

**EXMOOR PANEL  
MINUTES  
Tuesday 8 November 2016  
Winsford Village Hall, Winsford**

**Those present:**

S Pugsley (Chair)  
M Rawle, Dulverton TC  
M Willison, Dulverton TC  
B Martin, Exford PC  
D Lungley, Exton PC  
S Parsons, Timberscombe PC  
F Bray, Winsford PC  
F Nicholson, SCC  
B Heywood, WSC

J Anson, Cutcombe PC  
N Thwaites, Dulverton TC and WSC  
J Hickman, Exford PC  
A Vigars, Exmoor PC  
D Powell, Luxborough PC  
M Mileham, Winsford PC  
T Howard, Withypool & Hawkridge PC  
D Peake, SCC Highways  
B Lang, WSC

**1 Have Your Say**

- 1.1 In the absence of any members of the public there were no issues to be discussed under this item.

**2 Apologies for Absence**

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from PC C Fitzpatrick (Avon and Somerset Constabulary), T Saunders and R McArthur (Exmoor National Park Authority), R Manicom (Porlock Watch Manager, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue), A Spalling (Luxborough PC), C Knight (Brushford PC), M Ellicott (Exford PC), V White (Cutcombe PC) and K Harwood (SCC Highways).

**3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 September 2016 and Matters Arising**

- 3.1 Agreed that, subject to the venue being listed as Winsford Village Hall, the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3.2 Matters arising:

8.4 – It was reported that Highway Representatives had confirmed that the new 30 mph speed limit signs at Winsford were erected in the right position, although concerns were still raised in this regard.

8.5 – As the repainting of the white lines had not yet been done, Somerset Highways would chase this matter up.

8.6 – A letter had been sent to the Somerset Highways Authority as requested and a response received which did not indicate that there would be any change in the approach taken.

9.2 – It was reported that Young Farmers had undertaken some good work in regard to historic signposts.

11.2 – It was confirmed that the South Western Ambulance Trust had been invited but to date no reply had been received, a reminder had been sent.

#### **4 Police Issues**

- 4.1 In the absence of a representative from the Police, a written report had been submitted by PC Charlie Fitzpatrick – attached as Appendix A to the notes of this meeting.
- 4.2 A representative from Exton Parish Council reported that the Exebridge Caravan Park had been broken into and a caravan had been stolen.

#### **5 Somerset County Council Highways**

- 5.1 David Peake from SCC Highways reported on the latest programme of works which is summarised in Appendix B to the notes of this meeting.
- 5.2 An issue was raised whereby the County Council gritter had had problems undertaking its proposed gritting route in Cutcombe due to the parking of a vehicle at The Firs. There had been an exchange of correspondence between the Clerk to the Cutcombe Parish Council and Magna Housing Association which had to date not been able to resolve the position.
- 5.3 It was agreed that a letter be sent to Magna Housing on behalf of the Panel to encourage further discussions to facilitate a satisfactory resolution to this issue.
- 5.4 A discussion ensued regarding concern that lorries heading for Exford appeared to be going through Dulverton due to the current highway signage not being as effective as it could be. Whilst the signs were technically correct, there was a suggestion that a larger and clearer sign directing lorries appropriately at Exebridge could help. It was recognised that the problem was probably exacerbated by the use of SatNavs. A further suggestion was that it be made clear that the road to Dulverton was suitable for heavy goods vehicles for access only.
- 5.5 David Peake reported positive news that additional government funding had been secured to enable works to be undertaken to prevent potholes occurring and such works would be happening in the Panel area in the very near future.
- 5.6 It was reported that the bridge at Simonsbath had been hit yet again and the SCC Councillor undertook to find out what had been the accumulative cost of continually having to mend this particular bridge. A similar problem had occurred at other bridges in the Panel area including at Lanacre and at Withypool.
- 5.7 A representative from Exford had observed that contractors working on behalf of the Highways Authority appeared to work relatively short days and that if a fuller days' work was undertaken then there would be shorter periods of disruption for the local community.
- 5.8 Concern was raised regarding the condition of a section of road near Oldways End which several members of the Panel knew intimately and David Peake agreed to check whether the section of road in question lay in Somerset or Devon. If it was in Devon then an approach would need to be made to the Devon Highways Authority or appropriate Devon County Councillor.

- 5.9 A representative pointed out that the online system that the Highway Authority referred the public to in regard to listing road closures was not user friendly and not as effective as the manual system that David Peake used to provide.
- 5.10 A representative from Exford mentioned that certain 'give way' and 'slow' markings in the village were becoming very difficult to see.
- 5.11 Issues were raised by Winsford and Exford in respect of street sweeping and representatives from the District Council reported that there was to be a change of contractor with effect from 1 December 2016.
- 5.12 The District Council would ensure that the new contractor, Idverde, was aware that parish councils would wish to be kept informed of when their respective parishes were to be swept so they could work with the contractor to keep their streets as clear of parked vehicles as possible. It was also important that Idverde worked closely with David Peake and highways colleagues to ensure that street sweeping was as effective as it could be.
- 5.13 The Chairman thanked David Peake for his thorough presentation and responding to the many questions asked.

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

- 6.1 No representative from the Fire and Rescue Service attended the meeting and no written report had been provided.

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

- 7.1 In the absence of a representative, a written report was submitted on behalf of the Exmoor National Park Authority providing an update on the Local Plan process, which is attached at Appendix C to the notes of this meeting.
- 7.2 It was reported that the Chief Executive of the Exmoor National Park Authority, Dr Nigel Stone, was due to retire at the end of March 2017 and a recruitment process for his replacement was currently underway.

## **8 Parish Lengthsman Scheme Update**

- 8.1 Dulverton Town representatives reported that the Town Clerk had written to all participating councils and requested that parishes responded as soon as possible.
- 8.2 In reference to a previous request from Dulverton Town Council for participating councils to consider making a contribution to the administrative costs incurred by the Town Council for running the scheme, a representative from Withypool Parish Council suggested that one option may be for such contributions to be payable on a pro rata basis in relation to the number of hours commissioned by respective parish councils.

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

- 9.1 Representatives from Dulverton Town Council initiated a general discussion on what stance the various parishes were taking in regard to the provision of public

conveniences in the light of the decision of West Somerset Council not to fund such facilities with effect from 1 April 2017.

- 9.2 The County Councillor made reference to the current deliberations by the Clinical Commissioning Group to reduce the number of stroke beds in local hospitals. It was agreed that Dr Ed Ford, Chairman of the Local Clinical Commissioning Group be invited to a future of the Panel so that this item could be discussed in more detail.

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

- 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