

Minutes of The South Copeland GDF Community Partnership
Millom Rugby Club
Wednesday 8 April 2026 at 6pm
Present:

Gordon Grant	NWS, Principal Community Engagement Manager
Andy Pratt	Chair and CALC
Chris Gigg	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Ben Daniels	Individual
Ray Williamson	Millom Town Council
Jonathan Cook	Cumberland Council
Vikki Pogrel	Millom Without Parish Council
Cllr Bob Kelly	Cumberland Council Representative
Elaine Chapman	HMP Haverigg

Supporting Attendees:

Kelly Anderson	NWS, Community Engagement Manager
Anne Broome	NWS, Community Operations Manager
Lucy Clarke	NWS, Regional Comms Manager

2 members of the public were in attendance

Meeting Date:	08/04/2026	Time:	18.00 – 19.30	
Meeting Type:	Phone Call <input type="checkbox"/>	Virtual/Conference <input type="checkbox"/>	In Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Location:	Millom Rugby Union Club, Haverigg			
Additional Material enclosed? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
		Agenda		
Item No.	Time	Papers	Description	Lead
1	18.00		Welcome, Introductions & Declarations of Interest	Chair
2	18.05		Approval of minutes	Chair
3	18.10		Chairs Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce new Principal CEM • Applicant for CIF membership • CP Chair 	Chair
4	18.20		NWS Update	Gordon Grant
5	18.30		Public Forum	Chair
6	18.45		Engagement Update	Kelly Anderson

7	19.05		Comms Update	Lucy Clarke
8	19.25		AOB/Date of next meeting	Chair
9	19.30		Close	Chair

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed Partnership Members and supporting attendees to the meeting. There were apologies from Jonathan Cook Nuclear Officer, Cumberland Council. No Declarations of Interest were recorded. It was noted that a DOI form needed to be completed by Gordon Grant.

2. Approval of minutes and actions

The previous meeting minutes from 04/2/2026 were approved.

Previous Actions: 04/2/2026

Action Reference:	Description:	Assigned to:
04022026 01	A Question was raised regarding the total scope of environmental surveys that are planned. Invite the Environmental Team to provide a response to this when they provide feedback from the wintering bird surveys. completed	Kelly Anderson
04022026 02	Community Partnership Assistant to circulate the presentation slides. completed	Jodie Dougherty

3. Chairs Update

The Chair introduced Gordon Grant as the new Principal Community Engagement Manager. Gordon gave a brief overview of his professional background.

Applicant for CIF Membership Following attendance as an observer at the previous CIF meeting, Ray Williamson asked to be considered for membership of the Community Investment Funding Panel. All members agreed and the proposal was approved.

Chairs tenure The Chair advised that his current term is due to conclude in June. It was proposed by Chris Gigg and seconded by Ray Williamson that the Chairs tenure be extended by a further year. This proposal was unanimously agreed by Partnership members

4. NWS Update

Secretary of State decision Members were reminded that at the previous meeting, NWS had advised of its plans to submit its decision to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) in May 2026.

Community Impacts Case Study Intera continues its work on the Community Impacts Case Study which is anticipated to conclude in summer 2026. Once completed, the Community Partnership will consider how best to engage with the community on the findings. The study will not focus on any specific site within Copeland - it will draw on major national infrastructure projects and international GDF programmes to look at

how projects have been managed elsewhere. This will provide evidence from real-world examples on impacts, mitigations and opportunities to help inform local discussions. Andy Pratt continues to be the Community Partnership representative for the duration of the contract.

Wintering Bird Survey Sept – April The first season of Wintering Bird surveys will conclude in April. Initial high-level observations will be shared in the next newsletter with more detailed findings presented by ecologists at the Community Partnership meeting in June.

It was agreed the ecologists should include information on collaboration with organisations such as RSPB and Natural England.

HelpSesk and Social media Members noted the helpdesk report previously circulated. A range of social media activity had taken place with one enquiry directed to the website.

It was agreed that a monthly report on social media comments and website interactions will be circulated to members.

5. Public Forum

A member of the public stated their parish in Mid Copeland would like a final disposal solution for the waste to be established as soon as possible. This prompted discussion around waste packaging, long-term storage arrangements and sustainability considerations.

6. Engagement Update

Between January 2026 – March 2026 the engagement team have attended or hosted 23 engagement activities speaking with 325 people.

The presentation highlighted the range of engagement approaches that had been carried out historically e.g. drop ins, large scale events etc and outlined a transition towards a greater focus on engaging with existing community groups and events such as warm hubs, chair-based exercises etc as well as attending places such as cafes, where they may have an opportunity to speak to members of the public.

Conversations at these events covered a wide range of topics including PVP, general information regarding a GDF, GDF timeline, excavated waste and Community Investment Funding. Members noted that the topics were the same as those they received when speaking to community members.

The Partnership discussed future engagement plans with early planning already underway for attendance at agricultural shows. The Partnership also discussed the importance of effective and timely engagement following the Secretary of States decision and the need to encourage working with grant beneficiaries.

A member of the public provided additional engagement ideas.

7. Communications Update

The Communications Lead provided an overview on recent communications activity including a summary infographic outlining the Community Partnership's work in 2025. This is published on the Community Partnership's website. A full list of CIF grant recipients is also now on the Partnership website.

Planning has commenced for the Community Partnership newsletter which will be delivered to households in mid-May. New imagery featuring Partnership members, engagement activities, and CIF projects is underway. Communications will place increased emphasis on reaching female residents - identified as a need through previous Community Surveys - through tailored content, imagery, and engagement opportunities alongside the promotion of drop-in events via owned and paid channels.

It was agreed that a local woman working in the nuclear sector should be approached regarding participation in a news piece.

A member of the public suggested highlighting CIF projects across both Mid & South Copeland in the newsletters.

8. AOB / Date of Next Meeting

No issues for escalation

The next Community Partnership meeting is Monday 8th June 2026 at Thwaites Village Hall.

New Actions

Action Reference:	Description:	Assigned to:
08042026 01	Send Declaration of Interest form to Gordon Grant PCEM	AB
08042026 02	Commence circulation of monthly communications statistics	LC
0804202603	Ask ecologists to include details of any collaboration with the RSPB and Natural England in their June update	GG
08042026	Approach a local woman working in the nuclear sector regarding a newsletter interview or vlog (video blog)	RW