderson
6	18:35-18:45	Update from subgroups	John Sutton
7	18:45-18:55	Withdrawal Strategy	KW /JS
8	18:55-19:10	Questions from the public : Opportunity for Public attending to ask questions	Chair
9	19:10-19:15	AOB Close to public	Chair
	19:20-19:35	Ratification of New Member	Chair
		Proposed changes to the Community Partnership Agreement	
		AOB	
		Close	

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed Partnership Members and supporting attendees to the meeting.

There were apologies from Chris Gigg who had sent Karen Warmouth as his deputy. and No Declarations of Interest were recorded.

2. Approval of Minutes and Review of Action Log

Previous minutes and actions were approved on the condition that the requested changes had been made.

New Action: Jodie to circulate the updated August and September minutes again.

Actions from the previous meeting

Action Reference:	Description:	Assigned to:
18.09.24 1	Voice record minutes going forward Haven't got technology yet. Hopefully in place for next meeting.	CET
18.09.24 2	Reschedule meeting with SLT for January No date yet. They are coming for a meeting with the chairs so will arrange around that date.	CET
18.09.24 3	Invite CoRWM rep to C&E subgroup meeting extending the invitation to all members of the Community Partnership Covered as agenda item.	KW / CET
18.09.24 4	All technical questions asked on Social Media to be redirected to the Contact Centre. Complete	LC
18.09.24 5	LC to draft a "pin" for Social Media to explain that all technical questions will be redirected to the Contact Centre.	LC
18.09.24 6	For all sessions with SLT to have a plenary session added to agree the notes. Ongoing	CET
14.08.24 7	Visioning subgroup to be formed Complete	CET
14.08.24 8	Invite Jonathan Cook to be a member of the Visioning Subgroup as Cumberland Rep Complete	Chair
14.08.24 9	Add PVP to the agenda for the next Community Partnership meeting. Complete	CEM
14.08.24 9	Discussion and decision on changes to the CPA to be made after the closure of the next Community Partnership meeting Complete	ALL
14.08.24 10	Change the time of the next meeting and add to all Comms Complete	CET & Comms

3. Chair's Update

The Chair provided an update on the following items:

- **Welcome to new staff**

The chair welcomed Jodie Dougherty, in the role of Community Partnership Assistant supporting both Mid and South Copeland and Lynne Purbrick in the role of Community Engagement Coordinator for South Copeland.

- **Discussion with Jamie Matear NWMO (Nuclear Waste Management Organisation)**

The chair explained that there will be an article in the next newsletter to clarify some of the comments that Jamie made on the UK siting process when he attended the April CP meeting.

We are currently in the process of sending questions over to Jamie for response and also looking at responses to questions he has been asked previously.

Timescale for the piece is end of November. The Chair had also discussed the possibility of conducting a short video with Jamie.

- **Vienna**

The chair and some other members of Community Partnerships are attending an event in Vienna next week. There is a big agenda for the event, 57 countries taking part, the chair will produce a report once back to share with us.

New Action - Circulate agenda for Vienna and find out possibilities of people joining online.

- **Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)**

The chair explained to the partnership that DESNZ had recently had a visit to Cumberland. South Copeland didn't get much time with them due to some travel disruption.

Andy Pratt, Mid Copeland Chair, spoke about his time spent with DESNZ. There were conversations about how Community Partnerships are working, whether the policy is delivering what we thought it would, what differences would we like to see or change and how things work on the ground?

DESNZ also had a tour of both the mid and south Copeland Search Areas..

Question: Will there be another opportunity for DESNZ to come back as there was no input from south?

Answer: Absolutely yes. No plan in place but it is important to see both partnerships as there are different issues and struggles.

- **Chair Recruitment**

The chair explained that his tenure as Chair was coming to an end in March and a process needed to be developed for recruitment of a new chair. This was due to be looked at by the Operations subgroup but there was a change of time meaning that Bob, Anne and Kelly were unable to attend. This meant that no recommendations were able to be made on the process for recruiting a new Chair. Brief discussions had taken place and this will be taken forward at the next meeting but they would like a steer from the full partnership.

Question: We agreed when we last met around the table, we would have a term of office, do we exclude that so its fixed?

Answer: My understanding is we will elect the chair every 2 years as that is what is in the partnership agreement. We can make however change that to fit what the members want. Sensible to keep as 2 years, perhaps we might have more room for the debate.

Not for chair to lead.

4. Presentation on Property Value Protection (PVP)

The Chair welcomed Chris Keenan, Head of Communities, Operations and Land at NWS online to give a presentation around the Property Value Protection Scheme (PVP).

Further information about the PVP scheme can be found here:

[Property Value Protection scheme: An introduction to the scheme - GOV.UK](#)

Question: How does the scheme compare with the HS2 development in term of applications?

Answer: Chris explained that the two schemes are alike to a point, with the difference being that HS2 had a defined route whereas we don't have a defined site yet. Our scheme will adapt and change moving forward. Happy to share statistics about the volume of applications.

New Action – Chris Keenan to provide data on volume of PVP applications to other schemes such as HS2.

A discussion followed about different circumstances and whether a person would be eligible for the scheme.

- Retirement couple wanting to sell and move to different area People wanting to downsize
- People who are moving to look after ill family members

Chris reiterated that each case would be considered on its own merits.

JC mentioned that compelling need is important at this stage when there is no confirmed site for a GDF but at a later stage when a GDF is confirmed, that could start to change from a compelling need to move to just a wish to move. Chris confirmed that the scheme would develop and change as we move through the siting process.

CC – I think as parish council reps we need to let people know about this scheme. Demonstrating we have done a bit more than they think we have.

New Action – Share PVP information with parish councils and put info in the Newsletter.

5. Delivery Plan 6 Month Update

Kelly Anderson gave the 6-month delivery plan update to the Community Partnership. She explained that timings have gone a little bit off due to the back to back pre-election periods but most things have been done or are on track to be done. Confident we are on track for the activities in the next 6 months. We really needed to get our levels of community engagement back up and hopefully with more resource this will be able to happen.

- **Communications and Engagement**
 - Development of new CP website is still ongoing.
 - We are beginning to understand the seldom heard in the Search Area
 - The Community Impacts report is progressing working with Carl Carrington but the milestones on the delivery plan have been missed.
- **Community Vision**
 - Visioning Subgroup has formed, first meeting will take place in coming weeks.
 - NWS staff were involved in Visioning training which considered different routes and approaches to different backgrounds.
- **Community Partnership Operations**

All tasks are completed.
- **Community Investment Funding (CIF)**

Recruited new members onto the panel
- **Other Activities**

All tasks are completed.

6. Update from Subgroups

Comms & Engagement subgroup - Kate Willshaw

The C&E subgroup met on 1st October 2024 and discussed the following agenda items:

- **Community Impacts Report**

Kelly Anderson had spoken to Lois in procurement to see if a summary of the Community Impact Report scope could be produced to share with prospective bidders. Lois had confirmed that this was fine. There was also a question about whether multiple frameworks could be used to promote the work. Kelly did explain that no matter what framework it is advertised on, they must make sure they have the relevant expertise to address all aspects of the scope. This was seen as a positive step forward. Carl Carrington was due to have another meeting with Lois in the next few days.

- **Community Forum Thwaites – 10/09/24**

Held on 10th September 2024 in Thwaites Village Hall, the forum followed exactly the same format as the previous 2 community forums. 9 people attended in total and several of them had attended a community forum previously. Lots of good conversations happened around the tables, where everyone joined in.

- **CoRWM Invitations:**

Kate updated that she had spoken to Sir Nigel Thrift, Chair of CoRWM. It was confirmed that they were happy to attend a meeting of the CP but didn't want to attend a public meeting. Unfortunately, they couldn't do any of the 2024 dates so Kate was arranging a meeting for Nigel to attend a CP meeting early next year. It might have to be a Special Meeting to fit around his diary.

New Action – CoRWM to send some dates in the New Year for a closed meeting with partnership.

The next Comms and Engagement Subgroup Meeting will be held on **31st October 2024**.

Operations subgroup – John Sutton

John Sutton explained that him and Chris are looking at drafting some documents that detail information on the processes and procedures for information requests. Technical questions go to the contact centre, other things we continue to have problems like request that all questions asked on social media are answered. The more we get into it the more we find it is quite complex.

The work plan is largely on track. One of the key activities is recruiting the next chair, this raises a number of actions such as creating a job description. There is a draft from the working group stage of the process and we now have that to review. What is clear is that the chair is an important role which sets how well we work together. It is in the policy that the partnership chooses the chair so we are responsible for getting it right not the public.

Question: Does it state anywhere that the current chair can't be extended?

Answer: No.

The CPA isn't legally binding so we can change it to meet the needs of the Partnership.

Certain things should be carefully considered such as time commitments are very high with weekly meetings, monthly meetings, visits etc. Currently the chair oversees the CIF panel, this doesn't need to be the case, but it is in the current agreement. As we understand more, we all understand what the chair does but we all need to see the job description.

Kate Willshaw stated the chair does a lot of work, but also a lot of work we don't hear anything about so we are unaware. There should be more transparency.

New Action – Ops subgroup to look at Chair job description.

7. Withdrawal Strategy

Andy Pratt – Mid Copeland Chair explained to the Partnership that Mid Copeland are currently looking at their withdrawal strategy. They created a subgroup on the back of Allerdale’s withdrawal. There were conflicting stories on how it was dealt with and delivered. Mid Copeland didn’t want to be in the same boat as Allerdale so decided to form a group to look at how we would want to be withdrawn if it ever came to that. We want an agreement within NWS and Cumberland that we get informed within a timely manner and decisions come to us and the partnership as soon as possible before the public. There should be an open and transparent process with regular correspondence to ensure that the partnership is facilitated with the information of the withdrawal, the wind downs of the CIF funds or how long CIF would continue, rather than not knowing if it will just go.

Andy also stated that Mid-Copeland take the view that, even if they are not the eventual site for a GDF headworks, they will always be at the ‘front end’ of the operation, for as long as a GDF exists. Given the local reliance on the nuclear industry for jobs, this could also apply to South Copeland.

John Sutton stated that the MRWS process had left an excellent legacy which will be really useful for us now as we can see how it happened previously. We will need to put down on paper everything we do for any future process that comes along. We also need to leave a legacy of information.

8. Pubic Questions

Five written questions had been submitted in advance and those questions and answers were shown on the slides and are replicated below.

- ***Could you produce a breakdown of the 4000 jobs the chair maintains is a potential positive impact to our community.***

This policy shows the latest estimate of the jobs and skills that will be required to construct, operate and ultimately close a GDF and, as you will see, it draws on the learning and experience from other major construction projects in the UK, specifically Cross Rail, as well as from other GDF projects in other countries, such as Sweden and Spain.

The Chair then showed a copy of the latest government policy document which was published in May 2024 and explained that this was the source of the figures that he was quoting.

- ***Could you provide a potential job loss figure including Sellafield and supply streams and to our community particularly if the Kirksanton / Haverigg site is chosen.***

The GDF Siting Process is a national process and there are currently three communities engaged in a conversation with Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) about whether their area

could potentially host a GDF. No sites have been identified, only search areas, so it is too early to answer the question that you pose. However, it is worth making it clear that the construction of a GDF (whether in Cumberland or elsewhere) will not reduce the effort needed to safely decommission legacy plants and produce passively safe waste packages at Sellafield. It will eventually remove the need to maintain or replace waste stores, while creating long-term jobs supporting the logistics of waste export. In the very long term, it would eventually support the clearance of land within the Sellafield site, providing opportunities for new economic use.

- **Is there a potential of split site work e.g. like Sellafield where much of the logistics is carried out offsite at Risley would NWS be still operating logistics from Oxfordshire or away from the community.**

As the “Jobs and Skills Report” makes clear, NWS is committed to recruiting locally where possible. The long timeframe leading up to the start of construction allows education and training initiatives to be offered locally, giving local communities the opportunities to develop relevant and transferable skills.

- **How many young people from our community are currently working alongside the designers, the geologists, the planners etc in graduate apprenticeships?**

Nuclear Waste Services is part of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) Group, and we participate in the Group wide nuclear graduate scheme. 2024 has seen record numbers join the graduate scheme, some of which have taken posts within NWS

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/record-numbers-join-the-nda-group-graduate-programme> As stated in the response to the previous question, the long timeframe leading up to the start of construction allows education and training initiatives to be offered locally, giving local communities the opportunities to develop relevant and transferable skills.

- **Was this NDA to Cumbria Council correspondence untrue?**

The report you referenced was shared with Cumbria County Council some years ago and was based on our working assumptions at that time. It was accurate, but it is clearly dated and does not reflect the learning we have gained since from, for example, Cross Rail and the experience of GDF construction in other countries.

The session was then opened up for questions from members of the public in the room.

Question: Big spread in your newsletter about Finland, then someone came from Canada and said something completely differently. They don't want it near water.

Answer: For clarity it was for cultural reasons that the Canadians didn't want a GDF near water, not safety reasons.

9. AOB

Question: Where are we with the request for a community partnership website?

Answer: You will have a response shortly. We did hope we would have a response for you today.

Question: It appears that there has been no activity on the website between April and August. There only minutes being one from February and one from April.

Answer: Actually, quite a lot has been uploaded on the news section of the website. including, the latest research results, the PVP scheme, the newsletter, additional resources information, visioning information as well as meeting minutes and agendas.

We must point out however that two back-to-back pre-election periods mean we were limited to what we could publish during that time.

New Action – LC to update website about pre-election period.

During the public forum a member of the public left the meeting as he was frustrated with the answers he was being given. Under AOB, there was a discussion about how this should be dealt with and Andy Pratt offered to meet with the individual. It was agreed that this would be offered by Maggie Cumming as the individuals parish representative.

New Action – Andy Pratt to meet with TK (a member of the public who had walked out of the previous meeting due to frustration at the answers given to his questions). Maggie Cumming to facilitate arranging the meeting.

New Actions

Action Reference:	Description:	Assigned to:
16.10.2024 01	CP Assistant to recirculate updated August and September minutes.	Jodie Dougherty
16.10.2024 02	Circulate agenda for Vienna and find out possibilities of people joining online.	Kelly Anderson
16.10.2024 03	Consider plans for a future DESNZ visit to South Copeland.	Amy Shelton
16.10.2024 04	Chris Keenan to provide data on volume of PVP applications to other <i>schemes such as HS2</i> .	Chris Keenan
16.10.2024 05	Share PVP information with parish councils and put info in the Newsletter.	Jodie Dougherty
16.10.2024 07	CoRWM to send some dates in the New Year for a closed meeting with partnership.	Kate Willshaw

Action Reference:	Description:	Assigned to:
16.10.2024 08	Ops subgroup to look at Chair job description.	Ops Subgroup
16.10.2024 09	Update website about pre-election period.	Lucy Clarke
16.10.2024 10	Andy Pratt to meet with TK (a member of the public who had walked out of the previous meeting due to frustration at the answers given to his questions). Maggie Cumming to facilitate arranging the meeting.	Maggie Cumming

Next Meeting

The next meeting in public is 20th November 2024 at the Lighthouse Centre; Atkinson St; Haverigg.

Ratification of New Member

The meeting closed to members of the public and there was a private discussion about an application for membership of the partnership that had been received and recommended for approval by the Operations subgroup.

All members of the Partnership previously received the application of the new member. Applicant invited to have a chat with members of the subgroup. Applicant asked to confirm whether he wants to join as an individual or a representative of the Rotary. Applicant confirmed he wants to join as an individual.

The applicant had some good credentials, good nuclear knowledge. Would be a good representative from the North of the Search Area. We need to be encouraging people to voice their views.

Partnership Decision – Approval of applicant.

New Action – Write to the applicant to accept his application and arrange induction.

New Action – Community Partnership Assistant to bring copy of CPA to next meeting

Proposed changes to the Community Partnership Agreement

There was a discussion about the changes that were being proposed to the CPA. The change was that the section relating to the ability for the Chair to be paid should be removed.

CP members didn't want to have the discussion with the current Chair in the room, but there did follow a short discussion and there were a number of questions about what an honorarium is, how

much it was and where else it was used. Some argued that it was important for the fairness and transparency of the partnership that the Chair shouldn't receive any kind of payment. Also, the chair currently has a casting vote, but some argued that this shouldn't be used as a casting vote on yourself.

The debate was deferred until a future meeting.

Deferred

AOB

The Partnership agreed that next year we will continue to run our Community Partnership Meetings, one online and the next in person.

Agreed to change November to be in person and have December online.

Use January meeting to plan next years date.