

Goldcliff Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held at the Schoolroom Goldcliff 12th February 2026 at 7:30pm

Present: - Chair, Councillor Wayne Fox (WF). Cllrs: - Jeff Rowland (JR), Elaine Ford (EF), R Preece (RP), J Waters (JW) , Julie Evans (JE) and Bob Dowsell (BD)

Also Present: -

Apologies for absence: - None Necessary.

Minutes correct as of 11/12/2025: Proposed Councillor JR , seconded Councillor JE

The focus of the meeting was the Solar scheme so standing matter were addressed only where necessary

1198 – Roads and Infrastructure No Issues reported

1199 – Drainage and NRW - Nothing to report and no new meetings arranged.as far as NRW concerned

1200 – Planning– No Issues reported

1201 –Property maintenance – No Issues reported

1202 - The British Heart foundation has supplied us with a Defibrillator, and an offer of training in its to be followed up. On reading the care instructions it was decided to purchase a can of “GT85” to facilitate lubrication of the locking mechanism. There is a need for the pads on the Defibrillator based at Greg Waters property to be replaced, the Council will pay for this replacement at £71.94, Proposed JR Seconded EF.

1203 - Village Hall field Trust – Ongoing..

1204 – Poor Ground. The wording for the Contract to be revised to ensure a Break in yearly rental is included

1205– Training – New and existing Councillors in :- Code of Conduct Training to be held at the Orchards Whitson on 18/2/2026 at 18:00hrs. WF & EF to arrange Finance & Governance. BD Legal and Meetings. EF to review how we present our training strategy in most appropriate manner.

1206 - Financial Rates. As the Schoolroom and Whitson Hall get Charitable Status there is a minimal charge for the Schoolroom and none for the Hall.

A long discussion followed re the Next Proposed Solar Farm Project as to the Councils response which is as follows :-

GOLDCLIFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Feedback as part of the statutory consultation for the proposed Future Energy Llan-wern Solar Project

Whilst recognising the need to invest in renewable energy, we believe that solar panel systems should be deployed to warehousing and light industrial roofs where there is no loss of land and where some or all of the power can be utilised in the vicinity, being efficient in terms of cost and avoiding strain on the grid. Development on farmland, where deemed unavoidable, should not be on protected sites.

The proposals claim that there would be no material impact on the levels habitat – this has evolved over many years and the long term impact of any development in the longer term cannot be known. We note the studies undertaken in respect of the existing solar scheme show improvements to biodiversity, but these appear to arise not from the solar scheme, but improved management of the land and reed system which is more a reflection on the earlier management of the land and reed system than the solar scheme itself.

In addition to providing the protected habitat, the land and reeds provide flood management. The system is already coming under increased pressure from surface water from housing and other developments around Newport entering the system quicker during periods of heavy rain and presumably this will get worse with climate change. The solar panels focus rainwater on the areas surrounding the panels and by their very nature absorb sunlight and deflect wind which would otherwise dry the land. This impacts the water retention in the ground and presumably leads to water entering the reed system quicker with the related flood risk similar to that being experienced from the housing developments.

We understand that the proposed site is attractive for investment in terms of access to the grid, but this does not justify the impact on the finely tuned habitat and flood risk it will bring.

If the scheme were to progress, we would expect the following areas to be addressed:

Community benefit – directed at the communities directly impacted by the scheme, rather than the wider community within the council areas involved, secured in an appropriate manner and with arrangements ensuring balanced governance.

Traffic management – appropriate arrangements which avoided the issues created by the existing scheme, to include off-site compounds avoiding HGV traffic on the roads in the vicinity of the site. The upgrade of local roads before works commence and reinstatement afterwards.

Noise management – piling works within restricted hours.

Revocation of planning permissions in the event that remedial action was not taken in respect of any adverse future impact on the habitat or flood risk identified post commencement.

Reinstatement – appropriate arrangements at the end of the requested term.

There being no further business the meeting closed 20:41 Hrs

Next Meeting 12/3/2026 at 7:30pm