

WINSCALES PARISH COUNCIL

General Meeting of the Winscales Parish Council numbered (041-Jul) held on **Monday 18 July 2022**,
6.30pm, at the **Hunday Manor Hotel**

Parish Councillors summoned to attend: Cllrs Michele Twiss (Chair), Hilary Harrington (Vice Chair), Carole Armstrong, Peter Gaston (PC & ABC Representative Councillor for Winscales), Temp ABC's Cllr Michael Heaslip and Paul Scott. Invited, Cllr Jimmy Grisdale (ABC Representative Councillor for Winscales)

Attendees: Cllrs Michele Twiss (Chair), Hilary Harrington (Vice Chair), Peter Gaston, Cllr Michael Heaslip (Temp ABC)

Minutes (041-Jul)

1. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and apologies for absence were given from Cllr Grisdale, Cllr Scott, Cllr Armstrong.

2. There were no Declaration of Interest to note,

3. **Public Participation Session**

Mary Bradley, Chair of Allerdale (GDF) Community Partnership attended the meeting joined by Katie Arnott. The purpose of attending parish council meetings is to ensure parishes know what a Geological Disposal Facility is! this is a deep underground storage facility where radioactive waste when cooled enough be placed into storage blocks will be taken deep underground and sealed off. Aerial photos were shown of what a GDF looks like although mostly underground there is a need for a 1km square industrial park building that would require Road and Rail access to and from Sellafield. It will take approximately 3 years to obtain positive data with great prospects to even consider planning bore holes and invasive works as it is extremely expensive.

The GDF cannot happen without the consent of the community that is affected by it. A policy states a willing community that is tested by consultation, vote, referendum or similar. If a community doesn't support it, it won't happen.

For an area, it is a major infrastructure project and will come with many £millions of pounds for things like new railway lines, road upgrades, accommodation builds for workers, visioning work is to be released shortly.

Predicted for the project is that it will create many jobs from construction through to scientific and everything in between. Benefits to supply industry and local economy. Current employees will move across to the new site.

Currently, and more relevant to parishes is that whilst initial work is being undertaken, they have access to apply for grants/funding (only exclusions are self and statutory funding). The Clerk AM requested leaflets on applying for funding, funding could be through the parish councils, schools, and any groups within the search areas.

Should an area be deemed suitable and test drilling commences, that community will have access to £2.5m pounds per annum.

Mary informed the group that the partnership members are all volunteers, her role is to remain neutral, ensure that a meaningful dialogue is held with the search community, of which there are three other areas being explored.

Mary urges all parishes to have an agent or representative to attend the special interest groups of localities when the invitations go out for the next meeting so they can report back to parish councillors.

Key questions asked by councillors:

(Q). How was Allerdale chosen – (A). An interested party expressed a view that Allerdale had a potential to host a GDF. Councillors asked the name of the councillor who put Allerdale forward for this proposal and on who's authority did he do this without the proper consultation with the people living in and around the Allerdale area.

(Q). All towns and villages in Allerdale have mining tunnels running beneath them, with infrequent collapses, would this exploration work make these old mine shafts and tunnels more unstable. Recently Workington has lost a whole row of terraces being demolished because of a sinkhole caused by collapsing mines.



(Q) Why not use Sellafield, Sellafield is a huge site, and the waste is already there, so no transportation would be required (A) this area is also being looked at.

(Q) if this is so safe and will make no change to the landscape why has the Lake District been discounted in the search area as it is the least populated area. And why is Silloth discounted. (A) these have been discounted because of tourism, people would not want to come when they hear that this facility is under them. (Response to this Answer Q) is this not true of all tourism in the coastal towns?

Councillors thanked Mary and Katie for the information and the discussion closed at 18:55

4. There are three Parish Councillor Vacancies with no parishioners showing an interest in coming forward. ABC Temporary councillors Michael Heaslip and Paul Scott continue to support the Parish by attending meetings. Cllr Heaslip suggested that an Election be called in May 2023 and if no one comes forward to hand WPC over to Workington Town Council, something to think about.
5. The minutes of last meeting held on 16 May 2022 were accepted and signed by the Chair as a true record and there were no matters arising from the minutes.
6. The Tree Planting for Cumbria Academy for Autism for the Queens Platinum Jubilee the clerk and Julian Smith, Open Spaces Officer (ABC) has both been liaising with the Academy to see what two trees would best suit the area and what the children will choose, the trees will be planted in the early Autumn. Clerk to order a plaque when in place and request photos for the website and local papers.
7. Representative Borough and County Councillors Session - Cllr Gaston informed the meeting that councillors had all up-to-date Briefings and he had nothing further to add. There was no representative councillor for CCC in attendance. There were no parish issues to report.
8. Other Business relating to Parish Matters, the clerk has drawn up a Grant and Donation Application Form which should be sent out to applicants requesting a donation or a grant from the parish. Currently the parish respond to a donation letter and hear nothing else about how the money was used to benefit the parish. By completing the form, parish councillors have a trail of whom they have supported and can request a report at the year end. It also fits in with the transparency legislation. The clerk asked for this form to be adopted by the parish council - all agreed that the forms become part of the process in handing out donations and grants.
9. Correspondences received since last meeting was a letter from Mark Jenkinson MP asking for a response from parishes on a Call for Evidence on short-term holiday letting in England, a letter from the Department of Digital, Culture, Media & Sport – councillors agreed that if a comment is forthcoming that it go directly to the original letter and not to the MP. Letter from Citizens Advice Allerdale requesting a donation - clerk to forward newly adopted form. Calc Emergency Contacts and Centres - CALC Emergency Planning form – all agreed that this is duplicating work from ABC.
10. **Planning Notifications:** Discuss applications/decisions since last meeting
Application No: FUL/2022/0085 - Proposed detached roof truss and floor joist manufacturing building. Councillors had no objections to this planning application.
11. **Financial Review/Accounts:**
Bank Statement – balance on 26/05/2022 £10,808.68, Income received in this period £0.00, paid out in this period £126.22, closing balance of 24/06/2022 £10682.46, this matches with the WPC Income and Expenditure Accounts report submitted to councillors by the clerk. The Schedule of payments was discussed – (Cheque 67 lost in post, cancelled at bank) Rocket Sites webpage reissued cheque No. 72 for £114. Cheque 73 Hunday Manor Hotel for Room Hire.
12. **Date of next meeting**
[Dates in advance 3rd Monday by-monthly]
19 September 2022, 21 November 2022, 16 January 2023, 20 March 2023 - Clerk has booked the room hire for the subsequent dates to end of financial year.

Cllr Heaslip gave his apologies for 19 September 2022 meeting

Meeting closed at 20:00

Minutes Ref: - (041-Jul) by Angela Meek

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