

Minehead Area Panel

Notes of meeting held on 9 March 2016 at The Hub, Hopcott Road, Minehead

Present:

Sandra Slade (Chair)	Resident
Jane Birch	Community Council for Somerset
Cllr Mandy Chilcott	West Somerset Council
Cllr Andrew Hadley	West Somerset Council
Cllr Terry Venner	Somerset County Council & West Somerset Council
Cllr Christine Lawrence	Somerset County Council
Cllr Jean Parbrook	Minehead Town Council
Andrew Parbrook	Minehead Town Council
Cllr Andy Lewis	Minehead Town Council
Ray Tew	Minehead Development Trust
Maureen Smith	Minehead Town Council/Minehead Development Trust/Transition Alcombe & Minehead/Forum 21
Chris Jones	Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service
James Guscott	Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service
Tim Langdon	The Hub
Bridget O'Brien	Resident
Colin Isherwood	Resident
Catherine Horsfield	Resident
C J Vicary	Resident
Sarah Wilsher	West Somerset Council

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

Sandra Slade welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked The Hub for hosting the meeting. It was hoped that they would be able to use the venue again in the future.

Apologies for absence were received from James Barraah (West Somerset Council and Taunton Deane Borough Council), Ron Blundell, Marcus Kravis (The Arkade), Jenny Lennon-Wood (Minehead Development Trust), Andrew McCausland, David Peake (Somerset County Council Area Highways), Doug Ross, Elaine Ross, Sue Sanders (Minehead Town Council).

2. Have Your Say – Community Issues/Concerns

Issues for Have Your Say, were as follows:

(a) Bridget O'Brien raised the issue of West Somerset College reducing the courses available to young people, College buildings becoming vacant and how the future of the College was of great concern to students, residents and staff. In addition the high cost of housing made it very difficult for staff to afford to live in West Somerset and the lack of supply staff was a problem. There was also a lack of childcare in the area which created difficulties for staff.

The meeting agreed that the current state of the College gave cause for concern. Tim Langdon advised that the skills and enterprise centre and farm unit were to close. Mandy Chilcott said that the College was in debt and this was exacerbated by the increase in students studying elsewhere at sixth form. There were now only about 800 students at the school and this could decrease further if

students couldn't attend their course of choice. They were going through challenging times, but it was hoped that working with Bridgwater College would prove to be a good move in the long-term. John Vicary said that the original farm unit and land at Silvermead had been sold for housing and wondered where the money had gone. Christine Lawrence advised that this would have been used to build the new farm unit in Ellicombe and the new buildings within the College grounds. Maureen Smith felt that the College had gone downhill since it had become an academy. Terry Venner advised that elected members used to be invited to attend governors meetings, but sadly this was no longer the case so they were no longer kept in the loop with what was happening internally.

Sandra reported that West Somerset College had been invited to the next meeting of the Minehead Area Panel on 15 June to talk about the provision of opportunities for the young people of West Somerset. Acceptance of this invitation was awaited.

(b) John Vicary asked what would be happening regarding the state of the road area for vehicles coming into the entrance at the bottom of Marshfield Road.

Sue Sanders had sent a response to say that the land at the bottom of Marshfield Road was part of Marsh Common and not part of the highway. The Town Council had been awarded S106 funding to improve the land in this area which would include linking the cycle path between the back of the hospital and Marsh Common. The work would be carried out by C J Lynch and as the dog waste bin had now been moved to Brunel Way the work would be scheduled for the Spring.

David Peake had also responded to say that this area of land at the bottom of Marshfield Road had been discussed at Minehead Area Panels in the past. It was not part of the highway maintainable at the public expense. However, if another party wished to promote and fund a scheme to bring it up to a maintainable standard then, in the first instance, they should discuss their intentions with him. He would then be able advise them as to the best way forward. Any scheme here, though, would be likely to be expensive due to the amount of road construction work required and the need to provide drainage, street lighting, etc.

The meeting, however, felt that the land John was talking about could be a different piece of land to that referred to by Sue and David. The piece of land at the bottom of Marshfield Road was in a poor state and could not be traversed easily by wheelchairs or buggies. Mandy Chilcott stated that the land would need to be improved before it could be adopted.

(c) John Vicary raised the issue of people taking a shortcut from Seaward Way to the Magna properties by making their way between the panels of a fence by the hospital.

Jean Parbrook said that she would investigate.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 December 2015

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Item 2(a) – Catherine Horsfield had asked why people with gardens were given allotments when people who don't have a garden can't get one. This issue had been postponed from the last meeting. Sue Sanders had advised in writing that for many, many years the allotments have been open to all residents of Minehead. Prospective

plot holders could visit the sites to see if they had a preference or call in at the Town Hall offices and view the sites. They could put their name down on a list for a particular site or in some cases have a plot straight away if there was no one else waiting. As far as the Town Hall staff were aware Ms Horsfield had not enquired about having an allotment plot or the process involved but she would be most welcome if she made contact.

Maureen Smith advised that she was on the allotments committee and usually demand met supply as there was generally a good turnover of allotment holders. Residents could also use a community allotment until a particular site became available.

Item 9 – Police Report: The meeting agreed to support Mark Curran and the Police in their efforts regarding School zig-zags and Sandra Slade was to write to Bev Norman, Service Manager for Traffic Management, asking for a Traffic Regulation Order to be imposed. Sandra had written to Bev Norman on 14 January and on 18 January had received a reply from Gary Warren, Traffic Engineer, who had advised that the school 'keep clear' markings outside of Minehead First School on Paganel Road would shortly be subject to a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) after it was recently advertised as part of the West Somerset Amendment Order. In addition, in mid-January it had been agreed that a future meeting would be held between the Police, traffic management and representatives of the other schools in Minehead to ascertain to what extent of road/keep clear markings they would like to see subject to a TRO and in some cases amend existing Orders to suit.

4. **The Village SOS Programme (lottery funded programme to support social enterprises in rural areas), the CCS free funding portal, digital villages project and support for community projects – Jane Birch, Community Involvement Officer, Community Council for Somerset**

Jane explained that the Community Council for Somerset (CCS) worked with community groups, church groups, Parish/Town Councils and similar organisations across the County with projects that benefit the community, such as setting up a community café, a projector for a community cinema, neighbourhood and community plans, improving a community building, etc.

Jane's role was to help people develop their projects and attain their goals. This involved business planning, community consultation, undertaking online surveys, etc., which were all required as evidence when bidding for funding. Also looking at funding strategies and how to apply for funding. Applications, for instance for Lottery funding, needed to be written in a certain way. CCS had helped a project in Huish Episcopi in South Somerset apply for funding and they had been successful. The Funding Portal, a free service on the CCS website, provided assistance with funding sources/opportunities.

The Village SOS Programme focussed on rural community businesses and social enterprises – cafés, shops, libraries, community projects, generating renewable energy, setting up a Broadband service, etc.

Jane reported that a Digital Villages workshop would be held on 10 March at Dunster Tithe Barn and there were spaces available if anyone was interested. The workshop would look at how to use the internet and social media to talk to your community. It would be done in a user-friendly way for beginners to intermediates.

Jane further advised that at the moment she was a Community Involvement Officer for the whole of Somerset, but another Community Involvement Officer post had been created so that the County could be shared. Jane would be covering West

Somerset, Taunton and Sedgemoor, whilst the new postholder would cover Mendip and South Somerset.

She urged those present to spread the word and to make use of CCS and its services in community planning, funding strategies, business planning, etc. West Somerset Council did not put money into CCS. The Community Council obtained money from grant funding to run their services.

Sandra invited questions. A representative of the West Somerset Advice Bureau asked if funding was available on an ongoing basis rather than just for a specific project. Jane advised that continuation funding was available from certain funders and provided useful literature.

Sandra thanked Jane for her interesting and informative talk.

5. Minehead Coastal Community Team – An Update

Jean Parbrook reported that £10,000 had been paid for a consultant to produce an economic plan. More Coastal Community funding was to be sought to bring ideas from within the plan to fruition. An Esplanade plan was being produced and work on the zig-zags was to be undertaken.

