

Minutes
of the
Seascale Parish Council Meeting
held on
Wednesday 6th July 2022
In the Methodist School Room Seascale

Present:

Chair	Cllr David Halliday
Vice Chair	Cllr Lizzie Mawson
Councillors	Cllr John Graham
	Cllr Catherine Harvey-Chadwick
	Cllr Ken Mawson
	Cllr David Moore
Clerk	Jill Bush

Members of the Public

M Brierley
R Brierley
J Goode
M Hogg
P Latel
L McKone
Z O'Hanlon
B Parsons
K Warmott

CCC	P Turner
CALC	A Pratt

Meeting is recorded for minuting purposes

1. Apologies

Cllrs Eileen Eastwood and John Spokes

2. Announcements from the Chair

None, but was pleased to see so many members of the public attending and that they were very welcome. He further advised the meeting is recorded for minuting purposes

3. Declarations of interest by Councillors in respect to agenda items

None

4. Ratify the previous meeting's Minutes

Proposed by Cllr Graham and seconded by Cllr Moore

5. Matters arising

(5) – Railway arch mirror – Still no further information following acknowledgement from highways. The link to follow this is in last month's minutes

(11.2) Cllr Harvey-Chadwick reported following placing the enquiry for stone wall repair contractors, she has received 3 responses and will request quotes for the work, which she can

circulate to council on receipt. The Council are looking to repair this as soon as possible. Cllr Moore advised the foreshore wall was a highways responsibility and as previously mentioned, a submission should be made to highways reporting a problem. Clerk to action. **Actioned.** Reference EI/74717. Latest update – acknowledged and with the highways team (11.3) As above. Except for a submission to highways

6. To consider any planning issues

6.1 4/22/2243/OF1 - St Cleers - No Objection

6.2 4/22/2267/OF1 - Yew Barrow - No Objection

6.3 SCR-4/22/30 - Calder Landfill Extension Segregated Area (CLESA)Valley Extension EIA -Although marked confidential, this was only a consultation notice, as the current licence runs into 2023/4 and there is already a LLWR only 1½ mile away. However, it is possible any planning application will be for an extension as there is the designated area may still have space. That said, it should not exclude the residents right to know and submit their views. Subsequently the following has been submitted to CCC planning department. - It is acknowledged this has been marked confidential at this stage, however Seascale Parish Council request a Public Presentation when this application is being considered. It is of the opinion, given its close proximity, the Seascale residents have a right to know and have a right to express their views on this matter.

7 Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

7.1 Community Partnership Meeting – Cllr Halliday advised that despite the misinformation on social media Environmental permissions are in place.

MARINE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

A member of the Marine Geophysical Team gave an update on the Marine Geophysical Surveys. It was clarified that the Marine Management Organisation had granted an exemption and that the licence from European Protected Species is expected this week. It was also confirmed that there will be observers onboard the survey vessel who will monitor for sea life, in instances where visibility is poor, passive acoustic monitoring will be used. Surveys from the Cetacean Stranding Investigations Programmes have also been obtained and analysed and will be shared with the Community Partnership members.

Most asked questions on Marine Geophysical Surveys see Annex 1 at the end of the minutes

YONDER SURVEY

The Community Partnership members agreed that the Yonder Survey would commence on 5th August in Seascale and finish on the 20th August in Gosforth. It was also agreed that the business owners in the vicinity of the selected locations would be communicated with in advance to make them aware of the interviewers' activity. It was also agreed that telephone surveys would only take place if the interviewers were unable to meet the acceptable threshold of opinions obtained during face-to-face engagement. (initial questionnaire was modified)

Note: you can request further information from the library

RECRUITMENT

Applications for the roles within the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership closed on Friday 1st July and the Community Engagement Team will filter the applications with interviews taking place on the 18th July 2022. The Selection Panel will consist of the outgoing Chair, Relevant Principal Local Authority and GDF Developer. The Selection Panel will advise the Community Partnership members of their recommendations before a final decision is made. The Community Engagement Team will share the draft acceptance/rejection letters with the Community Partnership members for feedback.

