

**EXMOOR PANEL
MINUTES
Thursday 8 March 2018
Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross**

Those present:

S Pugsley (Chair)	C Knight, Brushford PC
J Anson, Cutcombe PC	V White, Cutcombe PC
K Coulman, Dulverton TC	M Ellicott, Exford PC
A Vigers, Exmoor PC	D Powell, Luxborough PC
M McCoy, Porlock PC	R Hall, Porlock PC
J Parsons, Timberscombe PC	C Wilkins, Winsford PC
J Davies, Withypool & Hawkridge PC	T Howard, Withypool & Hawkridge PC
B Stevens, Avon & Somerset Police	F Nicholson, SCC
K Mills, WSC	N Thwaites, WSC
B Heywood, WSC	P Pilkington, WSC
B Lang, WSC/TDBC	

1 Apologies for Absence

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from D Peake (SCC Highways), R McArthur (ENPA) and A Sparling (Luxborough PC).

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 January 2018 and Matters Arising

- 2.1 Agreed that, subject to amending the last line of paragraph 8.4 to read “The recognition of the need for social rented housing in the Local Plan was welcomed.” and including Cllr P Pilkington in the list of those present, the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting.
- 2.2 Information had been received from Ruth McArthur, Policy and Community Manager, ENPA stating that the question raised at the last meeting on affordable housing with local occupancy ties and mutual exchange had been followed up but a definitive answer was not forthcoming at the present time. Advice had been sought from a housing officer but this was not conclusive, therefore, further advice would be sought in the hope to be able to clarify the matter.
- 2.3 The Chairman advised that housing would be the principal subject of debate at the meeting of the Exmoor Consultative Forum being held on Thursday 15 March 2018 and urged Panel Members to attend if possible.

3 Speed Indicator Device Programme

- 3.1 Councillor F Nicholson presented the item and stated that there had been a lot of concern about how to progress the matter and whether parishes should work together. Dave Grabham, SCC Road and Transport Team, who had been managing the current scheme would be holding a briefing session at a Somerset Association of Local Councils meeting to be held at Somerton Town Council offices on 18 March 2018. She went on to update Panel Members on behalf of Dave Grabham, who was unable to attend the Panel meeting.
- 3.2 She advised that the current scheme would be terminated at the end of March 2018. There were two options available for parishes – one being for a number of parishes to

acquire and operate their own device; and the alternative was to join a revised SCC scheme.

- 3.3 The operation of the revised scheme would be almost exactly the same as the current one. However, there would be a charge to the parish councils of £100 per installation; and SCC would prepare for parishes to be more proactive about where they wanted the devices to be located. The qualification for being part of the scheme remained unchanged. The provision of collecting data analysis would also remain.
- 3.4 While parishes could be more proactive about where they wanted the devices to go, the same highway considerations needed to be borne in mind. A risk assessment would be needed to be undertaken.
- 3.5 Parishes who had not initially been part of the programme could seek to join the revised scheme, and anyone interested should contact Dave Grabham via email.
- 3.6 The cost to acquire an approved speed indicator device would be in the region of £2,500 - £3,500. Further additional costs associated with purchasing brackets and spare batteries, erecting posts, and undertaking the necessary Chapter 8 training for erecting signs were highlighted. SCC would contribute 50% of the training cost per applicant per parish.
- 3.7 There were strict Department of Transport guidelines to be adhered to, i.e. devices could not be put up permanently. The criteria for allowing permanent signage was discussed. It was felt that parishes would wish to use the device as a deterrent and speed inhibitor rather than an analytic tool and many would prefer the device to be erected permanently. It was agreed that Cllr Nicholson and the Chairman would liaise with North Devon Council to investigate the course of action undertaken by those parishes who had permanent devices displayed.
- 3.8 Parishes collaborating together to purchase a device was believed to be the best solution. Cllr Mike Ellicott volunteered to undertake further research on the matter and coordinate responses, and he requested that interested parishes contact him direct in order to gauge whether there was sufficient interest to make it viable.
- 3.9 PCSO Stevens emphasised that there was a distinct deterrent effect from having the device established. Parishes would have the opportunity to analyse their own data. The information obtained would be investigated as part of the Community Speedwatch or parish councils could send information direct to Speed Enforcement.

4 Coastal Strip Issues – Porlock Vale

- 4.1 Representatives from Porlock Parish Council introduced the item and raised awareness about some of the specific problems along the coastal strip.
- 4.2 Reference was made to the report circulated with the agenda and further detailed information on the various initiatives being coordinated was provided.
- 4.3 Panel members wishing to work with Porlock Parish Council on any of the initiatives highlighted were encouraged to contact Cllr R Hall to discuss the matter further.
- 4.4 It was felt that most of the issues along the coastal strip were similarly experienced on the higher moor, and it was very beneficial to share some of the solutions with the rest of the Panel in order that they could be applied in the same way.

- 4.5 Various other detailed points were raised by members of the Panel.
- 4.6 Porlock Parish Council were thanked for bringing these matters to the Panel's attention.

5 Police Issues

- 5.1 PCSO Brian Stevens attended the meeting and advised there had recently been significant issues regarding rural crime and deer poaching. Major efforts had been made to combat the rise in crime as part of the Exmoor Rural Crime Initiative.
- 5.2 Work was in progress to increase coverage of the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) facility on Exmoor.

6 SCC Highways

- 6.1 In the absence of the SCC Highways representative, the planned works in the Exmoor Panel area was circulated at the meeting – the report is attached as an appendix to the notes of this meeting.
- 6.2 The Chairman, on behalf of the Exmoor Panel, thanked the SCC Highways Team and contractors for their hard work in keeping the roads clear of snow and ice during the recent wintry conditions.
- 6.3 Praise and thanks was also extended to the Somerset Waste Partnership for their great efforts in catching up with collection delays caused by the severe weather conditions.
- 6.4 Panel Members were requested to email Bruce Lang any specific parish-related highway issues/questions in order that they could be forwarded on to the Highways Team.

7 Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Issues

- 7.1 There was no report submitted in this regard.

8 Exmoor National Park Authority Issues

- 8.1 There was no report submitted in this regard.

9 Parish Lengthsman Scheme Update

- 9.1 There was nothing to report in this regard.

10. Items to be brought forward by Parishes

- 10.1 A request was made to invite Somerset Waste Partnership to a future meeting to discuss the issue of Recycling Centres.
- 10.2 Bruce Lang advised that if the Secretary of State was to grant approval for the creation of a new council, one of the tasks required to be undertaken between now and the May 2019 Elections was to create a new warding structure for the new council area covering West Somerset and Taunton Deane's existing areas.

- 10.3 As part of the process the two Councils were required to submit a proposal for the size (number of councillors) of the new Council. The current number of councillors across the two council areas was 84 and what was being proposed was a figure of 58 councillors for the new authority.
- 10.4 The Boundary Commission would be in charge of this process once and if a Shadow Authority was created (probably June 2018) and had requested that the distribution of councillors per elector was equal across the area as much as possible. Existing boundaries of parishes and towns would not be affected by this process.
- 10.5 In light of the strict timetable, an email to all parish and town councils would be sent in advance of the Secretary of State's decision enclosing a plan of how 58 seats could theoretically be distributed; their help and particularly detailed knowledge of their local communities was welcomed. All Councillors across the two authorities would also be advised.
- 10.6 Once feedback had been received and considered, draft warding proposals would be agreed and put forward to the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government by the end of April 2018.
- 10.7 In early June 2018, the Boundary Commission would produce recommendations of warding proposals for the new council and open a formal public consultation period which was likely to run during July and August 2018. Final recommendations would be published in October 2018.
- 10.8 Discussion focussed on electoral equality and the problems faced by the sparsely populated areas.
- 10.9 Everyone was welcome to attend the Showcase Timberscombe event on 16 and 17 March in the Timberscombe Village Hall.
- 10.10 A request was made to rearrange the Panel dates in September and November to avoid clashes with parish council meetings.

11 Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

- 7 June 2018 at 7.00 pm – Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross
- 4 September 2018 at 7.30 pm (Highway Warden's meeting at 6.30 pm) – Winsford Village Hall ****REVISED DATE****
- 6 November 2018 at 7.00 pm – Winsford Village Hall ****REVISED DATE****
- 22 January 2019 at 7.00 pm – Winsford Village Hall
- 7 March 2019 at 7.00 pm – Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm