

Minehead Area Panel

Notes of meeting held on 12 June 2013 at St Michael the Archangel Church Hall, Quarry Close, Minehead

Present:

Sandra Slade (Chair)	Member of the Public
Adrian Dyer	West Somerset Council
Cllr Mandy Chilcott	West Somerset Council
Cllr Maureen Smith	West Somerset Council/ Transition Minehead & Alcombe
Cllr Andrew Hadley	West Somerset Council
Cllr David Sanders	West Somerset Council
Cllr Martin Dewdney	West Somerset Council
Cllr Paul Grierson	Minehead Town Council/West Somerset Council
Cllr David Archer	Minehead Town Council
Cllr Ron Bridle	Minehead Town Council
Cllr Marcus Kravis	Minehead Town Council
Cllr Val Welch	Minehead Town Council
Sue Sanders	Minehead Town Council
David Peake	Somerset County Council Area Highways
Graham Sizer	Minehead Development Trust/Minehead Chamber of Commerce
Chris Jones	Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service
M Mundy	Resident
Rachel Bradshaw	Resident
Ron Blundell	Resident
Brenda Maitland-Walker	Resident
Anne Clarke	Manor Road/Staunton Lane Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator
Sarah Wilsher	West Somerset Council

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

Sandra Slade welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Gail Herbert (Minehead Town Council), Cllr Doug Ross (West Somerset Council), Cllr Paul Grierson (West Somerset Council/Minehead Town Council), Cath Isherwood (Resident), Colin Isherwood (Resident), Jenny Lennon-Wood (Minehead Development Trust), Cllr Karen Mills (West Somerset Council), Cllr Terry Venner (Somerset County Council).

2. Have Your Say – Community Issues/Concerns

A number of issues were raised as follows:

- (a) *Paul Grierson explained that following the ditch repairs works in Staunton Lane following the Autumnal floods, two parking bays were unable to be used and the residents would like to have them returned.*

ACTION: David Peake to ensure this was done.

- (b) *David Sanders advised that 'boy racers' were using the Station car park and coach park to do wheelspins, etc.*

ACTION: Sarah/Sandra to inform the Police.

- (c) *Mandy Chilcott raised concerns regarding recent roadworks being undertaken on Townsend Road near Minehead Middle School and up to the flats without any informative signage.*

David Peake explained that signage was generally not used for small schemes and that there should still be access for surrounding householders.

- (d) *Anne Clarke raised the continuing issue of fast traffic in Alcombe Combe and Manor Road – private cars, lorries and vans including a Post Office van and an ASDA delivery van. A 52-seater coach with a foreign registration plate had also parked for several nights at a t-junction in the Combe.*

ACTION: Sandra, on behalf of Minehead Area Panel, to send letters to the Post Office and ASDA in Taunton expressing the Panel's concern.

Sue Sanders had looked into the installation of sleeping policemen/speed humps and advised that agreement would have to be sought from Exmoor National Park Authority as part of the Combe was in the National Park. She also suggested that a Speed Indicator Device could be considered.

ACTION: Sue Sanders to further investigate sleeping policemen/speed humps and a Speed Indicator Device.

Please note that following the meeting the Police contacted Sarah to advise that they were not aware of any excessive speeding in Alcombe Combe/Manor Road and that it could be more a case of poor driving for the road layout. However, two PCSOs (Charlie and Louisa) would be visiting the area and looking out for any driving offences.

- (e) *The meeting raised the issue of the missing bench from outside Alcombe Village Hall.*

Adrian advised that West Somerset Council were looking into this and that the bench should hopefully soon be re-installed.

- (f) *Mandy Chilcott reported that several residents wished to use the Warren Road car park in the Summer evenings, but had found the barrier down at 7.30pm. Could the car park be closed later during the Summer? Adrian advised that the car park was closed to prevent it being used by 'boy racers' after complaints were received from the occupants of Blue Skies/Butlins. Ron Bridle advised that Minehead Town Council had been consulted on this issue and had objected to the car park being closed and Brenda Maitland-Walker said that, as a County Councillor, she had also objected. Adrian stated that West Somerset Council were responsible for the car park. The closing of the car park could be later in the evening if Members made that decision and if a person could be found to close the car park at a later time. In fact if there were no problems with 'boy racers' the car park could remain open 24/7.*

ACTION: Adrian Dyer to look into the issue and take it to Members.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 March 2013

Matter of Accuracy

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

Matters Arising

Item 2(a) – Students from West Somerset Community College parking in The Shires: Sandra updated the meeting on the situation as follows: Since the last meeting the Headteacher had written on 1 May after reading the Minehead Area Panel meeting minutes of 13 March to inform Sandra that she had not received her letter of 15 January (in which Sandra had reiterated her plea for Governors to think about how best to ensure that students use the parking area at the Rugby Club which would improve the traffic situation in The Shires until a solution had been found). A copy of this letter had duly been sent to Mrs Comber on 8 May. A reply had not been received to date. Paul Grierson reported that a meeting was due to be held on 28 June at West Somerset Community College. It would be chaired by Louisa Skinner, PCSO, and District Ward Members, the developers (Summerfield), representatives from the College and residents of The Shires had been invited to discuss the issues and see if an amicably acceptable solution can be reached.

Item 3 (8) – Speed Indicator Device for use in The Parks area of Woodcombe: Minehead resident, Trevor Short, had been in contact as a Speed Indicator Device (SID) had not been installed on 18 March (as per the minutes of the Minehead Area Panel meeting on 13 March) and he wished to know what was going to be done, if anything, regarding the speeding vehicles.

Sue Sanders explained that she had been in contact with David Grabham who managed the SID programme at Somerset County Council. Minehead Town Council had been due to receive a SID for use in The Parks/Woodcombe area on 18 March but unfortunately, the County Council had not been able to provide one as they had all been vandalised. Also, after the County Council's invitation to Parish Councils to submit requests for two SIDs they had been inundated with requests. 47 SIDs were now located around Somerset. Eventually, with the assistance of Cllr David Sanders, a SID was due to be installed in The Parks/Woodcombe area on 15 July 2013.

ACTION: Sarah to update Trevor Short and ask him to be in contact if the SID doesn't appear on 15 July.

Item 7 - Andrew Hadley had asked whether a speed limit of 40mph sign on the Porlock Road (A39) could be moved past the West Somerset Caravan Park as the drivers who tended to do much greater speeds could not see the sign. Andrew advised that he had brought the need to move the sign to the attention of Minehead Town Council, but County Highways had stated that it was not possible to move the sign.

Item 9 – Minehead Town Council had offered Dunster Lodge the old benches that the Town Council no longer needed: Anne Clarke, on behalf of Dunster Lodge, thanked Minehead Town Council for the benches which were much used and appreciated by the residents.

4. Encouraging improved attendance and review of operation of Minehead Area Panel

Adrian reported that District Councillors were seeking views on the relevance of Area Panels and whether they should continue. The Corporate Policy Advisory Group had raised this after the Area Panels' satisfaction rate had dropped from 75% to 43%. Adrian had attended the Watchet, Williton and Quantocks (WWQ) Area Panel meeting on 11 June and this had been poorly attended due to not being well advertised and apathetic attendance. It did not therefore seem worthwhile continuing the WWQ Area Panel. Adrian asked for comments from the meeting and the following were made:

- Paul Grierson said that he had spoken up for Minehead Area Panel and felt it was well worth keeping.
- Sue Sanders confirmed that Minehead Town Council strongly supported Minehead Area Panel and they had put this on their copy of the survey sent out to parish councils.
- Anne Clarke agreed that Minehead Area Panel was worthwhile as a forum for concerns, information, etc.
- Graham Sizer said that it would be very sad if the Minehead Area Panel stopped as it was the forum for members of the public.
- Marcus Kravis stated that the Internet community site, Revive Minehead, advised the public to go through the Minehead Area Panel with any concerns that they may have.
- It was noted that today's attendance was not as high as usual, with only five residents. Sandra said that the meeting was included in a public notice of Council meetings in the West Somerset Free Press but that this could be easily overlooked so she usually wrote a letter for publication in the Free Press a few days before the next meeting. However, she had not had the chance to do a letter before this meeting. Mandy Chilcott advised that Fay Dyke advertised the Area Panel on the 'Revive Minehead' page of Facebook, a social networking Internet site. It was noted that a speaker/presentation usually increased attendance and Sandra asked members to let Sarah know of any individuals/organisations they would like to speak at future meetings.

