

**EXMOOR PANEL  
MINUTES  
Tuesday 4 September 2012  
Winsford Village Hall, Winsford**

**Those present:**

Steven Pugsley (Chair)	
C Knight, Brushford PC	T Wilson, Brushford PC
Nicholas Morse, Brushford PC	John Davis, Cutcombe PC Margaret
Rawle, Dulverton TC	Rod Coyne, Dulverton TC
M Ellicott, Exford PC	A Vigars, Exmoor PC
Susan Hayes, Winsford PC	Kevin Connell, Winsford PC
John Titcombe, Winsford PC	Tessa Saunders, ENPA
PC Nick Wood, Avon & Somerset Constabulary	Frances Nicholson, SCC
Bruce Heywood, Cllr WSC	Bruce Lang, WSC
David Peake, SCC Highways	

**1 Apologies for Absence**

- 1.1 Roger Webber Cutcombe PC; Chris Nelder, Nick Twaites, Christine Dubery Dulverton TC; Angela Palmer Porlock PC; Bernard Foster Selworthy and Minehead Without PC; John Bray Winsford PC; Insp Lisa Simpson Avon and Somerset Constabulary; and Councillors K Mills and K J Ross WSC.

**2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 June 2012 and Matters Arising**

- 2.1 Agreed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting.
- 2.2 In response to a question, David Peake confirmed that the results of the Wheddon Cross traffic survey would be analysed following which it was likely that a meeting would be convened of interested parties.
- 2.3 County Councillor Frances Nicholson confirmed that she would be meeting the new Director with responsibility for community liaison to discuss the possibility of having a regular attendance at the Panel from a senior Corporate Officer of Somerset County Council.

**3 Hinkley Point C Operational Draft Permits Consultation**

- 3.1 A presentation was made by the Environment Agency relating to a 12-week public consultation exercise on its draft decisions for three operational permit applications submitted by NNB Genco Ltd (on behalf of EDF) for the proposed new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point C.
- 3.2 The presentation team consisted of Brian Payne, Project Manager for Nuclear New Build at the Environment Agency together with Granville Roberts, Nuclear Regulator and Alan Wylie, HM Principal Inspector Officer for Nuclear Regulation. Also supporting the team was John Mills of the Communications Team from the Environment Agency.
- 3.3 Brian Payne lead the presentation – a copy of the power point slides used is attached at Appendix A.

- 3.4 It was explained that three permit applications had been submitted by EDF in July 2011 relating to:
- radioactive waste disposal and discharges;
  - discharges of cooling water and other effluence; and
  - emissions from emergency diesel generators.
- 3.5 A first round of consultation ended in December 2011 and following consideration of the outcome from this consultation the draft decision of the Environment Agency was that they could see no reasons why the three permits should not be issued as the limits and conditions proposed in the permits should be suitable to protect people and the environment.
- 3.6 The next stage is a further consultation process of which this presentation formed a part. The consultation period would run from 13 weeks from 9 August to 9 November 2012. A list of surgeries relating to the consultation process is attached, at Appendix B, together with the website address and appropriate phone number for further information.
- 3.7 There is also to be a specific community briefing facilitated by the Office for Nuclear Regulation that would be held on 26 September 2012 at The Exchange, Bridgwater.
- 3.8 Various questions and comments were made by Panel members with comprehensive explanations being provided.
- 3.9 The Chairman thanked the presentation team for their professional and illuminating presentation.

#### **4 Police Issues**

- 4.1 PC Nick Wood reported that the main concern in the Panel area still related to non-dwelling burglaries of which there had been 10 recent incidents.
- 4.2 Thefts from motor vehicles have reduced to only 2 incidents and this improvement could well be partly down to the surveillance being undertaken by the Rural Mounted Watch volunteers. Most other crime trends were pretty much unchanged.
- 4.3 Representatives from Brushford did raise the issue that in a recent incident when the police were searching for a missing person in the Brushford vicinity the Neighbourhood Watch contact was not informed at an early stage. PC Wood acknowledged this point and explained that he would normally have done this himself but that he was out searching for the missing person and that this had to take priority at that particular time.
- 4.4 A further point was made saying that the poaching watch had been very effective and PC Wood confirmed that this activity would be undertaken again.

#### **5 SCC Highways Issues**

- 5.1 David Peake gave a shortened report due to the Highway Wardens meeting that had been held immediately preceding the Panel meeting that evening. A copy of planning works in the Exmoor Panel area is attached at Appendix C.

5.2 David reported that two items had been raised in the previous meeting that may be of interest:

- the grass cutting had been late but this had been due to the wet weather; and
- there had been some speculation that there could be a government proposal to introduce default speed limits of 40 mph on rural roads but there had been no formal developments in this respect.

5.3 In response to a question David Peake did confirm that the County Council were putting pressure on landowners to keep their hedges well trimmed adjacent to the highways.

5.4 County Councillor Nicholson informed the Panel that in order to keep costs down the contractors had been given a three-month window to undertake activities that had been reported to them and so requested that the community may need to be a little more patient to wait for things to be done.

5.5 In response to a question David confirmed that the cleaning of gullies and drains was ongoing; the routine nature of this work had been slowed down as part of the savings agenda although urgent works would be assessed on a case by case basis.

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

6.1 There was no-one in attendance from the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service and it was agreed that this item should be withdrawn as a standing item on the agenda.

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

7.1 Tessa Sanders reported that the Exmoor National Park Partnership Plan for 2012 to 2017 entitled "Working Together for Exmoor" had been published and that copies would be sent directly to all parish councils.

7.2 An open meeting of the Exmoor National Park was due to be held at the Memorial Hall in Exford on 12 September 2012 at 7pm and the Chairman encouraged people to attend.

## **8 Parish Lengthsman Scheme**

8.1 In the absence of Chris Nelder, Margaret Rawle confirmed the scheme was still progressing in operational terms and that the scheme organisers were keen to hear of news in regard to potential funding for the next financial year.

## **9 Date of next Meeting**

- 6 November 2012 at 7.00 pm at Winsford Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm