

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 21ST
JULY 2022 COMMENCING 10.00AM IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES**

PRESENT: Cllr S Faulkner (In the chair), Cllr G Brace, Cllr G McGrath, Cllr J Brown, Cllr T Lees, Cllr R Peter, Cllr E Ormesher and Mrs Cath Jopson (Clerk) – Cllr B Crellin arrived at 10.10am - 4 members of the public were also in attendance

Before the commencement of the meeting the chair informed the meeting that it would be held within the Standing Orders and that questions can only be asked by a show of hands.

057/22: APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllr B Kelly, Cllr D Burness, Cllr D Billing

058/22: EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC:

There were no items that required the exclusion of the press or public

059/22: DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

Cllr McGrath declared an interest stating that he was the chair of South Copeland GDF Partnership Group.

060/22: OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

A spokesperson from the 4 members of the public who were in attendance gave a summary of their concerns to the councillors. (A copy of this attached to the minutes). Following a healthy discussion with councillors and the members of the public the meeting recommenced. A list of questions was also handed to the council for their perusal and response. **Action: Clerk to reply with answers to questions received**

061/22: TO DISCUSS A PROPOSED MTC STATEMENT FOR WEBSITE:

Two draft statements had been circulated prior to the meeting. After comparing the two statements a second draft was agreed to put together going forward. **Action: Clerk to arrange for draft statement to be circulated prior to posting on website**

062/22: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No further business was noted.

The meeting was closed at 10.50am, the chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

Signed: (Cllr Faulkner) Dated: 3rd August 2022

Statement to be read out at Millom Town Council Extraordinary Meeting, 21st July 2022 on behalf of Millom and District Against the Nuclear Dump.

We are here to protest about the part Millom Town Council are playing in the siting of a GDF here and allowing the seismic surveys to go ahead - beginning next week!

The seismic surveys have been used in the past in connection with gas and oil and wind farms but it is only relatively recent that the amount of damage they cause marine life is coming to the surface. You are colluding with this.

Only one side of the situation is being given to the public by the Community Partnership - that of the developers. As a member of the so-called partnership that is your position.

There is substantial opposition to the GDF being sited off Haverigg and you are not representing us.

Why are you, through the so-called 'Community Partnership' giving one-sided information - that of the developers?

We, your constituents, have had no say in anything,

- about being put forward as a site for the GDF,
- the seismic surveys, or
- you joining the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership
- Some of us have written to the Council complaining but we are still awaiting responses.

We are launching our website today that will provide much needed information to counter balance that being provided by the Community Partnership. If you truly are neutral you will include our website on your website and promote it on your Facebook page in the same way you have promoted the Community Partnership.

The website explains how an individual from Bootle put forward Millom to site the GDF, how only four members of Copeland Council took the decision to support this. The GDF will take waste from all over Britain (and possibly further afield).

The website provides links to government websites, media coverage, the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership and identifies possible negative effects of the GDF including blighting of the area, effects on tourism and imagining the area becoming a building site for something as big as the channel tunnel that will take years and years to construct. The whole area will be blighted despite millions being spent trying to attract tourism to this beautiful part of Cumbria with multi-million projects like the 'iron line.'

We urge you to promote our website to enable the public to gain a more balanced view so that should it come to the vote they have both sides of the argument and can make a choice from a more knowledgeable position.

We also urge you to consider what it means you supporting the 'Community Partnership' this is NOT a neutral stance. A genuine neutral stance in a truly democratic and meaningful way would be you withdrawing from the Community Partnership and providing information about both sides.

We are not responsible for the leaky ponds at Sellafield.

Why should Haverigg be the dumping ground for Britain's nuclear waste? And possibly even further afield?

MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL

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6 Newton Street
Millom
Cumbria
LA18 4DR

Millom & District Against the Nuclear Dump

XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX

Millom

Cumbria

28th July 2022

Dear XXXXXXXXXXX

Questions asked to Millom Town Council

Following your attendance at the extraordinary meeting of the Millom Town Council I write in answer to the questions raised:

1. Have you discussed possible effects of blighting – **Answer -No - there has been no evidence brought to the Council.**
2. How will you support house owners their properties lose value – **Answer – This is a question for the developer and the Government and not for Millom Town Council.**
3. Have you discussed possible effect on current businesses, in particular those based around tourism (b&bs) – **Answer – No, should those businesses approach the council we would welcome discussion**
4. Have you discussed possible effects on tourism in general – **Answer – No – the Council have discussed the possibility of having a local tourism officer funded by the GDF Community Funding that is available.**
5. Have you discussed how being in partnership is being seen and used by Government and NWS as a willing community – **Answer – We don't believe that being in the partnership is that we are accepting to be a willing community. It is only the opposition groups that are making this allegation.**
6. Have you asked your constituents if they want you to be a member of the partnership? – **Answer – No – As we are their elected representatives it was up to the council to decide how best to represent all constituents, therefore, it was agreed that the best**

way to serve our community was to be involved in the discussions.

7. Have you asked constituents if they want a GDF in their area? – **Answer – No because ultimately it will be the community that make the final decision should the geology prove to be suitable and a GDF be proposed in the area.**
8. Seismic Surveys has been used in the past to explore oil and gas and to erect windfarms. However, more and more evidence suggest they endanger marine life of all kind. Have you looked into this and discussed the possible consequences – **Answer – No – Millom Town Council have not commissioned any seismic surveys.**
9. Have you asked your constituents if they want the seismic surveys to happen – **Answer – No – Millom Town Council have not commissioned any seismic studies**
10. Are you communicating with your constituents – at every stage – about the biggest thing that has ever happened to this area with potentially huge ramifications? **Answer – Yes – through our membership in the Community Partnership as there has been no decision made that a GDF will be built in South Copeland and we are in the early stages of the investigative process to understand the local geology.**

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to send them to us.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Cath Jopson
Clerk to Millom Town Council