

**EXMOOR PANEL
MINUTES
Tuesday 6 September 2016
Winsford Village Hall, Winsford**

Those present:

S Pugsley (Chair)	V White, Cutcombe PC
M Rawle, Dulverton TC	N Thwaites, Dulverton TC and WSC
M Willison, Dulverton TC	A Vigers, Exmoor PC
D Powell, Luxborough PC	M Mileham, Winsford PC
B Flanagan, Winsford PC	F Bray, Winsford PC
T Howard, Withypool & Hawkridge PC	A Collins, Withypool & Hawkridge PC
PC C Fitzpatrick and DC B Corrick, Avon and Somerset Constabulary	D Peake & K Harwood, SCC Highways
T Saunders, ENPA	K Mills, Porlock PC and WSC
R Manicom, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue	
B Lang, WSC	

1 Have Your Say

- 1.1 In the absence of any members of the public the Chairman agreed that this item would be incorporated with the usual Police Issues item later on the agenda.

2 Apologies for Absence

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from A Spalling (Luxborough PC), P Webber (Selworthy and Minehead Without PC), J Hickman (Exford PC), J Anson (Cutcombe PC), C Knight (Brushford PC) and F Nicholson, SCC

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 June 2016 and Matters Arising

- 3.1 Agreed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3.2 Matters arising:

1.1 – The Police had confirmed that their non-attendance at the previous Panel meeting was due to having to attend a priority call.

9.3 – Councillor K Mills reiterated her concern that Exmoor National Park did not appear to be very welcoming to travelling caravans and suggested that it might be worth looking at how Dartmoor National Park dealt with the issue.

11.7 – Councillor K Mills reported that the Broadband Airband Project for Dartmoor and Exmoor was still progressing well.

4 Somerset Waste Partnership

- 4.1 David Mansell, the Development and Monitoring Manager of Somerset Waste Partnership attended the meeting to update the Panel on latest developments.

- 4.2 He explained that the Partnership managed two main contracts relating to waste collection and waste disposal with the current contractors being Kier and Viridor.
- 4.3 The contract area covered approximately 250,000 households and 0.5 million population.
- 4.4 Since 2000, waste disposal has gone down and recycling has gone up from 15% to 53% but there was still room for improvement.
- 4.5 In this regard, a pilot scheme had been trialled whereby recycling collections carried on at a weekly basis with more plastics being recycled, with general waste being collected every three weeks. The results were positive both in terms of increasing the recycling level and 86% of the people involved in the pilot indicating that they would prefer the new arrangement to be continued. The Partnership was, therefore, looking to try and implement such a new pattern and the best time to introduce it would be from 2017 when the vehicle fleet would need to be updated in any case. Any final decisions would need to be considered by all the relevant partners including the local councils. There was also an ongoing project to try and reduce the use of landfill sites for waste disposal but this was still in the development stage with no definite decisions having been made to date.
- 4.6 In terms of recycling centres, certain changes were being introduced including the requirement for permits for larger vehicles which were free as long as it was for household waste. In addition, charges were being made for certain materials such as asbestos.
- 4.7 Further information, including how to apply for permits, was available from the Somerset Waste Partnership's website.
- 4.8 Questions were then asked as follows:
- There had been problems at Simonsbath where rubbish had spewed from recycling vehicles and caused a mess and David confirmed that this should not occur, and should such incidents happen again they should be reported immediately so that they would be stopped.
 - The issue of camper vans using the waste recycling centres was raised and David confirmed that he understood that any such vehicles over 3.5 tonnes in weight would be prohibited.
 - Would the new system enable all plastic materials to be recycled? It was confirmed that whilst a wider range of plastics including pots, tubs and trays will be recycled, there may still be certain types of material such as cling-film that would not be recyclable at this stage.
 - Could the compost material be purchased in bulk? It was confirmed that bulk purchases would be delivered upon application to the Partnership.
- 4.9 The Chairman thanked David for his attendance and a very informative presentation.

5 Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Issues

- 5.1 Rob Manicom, Watch Manager for Porlock station attended and confirmed that the station had 14 calls since the last meeting. South West Ambulance Trust had changed

their processes so did not use the fire service co-responders as much as they had done before.

- 5.2 There were still issues regarding the number of personnel which was also a problem for the Dulverton station so there would be an advertising campaign to try and recruit new staff.
- 5.3 Rob was hopeful that the station would be allocated a new rapid intervention vehicle early in 2017.
- 5.4 In response to concerns from the representatives of Dulverton Town Council about the sustainability of the Dulverton station, Rob indicated that a new Watch Manager should be appointed in the near future and recruitment issues were symptomatic of fire crews across the country. There was, nevertheless, a very effective system for ensuring that all stations had adequate cover at any one time.

6 West Somerset Flood Group

- 6.1 Councillor Brenda Maitland-Walker attended to update the Panel regarding the West Somerset Flood Group.
- 6.2 Brenda confirmed that this was a voluntary group with several parishes being members and encouraged all parishes to join (there was no charge!).
- 6.3 The Group had recently been awarded a Princes' Trust Community Award which they were very proud of which came with a sum of money which was proposed to be used to create a website providing useful information on the issue.
- 6.4 The Group fed into the West Somerset Flood Board which was administered by West Somerset Council and had representatives from many relevant agencies.
- 6.5 This was a very effective way of drawing funding into West Somerset for flood alleviation schemes with over £160,000 being spent to date.
- 6.6 Karin Harwood of Somerset Highways who was a member of the Board undertook to produce a list detailing how this money had been spent which could be circulated to all Exmoor Panel members.
- 6.7 Specific mention was made of the build-up of gravel at Withypool and the problems this caused and it was suggested that the Parish Council should join the West Somerset Flood Group and raise this issue.
- 6.8 The next meeting of the Flood Group was due to be held on Wednesday 19 October 2016 at 2.30 pm at Porlock Village Hall. Invited speakers would be Jacob Forgham from the Civil Contingencies Unit, and Dan Martin from SCC Flood and Water Management would also be there to provide an update.
- 6.9 The Chairman thanked Brenda for her attendance and illuminating presentation.

7 Police Issues and Have Your Say

- 7.1 PC Charlie Fitzpatrick attended and reported that over the three month period approximately 350 calls were made to the police although only a relatively small number of these resulted in an official crime figure.
- 7.2 Including himself, there was a team of four officers that covered the area.
- 7.3 Specific mention was made of anti-semitic graffiti that had occurred over three parishes in public toilets and PC Fitzpatrick appealed for anyone to let them have any relevant information that could help them catch the culprit(s).
- 7.4 In response to a question, the panel was advised that the reported thefts from cars had dramatically dropped during this recent summer period.
- 7.5 DC Bob Corrick also attended as he had special responsibility for the badger cull that was currently being undertaken and had started a few days ago.
- 7.6 In response to a question, it was confirmed that it had appeared that there were less protestors active in West Somerset during the current cull probably due to there being a greater number of cull areas across the South West.
- 7.7 PC Fitzpatrick concluded the police presentation by stating "if you report it, we'll sort it!".

8 SCC Highways

- 8.1 This was a shorter item than usual due to the fact that the Highway Wardens meeting had been held earlier that evening prior to the Panel meeting.
- 8.2 Karin Harwood and David Peake from Somerset County Council Highways reported on some specific initiatives in Dulverton regarding surface dressing areas.
- 8.3 Concern was raised regarding the lack of work being done to grips/gripes and the Highways representatives confirmed that there was no funding left to deal with such matters during the current financial year and it may be worth the relevant parish councils raising this as an issue with their local County Councillor.
- 8.4 In response to a question, the Highways representatives confirmed that they would check that the new 30 mph speed limit signs in Winsford had been erected in the correct locations.
- 8.5 In response to a concern, it was agreed to look at the repainting of the white give way line at Union Street, Dulverton following a serious accident at this site.
- 8.6 There was then a debate expressing concern at road safety issues that were occurring due to hedges overgrowing and it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Somerset Highways Authority on behalf of the Exmoor Panel expressing concern at the lack of hedge trimming being undertaken in the Exmoor Panel area in the interests of road safety.

9 Exmoor National Park Authority Issues

- 9.1 Tessa Saunders confirmed that the draft Exmoor National Park Local Plan process was progressing with hearing sessions recently having been held with the Inspector who was considering modifications. Such modifications would need to be signed off by the Exmoor National Park Authority hopefully by the end of 2016 and these modifications would then be the subject of a further consultation period.
- 9.2 The Chairman confirmed that an application was being made to the Heritage National Lottery Fund for a sum of approximately £70,000 to research into historic signposts signs and provide monies to repair those signs of greatest interest; the bid should be submitted in the Autumn.
- 9.3 The Chairman reminded those present that the next meeting of the Exmoor National Park Parish Consultative Committee was to be held at Withypool Village Hall at 7.00 pm on Thursday 15 September 2016.

10 Parish Lengthsman Scheme Update

- 10.1 Dulverton Town Council representatives reported that the Dulverton Clerk will be writing to all participating parishes indicating that unless a supporting committee was established, the Town Council would be making an administrative charge to all parish councils to cover the Town Council's costs in running the scheme.

11 Items brought forward by Parishes

- 11.1 The CCTV camera scheme at Wheddon Cross – representatives of Cutcombe Parish Council reminded Panel members that a request had gone to neighbouring parishes to make a contribution of say £25 towards ongoing costs to ensure the camera scheme could be run properly and expressed a wish that these and perhaps other parish councils would make a contribution.
- 11.2 South West Ambulance Trust – concern was raised as to the reference in the Fire report that the Ambulance Trust was making less use of fire co-responders and it was agreed that a representative from the Ambulance Trust be invited to a future meeting of the Panel to discuss this and other related matters.

10 Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

- 8 November 2016 at 7.00 pm – Winsford Village Hall, Winsford
- 17 January 2017 at 7.00 pm – Winsford Village Hall, Winsford
- 2 March 2017 at 7.00 pm – Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm