

**EXMOOR PANEL  
MINUTES  
Thursday 2 March 2017  
Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross**

**Those present:**

S Pugsley (Chair)	C Knight, Brushford PC
J Anson, Cutcombe PC	V White, Cutcombe PC
M Rawle, Dulverton TC	N Thwaites, Dulverton TC and WSC
A Vigars, Exmoor PC	A Sparling, Luxborough PC
D Powell, Luxborough PC	J Parsons, Timberscombe PC
D Godsall, Winsford PC	T Howard, Withypool & Hawkridge PC
J Davies, Withypool & Hawkridge PC	F Nicholson, SCC
K Harwood, SCC Highways	D Peake, SCC Highways
K Martin, SCC Highways	T Saunders, ENPA
B Stevens, Avon & Somerset Police	B Heywood, WSC
B Lang, WSC	R Foxwell
Dr E Ford, Somerset CCG Chair	
O Michelmore, Ops Manager Stroke Services Somerset Partnership	

**1 Apologies for Absence**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from M Ellicott (Exford PC), P Webber and S Barney (Selworthy and Minehead Without PC), R Manicom (Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service) and K Mills (WSC).

**2 Have your Say**

2.1 The Chairman agreed that any public safety issues should be raised under the police item later on the agenda.

**3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 January 2017 and Matters Arising**

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

3.2 Matters arising:

10.10 – It was noted that the appropriate details relating to the Environment Agency contact for damage to bridges had yet to be circulated.

**4 Reduction in the number of stroke beds in Williton Hospital**

4.1 Dr Ed Ford, Interim Chair of Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group and Oonagh Michelmore, the Operational Manager Stroke Services Somerset Partnership attended the meeting to present this item. Andy Heron, Chief Operating Officer of Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust submitted his apologies due to illness.

4.2 The item had been placed on the agenda due to local concerns regarding the recent reduction of stroke beds at Williton Hospital.

- 4.3 Dr Ed Ford advised the Panel that the current preference for patients who had suffered strokes was for rehabilitation arrangements to be delivered at the home of the patient rather than in hospital as evidence had shown that this had better outcomes.
- 4.4 Oonagh Michelmore went through a presentation regarding the arrangements in place for early supported discharge (ESD) across Somerset. A copy of the presentation is attached at Appendix A to the notes of this meeting.
- 4.5 The Panel were advised that the ESD service was offered consistently throughout the County and therefore extreme rural areas such as Exmoor were not disadvantaged. In addition, if wider support was needed for a particular patient over and above rehabilitation from a stroke then this could be provided in the home through the “living better” scheme.
- 4.6 A general concern was raised that notwithstanding the stroke issue, that it would make sense to keep as many beds as possible available in the local community for patients that need them. It was explained that the main problem with the system at present related to too many people with serious illnesses waiting to go to the main hospitals and ensuring that patients in the main hospitals that needed to be discharged to their homes were discharged quickly enough to make room for the patients that really needed the hospital beds.
- 4.7 Returning to the stroke issue, it was stressed that if anyone suspected that someone was having a stroke to dial 999 as a quick response was essential and if people could be treated within a 4 hour window then their chances of making a near-complete recovery were totally enhanced.
- 4.8 In response to a concern that there was an agenda towards trying to close down community hospitals, Dr Ford reassured that there was a commitment to provide care as close to the community as possible.
- 4.9 The Chairman thanked the two representatives for attending the meeting and answering questions.

## **5 Somerset West Lottery**

- 5.1 Bruce Lang from West Somerset Council presented this item and circulated an information sheet which is attached at Appendix B to the notes of this meeting.
- 5.2 Essentially, in partnership with Taunton Deane Borough Council, West Somerset Council had applied to the Gambling Commission to set up a lottery supporting local good causes.
- 5.3 Should this application be successful, it was intended to launch the lottery on Tuesday 16 May 2017, with the public launch of the lottery itself taking place in June 2017.
- 5.4 As a first step Panel members were asked to let the Council know of any good causes, including sports clubs, community groups and charities, that may benefit from this lottery so that they can be contacted and invited to the launch event.
- 5.5 There were several questions raised as it was recognised that this was a new and an unusual step for a council to take. It was acknowledged that until the initiative was tried it would be difficult to predict whether or not the initiative would be a success.

## **6 Police Issues**

- 6.1 PCSO Bryan Stevens attended the meeting and outlined the crime figures in the Exmoor Panel area since the last Panel meeting.
- 6.2 He also reinforced a particular challenging issue regarding illegal deer shooting in the Exmoor area and requested the public to report it to the police to give them a chance of catching the culprits.
- 6.3 He also stressed that if anybody suspected that deer shooting was happening (now) they should call 999 as it was a very serious offence.

## **7 Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Services Issues**

- 7.1 In the absence of a representative attending, a written report had been submitted and is attached at Appendix C to the notes of this meeting.

## **8 Somerset County Council Highways**

- 8.1 Karin Harwood and David Peake attended the meeting and presented their planned works in the Exmoor Panel area – the report is attached at Appendix D to the notes of this meeting.
- 8.2 Karin reported on the positive news that three flood alleviation schemes had been awarded totalling £45,000 in the Exmoor area at Luxborough, Luckwell Bridge and Porlock and would be implemented during the 2017/18 financial year.
- 8.3 Various other detailed points were raised by members of the Panel and addressed by the Highways representatives.
- 8.4 In response to a general question about who was responsible for the cutting of hedges, it was made clear that it was down to the landowner and if there were any problems spotted in this regard, could they please be reported to the Highways Authority.

## **9 Exmoor National Park Authority Issues**

- 9.1 Tessa Saunders attended the Panel meeting and confirmed that the Exmoor National Park Authority Local Plan process was still ongoing with the hope that the Plan would be adopted in early Summer 2017 once the Inspector had completed his consideration of suggested modifications following the recent consultation period.

## **10 Parish Lengthsman Scheme Update**

- 10.1 Representatives of Dulverton Town Council reported that invoices had been sent out to all participating parishes and asked that Clerks be requested to settle up their accounts as soon as possible.
- 10.2 It was confirmed that a reduced scheme would continue for the 2017/18 financial year.

## **11 Parish Issues**

- 11.1 Dulverton representatives noted that no representative from the Dulverton Fire Station had attended Panel meetings recently and it was suggested by the Chairman that they

make contact with the local fire station to encourage them to either attend or at least submit a written report.

- 11.2 Signpost Officer – the Chairman reported that Charlotte Thomas had been appointed as Signpost Officer in a project facilitated by Exmoor National Park Authority and suggested that she be invited to a future meeting of the Panel.

## **12 Dates and Venues of Future Meetings**

- 8 June 2017 at 7.00 pm – Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross
- 12 September 2017 at 7.30 pm (Highway Warden's meeting at 6.30 pm) – Winsford Village Hall, Winsford
- 7 November 2017 at 7.00 pm – Winsford Village Hall, Winsford
- 16 January 2018 at 7.00 pm – Winsford Village Hall, Winsford
- 1 March 2018 at 7.00 pm – Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm