

THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETING

I hereby give you notice that a Meeting of the Exmoor Panel will be held at the Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross on Thursday 23 January 2014, to transact the business detailed on the Agenda below.

**EXMOOR PANEL MEETING
Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross
Thursday 23 January 2014**

7.00 pm

“HAVE YOUR SAY” – an opportunity for members of the public to raise any issues regarding crime prevention and communication with the Police

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 November 2013 and Matters Arising
3. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
4. Ambulance Service
Simon Edwards, Commissioning Manager to attend to talk on the current provision and address some of the key changes
5. Police Issues
6. Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service Issues
7. SCC Highways – Winter Water Management
8. Exmoor National Park Authority Issues
9. Parish Lengthsman Scheme & Update
10. Items to be brought forward by Parishes (please submit in advance if possible)
11. Dates and Venues for 2014/2015
 - 6 March 2014 at 7.00 pm – Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross
 - 19 June 2014 at 7.00 pm – Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross
 - 2 September 2014 at 7.30 pm (Warden’s Meeting at 6.30pm) – Winsford Village Hall
 - 4 November 2014 at 7.00 pm – Winsford Village Hall
 - 20 January 2015 at 7.00 pm – Winsford Village Hall
 - 5 March 2015 at 7.00 pm – Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross

**EXMOOR PANEL
MINUTES
Thursday 7 November 2013
Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross**

Those present:

S Pugsley (Chair)	
J Davies, Cutcombe PC	R Coyne, Dulverton TC
M Rawle, Dulverton TC	M Ellicott, Exford PC
A Sparling, Luxborough PC	G C Sparling, Luxborough PC
D Walker, Skilgate Parish	B Flanagan, Winsford PC
P Griffin, Wootton Courtenay PC	L Whetlor, Watchet TC
S Wilson, Dulverton Patient Group	F Nicholson, SCC
D Peake and K Harwood, SCC Highways	T Saunders, ENPA
K Mills, WSC	B Lang, WSC
PCSOs B Stevens and K Williams, Avon and Somerset Constabulary	
F Gabb, M Andrews and M Carnell, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue	

1 Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 M Washington-Smith, Huish Champflower PC; T Staples Winsford PC; J Hickman, Exford PC; N Thwaites, Dulverton TC; District Councillor K Turner, District Councillor K Ross, District Councillor B Heywood and John Edwards.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 September 2013 and Matters Arising

- 2.1 Agreed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, subject to under the list of those present F Staples be amended to T Staples, Winsford PC.
- 2.2 There were no matters arising.

3 Police Issues

- 3.1 PCSO Bryan Stevens and PCSO Katherine Williams attended. Apologies were given for the absence of the Exmoor Panel police representatives as they had been called away at short notice to an incident and the two PCSO's who attended had stepped in to cover them. Crime figures for the Exmoor Panel area were not therefore available and would be emailed in due course for circulation to parishes.
- 3.2 It was reported that it was hoped within the very near future that Exmoor would have a new dedicated beat officer recruited. In general terms, crime figures for the Panel area were quite low although they had been distorted over the past few months due to the carrying out of the badger cull. The crime figures for the Exmoor Panel area provided after the meeting are attached as an appendix to these minutes.
- 3.3 In response to a request from Exford Parish Council to receive the traffic training for volunteers, the police representatives undertook to liaise directly with the parish council and get the arrangements finalised.

4 SCC Highways

- 4.1 In response to a question, in regard to the reporting of falling trees on the highways, the public were recommended to call 0845 345 9155 between 8am and 6pm on Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm on Saturday morning to report any incidents through Somerset Direct. Out of hours it would be best to call the police using the 101 number.
- 4.2 Concern was raised regarding the issue in the winter of cars getting stuck on ungritted roads and whether it was possible for road closure signs to be erected. Whilst this was a difficult issue to tackle at the moment due to the various rules and regulations, reference was made to a Community Resilience in Somerset project where agencies were working together initially to focus on flooding problems whereby the power to close roads was being permitted. The next stage would be to consider extending this initiative to cover winter conditions as well and this was generally welcomed by the Panel.
- 4.3 David Peake reported that the highways authority were issuing winter information leaflets to all parishes which would include confirming that supplies of salt could be collected from the Minehead highways depot on 23 November 2013 between 9am and 1pm.
- 4.4 Road and drainage plans were handed out to those parishes who had asked for them with a request that local people let him know if they had any information that was currently missing. The offer was also made for other parishes who had not requested plans to do so.
- 4.5 Concern was raised by two members of the public in regard to the inconvenience caused by recent road closures in Dulverton and particularly the detrimental impact it was having on local traders.
- 4.6 Karin Harwood reported that this problem was being exacerbated by some of the directional signs being stolen and that this was only serving to prolong the works and inconvenience to all concerned.
- 4.7 There was a specific request for clear signage at the beginning of any works requiring road closures that set out the precise times of when particular roads were to be closed.
- 4.8 There was also a request for when the road closures were not in operation during a period of works that all signs both instructional and advisory be knocked over to avoid any confusion and frustration.
- 4.9 The highways representatives agreed that they would go back and talk with the private contractor to try and minimise disruption to local people, traders and holiday makers during the current works and urged the local community to do all it could to spread the word that stealing of signs was counterproductive.
- 4.10 Reference was also made to similar problems being experienced relating to Wessex Water works in Porlock.
- 4.11 Roger Webber suggested that perhaps what Lady Street in Dulverton needed was a flyover! In response to a question it was confirmed that any damage to

directional signs could be reported to the highways authority either online or by phone.

- 4.12 The highway representatives advised that an opportunity to fund a significant drainage improvement scheme to the highway between Wheddon Cross and Exford had occurred. To do this effectively it would require a road closure possibly for up to nine weeks from 20 January to 28 March 2014 between 9am and 3.30pm Monday to Friday. The representatives stressed that this was only a suggestion and they would welcome the views of the local community before making a final decision.
- 4.13 Panel members were concerned at the inconvenience but generally felt this opportunity to have the works should not be lost and it was agreed that representatives from Exford and Cutcombe Parish Council would meet with Somerset County Council highway representatives as soon as possible to agree an appropriate way forward.
- 4.14 Representatives from Dulverton Town Council thanked the highway representatives for all their prompt response to remove blockages in the river at Dulverton.

5 Exmoor National Park Authority Issues

- 5.1 Tessa Saunders confirmed that the draft local plan for Exmoor is out for consultation from 4 November 2013 to 13 December 2013.
- 5.2 All parish and town councils in the Park area had been sent a copy and consultation meetings were scheduled to be held on 11, 13, 18, 21 and 26 November. If parishes were struggling to make the closing date of the consultation period could they please let the National Park know as soon as possible so individual arrangements could be agreed.
- 5.3 All parishes and local communities were encouraged to participate in this process as it was important as it would shape policies that would affect the lives of local communities in the future.

6 Parish Lengthsman Scheme

- 6.1 A request was made to the relevant district councillors whose parishes were participating in the scheme to urge their parishes to comply with the various administrative requirements to ensure that the scheme could run smoothly.
- 6.2 At this stage the intention was to continue with the scheme into the 2014/15 financial year.

7 Dulverton Patient Group

- 7.1 A presentation was made by Sandra Wilson, Chair of the Dulverton Patient Group for the Exmoor Medical Centre. She explained that the group had been set up in January 2004 and currently had 20 unpaid volunteers whose main role was to support the local doctor's practice and help to improve services and facilities for the local patients.

- 7.2 The Group were active on particular projects such as fund raising for a car to deliver prescriptions and tried to work with the practice to meet the needs of patients with such difficult issues as the introduction of new appointment systems.
- 7.3 The Group participated in the West Somerset Health Forum and linked with other nearby patient groups from other surgery practices.
- 7.4 The County Councillor explained the wider context of the Clinical Commissioning Group for Somerset which covered nine GP federations and it was confirmed that a key role for patient groups was to influence medical services at the county wide level.
- 7.5 Sandra was keen to encourage new people to join the Group and was happy to come and make further presentations to the Panel in the future.

8 Fire Service Update

- 8.1 Concerns had been raised by Dulverton Town Council regarding the loss of experienced fire fighters and the future of the co-respondent system.
- 8.2 Representatives from the fire service reassured the Panel that steps were being taken to recruit new fire fighters and a recruitment evening was planned for 3 December 2013.
- 8.3 In addition it was recognised that the new rules regarding co-responders and being expected to respond on their own did cause particular challenges for rural areas and that the service was being proactive to support co-responders to find a compromise that would enable this vital service to be continued.
- 8.4 The fire representatives also stressed that a lot of emphasis was being placed on preventative work and this should have a positive impact on fire figures.
- 8.5 The fire service was developing community plans and encouraged people to go onto the website to contribute – www.dsfire.gov.uk
- 8.6 If Panel members had any issues or concerns then the best contact was Mark Andrews, Station Manager Tel. 01823 365351 / 07880 735265 Email mandrews@dsfire.gov.uk
- 8.7 In response to a question it was confirmed that recruitment for fire fighters at Porlock was proving a challenge given the local demographics.

9 Items to be brought forward by Parishes

- 9.1 A paper was circulated regarding issues relating to the provision of broadband in rural areas which is appended to the minutes of this meeting.

10 Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

- 23 January 2014 at 7pm at Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross
- 6 March 2014 at 7pm at Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Planned Works in Exmoor Panel Area

Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross 7 March 2013

	Parish/Town	Location	Description	Start	Finish	Duration
Completed						
SCC	Exford	Mill Lane & Edgcott Road	Drainage works			Completed
SCC	Cutcombe	Dunkery Hill Road	Drainage works.			Completed
SCC	Minehead Without	Bratton Lane	Repairs to Bratton Ford.			Completed
SCC	Exmoor	South Molton Road, Blue Gate	Drainage work.			Completed
SCC	W & Hawkridge	Marsh Close Hill	Verge/embankment repairs.			Completed
SCC	Withypool & H	Kitridge Lane	Drainage works.			Completed
SCC	Exford	Wellshead Lane	Drainage works.			Completed
SCC	W & Hawkridge	Tarr Steps	Re-assembly of clapper bridge.			Completed
Ongoing						
SCC	Exton	A396 Hare Path Cross	Verge/embankment/carriageway repairs. Temporary road closure. Temporary traffic signals.	18 Feb 8 Mar	8 Mar 15 Mar	
Future						
SCC	Dulverton	B3223 Lady Street/Northmoor Rd	Carriageway repairs. Temporary road closure.	11 Mar	13 Mar	3 days
SCC	Dulverton	Hollam Lane	Carriageway resurfacing at Hollam Cross. Temporary road closure.	11 Mar	12 Mar	2 days
SCC	Brompton Regis	Renford Knapp	Water main replacement. Temporary road closure.	11 Mar	26 Apr	7 weeks
SCC	Dulverton	Perry New Road	Verge/embankment/carriageway repairs. Temporary road closure.	18 Mar	28 Mar	2 weeks
SCC	Exford	Muddicombe Lane	Embankment stabilisation and carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closure.	18 Mar 25 Mar	22 Mar 28 Mar	5 days 4 days
SCC	Dulverton	Marsh Bridge	Carriageway repairs. Temporary road closure.	28 Mar	28 Mar	3 days
SCC	Timberscombe	A396 Ash Bridge	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures in the evening.	9 May	10 May	2 evenings

APPENDIX A

SCC	Dulverton	B3223 Lady Street/Northmoor Rd	Water main repairs. Temporary road closure.	14 May	16 May	3 days
SCC	Brushford	B3222 Riphay Cross	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures during the day.	20 May	24 May	5 days
Private	Various	Wimbleball Lake Area	IRONMAN 70.3 UK	16June	16June	1 day
SCC	Winsford	Upcott Lane	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures during the day.	TBA	TBA	3 days
Other						
SCC	West Somerset	A39 Bridgwater to Lynmouth	A39 Emergency Routes Scheme. Please take a look at the composite plan that is on display tonight. Please send any comments to countyroads-westsom@somerset.gov.uk . Installation/modification of road signs to be completed on site by end of March 2013.			

Subject: [New post] Just one broadband village left to resist BT pressure
From: Br0kenTeleph0n3 <comment-reply@wordpress.com>
Date: 07/11/2013 06:36
To: charles@woolmer.org.uk

Respond to this post by replying above this line

New post on Br0kenTeleph0n3



Just one broadband village left to resist BT pressure by Br0kenTeleph0n3

If BT is the Roman empire, then Tove Valley is looking like a small Gaulish village filled with indomitable villagers.

The red line indicates where TVB plans coverage.

The red line indicates where TVB plans coverage.

Tove Valley may soon be the only one of the six proposed rural broadband projects invited to talks with culture secretary Maria Miller to get funding, and BT is so determined to get it to throw in its lot with the monopolist telco that a BT manager has at best misrepresented an earlier rural project.

The Abthorpe Broadband Association (ABbA), which has run a wireless broadband service in the Tove Valley area in Northamptonshire for 10 years. Following discussions with the local parish council, it has asked DEFRA/BDUK for money from the £20m Rural Community Broadband Fund (RCBF) to fund a superfast broadband project, Tove Valley Superfast Broadband (TVB) . It has also asked the county council to cut out its postcodes from the proposed BT coverage footprint.

The service, which went live in May, is based on a fibre optic feed into the Lois Weedon school. This is then transmitted via Wi-Fi to nearby villages and properties. TVB is charging £120 a year for up to 30Mbps, plus £175 for sign-on and equipment.

Following a meeting between Giles Ellerton, business development director NGA for BT Group, and TVB chairman Eric Malcomson, Ellerton wrote to Malcomson on 14 June 2013 to confirm the risks of going it alone. BrokenTelephone has seen the letter, which is marked "Strictly commercial and in confidence".

Ellerton wrote, "If Tove Valley Broadband is not able to secure an ISP partner to offer value added services to end users, there is a real risk of a digital divide occurring again among the different communities in which neighbouring communities will have access to a range of services offered by a choice of ISPs...BT Retail(which manages BT Sport) has not to date used networks similar to Tove Valley Broadband network because of the costs and complications as discussed... Experience has shown that where independent small fibre networks have been deployed, large national ISP's (sic) have failed to engage or use the network for the reasons already discussed."

(This is the same issued highlighted by New_Londoner, believed to the Twitter 'handle' of

Openreach CEO Liv Garfield, in relation to fibre altnet Gigaclear in an ISPreview interview in which it claimed to have had more than 400 enquiries.)

Ellerton went on to say that if Northamptonshire agrees to cut the Tove Valley postcodes out of the BDUK intervention area (the area which BT is contracted to supply) the change would be "irreversible". If the project was later found to be "not compliant" with state aid funding rules, ABbA would be responsible for repaying DEFRA in full.

"In the case of an application by the Rothbury community in Northumberland for the RCBF scheme, it was felt by DEFRA that the financial risk of failure by the operator (Grey Sky (sic) Consulting) was too great and the funding conditions required that the project then had to be novated (a new contract substituted for the old one) into the Local Authority BDUK project."

GreySky's CEO James Saunby concurs with the risks BT identifies, but provide a different picture as to what happened.

"Although GreySky acted as the 'accountable body' throughout the development of the project, we are a consultancy company. With the addition of the RCBF funding, the project took on a scale that would never have been appropriate for GreySky to take any financial risk associated with its delivery," he says.

"GreySky is a consultancy, not a service provider or network operator. To achieve the preferred solution, the council needed to take responsibility for the project. Because of the way the project had developed, this presented some challenges to the council. This solution (novation) was encouraged by Defra as a means of most effectively managing the risks of the project. However, I am not aware of any statement from Defra that 'the funding conditions required it.'

"It is also not clear to me that this would apply to other projects where they had been developed by communities with the intention from the outset of maintaining an ongoing involvement with the project."

BT did not respond to requests to explain its use of the language used in Ellerton's letter to ABbA.

Ellerton wrote that BT's solution for Tove Valley is to keep all but "the final 10%" of homes inside the BDUK coverage area, and to use RCBF money "to go as far as possible" into the remainder.

"The community can (then) use a Build and Benefit model to provide payment in kind through items such as self-dig or access to way-leaves. You might also be able to contribute through your own locally branded Demand Stimulation programme to achieve 60%+ take up through a pre-registration exercise. A final option could be the community provides private funds to procure a fibre cabinet(s) to service the Tove Valley Broadband project area, along the same lines as Islip in Oxfordshire."

Malcomson referred BrokenTelephone to a flyer prepared for the 2013 TalkTalk Digital Heroes awards in which he said the project had already connected more than half the 400 potential customers in its area at speeds above 30Mbps. "Supplying 200 households and

businesses reflects the levels of take up we predicted in our business plan. It goes to show the demand there is for superfast broadband."

Nearby villages have asked to join the Tove Valley scheme. "Bradden and Helmdon would nearly double the potential size of our market, but the community model we already have in place will work on a larger scale. It will also give us the opportunity to significantly increase our bandwidth and supply yet faster broadband. The future is very exciting."

Br0kenTeleph0n3 | 2013/11/07 at 06:35 | Tags: [BDUK](#), [broadband](#), [BT](#), [Digital Britain](#), [Fibre](#), [wireless broadband](#) | Categories: [Broadband](#), [Internet](#), [News](#) | URL: <http://wp.me/p1ysPw-z6>

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