

## DUNSTER AREA PANEL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 4 APRIL 2018 AT 7.00PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, WILLITON

### NOTES OF THE MEETING

Attendees: Cllr Philip Laramy, Carhampton Parish Council  
Crowcombe Parish Council  
Cllr R Buckingham, Elworthy Parish Council  
Cllr P Gannon, Old Cleeve Parish Council  
Cllr Geoff Williams, Old Cleeve Parish Council  
Cllr Margaret Smith, Old Cleeve Parish Council  
Cllr Marilyn Crothiers, Nettlecombe Parish Council  
PS4376 Munro, Avon and Somerset Police  
Mr Marcus Kravis  
Cllr Martin Dewdney, West Somerset Council  
Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew, West Somerset Council  
Cllr P Pilkington, West Somerset Council  
Cllr Stuart Dowding, West Somerset Council  
Chris Hall, Assistant Director, West Somerset Council  
Eileen Ford, West Somerset Council

Chris Hall chaired the meeting.

1) “Have Your Say” Community Issues

PS4376 Munro requested that he be allowed to speak during the “Have Your Say” section of the meeting and this was agreed. Since the last meeting the following crime figures had been released:-

33 thefts  
23 offences of criminal damage  
15 burglaries  
5 sexual offences  
1 arson  
1 drug offence

10 of the thefts were credited to one offender in the Williton and Watchet area and a successful prosecution had been made.

Rural crime in the area had risen, in particular, from out buildings. Tools and quad bikes are the most commonly taken items. It would help the Police if the public stamped their equipment so that any stolen goods could be

identified and returned to the right owners. The public can use [www.immoblise.com](http://www.immoblise.com). This is a free of charge website where the public can record the serial numbers of their valuables. The Police are making this type of crime a priority and are stopping vehicles/suspicious members of the public.

Concern was raised that the ANPR cameras in the West Somerset area had been disabled. It was believed that SCC had had the electricity removed from the cameras. It was agreed that Parish Councils should write to SCC lobbying the ANPR cameras to be reinstalled.

Another issue raised was an increase of hunting on Exmoor. Any illegal activity should be reported to the Wildlife Crime Officers. The Police have received various incidents of hunting from the League of Cruel Sports. All incidents are investigated and prosecuted if there is enough evidence.

The Police are having fortnightly One Team meetings in the Minehead/Williton area which involves other partners eg housing, social services etc. This is proving to be very successful in dealing with difficulties before they escalate.

Cllr Williams read out the following on behalf of Old Cleeve Parish Council.

“We have all seen the TV and press coverage of the latest land slip at Blue Anchor which is starting to threaten the structure of the hotel. At the current rate is coastal erosion the road its-self will soon be under threat. This could have a severe adverse impact on the community and the economy of the area. If the road is affected. We totally appreciate the very large sums of money that would be involved to remedy the immediate threat, and acknowledge that there are no funds in place to deal with it at present. OCPC has urged Somerset County Council together with all agencies to continue their dialogue with each other and now produce detailed action plan for this issue. The response today from Somerset County Council is to say that Somerset West and Taunton is the authority responsible for the Coastal Protection and they are leading on this matter. Our community needs to know how any effects will be either prevented or mitigated. We therefore look forward to learning what the plan is and what the future holds for this area of our parish.

The road works on the A39 at Dragons’ Cross have now been planned for this year. In view of the disruption caused during road works in Roadwater we trust that the necessary traffic control at Dragons’ Cross will involve the least amount of disruption to all who use the road.

Still with the A39 you will recall that OCPC formally submitted a request to highways that the speed limit through the bends between Billbrook and the

Withycombe straight be reduced to 40MPH. Support has been confirmed by our adjoining parish and it appears that there is going to be a positive outcome for the road safety on this stretch of the A39. We await the specific plans for the revised speed limit and appropriate signage.

At Washford our investigation continues into the feasibility of traffic calming measures and the possible provision of a pedestrian crossing in the village. We are initiating a survey of our residents to establish the demand of a crossing before pursuing with the relevant authorities and agencies. In due course we will be looking at applying for any grant funding that may be available for example from Hinckley Point mitigation fund.

At one of the danger points on the A39 at Washford there was a recent vehicle collision in the snow that managed to demolish the yellow grit bin at Walnut Tree Corner, together with parts of adjacent garden walls. Further distress was caused to the resident and me when highways insisted that the debris and the problem were wholly for us as a parish council to clear up and deal with. The bin is not recorded as a parish asset. Due to the resident's persistence Highways did clear up the debris from the edge of the road, however, after much time spent on this issue we are still uncertain whether the issue has been resolved moving forward.

We have had an issue with the road sweeping whereby last year OCPC reached an agreement with Idverde to undertake two winter sweeps in specific areas by sacrifice of equal yardage. Sweeps were agreed to take place in December and 8 weeks later in February. The February sweeps of these areas did not happen this year and the contractor states that sweeps took place in October and December which we contest but cannot prove. Despite our agreement it appears that Idverde can simply choose to vary their sweeps without consultation and irrespective of the leaf and other debris that remains in the road and covering drains. The response from the Somerset West and Taunton contract manager to our parish stated, "I understand that the hedges in this area have recently been cut back leaving debris which would cause a significant challenge to the use of the sweeper". Despite this response we are then invited to pay for an 'additional sweep'. We are now pursuing the issue.

Finally, although not strictly a parish issue, the community interest company have now completed the alterations at the Blue Anchor toilets (which are in our parish and we financially support) and the toilets were open to the public in their revised format in the time for Easter. Capital funding for this project was courtesy of the WSC sustainability fund. The completion of this phase has been kept relatively low key to avoid any unwanted attention or vandalism of the facilities".

Chris confirmed that in December 2014 a multi-agency meeting had taken place regarding the Blue Anchor Hotel. At that time the stakeholders were unable to come to an agreement as to a solution. A watching briefing is currently taken place and a further meeting with all interested parties will take place on 16 April 2018.

Cllr Crothers raised concern regarding the road erosion due the water overflowing from drains near Home Farm. Concern was also raised as to a boundary change in respect of Blade Mill. As no official notification had been received regarding a possible boundary change it was agreed that Elisa Day, Electoral Services Manager, check her records. Subsequent to the meeting Elisa has confirmed that Blade Mill is in the parish of Nettlecombe.

Cllr Smith raised the issue of weeds around the litter bins in Blue Anchor and whose responsibility was it for clearing the weeds. SCC is responsible for weed clearing. A license was required to spray weeds and to work within 1.5 metres of a highway.

2) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Barbara Maitland- Walker, Cllr Christine Lawrence, Steve Eggar, David Peake and Ian Liddell-Grainger.

3) Minutes of Meeting Held on 29 January 2017 and Matters Arising

There were no amendments and the minutes were approved.

4) Police Report

PC Munro provided his update during "Have Your Say"- Item One.

5) Highways Report

David Peake had sent his apologies but had forwarded the planned works listed below which was read out by the Chair.

**Planned Works in Dunster Panel Area  
April 2018**

**West Somerset House, Williton 4**

	Parish/Town	Location	Description	Start	Finish	Duration
<b>Completed</b>						
SCC	Old Cleeve	Road Lane, Roadwater	Drainage improvement works.			Completed
SCC	Nettlecombe	B3188 Woodford Road, Yarde	Drainage improvement works.			Completed
SCC	Williton	Stream Road, Stream	Drainage improvement works.			Completed
SCC	Watchet	B3191 Cleeve Hill	Safety fencing replacement.			Completed
<b>Ongoing</b>						
<b>Future</b>						
SCC	Old Cleeve	A39 Minehead Road, west of Bilbrook	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures between 18:30 and 23:30.	16 Apr	17 Apr	2 eves
SCC	Carhampton	A39 Minehead Road, Blue Anchor Turn to Butchers Arms	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures between 18:30 and 23:30.	18 Apr	19 Apr	2 eves
SCC	Watchet	B3190 Brendon Road & South Road	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures between 18:30 and 23:30.	20 Apr 23 Apr	20 Apr 24 Apr	1 eve 2 eves

SCC	Old Cleeve	Lower Bilbrook Lane, Bilbrook	Drainage improvement works. Temporary road closure.	11 June	6 July	4 weeks
SCC	Old Cleeve	A39 Minehead Road, Dragon Cross, Bilbrook	Drainage improvement works. Temporary road closures between 09:30 and 15:30.	5 Nov 12 Nov	9 Nov 16 Nov	5 days 5 days
<b>Other</b>						
			The two spells of snowy weather over the last few weeks has had a very disruptive effect on our planned works programme.			

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6) Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service

No representation or report was received from the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service.

7) West Somerset Council Report

Chris updated the Panel that WSD have been working with the above group to support their long held ambition of a MUGA (multi-use games area) to serve the children and families of Dunster Marsh.

This is a £60,000 project, and WSC have already allocated about £13,500 of planning obligations funding and £10,000 of Hinkley Leisure funding to start them off. They have also done some fundraising and are hopeful that the balance of funds will come from a Sport England Community Asset grant. The community group are working in partnership with the parish council, and it is hoped the MUGA can be installed this summer.

Cllr Buckingham raised concern regarding the lack of job opportunities in Watchet in respect of a planning application for 400 houses in Watchet. A discussion took place to confirm that this was currently an outline planning application and that the lack of local employment was not a reason to refuse the planning application.

8) Dates of Future Meetings

The date of the next meeting is Monday 30 July 2018.