POSITION OF CHAIR

It had previously been communicated to the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership

members that the current Chair would be stepping down from this role at the end of July 2022 and members had been invited to put forward their intention to stand or for their nominations. Andy Pratt had put himself forward and had received several nominations. Community Partnership members were asked if there were any changes to their intentions or nominations. No further intentions or nominations were presented. The Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership members were asked to vote and unanimously agreed that Andy Pratt would be Chair of the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership for a period of 12 months. The current Chair would also be in place for a transitional period.

CIF UPDATE

The Community Partnership members were advised that £212k of funding had been awarded until June 2022, with a further potential £375k in the pipeline for the July panel. The role of Grants Officer has now gone external with applications closing on the 15th July 2022. Members were advised that Community Investment Panel Familiarisation training was taking place and were asked to advise the Community Engagement Team if they would be interested in taking part.

LGR UPDATE

It was agreed by the Community Partnership members that a representative from the GDF Developer Team would attend the next meeting to discuss the Local Government Reorganisation with the membership.

CALC OFFICER

It was agreed by the Community Partnership members that the CALC Officer would receive press releases from the Comms Lead and the Meeting Briefing from the Secretariat.

- 7.2** The F&GP group 3 – 4 times a year, usually the week before the next full council meeting. Therefore the group will meet on Wednesday 31 August

8 Finance

- 8.1** The reconciled Cash Book Balance for June is £85,703.05. There are no outstanding payments or receipts
- 8.2** To date the authorised July payments are listed below

Creditor	Credit	Debit (gross)	VAT	Comments
Waterplus		73.86	0.32	Library water x 4 charges - May
Npower		270.39	12.88	Library Electric supply - May
Pelley Mounters		55.14	9.19	BMX track padlocks & paint etc
Catherine Harvey-Chadwick		70.00		Foreshore litter bins June
Louise Elsom		80.00		Foreshore litter bins June
Octopus Energy		28.40	1.35	Toilet Block Electric - June
Utility Warehouse		9.89	0.76	Library gas - June
EE Ltd		19.67		DAV monthly SIM maintenance
Drigg Church		300.00		Church yard donation
Net World Sports		4199.98	700.00	Coniston Avenue goalposts
Copeland BC		31.85		Library waste collection Jul - Sept incl

- 8.3** Cllr L Mawson proposed following extensive enquiries a quote from Net World Sports for Mobile goalposts £4199.98 incl VAT. Delivery within a week of payment. Arrangements will be made to remove the old goal posts. Agreed by Council. Clerk to action payment. **Actioned**

9 To consider matters pertaining to Parish Assets

9.1 Library

- Cllr Halliday reported the application for the enabling grant has been successful. The consultants have completed the initial survey. A costed survey will be required. The Council was asked if the charity take the lead. Proposed by Cllr Halliday and agreed unanimously. It is

understood it will go to public consultation.

- Whilst Shackles Off, which already provides support services, acknowledges the Winscale Club is also going to be upgraded it views all these support elements as complementary.
- Seascale is somewhat isolated from other services and the library are looking to provide a space for the Copeland financial inclusion project which incorporates the Credit Union and Citizens Advice. Both of these are useful, popular services This will be run by volunteers. It will be paperwork based and run once a month commencing 20th September.
- The charity has a new Chair, who has noted both the (covid) risk assessment and the H&S policy (transferred from CCC) need to be reviewed and any that directly affect SPC. Cllr Graham is experienced in these areas and has offered his services.
- Smoke detector needs to be repaired/replaced.

9.2 Play areas

- Cllr L Mawson advised the location of the two foreshore benches facing the sea and a noticeboard, provided by the Welcome Back Fund are as follows; the current empty plinth and the one next to it, the noticeboard will be outside the library. There may be some funding over and the proposal for BMX cycle rack has been submitted for consideration.
- Bin by Sports Hall has been removed. However, the news bins that have been purchased have a 6-week lead time, to be delivered soon. Cllr L Mawson will speak to trade waste to see if something can be arranged in the meantime. It only went missing the week-end before this meeting. Cllr Spokes can also be asked to check the CCTV, as this area is now covered.
- Meeting with Jacobs they have a job list to carry out the painting on the foreshore area, including the car park and repair the slats on the wishing well seat.

9.3 Toilet block

Nothing to report

9.4 BMX track

The outstanding issues are still to be resolved with the supplier.

9.5 CCTV

Consider using CCTV to establish when the sports hall bin was removed.

9.6 Planting for pollinators scheme

This was discussed by council, whilst supportive of the scheme, it was problematic as to the best locations, as some of the areas are covered by the grass cutting contract and need to be cut regularly as they are prone to bramble and other unwanted plants. It was proposed an expression of interest be submitted with a request for advice on the most suitable areas.

Actioned

10 To consider matters relating to highways and transport

- 10.1** Viking Way - CCC Turner reported this is due to be strimmed and confirmed it will continue to be maintained by a contractor, this is currently out to tender.
- 10.2** Coffin Corner - CCC Turner also reported the chevons are in the warehouse and are listed to be installed, pending team availability.
- 10.3** Radar trap – CCC Turner was asked if there was an update, he advised there wasn't, however, evidence to date has shown it to be effective.
- 10.4** Layby parking limit - CCC Turner was asked when this was to be confirmed and advised it will go out to public consultation.
- 10.5** Car parking/inconsiderate parking, and speeding – Initially, albeit briefly, the parking in the car park reduced, but one of the problems is the shuttle bus, which picks up and drops off in the car park. This has resulted in the build-up of Sellafield workers parking here again, they wait for the bus in their cars and then get back into their cars when they have been dropped off. It is known they cannot park for free in Whitehaven and Egremont but appear to assume they can abuse the free parking in Seascale. These workers are again taking at least 105 of the 110 spaces, whereas only 45 spaces should be taken by Sellafield permit holders. Subsequently they are denying

residents and visitors to the village to park here, and this is having a negative impact on local businesses. Further, these selfish drivers also leave the car park by via the entrance, instead of the exit point. Subsequently they cannot see what is already coming down this single lane stretch of road. They appear to assume they can just drive out, without stopping, under the bridge and up the road, without any consideration to traffic coming the other way. To help eliminate t=all these problems the shuttle bus stop must be relocated to the edges of the village.

Indiscriminate and inconsiderate parking continues around the village, causing much frustration. Further, it would appear in their quest to leave the village they often exceed the speed limit, including past the school, up to the radar trap at the edge of the village toward Gosforth.

It is understood Sellafield is willing to speak to village representatives to discuss this matter, with this in mind, an invitation will be issued to Sellafield representative(s) to attend the Parish Council September meeting. Cllr Graham to provide the contact details to invite, Clerk to action.

Actioned

11 Urgent items raised by Councillors

- 11.1** Cycle path very overgrown – the path over the bridge from the golf club is highways responsibility. The cinder path is Sellafield/SUSTRANS responsibility. However, stretches of this is no longer viable. An alternative goes across the golf club; however permission is not granted.
- 11.2** St Cuthbert’s flower bed – the jubilee bed replaced the NHS bed; however this is not being maintained and understandably the Church would like it maintained or removed. A request for volunteers to maintain this will be placed on social network.
- 11.3** Footpath along field by boat sunk and causing trips – Cllr Graham will conduct a survey and Cllr L Mawson can ask Jacobs to carry out this repair.
- 11.4** Cllr Moore reported Copeland Community Fund – NDA have committed more funds. This means there will be approximately £20,000 p.a. available each year for 3 years to each parish. SPC would receive funding, for example, for the library community hub project.
- 11.5** Cllr K Mawson reported the lamppost outside the play school has been removed. Cllr Moore also reported 5 lampposts have been removed in the school area. Along Gosforth Road from the Seascale park area to Halsenna Road. SPC would like to know the replacement schedule. When the shorter days commence this will be a safety hazard, given the speed of the traffic along this stretch of road and would like a speed camera here. Andy Pratt to provide contact details.
Actioned. Update – it would appear the streetlights have become footpath lights and no longer the responsibility of Copeland BC
- 11.6** Recycling fencing has still not been repaired. Copeland BC to be contacted for repair date.
Actioned

12 Correspondence

- 12.1** The local churches have collected £120.00 and contacted the parish council as to where these could be planted in the village. The Council noted the jubilee tree planted in Santon Way cost over £80.00, so it is likely only one, maybe possibly two trees could be planted. It also acknowledged parish land is somewhat limited and it must be selective in choosing a location, because as a tree grows to maturity it can become a nuisance to residents living close by. However, a proposal was raised to suggest that the school is approached, as it is understood this is likely to be very welcome. This was agreed by council and more importantly, members of the public who attended this meeting, also approved this suggestion. Clerk to action. **Actioned**
- 12.2** CNC Open Day. – Cllr Graham & K Mawson expressed an interest to attend. Cllr Moore to provide the contact details. **Update:** Interested attendees to be submitted by Cllr Moore

13 Members of the public questions submitted to Council

- 13.1** B Parsons

- “The minutes have been ratified with incorrect information”, that Cllr Moore did not say he had blocked her emails because of the vexatious content and furthermore the minutes had been put under ratified minutes when they don’t get ratified until this evening.
The clerk admitted this was an error and this had been rectified. Cllr Moore disputed the June minutes were inaccurate. The process is for the draft minutes to be circulated to the Cllrs before they go on the website, and then checked again in the open meeting. Ms Parsons continued at length to dispute this and was further advised it is on the recorded minutes.
- She claimed there have been bikers riding on the foreshore by the wishing well. This was disputed not only by other members of the public, including at least one attending the meeting. Cllr L Mawson advised another member of the public had been speaking to these bikers. They are from Norway to attend the TT’s and had stopped at Seascale so they could take photos with the Isle of Man in the background. However, Ms Parsons continued to complain at length and made a disparaging comment about other members of the public attending the meeting.
- Complained about the Bailey Lodge footpath and cycle path.
- She disagreed the wall she has previously complained about was not a highways matter and is an outstanding application and continued at length regarding this. When one of the Cllrs tried to explain B Parsons said loudly “Be quiet” and continued to complain, stating if this was not to be considered until the new council commences, then the wall should probably not be there. She was advised perhaps it is better to wait and see what the application is.
- Asked when the car park is repainted if the 45 permit holder spaces will be repainted in blue. The Council advised they would be.
- Further complaints about the car park. See item 10.5 above.
- Accused Cllr L Mawson of calling her ‘barmy brenda’, batty’ and ‘mad’ and asked she stop doing this. Cllr Mawson denied she had not said this and would not call her that. Ms Parsons then accused the Cllr that she admitted saying this. Cllr Mawson clarified she would continue not to say this.

13.2 M Hogg understood every member of the public was entitled to attend and every right to speak. The council confirmed this was so.

The Chair explained to those were attending the meeting, possibly for the first time, that only the Cllrs can amend the minutes. The procedure is that any member of the public who wishes to comment on the content of the previous month’s meeting minutes, it is recorded in the minutes of the next meeting minutes. This is what will happen regarding B Parsons comments on the June minutes.

14 Dates of forthcoming meetings

**F&GP group meeting Wednesday 31 August
Full Council Meeting Tuesday 6th September**

ANNEX 1

Most asked questions on Marine Geophysical Surveys

A marine geophysical survey is due to take place off the coast of Mid and South Copeland for around three weeks from late July/early August onwards.

It will be undertaken by experienced marine geophysical survey contractors Shearwater GeoServices on behalf of the GDF developer, Nuclear Waste Services (NWS).

1 What does the survey involve?

Marine geophysical surveys have been conducted extensively world-wide since the 1960s. This survey will be undertaken by Shearwater GeoServices using their specialist vessel SV Bly. The area being surveyed is at least 7km off the coast of Copeland.

Marine geophysical surveys involve creating a sound from a source (high-pressure air) just below the water surface (4-5 metres below). The echoes that reflect back from the different layers deep underground are collected using receivers (hydrophones) trailed as streamers behind the vessel (3-4 metres below the surface). The streamers are 2 km long.

2 Why is it being done?

The GDF developer needs to understand whether the deep geology is potentially suitable to host a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

3 Why is the survey being done in the summer season?

The summer period of July/August was selected for three key reasons:

- It is the least sensitive time of year for wildlife eg outside of spawning and breeding seasons, seasonal migration patterns, blooming season for zooplankton etc.
- Summer is also the best time for minimising weather-related downtime and obtaining the best survey data because the sea is generally calmer than in winter, spring or autumn.
- We have coordinated with Eskmeals firing range to carry out the survey at a mutually agreed time when the range is not in active use.

4 Does the GDF developer have all the necessary permissions to carry out this survey?

Yes, it has complied fully with all requirements.

The GDF developer is relying upon an exemption to a marine licence, which is dependent on satisfying Natural England who will advise the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) that it has met all of its environmental requirements and obligations to avoid, minimise or mitigate impacts to marine ecology, the Marine Conservation Zones, and other wildlife covered by Habitats Regulations. It is also necessary to satisfy other relevant stakeholders that navigational risk has been assessed and will be mitigated against.

It has also secured a European Protected Species (EPS) licence, from the MMO as part of its commitment to safeguard the environment. [Wildlife licences: when you need to apply - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wildlife-licences-when-you-need-to-apply)

5 What is an exemption and what does this mean for the survey?

The surveys involve putting scientific instruments/equipment in the sea. This requires a marine licence - unless an exemption applies.

Government legislation set the conditions for an exemption.

The planned geophysical surveys meet all the conditions for an exemption and the GDF developer has notified the MMO, as required, about its intention to rely on the exemption.

In coming to this conclusion, the GDF Developer has consulted:

- Natural England (the statutory nature conservation body advising the MMO)
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), which produces legislation and guidance on *maritime* matters
- Trinity House, which safeguards shipping and seafarers

All are satisfied that all environmental and navigation requirements and obligations have already been met and impacts are minimal.

The 'exemption' [Marine Licensing exempted activities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

6 How long do you expect the seismic testing to last?

The testing will take 17 days but this may be affected by factors such as bad weather or technical delays.

7 Is the testing done 24/7?

Yes, it is a 24/7 process, but the seismic sources will only be active for around 50% of the time as the vessel has to navigate around the survey area.

8 How much sound are you using and how does this compare with other surveys undertaken?

The survey is relatively small-scale in comparison to other offshore industries: it will use a 630 cubic inches source compared to 5,000 cubic inches sources routinely used in oil and gas exploration.

9 What notifications have been given to sea users?

Organisations representing leisure users have already been notified by email. Further notifications will be issued before operations start. Commercial fixed-gear fishermen in area have already been contacted.

10 Will the survey have an impact on the marine wildlife in the area?

Marine wildlife can be affected by a range of underwater sounds such as operation of off-shore windfarms, shipping, industrial fishing, geophysical surveys, coastal construction, oil drilling, sea-bed mining/dredging and sonar-based navigation, traffic passing over bridges.

The GDF developer is committed to environmental protection and will follow guidance from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and other relevant organisations. As agreed in discussions with Natural England, the GDF developer is implementing a number of measures including:

- Keeping the duration and size of the survey area to a minimum.
- Undertaking the survey at the least sensitive time of year for wildlife.
- Using a sound source that is significantly smaller than similar surveys elsewhere in the world whilst ensuring it can provide the geological data required.
- Gradually starting the noise source at the beginning of the survey to give animals/mammals time to leave the area. This 'soft start' won't start until any mammals are more than 500 metres away from the vessel.
- Using marine mammal observers and [passive acoustic monitoring](#) (widely used by ecologists and conservation researchers) to help ensure that no marine mammals or other wildlife are nearby when the sound source is started.
- Using guards (like a protective cage) around the underwater equipment to prevent animals, such as turtles, cannot get caught or harmed.

11 How will the vessel avoid mammals?

It will use marine mammal observers, who are independent contracted specialists, and passive acoustic monitoring (this entails listening for mammals under the water) to scan for mammals both day and night. This will enable the vessel to avoid them.

12 Is there any data on current levels of stranded/dead mammals washed up on the UK shore?

Since 2010, the UK *Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme* (CSIP) has reported over 100 strandings on Cumbrian beaches. The majority of these were harbour porpoises.

The underlying causes of stranding events are not always clear but can include both natural (eg illness, starvation, physical injuries from other marine animals etc) and man-made causes (eg bycatch, boat strike or underwater noise) and can happen anywhere there are marine mammals.

Additionally, the WWF have estimated that on average 3 harbour porpoises die in UK waters every day. Nearly 20 per cent of those found washed up on beaches have been killed as a result of accidental capture in fishing gear (<https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/harbour-porpoises-killed>).

13 Will there be an independent study before the marine survey starts to help ascertain how many fish and mammals normally wash up on our beaches?

Strandings are recorded by the CSIP, which is funded by Defra, a government body.

(NB: Cetaceans are a type of aquatic mammals that includes whales, dolphins and porpoises.

Cetaceans have lungs, meaning they breathe air.)

Since 1990, CSIP has recorded over 12,000 stranded cetaceans across the UK (this is an equivalent of over one per day).

For Cumbria, the GDF developer has obtained data from CSIP: the summer months between 2010 and 2019, particularly during August, saw the highest average and total number of strandings on local beaches. It is therefore possible that a stranding could occur during July/August 2022. The risk of the survey leading to any strandings is very low due to the survey design, location and the protection measures being put in place.

CSIP provides the data freely to any member of the public or organisation. Although the data covers cetaceans, NWS is requesting further data on turtles, seals and basking sharks - if available - for the Irish sea.

14 Can CSIP's work continue during the testing period?

Yes, the survey will not prevent reporting or investigations into strandings and the GDF developer will continue to liaise with CSIP during and after the seismic survey has been completed.

15 Can a stranding study be done after the survey has finished to see if there is any difference in strandings?

CSIP's work will continue to record any strandings and, using the data they hold from the last ten years, it will be possible to see if there is any change.

16 Will there be beach patrols to check no large mammals are becoming beached during the survey?

We do not anticipate this will be necessary as the survey is implementing measures to protect marine mammals at sea.

17 What mitigation is being put in to ensure any beached mammals are returned to the sea ASAP?

We will not be putting any specific mitigation in place as there are already specialists who do this. If a member of the public finds a stranded animal, CSIP advise they should report this to:

- Live animals = British Divers Marine Life Rescue (01825 765 546) or the RSPCA (08705 555 999).
- Dead animals = [UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme » How to Report a Stranding \(ukstrandings.org\)](https://www.ukstrandings.org)

CSIP is responsible for recovering dead animals and then undertaking autopsies. Fewer than 15% of the strandings reported in inshore waters near Cumbria were investigated over the last 10 years.

When CSIP does investigate a stranding, this covers:

- Causes of death
- Presence of diseases

- Environmental contaminant levels
- Reproductive patterns
- Diet
- Other aspects of the general health of cetacean populations in UK waters.
- Impacts from human activity (this includes underwater noise)

18 What impact will the survey have on the zooplankton that krill feed on that then feed the smaller things that can't simply swim out of the way?

There is very limited research about sound effects on phytoplankton or zooplankton. The peer-reviewed studies noted in the GDF Developer's marine environmental assessment (which accompany the permissions for the surveys) show that impacts, including mortality, are possible. However, phytoplankton and zooplankton are widely distributed in the sea, and so only a fraction of them could be impacted by the survey. Additionally, the survey is happening outside of the main season for zooplankton blooms so any impact will be minor, short-term and not impact on wildlife that feed on the zooplankton.

19 Other documents talk about underground aquifers in this area what effect will that have on the project?

Our survey is non-intrusive and takes place with a small sound source. The main sandstone aquifers will be unaffected.

20 Who is the GDF Developer?

Radioactive Waste Management Limited operating with the name of Nuclear Waste Services is the GDF Developer. References to the GDF Developer are to Nuclear Waste Services.