

**EXMOOR PANEL
MINUTES
Thursday 5 March 2015
Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross**

Those present:

M Ellicott (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)	C Knight, Brushford PC
V White, Cutcombe PC	J Davis, Cutcombe PC
M Rawle, Dulverton TC	J Hickman, Exford PC
A Ambler, Exton PC	S Rowe, Exton PC
J Parsons, Timberscombe PC	F Bray, Winsford PC
T Howard, Withypool & Hawkridge PC	P Griffin, Wootton Courtenay PC
B Stevens, Avon & Somerset Constabulary	T Saunders, ENPA
D Peake & K Harwood, SCC Highways	F Nicholson, SCC
T Bridgeman, West Somerset Flood Group	A Trollope-Bellew, WSC
B Heywood, WSC	B Lang, WSC
K Mills, WSC (and also representing Porlock PC)	

1 Have Your Say

- 1.1 There were no matters raised under this item which could not be discussed under headings later on the agenda.

2. Apologies for Absence

- 2.1 R Manicom (Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service), West Somerset Councillor S Pugsley, Councillor A Vigers Exmoor PC, Councillor N Thwaites Dulverton TC and J Edwards.

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 January 2015 and Matters Arising

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

- 3.2 Matters arising:

None.

4 Police Issues

- 4.1 PCSO B Stevens reported that crime levels had been relatively low in the Panel area since the last meeting. There had been some incidences of thefts from motor vehicles in beauty spots and he reminded everyone to continue to be vigilant in this regard.
- 4.2 In response to a concern from Councillor M Rawle about the time it took for a 101 call to be answered PCSO Stevens agreed that he would pass on these concerns, which were supported by the Panel, to his superiors.
- 4.3 In response to a question PCSO Stevens confirmed that hit and run incidents involving animals, in particular Exmoor ponies, should be reported and the police would follow them up if they could. A discussion ensued regarding the use of warning signs to try and reduce the number of such incidents; it was recognised that there were warning signs already in place particularly around cattle grids.

4.4 In response to another question PCSO Stevens reassured Panel members that even minor crimes that were reported would be followed up if there were some evidence/leads to investigate.

5. West Somerset Flood Group

5.1 Teresa Bridgeman of the West Somerset Flood Group attended the meeting and explained that this group had recently been set up to provide a voice for parishes and town councils in the West Somerset area on flood related issues.

5.2 Following a meeting held earlier that day there had been good news in that West Somerset had been allocated £21,000 plus a further £36,000 from the Highway Authority towards flood alleviation/mitigation work in West Somerset.

5.3 The Group were holding a meeting at Roadwater Village Hall on 22 April 2015 at 3.00 pm and anyone was welcome to attend and if they are interested join the Group. There was no charge to join and at present the Group was run on a voluntary basis so there were no significant running costs. Teresa's contact details are 01984 640996 and email pawmark@btinternet.com

6. District Flood Board

6.1 Councillor A Trollope-Bellew, the Environment Portfolio Holder for West Somerset Council attended the meeting and advised that West Somerset was the first district in Somerset to establish its own District Flood Board to coordinate parish/town council plans if needed and to give support for bids for funding.

6.2 The Board was chaired by Councillor Trollope-Bellew and had representatives from the Somerset County Council, the Exmoor National Park Authority, the Environment Agency, Wessex Water, internal drainage boards and three representatives from the West Somerset Flood Group. Earlier that day a useful meeting had been held with the Head of Planning for West Somerset and Taunton Deane councils to stress the importance of ensuring that new development would not cause further flooding risks.

6.3 In response to a question Councillor Trollope-Bellew confirmed that help would be given to any parishes that came forward wanting assistance to try and keep drainage gullies clear.

6.4 A specific concern was raised on behalf of Dulverton residents living in the vicinity of the caravan site and it was suggested that they contact the Dulverton Town Council for assistance and also the Somerset County Council in respect of a flood mitigation fund as it was possible that a bid for funding could be made from this source.

6.5 Councillor Trollope-Bellew and Teresa Bridgeman were thanked for their presentations.

7 SCC Highways

7.1 Karin Harwood and David Peake from Somerset County Council Highways attended for this item.

- 7.2 David went through the planned works for the Exmoor Panel area as set out in the appendix to the minutes of this meeting.
- 7.3 Karin reported that there were five incidents of snow since the beginning of the new year and significant investment had been made in acquiring new gritters which were very beneficial in terms of using less salt in keeping the roads clear.
- 7.4 Karin provided an update on the works being carried out in Dunster and confirmed that at present everything was on track to enable works to be finished by 31 March 2015.
- 7.5 A meeting had been held with residents of Wootton Courtenay to provide assurances that remedial works would be carried out on the road going through Wootton Courtenay after the end of the current road closure.
- 7.6 David reported on issues regarding the possibility of a weight limit in relation to Lanacre Bridge.
- 7.7 With regard to the fingerposts project, Exford Parish Council had gone ahead and undertaken sandblasting and undercoat work in regard to the proposed pilot site in their village; it was agreed that the County Council would still investigate assisting by undertaking the remaining painting work.
- 7.8 The County Council were keen to have an alternative pilot project they could undertake and the preferred option suggested at the meeting was the fingerpost in the centre of the Winsford village.
- 7.9 Karin confirmed that they would continue to look at working on the priority fingerpost sites that had already been identified to them.
- 7.10 The Panel were advised that additional monies had been allocated to clear identified gullies that were blocked and caused surface water to run onto the highways.
- 7.11 In response to concerns regarding surface works around Exton, Karin agreed to look further at the problems surrounding this issue.
- 7.12 In response to another request Karin agreed to meet with representatives of Exford Parish Council to look at problems particularly in regard to blocked gullies.
- 7.13 It was confirmed that the office hours telephone number to report highways problems was – 0845 345 9155.

8 Exmoor National Park Authority

- 8.1 Tessa Saunders confirmed that work had been progressing on the Local Plan with a special meeting of the Authority scheduled for 24 March 2015 and it was intended to approve a draft of the Plan for consultation.
- 8.2 Such consultation would be undertaken over the summer period and all parish and town councils would be notified when this was to happen; Tessa also confirmed that the Plan would be available to look at online.

9 Parish Lengthsman Scheme Update

- 9.1** Councillor M Rawle requested that all participating town and parish councils and funders to please send in their respective payments as soon as possible.

10 Items brought forward by Parishes

- 10.1 None.

11 Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

- 18 June 2015 at 7.00 pm – Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross
- 1 September 2015 at 7.30 pm – Winsford Village Hall, Winsford
- 3 November 2015 at 7.00 pm – Winsford Village Hall, Winsford
- 19 January 2016 at 7.00 pm – Winsford Village Hall, Winsford
- 3 March 2016 at 7.00 pm – Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm