

**WHICHAM PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON MONDAY 1 DECEMBER 2021 AT SILECROFT VILLAGE HALL
COMMENCING AT 07.30PM**

PRESENT: Cllr A Fell (Chair) Cllr M. Cumming, Cllr P Rand, Cllr S Millar, Cllr R Jopson,
Cllr M Sharp and Cllr S Wilson

B. Cllr G McGrath

Kelly Anderson RWM and 1 other

121/21: APOLOGIES: Cllr C Lowery (isolating),

122/21: Public Participation

It was resolved that Agenda item 5 Public Participation be brought forward to enable the business raised to be conducted.

Kelly Anderson from RWM gave an overview of the GDF project with the focus of the facility being underground out at sea and the surface facility taking up approx. 1 square kilometer.

Information was given about the proposed Community Partnership, the initial proposed participants and how it was envisaged how the Partnership would work in the future. Meetings would be monthly with bimonthly meetings of a sub group who would be tasked with managing the community investment fund of £1m, She stressed that the Community Partnership was there to put forward the views of the communities involved and the funding was for the benefit of the community.

The test of public support would happen only once and that would be triggered by Copeland Borough Council.

The Community Partnership would be formed and carried on even if parishes did not get involved.

A survey of the sea bed geology was to be undertaken in the summer 2022 and that would determine whether the GDF would go ahead or not, off the Cumbrian coast.

Ms Anderson concluded with encouraging the Parish Council to be part of the proposed Community Partnership.

Ms Anderson was thanked for her presentation and left the meeting.

123/21 Exclusions of Press and Public

Agenda item 9 – Human Resources required all press and public to be excluded

124/21 Declarations of Interest

None

125/21 To approve the Minutes of the following meetings:

3 November 2021

22 November 2021 – extraordinary meeting

The Chair was authorized to sign the minutes as a true record of the meetings

Proposed Cllr Rand, Seconded Cllr Millar

126/21 Reports from County Council and Borough Councillors

None

127/21 Applications for Development

None received

128/21 Financial Records

128/21.1 Payment of invoices

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Copeland BC	Light Maintenance	£ 106.10
J Hillier	Toilet cleaning & replacement hose	£ 365.99
S A Jopson	Repairs to Kirksanton play area fencing	£2760.00
Royal British Legion	poppy wreaths	£ 36.00
A Fell	Empty Septic tank	£ 288.00

The contractor reported that there was still significant evidence of fat being disposed of via the septic tank from the café operator

128/21.2 Receipts

Beach Car park	£41.24
Church Car Park	£50.29

129/21 Village Matters

129/21.1 To determine if the Parish Council is to join the proposed Community Partnership

After discussion it was resolved that the Parish Council considered it had no option but to join the proposed Community Partnership to enable it to represent the Community better as part of the process of identifying a location for a GDF.

Vote: For 5, Against 1, Abstention 1

The vote was carried.

129/21.2 To elect a representative to the proposed Community Partnership

Proposed by Cllr Rand, Seconded by Cllr Sharp and resolved that Cllr Cumming would be the representative for Whicham Parish Council, with the Clerk deputizing.

130/21 Human Resources

The Clerk was asked to remain to hear the outcome of the independent investigation into complaints against her conduct.

B. Cllr McGrath reported that the investigation concluded that the Clerk had no case to answer. The recommendation was that the Complaints Procedure be reviewed.

131/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – the next meeting will be Wednesday 5th January 2022 commencing at 7.30pm in Silecroft Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2115 hrs.

Signed..... Dated.....