6 . Minehead Development Trust – An Update

In Jenny Lennon-Wood's absence, Ray Tew reported the following:

- Business planning for the Old Hospital project was continuing and planning and listed building consent applications had been submitted.
- The MDT website was being regularly updated with news, events, etc. The Trust were on Twitter and had a Facebook page too.
- MDT wished to work in partnership with the Local Authorities and other organisations, including education and skills providers, for the long-term benefit of the community.

7. Police Report

PC Charlie Fitzpatrick had provided a written report which was circulated in advance of the meeting (see attached). Sandra read out his report and reminded the meeting that crime appeared to be low in West Somerset but this could be because it was not always recorded. She urged everyone to report all incidents, particularly as an apparently low crime rate could lead to a loss of police presence in the area.

8. Highways Matters

David Peake had provided a written report, which was circulated in advance of the meeting (see attached). Mandy Chilcott reported that the carriageway resurfacing between Porlock and Allerford from 21 to 24 March would mean the road being closed between 7pm and 7am over three nights. The diversion would go via Lynmouth and Lynton.

9. Burning Issues

Chris Jones of Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue had provided a written report, which was circulated in advance of the meeting (see attached) and read out at the meeting by Chris Jones and James Guscott.

They also reported that swaling would be taking place until mid-April. The control room were aware of this but if anyone was concerned about a fire they should contact the Service just in case it is more than a swale.

Mandy Chilcott asked if home fire extinguishers could be checked by the Fire & Rescue Services. Chris explained that they were not promoted by the Service as if they were not used properly they could cause problems. They had expiry dates on them and should not be used after the expiry date.

10. Town Council Update

Sue Sanders had provided a written report which was circulated in advance of the meeting (see attached). Sandra read out Sue's report. Jean Parbrook reported that their new Operational Manager would be starting on 14 March.

11. District Council Update

James Barrah had provided a written report which was circulated in advance of the meeting (see attached). Sandra read out James' report. The meeting were pleased to learn that Blenheim Gardens had received a Pride in Parks 4 Stars Award and Mandy expressed thanks to the volunteers for all their hard work in helping the Council achieve this Award.

Sandra reported that following the circulation of the District Council report, Julian Highfield, Director of Butlins, had made contact and advised that a full clearance and dredging of the rhyne/moat around Butlins would commence on 16/17 March and continue for a period of three to four months.

12. County Council Update

Terry Venner had provided a written report which was circulated in advance of the meeting (see attached). Terry further reported that in respect of the application put in to the Small Improvement Scheme for a pelican crossing to go outside West Somerset College on Bircham Road, a feasibility study including costings, etc. had been approved. Minehead Town Council had agreed to support the project and this had speeded up the process. Funding was now being looked into and it was hoped that S106 monies from the Ellicombe housing development could be used for the project. If everything fell into place works on installing the crossing could commence in October.

The County Council had agreed to increase the Council Tax rate by 5.24% from 1 April. This included 1.25% for the Somerset River Authority and 2% for social care provision. A cut of over £20 million from the budget had also been agreed. Terry stated that he had voted against the budget.

Terry further advised that he had found out about the closure of the College farm unit on 7 March. The land was owned by Somerset County Council but the buildings owned by the West Somerset College. As such the buildings had to be run by an educational not-for-profit organisation. Chris Jones felt that EDF would not be happy about the skills and enterprise building closing since they had funded its build. Ray

Tew stated that the Government were forcing local authorities to lose control of the land. Commissioning bodies were using the land, which could work well but equally could fail easily, particularly where there was no accountability process or the assets were not able to be used by the community.

It was also noted that West Somerset College used to fight with SCAT and Bridgwater College for key stage 4 children. They now needed to focus their attention on providing fewer but better quality courses in order to re-attract these students.

Christine Lawrence had also provided a written report which was circulated in advance of the meeting (see attached). Christine emphasised that a priority for the future was attaining university status for Somerset, which would bring young people into the County.

She reported that she had been approached by many older residents who were worried about the possible closure of public toilets. Mandy explained that the District Council's budget had been cut by over £1 million in the last three years, which comprised 25% of the budget. It had been decided over a period of 18 months to work with the Town and Parish Councils in order to try and keep the toilets open. The Council were concentrating their finances on the statutory duties that they had to provide. Savings could only be made on the non-statutory functions – Blenheim Gardens, toilet facilities, etc. Not all the toilets would close as the Town and Parish Councils were coming forward, including Minehead Town Council. A small pot had also been put aside by West Somerset Council to pay for any work that needed to be done on the toilets.

Christine informed that on 21 April for the Queen's 90th birthday beacons were to be lit and a step-by-step guide had been produced on building your own beacon. They had last been lit for the Millennium. Also in celebration of the Queen's birthday there would be a street party along The Mall over the weekend of 11 and 12 June 2016. A ticket would cost £150. The Queen wanted everyone to have a street party, but as road closures were expensive Christine was recommending parties in parks instead.

The County Hall Charity Abseil would be taking place on 22 and 23 April. Staff would be abseiling on 22 April and those who had registered would be able to take up the challenge on 23 April.

13. Any Other Business

Clanville Gardens

Maureen Smith reported that the Coastal Community Team was supporting Clanville Gardens. On 2 April a meeting would be held at Townsend House to look at the future of Clanville Gardens. Funding was needed for a manager for the site. Minehead Development Trust had been hosting the Clanville Gardens project.

Community Land Trust

Maureen informed the meeting that Forum 21 had registered a West Somerset Community Land Trust and were looking for sites for houses to provide affordable homes which would not become available on the open market. They would remain secure and available. The National Community Land Trust were keen to be involved. Minehead Police Station was being investigated as a possible site. They were also looking at retaining historic buildings.

14. Date & Venue of Future Meetings

Future meetings to be held on:

Wednesday, 15 June 2016 at 6.30pm at St Michael the Archangel Church Hall, Alcombe, Minehead.

Wednesday, 14 September 2016 at 6.30pm at St Michael the Archangel Church Hall, Alcombe, Minehead.

Wednesday, 7 December 2016 at 6.30pm – venue to be confirmed.

Wednesday, 8 March 2016 at 6.30pm – venue to be confirmed.

Police Report

I can report a reduction in calls relating to anti-social behaviour by 117, over the last year to date. With crime reducing by 28 over the same period. We don't have any crime pattern's or trends for Minehead at this time.

We continue to work with Butlins to cover the adult breaks and the potential impact on the town, the first Saturday was 27th February (80's weekend). We had extra officers (Two of those funded by Butlins) in the town and received NO calls relating to ASB in the town.

The Minehead beat team will be holding beat surgeries from March to August at The Co-Op, The Avenue and Tesco's on the following dates:-

16.03.16	Tesco	10-12
30.03.16	Coop	10-12
13.04.16	Tesco	10-12
11.05.16	Tesco	10-12
25.05.16	Coop	15-17
08.06.16	Tesco	10-12
22.06.16	Coop	10-12
06.07.16	Tesco	10-12
20.07.16	Coop	10-12
10.08.16	Tesco	15-17

PC 1344 Charlie FITZPATRICK

Planned Works in Minehead Panel Area

The Hub, Alcombe, 9 March 2016

	Parish/Town	Location	Description	Start	Finish	Duration
Completed						
EDF	Williton	A39/B3190 Washford Cross	Construction of new roundabout.	Completed		
SCC	Minehead	Cher	Footway resurfacing.	Completed		
Ongoing						
SCC	Nettlecombe	B3190 Sticklepath	Drainage works. Temporary road closures between 08.00 and 16.00.	22 Feb 29 Feb 7 Mar 14 Mar 21 Mar	26 Feb 4 Mar 11 Mar 18 Mar 24 Mar	5 days 5 days 5 days 5 days 4 days
SCC	Wootton Courtenay	New Road	Verge/c carriageway repairs. Temporary road closure.	29 Feb 7 Mar 14 Mar	4 Mar 11 Mar 18 Mar	5 days 5 days 5 days
SCC	Luxborough	Vellors Way	Carriageway reconstruction. Temporary road closure.	15 Feb	11 Mar	4 weeks
SCC	Dunster	Nutcombe Bottom	Damage to bridge. Emergency road closure.	26 Feb	-	-
Future						
SCC	Luccombe	A39 Minehead Road	Drainage work between Porlock and Allerford. Temporary traffic signals.	14 Mar	18 Mar	5 days
SCC	Luccombe	A39 Minehead Road	Carriageway resurfacing between Porlock and Allerford. Temporary road closures between 19.00 and 07.00.	21 Mar	24 Mar	3 nights
SCC	Williton	A39 Long Street	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures in the evening.	25 Apr	29 Apr	5 evenings
SCC	Williton	A358 High Street	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures in the evening.	3 May	6 May	4 evenings
Other						
SCC	West Quantoxhead	A39 near Wibble Farm	Vegetation clearance of verges and embankments has now been carried out. CCTV survey of highway drainage system. Trial pits have been dug and Strength of road formation tested.			



Area Panel Meetings items for discussion / community information.

Meeting Date: 09/03/2016

Operational News for Community information relevant to the areas covered by area panel meeting:

Since the last area panel meeting held in December, Minehead crews have attended forty operational calls. These have included eight Road Traffic Collisions, seven property fires of which have been accidental causes or electrical related, one vehicle fire, three special service calls to assist other agencies including a mud rescue and three Chimney fires.

Crews also attended five fires in the open that were unattended or poorly controlled bonfires spreading to other property or land. Crews have also attended a number of domestic smoke alarm calls and calls made with good intent that did not require our attendance.

Community Safety news and activities within the areas covered by the relevant area panel meeting:

Since the last area panel meeting, community safety work has been carried out at various events in and around Minehead.

These have included:

- Fire Safety Officers carrying out a number of Fire Safety Checks at local businesses including Licenced premises, Residential Care Homes and a selection of retail outlets.
- Any issues that have been identified have been recorded and dealt with either at a local level or by written advice and in a small number of instances via enforcement notices.

Crews have also started to raise awareness about our Home Fire Safety Check and Visit Service locally. **Please see below for full details:**

This will also include information drops at specific targeted address areas where there is likely to be an elderly or potentially vulnerable residency.



**DEVON &
SOMERSET**
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Minehead Fire Station Spring Community Fire Safety campaign.

FREE Home Fire Safety Checks and Visits

Did you know you are entitled to a **FREE Home Fire Safety Check** and may also be entitled to a **FREE Home Fire Safety Visit**?

Do you know or care for someone that may benefit from this service?

All residents that live within Devon or Somerset are entitled to call our **FREEPHONE** advice number and receive **FREE home safety advice**.

It will take no more than 5 minutes and you will be asked some simple questions that will help our advisor decide if you need a **FREE Home Fire Safety Visit**.

Home Fire Safety Visits, take around 30 minutes and are bespoke to suit the circumstances of the individuals and homes we visit.

If a Full **FREE Home Fire Safety Visit** is considered appropriate, it may also include fitting **FREE** smoke detectors or other equipment should you require them. You would also be offered all the advice you may need to make you safer in your home.

Visits are arranged to suit your circumstances and at times to suit you.

Calls can also be made on behalf of others that you care for, and arrangements made via a preferred third party contact.

If a visit is not considered appropriate following your telephone call, our team will ensure you are sent all the relevant **FREE advice and literature** to help you carry out the checks in your own home.

To receive the **FREE Home Fire Safety Check** and seek advice about a **FREE Home Fire Safety Visit**, please call **0800 05 02 999**.

Or Text info line: 078 00 00 2476

Further details can be found on our website at
www.dsfire.gov.uk/YourSafety/SafetyInTheHome

Minehead Town Council Update

Since the last Area Panel meeting the Town Council is still progressing the sale of the Market House building with all outstanding issues now being tied up.

The next project is to complete the cycle / pathway at the bottom of Marshfield Road. S106 funding from West Somerset Council has been made available to the Town Council to complete the works that will include joining up the pathway from the back of the hospital to the pathway that joins from Marsh Common. The surfacing will be completely overhauled to erase the large pot holes that have appeared. The work will be carried out by a local contractor when the weather is more amenable in the coming spring months.

The Town Council are looking to repair and upgrade the lighting at Cross Farm Park. This will in conjunction with SSE who carry out all street lighting repairs for Somerset County Council.

This project will be need to be completed during the summer months to ensure the lights are in good working order for the autumn / winter.

The Town Council is waiting to hear from West Somerset Grounds department as to when Town Council workers are required to help clear the zig zags. MTC is working in partnership with WSC on this project and are glad to be able to provide the grounds services.

Sue Sanders

Minehead Town Clerk

MINEHEAD AREA PANEL MEETING – MARCH 2016

WEST SOMERSET COUNCIL UPDATE.

Action outstanding from previous meeting.

Previous discussion re inconsiderate parking in certain streets. Particular focus on Regents Way. Parking in turning heads, etc where there was no parking restrictions but resulting in refuse vehicles not being able to turn around so having to reverse long distances to access properties. The question was asked how SWP manage this risk, there was a view put forward that they were only allowed to reverse a certain distance. The subsequent response from SWP is as follows:-

“No specific distance but lengthy reversing should be avoided where possible, each collection is risk assessed and mitigation of these risks should be undertaken.”

Public Conveniences

The public conveniences in Blenheim Gardens and the Carousel, (below The Arkade) near the seafront which have been closed for the winter will be opened for the Summer season. The two unisex toilets at The Arkade that are normally open over the winter, have been closed due to issues with electrics, due to water penetrating into the electrics from the above dwelling. This issue is ongoing.

Harbour

The MMO (Marine Management Organisation) have issued the licence for the stone removal and the planning is underway for works to start on 18 March. Quay West Car Park will be closed between the 18 and 24 March whilst these works are taking place. Assistant Harbour Master (Craig Butler) has been appointed and is in post. We have met with representatives of the Minehead Boatman's Association reference concerns that they have, this was a successful meeting and a number of actions have been agreed.

Grounds Maintenance

Works on the Zig Zag is ongoing, the Probation service have been involved in clearing the paths. The West Somerset Grounds Team have done an excellent job in cutting back years of vegetation. The DLO tree surgeon will be down early next week to cut a few trees back which will also expose the views for the seating areas. New benches and refurbishing of the old benches will be started on Tuesday (8 March).

Good news for Blenheim Garden. The park has received a Pride in Parks 4 Stars Award, which we are very pleased about. Full credit to the reduced Grounds Team, along with our volunteers for all their hard work over the winter months to the improve standards.



Work continues on maintaining the rhyes and attenuation ponds in and around Minehead – this is now working very well. This can be gauged by the fact we have had record rainfall again and none of the 1600 dwellings at risk of flooding have flooded. Wildlife has returned in numbers and are nesting on the island situated on the land alongside Seaward Way.



Somerset County Council Press Release

Ambitious plans for the future approved

Today Somerset County Council's Full Council approved an ambitious vision for the county and ground-breaking plans for devolution.

The vast majority of councillors agreed that the vision for Somerset is excellent news for the county. The vision looks to put the authority at the heart of work to create a Somerset University, new business parks, a 'garden town' and new energy initiatives.

Councillors also agreed to support the devolution plan that aims to maximise investment and boost productivity in the south west. The plan aims to create better-paid jobs, improved road, rail and broadband links and more homes for the region's growing population.

Leader of Somerset County Council, Cllr John Osman, said: "I was proud to present the vision and devolution at Full Council and I am very pleased that councillors have supported the plans for the future.

"We are stronger together and we can achieve great things together. That is why our devolution plan is so important. It has the potential to maximise investment in the area and bring great prosperity to the south west.

“The devolution plan and the vision are ambitious, but they are also vital to the future of the county. We need a university to keep young people in Somerset, we need a garden town to provide much needed homes and we need business parks and energy initiatives to boost our local economy and create jobs.”

Full Council also agreed budget proposals for 2016/17 that set around £8m of savings and capital investment of £75m in roads, schools and economic development. As well as an increase in Council Tax – 2 per cent ring-fenced for Adult Social Care, 1.99 per cent for other essential services and a further 1.25 per cent on behalf of the Somerset Rivers Authority to help fund its vital flood protection work.

Cllr Osman continued: “Balancing the budget has not been an easy task and we have had to make some really difficult decisions. We’ve had to prioritise the essentials and propose a number of savings that we prefer not to have taken.

“Last week we received an extra £2.9m from government. We are thankful for this money, which we will invest in key front line services, highways and to replenish our decreasing reserves, but it is not enough. We will continue to campaign government for fairer funding for our county.”

You can find a copy of the Full Council papers, including details of devolution, the vision, proposals for savings, capital investment and the Council Tax here:

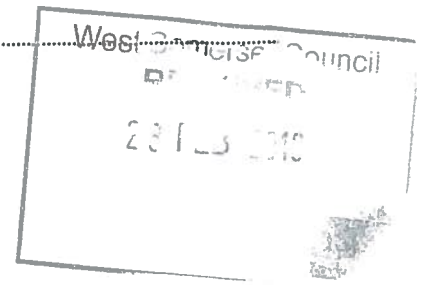
<http://www1.somerset.gov.uk/council/meetings/results.asp?ccode=1>

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Minehead Area Panel Meeting
Wednesday March 10th 2016

Report No 1.

**Item 1.
Health and Wellbeing Budget
2015 – 2016**

Just to inform members of the Minehead Area Panel on how I have allocated my £5,000, Health and Wellbeing Budget.

I gave the following grants to organisations in and around Minehead:

Accessible Transport West Somerset Ltd £500.00
Reminiscence Learning £1,000
West Somerset Advice Bureau £1,000
Minehead Dementia Alliance £500.00
MBC – Hub Project £500.00
Engage Voluntary Sector Development £1,000
PALS £500.00

All Applications approved by Somerset County Council Health and Wellbeing Panel early January 2016.

**Item 2.
Small Improvement Schemes (SIS) Submission (Oct 2013)
2015 – 2016**

1. Church Street, Minehead, Somerset, between the properties known as The Tallet and Robin Hill – Footpath and Steps. Works to commence sometime in March 2016.

Small Improvement Schemes (SIS) Submission (Nov 2015)

2. Proposed Pedestrian Crossing at or around West Somerset College-Bircham Road, Alcombe. Cllr Lawrence and I attended a presentation/project meeting at County Hall in December 2015. We were seeking support from County Highways on this project. We spent an hour or so making the case for a Pedestrian Crossing. Since then we have been informed that the proposed project scored 82% and it will be carried forward onto the next stage (meeting arranged for early March).

Cllr Lawrence and I will need to consult with Minehead Town Council, West Somerset College, the Police, and the Fire Brigade in the near future.

**Item 3.
Consultation – Parking Arrangements at Quay Street, the Harbour and the surrounding area**

Consultation took place over a four week period, which included a meeting/seminar at the Old Ship Aground. Mr Steve Deakin the project manager on behalf of Somerset County Council came along to the seminar to inform members on the proposals. Some 40 plus members of the public attended the meeting and we are now waiting to hear back from Mr Deakin on the finding of the consultation. The findings are pending but informed that they will be made available by Easter.

Item 4.
Consultation – Public Transport - Budget
2015 – 2016.

Consultation took place over the Christmas and New Year Period.
Non Concessionary fares will not be cut as proposed in draft budget. Good news for ATWEST but
Concessionary fares for bus operators will be cut from 50% to 25% as of April 6th 2016.
Only service to be affected by the public transport consultation was the reduction in the 398 Minehead to
Tiverton Service (this is the only Service to be affected here in West Somerset).

Item 5.
Budget

The Council agreed to increase the Council Tax Rate by 5.24% from April 1st 2016.
Agreed by Full Council. This included 2% for the Somerset River Authority and 2% for Social Care
provision.

Council also agreed a cut of over 20 million from the Budget.

As the member for Minehead, I voted against the Budget.



Cllr Terry J. Venner