

**EXMOOR PANEL  
MINUTES  
Thursday 3 March 2016  
Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross**

**Those present:**

S Pugsley (Chair)	C Knight, Brushford PC Clerk
V White, Cutcombe PC	J Anson, Cutcombe PC
M Rawle, Dulverton TC	M Willison, Dulverton TC
M Ellicott, Exford PC	A Sparling, Luxborough PC
D Powell, Luxborough PC	C Wilkins, Winsford PC
T Howard, Withypool & Hawkridge PC	R McArthur, ENPA
J Dawson, Avon & Somerset Constabulary	F Nicholson, SCC
D Peake & K Harwood, SCC Highways	B Heywood, WSC
N Twaites, WSC; Dulverton TC	B Lang, WSC

**1 Have Your Say**

1.1 No issues were raised under this item.

**2 Police Issues**

2.1 PCSO J Dawson reported that there had been 132 calls made to the Force since the last meeting relating to the Panel area.

2.2 The largest element of these were 35 relating to road incidents.

2.3 There had been 4 non-dwelling burglaries including one only the day before and everyone was requested to be vigilant in this regard.

2.4 Specific mention was made to a particular scam which had been carried out to post offices in Cutcombe and Timberscombe as well as elsewhere in West Somerset.

2.5 In response to a discussion relating to the stealing of quad bikes, the importance of taking crime prevention measures was stressed as such crimes can be very difficult to solve.

**3 Apologies for Absence**

3.1 Apologies for absence were received from R Manicom and P Collings of Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, Councillor J Davis (Cutcombe PC), T Sanders (ENPA) and J Edwards.

**4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 January 2016 and Matters Arising**

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

4.2 Matters arising:

(a) Paragraph 13.6 – Councillor V White reported that the issue regarding concerns as to the future provision of public conveniences in the Exmoor area was raised at the Exmoor National Park Parish Forum when those present were advised that the provision of public conveniences was not seen to be a direct part of the role of the Exmoor National Park Authority. Nevertheless, it was mentioned that projects relating to the provision of public conveniences which included sustainability elements would be eligible to apply to the Sustainability Fund.

(b) Paragraph 14.2 – It was reported that litter picking initiatives have been arranged for Exford on 13 March 2016 and Winsford on 3 April 2016, and that in Dulverton there are monthly litter picking sessions undertaken by regular volunteers.

## **5 SCC Highways**

- 5.1 Karin Harwood and David Peake from Somerset County Council Highways attended for this item and went through planned works for the Exmoor Panel area as set out in Appendix A to the minutes of this meeting.
- 5.2 Elements of the schedule presented to the Panel were as a direct result of severe flooding that occurred on the weekend of 6 and 7 February 2016. This had resulted in unplanned emergency works needing to be scheduled in, particularly at Luxborough and this had the effect of delaying works originally scheduled elsewhere in the area, although the intention was still to complete all planned works.
- 5.3 The Luxborough emergency scheme was estimated to cost in the region of £30,000, with efforts being made to identify additional funding and it was aimed to complete these works by the end of March.
- 5.4 The emergency situation at Nutcombe Bottom was likely to take longer to repair and so the road could be closed for several months.
- 5.5 The highway representatives advised parishes that there had been rare instances of the gritter lorries being unable to pass through certain villages due to inconsiderate parking and if this was to occur, then following a warning, any settlements in question would be removed from the gritting list. All local communities were therefore asked to work with the highways authority to ensure that such instances were minimised in future.
- 5.6 Various questions were raised in regard to detailed matters including the provision of diversion signs, broken manhole cover at Ash Lane, Winsford, the timing of the Sticklepath road closure, tree felling on the road between Brushford and Dulverton and the provision of the virtual footpath in that vicinity, “ice” signs at Withypool and the condition of Withypool bridge. The highway representatives made a note of these matters and would report back as necessary.
- 5.7 The representatives from Exford and Winsford wished to express their thanks to both the Somerset County Council and the West Somerset Council for excellent work in cleaning the highways and street sweeping.
- 5.8 The Panel were delighted to hear that in the view of David Peake, the roads in Somerset were maintained in a far superior condition than the highways in his home town of Bolton!

5.9 The Chairman thanked the County Council highways representatives for their attendance.

## **6 Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Issues**

6.1 Whilst the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service representatives submitted their apologies, respective written reports in regard to Porlock and Dulverton fire stations had been provided, were circulated at the meeting and are included as Appendices B and C to the minutes of this meeting.

## **7 Exmoor National Park Authority Issues**

7.1 Ruth McArthur reported on the Exmoor National Park Authority Local Plan timetable.

7.2 The next stage was for the Exmoor National Park Authority to sign off the draft Local Plan at a meeting to be held on 5 April 2016. The draft Plan would then be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in May following which the Inspectorate would examine the Plan, including holding public hearings. This could be quite a lengthy process and could run beyond the summer/autumn 2016. Once this had been completed the Inspectorate would issue a report which would then be consulted on before the Plan could be finally adopted by the Exmoor National Park Authority.

## **8 Parish Lengthsman Scheme Update**

8.1 Representatives from Dulverton Town Council confirmed that all interested parishes had been written to on 24 February 2016 seeking confirmation of the hours that they wished to purchase from the Lengthsman. Responses from Cutcombe, Exmoor and Selworthy and Minehead Without parishes were still awaited at the time of the meeting.

8.2 Once all responses had been received, the contract would be agreed for a further 12 month period.

## **9 Items brought forward by Parishes**

9.1 It was agreed that arrangements be made for representatives from the following organisations to attend either the next or a subsequent meeting of the Panel:

- Somerset Waste Partnership
- West Somerset Flood Group

9.2 County Councillor F Nicholson confirmed that the authority had included an additional £150,000 into its budget for 2016/17 to fund additional gully clearance across the county.

9.3 Reference was made to the historic signpost project and a meeting that was due to be held on 11 March 2016 commencing at 10am to which as many parishes as possible were encouraged to attend.

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

- 9 June 2016 at 7.00 pm – Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross
- 6 September 2016 at 7.30 pm (Highway Warden's meeting at 6.30 pm) – Winsford Village Hall, Winsford

- 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 8.30 pm

## Planned Works in the Exmoor Panel Area

Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross 3 March 2016

	Parish/Town	Location	Description	Start	Finish	Duration
<b>Completed</b>						
SCC	Selworthy	Tivington Heights	Verge/carriageway repairs.		Completed	
SCC	Timberscombe	Church Street	Repairs to highway retaining wall.		Completed	
SCC	Withypool & H	Chapel Lane	Repairs to highway retaining wall.		Completed	
<b>Ongoing</b>						
WW	Dulverton	B3222 Station Road, Battleton	Water supply work. Temporary traffic signals. Water supply work. Temporary road closure.	4 Jan 8 Feb	24 Mar 18 Mar	12 weeks 6 weeks
DCC	Bampton	A396 Exeter Road, Cove	Safety barrier repair work and carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closure.	25 Jan	13 May	16 weeks
SCC	Nettlecombe	B3190 Sticklepath	Drainage works. Temporary road closures during the day.	22 Feb 29 Feb 7 Mar 14 Mar 21 Mar	26 Feb 4 Mar 11 Mar 18 Mar 24 Mar	5 days 5 days 5 days 5 days 4 days
SCC	Wootton Courtenay	New Road	Verge/carriageway repairs. Temporary road closure.	29 Feb 7 Mar 14 Mar	4 Mar 11 Mar 18 Mar	5 days 5 days 5 days
SCC	Luxborough	Vellors Way	Carriageway reconstruction. Temporary road closure.	15 Feb	11 Mar	4 weeks
SCC	Dunster	Nutcombe Bottom	Damage to bridge. Emergency road closure.	26 Feb	-	-
<b>Future</b>						
SCC	Luccombe	A39 Minehead Road	Drainage work between Porlock and Allerford. Temporary traffic signals.	14 Mar	18 Mar	5 days
SCC	Cutcombe	B3224 Summerway, Wheddon Cross	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures during the day.	14 Mar	17 Mar	4 days
SCC	Luccombe	A39 Minehead Road	Carriageway resurfacing between Porlock and Allerford. Temporary road closures between 19.00 and 07.00.	21 Mar	24 Mar	3 nights
SCC	Dulverton	Barns Close	Footway resurfacing.	Mar	Mar	2 weeks
<b>Other</b>						
SCC	West Somerset	Various	Additional "Deep Cleanse" jetting, full cut back, ploughing and grip clearing.			



## **Exmoor Area Panel Meetings items for discussion / community information by DSFRS.**

**Meeting Date:** 03/03/2016

**Location:** Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross

### **Operational News for Community information relevant to the areas covered by area panel meeting (Remember Data Protection):**

- Porlock crews have attended 14 calls since the last panel meeting. These have been 11 Co-Responder calls, 2 fires, 1 alarms operating.
- Porlock station currently operates with 10 personnel, 1 Watch Manager, 2 Crew Managers and 7 Firefighters.
- Co – Responders. Porlock still currently has 7 personnel who are co-responders and in partnership with South West Ambulance Service Trust, continues to offer assistance to life critical calls around the Porlock area.
- We have now completed the first 6 months of the trial period for the Rapid Intervention Vehicle (RIV) here at Porlock with good results. Crews this week have attended the Fire services training academy at Exeter Airport with the vehicle to enable crews to gain valuable experience using the vehicle and equipment in controlled live fire scenarios. This will enable crews to apply the skills learnt when they are faced with incidents in and around the Porlock area.

### **Community Safety news and activities within the areas covered by the relevant area panel meeting:**

- Station personnel have continued to hand out fire safety leaflets and advice on topics including Chimney, log burner and open fire safety, thatch safety and winter safety.
- Leaflets have also been delivered to a number of addresses within the station area highlighting the opportunity for residents to receive a home safety visit if required. The resident would contact the Fire Service to arrange a suitable time for someone to visit their property and would then be advised on all aspects of fire safety within the home. If any panel members know of any particular members of their communities who they think would benefit from a safety visit then they should contact the Fire service. Contact details and copies of the leaflets can be found on the safety pages on the website [www.dsfire.gov.uk](http://www.dsfire.gov.uk)



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**Meeting Date:** 03/03/2016

**Location:** Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross

### **Operational News for Community information relevant to the areas covered by area panel meeting (Remember Data Protection):**

- Dulverton crews have attended 14 calls since the last panel meeting. These have been 7 Co-Responder calls, 6 fires, 1 alarms operating.
- Dulverton station currently operates with 9 personnel, 1 Watch Manager, 1 Crew Manager and 7 Firefighters. 1 of the 7 has just joined and will start basic training shortly.
- Co – Responders. Dulverton still currently has 4 personnel who are co-responders and in partnership with South West Ambulance Service Trust, continues to offer assistance to life critical calls around the Dulverton area.

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