# Draft Minutes of the 15th Meeting of the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership

**The Lighthouse Centre, Haverigg – 19th April 2023 at 6.30pm**

### Present:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cllr Ged McGrath | Chair |
| Cllr David Moore | Cumberland Council |
| Kelly Anderson | Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) |
| David Billing | Millom Town Council |
| Maggie Cumming | Whicham Parish Council |
| David Savage | Cumbria Association of Local Councils |
| Kate Willshaw | Friends of the Lake District |
| Carl Carrington | Millom Without Parish Council |
| John Sutton | Sustainable Duddon |
| Chris Gigg | Drigg and Carleton Parish Council |

Bob Kelly Cumberland Councillor

### Supporting Attendees:

Lucy Clarke NWS Communications Lead

Dawn Walker NWS Secretary

Chris Keenan NWS Head of Property and Land

**Apologies**

Rob Ward NWS Operations Manager

Anne Broome NWS Community Engagement Coordinator

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
|  |  |

### Agenda:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Meeting Date:** | | 19th April 2023 | | **Time**: | 18.30 - 20.30 | | |
| **Meeting Type:** | | Phone Call | | Virtual/Conference | | In Person | |
| **Location:** | | The Lighthouse Centre, Haverigg | | | | | |
| **Additional Material enclosed?**  *If so, list here* | | | | | | | |
| **Agenda** | | | | | | | |
| **Item No.** | **Time** | | **Description** | | | | **Lead** |
| 1 | 18.30 - 18.35 | | Welcome & Introductions. Declaration of Interest. | | | | Chair |
| 2 | 18.35 - 18.40 | | Approval of minutes/Action Log | | | | Chair |
| 3 | 18.40 - 19.00 | | Chairs Update to include:   * Membership selection panel update * Workshop feedback * CIF Panel update * Community Partnership workplan * Community Partnership agreement | | | | Chair |
| 4 | 19.00 - 19.15 | | Public Forum | | | | All |
| 5 | 19.15 - 19.45 | | DESNZ policy consultation | | | | DA – BEIS |
| 6 | 19.45 - 20.15 | | Land and Property update | | | | CK |
| 7 | 20.15 - 20.25 | | Feedback from Subgroups | | | | All |
| 8 | 20.25 - 20.30 | | AOB and Close | | | | Chair |

## Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed members of the public, Partnership members and supporting attendees to the meeting. Chris Gigg was introduced as the representative for Drigg and Carleton Parish Council and Dawn Armstrong from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) was welcomed.

## Approval of Minutes and Review of Action Log

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

| **Action Reference:** | **Description:** | **Assigned to:** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| 080323 1 | Whicham representative to arrange a meeting between CALC rep, Whicham rep, Millom without rep, RPLA rep and the member of the public. | Completed |
| 080323 2 | Invite the Siting Manager Barnaby Hudson to the next Partnership meeting | Agenda 16.05.23 |
| 080323 3 | Communications group to re-evaluate how they present the opposing opinions. | CL |
| 080323 4 | CP to ratify any decisions made by the Subgroup | Ongoing |
| 080323 5 | Draft Engagement Plan to be circulated prior to the first Engagement subgroup | Completed |
| 080323 6 | Chris Keenan to confirm how ownership of Parish Council property would be dealt with | CK |
| 080323 7 1 | Share the link to the government policy consultation document | Completed |
| 080323 7 2 | DESNZ policy consultation | Agenda 5 19.04.23 |

In relation to 080323 1, the Whicham PC representative confirmed that she had contacted the member of the public who had requested a meeting with several members of the Community Partnership. The member of the public had declined the opportunity for a meeting and instead requested that the conversation happen in a public forum. The Whicham PC representative replied with a number of questions about whose meeting it would be, who would Chair it etc and currently has not received a reply.

When discussing 080323 2 the Community Engagement Manager confirmed that the South Copeland Community Partnership have a new Siting Manager - Lisa Mugan. Lisa will be attending the next meeting on the 16th May 2023 at Drigg & Carleton Village Hall.

## Chair’s Update

The Chair provided an update on the following items:

* CIF Panel Update

So far this year, there have been two meetings and seven projects have been approved. These included the smallest and largest grants the panel has ever approved. Two projects have been deferred and these will come back to the panel once the requested supplementary information has been received. Deferrals are sometimes necessary, but this does not mean that the application has been rejected, just that more information has been requested.

The new simplified form for grants under £10,000 is working well and the panel has seen an increase in requests for smaller amounts of money.

It was also noted that lobbying Partnership members regarding applications is not permitted.

A proposal was made that going forward, detailed updates from the Grants Manager and Communications Lead be delivered quarterly. This was accepted by members and the first updates will be given at the June Meeting.

The Whicham Parish council representative informed the meeting that Kirksanton Village Hall had not received their funding grant.

**Action:** Chase up payment of the Kirksanton Village Hall grant.

* Membership Selection Panel

The Membership Selection Panel met on 12th April to consider two applications for membership. The detail of the recommendations from that meeting had been circulated to Partnership members prior to the meeting. Members were then asked if they’d like to vote on the recommendations at that point in the agenda or would they prefer further discussion after the public meeting. It was agreed that further discussion was needed and the item was moved to the end of the agenda.

* Workshop Feedback

The Community Partnership has now held three workshops:

* One to review progress during the first year of CP operations and to outline a work plan for year 2.
* A ‘Thinking Ahead’ workshop looking further into the future
* A final workshop to bring everything together

As a result of these workshops, the Community Partnership has developed an Outline Delivery Plan detailing the things that they want to achieve over the next 12 months. This Plan is the Community Partnerships Development Plan and not the Developer’s Plan.

The Community Engagement Manager took the meeting through the Delivery Plan which is divided into four main workstreams plus a fifth detailing how NWS will interface with the CP. A copy of the document is included on the next page.

A member of the Partnership commented it was a great deal of work to complete for non-paid voluntary members.

Q – In the plan it says that we are going to commission a report on the impacts of a GDF for south Copeland, which is what the communities want to know.

A – Yes and you can develop your own scope for that piece of work.

Q – How will this report fit together with the reports from the Developer?

A – The Partnership wants an independent impact report regardless of the Developers programme. and it is therefore important that the scope covers everything you want the report to cover.

The Partnership were then asked if they were happy to approve the Delivery Plan.

The members agreed the Community Partnership Delivery Plan and asked that it be included in the next newsletter if feasible.

| **Activity/ Workstream** | **Delivery Plan** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Q1 (Apr – Jun)** | **Q2 (Jul – Sep)** | **Q3 (Oct – Dec)** | **Q4 (Jan – Mar)** |
| **(1)**  **Communications and Engagement** | * Integrate new communities into South Copeland CP * Examine the feasibility of a local community engagement hub in South Cumberland * Conduct Public Opinion Survey * Refresh website and redesign newsletter * Commission report on the impact of a GDF for South Cumberland | * Feasibility report on a community hub delivered * Implement a Pilot Community Forum * Develop arrangements for Annual Community Partnership Report * Launch refreshed newsletter | * Publish Public Opinion Survey results * Identify lessons learnt from Pilot Community Forum prior to rollout | * Publish the Community Impacts Report * Community Engagement Plan for 2024/5 agreed * Publish Annual Community Partnership Report |
| **(2)**  **Community Vision** | * Commission review of existing local/regional plans in support of community/economic development | * Engage with key stakeholders to agree approach to a community vision | * Work with the community to initiate the process to develop a vision | * End of year review with a look ahead to 2024 |
| **(3)**  **Community Partnership Operations** | * Review Community Partnership Agreement and Terms of Reference to ensure suitability for 2023 * Agree Terms of Reference for subgroups * Develop and publish Community Partnership Delivery Plan for 2023/4 | * Review Community Partnership Delivery Plan | * Assure the Community that key concerns are fully integrated into the developing process for Community Withdrawal | * Review Community Partnership Agreement and Terms of Reference to ensure suitability for 2024 * Prepare Community Partnership Delivery Plan for 2024/5 |
| **(4)**  **Community Investment Funding (CIF)** | * Review Community Investment Panel membership to support implementation of Cumberland Council | * Present mid-year performance review | * Review Community Investment Funding priorities for 2024 * Review Community Investment Panel membership in readiness for 2024 | * Present end of year performance review |
| **Interface with NWS Activities** | * NWS to present key updates to Community Partnership:   + Seismic Data   + Site evaluation roadmap   + Development Consent Order   + Property Value Protection scheme | * NWS to present key updates to Community Partnership:   + Development Consent Order | * NWS to present key updates to Community Partnership: * Priority Site Evaluation study outputs (earliest) | * NWS to present key updates to Community Partnership: * Interpretation of Marine Geophysical survey data (earliest) |

* Community Partnership Agreement

The Chair explained that the Partnership had been reviewing the CPA and it was now being brought to the meeting for final approval of the revised version. The timeline that members had been through was as follows:

* Annual review-initiated 2nd February with deadline for comments 28th Feb
* Comments received from 2 members.
* Intention to review CPA at first Ops Subgroup meeting, but insufficient time on agenda, so decided to review via correspondence.
* Revised version of CPA incorporating comments and highlighting any unresolved comments circulated to CP members 24th March with deadline for final comments 31st March.
* Comments received from 1 member on 30th March which were responded to via Secretariat on 31st March.
* No further comments received.

The CEM explained that the main change was that members had requested an addition to the CPA that the Chair should not be paid. This had been included but the Chair commented that there had been advice from the NWS legal team not to include this as things could change in the future.

A Partnership member was uncomfortable that the document had been looked at by the NWS legal team as it was the Partnerships CPA and the Partnership hadn’t had their own legal advice. NWS was asked to confirm whether the Partnership could have access to legal services if required.

**Action: Can the Partnership have the right to legal services if required?**

Members asked that the final clean version of the CPA be recirculated to members for their records.

**Action: Resend final version of the CP agreement to members.**

The Partnership agreed to approve the revised Community Partnership Agreement.

**Canadian Nuclear Waste Management Organisation Meeting** There was an opportunity for CP members to hear from the Canadian Nuclear Waste Management Organisation about its siting process at a meeting on Wednesday 26th April at Rosehill Theatre in Whitehaven.

Unfortunately, the Chair is unable to attend the meeting and so the Millom Town Council representative has offered to represent the Partnership at the meeting.

If there are any specific questions you would like answered can these please be forwarded to the Secretariat.

## Public Forum

15 minutes is allocated on each Community Partnership meeting agenda for a public forum to enable members of the public to ask questions directly of Community Partnership members.

Responses to any questions submitted in advance of the meeting via the website/contact centre are addressed before opening to the floor.

### Responses to questions submitted in advance:

A member of the public had submitted the following question in advance:

“The information regarding generic estimation of job creation is accessible from the South Copeland website. The Partnership have dismissed this as not credible. Please can it be removed” After discussion, the Partnership decided to leave the link where it is but add a caveat under the link which explains that it is a link to a generic document and isn’t specific to South Copeland

**Action:** Comms Lead to add a caveat under the link to the Jobs and Skills report on the website

### Questions from members of the public in attendance:

Q – There have been over forty questions sent into the Contact Centre and you have not answered those. We were told to submit questions for answering in advance, so we have.

A- We are not aware of those questions. They may have been passed across to other Subject Matter Experts for answering and you will receive an answer in due course.

A discussion followed about the visibility that Partnership members had of questions sent to the Contact Centre. An action was taken for the Partnership and NWS to work together on a revised process.

**Action:** NWS and Partnership members to work together on a revised process for visibility of Contact Centre queries.

Q – Why are you only having a pilot Public Forum?

A - The Delivery Plan sets out that we will initially trial a pilot Community Forum in quarter 2 and we will take the learning from that and roll out a more permanent Community Forum by the end of quarter 3 (Dec ’23)

Q - So you are going to have a pilot forum in May?

A - No, we will have a pilot Community Forum by the end of quarter 2 which means anytime between July and September.

Q - Are the subgroup meetings held in public and are we allowed to see the minutes?

A- They are not held in public but any recommendations from the subgroups are brought to the Partnership meetings for a decision and also a summary of the meetings is provided at the CP meeting so that you as members of the public can hear what work the subgroups have been doing.

Q- Can we have the meeting documents before the meeting and not on the night as it makes it difficult to follow the progress of the meeting?

A – The Partnership have discussed previously the publication of draft meeting minutes, documents etc and voted against this.

Q – You said you have only received one question from the community this makes you look as if you do not care about the communities involved in the process.

A – We are all here to represent our communities and we are enthusiastic to make sure that the Developer is held to account and this process is conducted correctly.

Q – The Whicham representative knows the views of the community, 77% of the people are against this process – do other members know how your communities feel?

A - There has been a survey for the whole of the Search Area which told us what people thought and this will need to be completed again as Drigg and Carleton have joined the Search Area.

Comment: We have been dragged into this process, a process that no one in the area wants. Why can’t we stop this now.

Q - When will the results of the seismic survey be available?

A – The seismic survey results will be available at the end of the year, there is a huge amount of data to be analysed. A geologist will be available at the next meeting to answer further questions.

Q – When will the two sites to be taken forward to bore holing be identified?

A – There are currently four communities in the process and it is expected that down selecting will happen around 2026/2027 .

We are still actively looking for other communities to join the siting process.

## DESNZ Policy Consultation – Dawn Armstrong

Dawn Armstrong from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) introduced herself to the meeting and explained that she headed up the team that lead on the policy for managing radioactive substances and nuclear decommissioning.

She talked the members through the departments recently published consultation document and confirmed that the consultation would close on 24thMay 2023.

* The consultation proposals aim to pull together all policies on nuclear decommissioning and managing radioactive substances into a single UK wide policy framework.
* Some of the existing policy was published in 1995 (command paper 2919). Since then, there have been lots of changes and the policy landscape has become fragmented.
* The proposed new policy document would make it easier for industry and regulators to navigate.
* Part one of the consultation proposes to amend, update, and clarify some of the policies with the aim of driving improvements in nuclear decommissioning and clean-up programmes and the management of all solid radioactive waste by adopting a risk informed approach to the assessment of radioactive waste. The current policy for higher activity waste in England, Wales and Northern Ireland does not allow for this and management is solely based on radioactivity classifications. Policy currently in England, Wales and Northern Ireland says that all medium and high-level waste should be disposed of in a GDF. The consultation document proposes changing this so that all intermediate level waste doesn’t necessarily have to go to a GDF.
* Using a risk informed approach could mean that some intermediate level waste could be disposed of nearer to the surface in a Near Surface Disposal (NSD) facility.
* The proposal to build a NSD facility wouldn’t follow a consent-based process like for a GDF. It would however require planning permission and consultation with the local community. This means it can be progressed faster than the process for siting a GDF.
* The decommissioning policy has not been updated since 2004 so this needs to be updated too. There have been changes and developments in decommissioning, one of the biggest being Sellafield moving from production to decommissioning.

Q – Has the policy review taken into consideration the work of other countries around the world.

A – It has been formulated for the UK. It takes account of the IAEA’s international standards and guidelines.

Q – NSD does not have a consent-based process that means people who live near a NSD facility could have intermediate level waste disposed of close to their homes and yet they have not got a say in the process. It also means that the NDA could build a NSD facility on any of its owned land.

A – The intermediate level waste that could be stored at a NSD is at the very bottom level of intermediate level waste on the boundary with low level waste. It would need to be permitted by the Environment Agency and a safety case would need to be in place. High level waste would never be stored in a NSD facility so the need for a GDF remains. The policy requires the NDA to engage with and consult the local population.

Q – You said that a NSD facility can be built on NDA land but does that have to be on a licensed site?

A – It does not state in the policy that it has to be on a licensed site so it could be on any NDA owned land.

Q – Do you know what percentage of intermediate level waste could be stored at a near surface facility?

A – Approximately 40% of intermediate level waste could potentially be disposed of in a NSD facility.

Q – What are other countries storing in their GDF facilities?

A – Usually they are used to dispose of spent fuel. Intermediate level waste is usually disposed of in near surface sites.

**Previous Public Forum Question**

The Chair then reminded members that there had been a question raised by a member of the public during the previous Public Forum and he asked members to consider the question (copied below for completeness) after the presentation.

“On 1 March, the government issued a consultation paper called Managing  
radioactive substances and nuclear decommissioning.  
The consultation closes on 24 May ‘23. There is specific reference to site characterisation of NDA property in Drigg in relation to the disposal of ILW and from 1 April 2023 Drigg and Carleton parish will be in the south Copeland GDF partnership area. I would appreciate it, as a Drigg resident if the partnership would consider forming a view on the proposals, placing the consultation on the agenda for a meeting in April and subsequently responding to the consultation.” “Personally, I’m disappointed that this paper is proposing that, while a GDF for HAW is a nationally significant project, a NSF should not be.”

The chair asked the Partnership if they wanted to respond to the consultation But noted that any response would need to exclude NWS as they are unable to respond to consultations from their own government department.

The RPLA (Relevant Principal Local Authority) representative responded that Copeland Borough Council had submitted a response and that the Mid Copeland Community Partnership have had the same presentation and they are going to submit a response. Also, the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group (WCSSG) had penned a response. The submitted response has been focused around the eight questions that the policy consultation asks:

**Managing Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning**

**Consultation questions**

**1. Do you agree with the proposal to require the application of a risk-informed**

**approach as a decision-making framework for the management of all solid**

**radioactive waste?**

**2. Do you agree that application of the waste hierarchy should be an explicit policy**

**requirement for the management of all solid radioactive waste where practicable?**

**3. Do you agree with the proposed amendment to current policies on geological**

**disposal to allow disposal of ILW in near surface facilities?**

**4. Do you agree with the proposed policy framework for the development of near**

**surface disposal facilities by the NDA for the disposal of less hazardous ILW?**

**5. Do you agree that the policy of the UK Government and devolved administrations**

**should promote the use of on-site disposal of radioactively contaminated waste**

**from the decommissioning of nuclear sites, subject to environmental permits?**

**6. Are there any further improvements that we might consider in relation to the**

**proposed update of nuclear decommissioning and clean-up policy?**

**7. Do you agree with our proposed updates to the policy statement on the**

**management of spent fuel?**

**8. Do you agree with our proposed policy statement on the management of**

**uranium?**

After discussion, the Partnership requested sight of the responses submitted by Copeland Borough Council and the WCSSG and from those they would collate a response from South Copeland Community Partnership.

**Action:** Cllr Moore to share consultation responses with members

**Action:** Members to draft a response to the consultation before the May 24th deadline. CK/JS/KW

**Action:** Response to be sent via the Contact Centre to the individual raising the question to confirm that the Partnership will be submitting a response.

## Property and Land Update

The Head of Property and Land Chris Keenan introduced himself to the Partnership.

* He updated that NWS has now got approval from Government to launch a property scheme. This scheme is intended to be launched by the end of Summer.
* It is unusual for a property scheme to be launched at such an early stage of a project but this recognises the concerns that local communities have around the proposed GDF.
* A detailed summary of the scheme will be presented to members once the scheme is launched in the summer.
* Conversations will commence with Local Estate Agents after the pre-election period.
* We are currently drafting Q & As about the scheme which will also be published on the website.

Q - It seems very unusual for a property scheme to be launched so early in the process.

A – The GDF project is recognised to be a vastly different project than previous projects.

Q – Will there be an opportunity for roadshow events in local communities?

A – Yes, we are currently drafting an Engagement plan which will be launched at the end of the summer.

Q – Who will manage this scheme, will it be an independent scheme?

A – We will be involved in the day to day running of the scheme but we will have three independent members who sit on the panel.

Q - What is the width of the Scheme? How far will it reach?

A – There isn’t a red line around the Scheme.

Q – The challenge you have is that with a nuclear site storing highly active waste, people twenty miles away may say they are affected by the process.

A – There is a process of application and applicants have to demonstrate that they are impacted. These applications are independently assessed. Independent valuations chosen by the applicant which the developer can’t influence.

Q – What is built into the process for people’s health and wellbeing are there support mechanisms that go beyond the value of money.

A – Yes, the application process has been made quite simple with plain English, we can sign post people to support organisations.

This scheme is not unique to the South Copland Area it will be rolled out across all Community Partnership areas.

Q – Will there be information on compulsory purchase and land acquired temporarily under compulsory purchase.

A – We do not intend to use compulsory purchase we would want to work together to come to a mutual agreement with landowners.

## 7. Subgroup Feedbacks

Updates were provided from representatives of each Subgroup and are summarised here.

### Communications & Engagement Subgroup Meeting 13th April 2023

* The CP asked that the Communications and Engagement subgroups be merged into one subgroup
* Kate Willshaw was elected as Chair of the subgroup
* ToR were discussed and additions suggested – these will be ratified at the next meeting
* Meetings will be via Teams as and when needed, but initially monthly
* The group discussed a draft Engagement Plan – the Chair will collaborate with the Community Engagement Coordinator to take this forward
* The group agreed to commence engagement as detailed in the engagement plan – 1 CP meeting, one outreach activity and one drop-in activity per month
* Calendar of activities to be circulated to all CP members
* The Delivery Plan was also discussed
* Members agreed that the Comms Lead could draft an outline Communications Plan for discussion at a future meeting

### Operations Subgroup

The subgroup met on 16th March and had three key outputs:

1. Agreement, subject to incorporation of comments, to the Overarching Subgroup Terms of Reference and Operations Subgroup Terms of Reference.
2. Agreement that Ged will function as Subgroup Chair, for an initial term of 12 months.
3. Agreement that the final draft Community Partnership Agreement should be recirculated to CP members for a final round of comments, prior to approval at the April 19th CP meeting

## AOB

Following Local Government Reorganisation, the South Copeland Search Area has changed and now includes the Parishes of Drigg and Carleton and Irton with Santon. Following these changes, the Base line Survey needs to be redone to reflect the addition of the new communities. The questions will be the same as the questions that were asked last time and the survey is planned to take place in the summer.

Community Partnership members had concerns about the introduction of new communities and the effect that would have on the results. They therefore requested that results were reported by Parish and also reported both including and excluding the new communities.

The CEM offered to discuss the concerns with the survey provider Yonder and that would inform a wider discussion with members about the survey.

**Action:** Arrange a Teams meeting to discuss base line survey.

The CEM informed the members that following their feedback, a new email address has been created for member correspondence.

## New Actions

| **Action Reference:** | **Description:** | **Assigned to:** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 190423 1 | Chase up payment of the Kirksanton Village Hall grant. | CEM |
| 190423 2 | Can the Partnership have the right to legal services if required? | CK |
| 190423 3 | Resend final version of the CP agreement to members. | Secretariat |
| 190423 4 | Comms Lead to add a caveat under the link to the Jobs and Skills report on the website | CL |
| 190423 5 | NWS and Partnership members to work together on a revised process for visibility of Contact Centre queries. | CL/CM |
| 190423 6 | Cllr Moore to share consultation responses with members | DM |
| 190423 7 | Members to draft a response to the consultation before the May 24th deadline. | CC/JS/KW |
| 190423 8 | Response to be sent via the Contact Centre to the individual raising the question to confirm that the Partnership will be submitting a response. | Secretariat |
| 190423 9 | Arrange a Teams meeting to discuss Base Line survey. | Secretariat |

## Next Meeting

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date** | 16th May 2023 |
| **Time** | 6.30 – 8.30pm |
| **Venue** | Drigg & Carleton Village Hall |