ACTION: Members to let Sarah know on email: swwilsher@westsomerset.gov.uk or tel: 01984 635296 if there were any individuals/organisations they would like to speak at future meetings.

It was agreed that Stephen Hooper, Minehead Vision Manager, should be invited to speak at the Area Panel's next meeting on 11 September.

ACTION: Sarah to invite Stephen Hooper to speak at the next Minehead Area Panel meeting on 11 September.

It was suggested that reports of meetings could be sent to the West Somerset Free Press for publication.

The start time of the meeting was also discussed and it was recognised that many Minehead residents worked in Taunton/Bridgwater and so generally were unable to attend meetings at 6pm. It was decided to hold the 11 September meeting at 6.30pm to see if this affected attendance. It was also suggested that it may be useful if meetings could be held in other venues in Minehead in order to encourage attendance by residents who live in other parts of the town, for example, Sainsbury Hall and the Avenue Methodist Church Hall. It was noted that the current venue was booked for Minehead Area Panel meetings until early 2014, but the use of other venues could be looked at after this date.

Sandra advised that as Alcombe was now in the new County Electoral Division of Dunster, Alcombe residents could also attend the Dunster Area Panel meetings.

5. Minehead Visioning Group – an update

A report had been prepared by Corinne Matthews, Regeneration & Tourism Manager with West Somerset Council and Sandra read this out, as follows:

- Ray Tew, Vice-Chair of Minehead Visioning Group, was serving as Chair until the annual meeting of the Group in October where a new Chair to replace former County Councillor Brenda Maitland-Walker would be elected.

- The Vision Manager business plan and budget had been approved by Minehead Visioning Group. This would next be presented by Stephen Hooper to Minehead Town Council, and then a paper would be submitted to West Somerset Council's Cabinet and Council requesting the drawdown of £30,000 of Seaside Strategy Funding. Work was well underway on five key projects that were intended to revitalise and rejuvenate the town.
- Minehead Visioning Group aimed to establish a Town Team sub-group to ensure that the wider business community were involved with the Vision for Minehead, and maximise the opportunities of Minehead's 'Town Team' status that it achieved when awarded the Portas £10,000. Sandra added that this sub-group would include interested members of the public and if anyone knew of anyone who would like to join the Team to contact Sarah Wilsher in the first instance (01984 635296 or email: swwilsher@westsomerset.gov.uk)
- Minehead Visioning Group continued to receive regular reports and updates in relation to the Minehead Information Centre and Minehead Events Group, in addition to other key stakeholder updates.
- New members on the Group were Cllr Mandy Chilcott, who joins Cllr Richard Lillis as the WSC Member representatives, and Cllr Karen Mills who was the new Lead member for Economic Regeneration & Tourism (replacing Cllr David Sanders - who had moved to a new role)
- For Minehead Town Council the new member representatives were Cllr David Archer and Cllr Roger Thomas who join long serving representative on Minehead Visioning Group – Cllr Ron Bridle.

Margaret Mundy was concerned that the Minehead Information Centre did not have any bus timetables at the moment. Graham said that this was because Somerset County Council had run out of timetables and did not have the budget to produce more. He would look into getting more, perhaps from another source. Paul Grierson advised that the Information Centre would copy timetables for a donation.

5. Minehead Development Trust (MDT) – an update

In Jenny Lennon-Wood's absence, Graham Sizer reported the following:

The ownership of the Old Hospital site passed to NHS Property Services Ltd on 1 April. Minehead Development Trust were now in a series of constructive meetings/negotiations with NHSPS regarding the price of the building, and were at a delicate stage in the proceedings.

Please note that Jenny also provided a report for the meeting, which unfortunately was not seen until after the meeting. Jenny's report added the following:

During the constructive meetings/negotiations with NHSPS, Minehead Development Trust were being advised by Locality (formerly the Development Trusts Association). As reported at the last Area Panel meeting in March, NHSPS appealed against the registration of the Old Hospital as an Asset of Community Value. This appeal was rejected by West Somerset Council on 18 March and NHSPS did not submit a further appeal to a First Tier Tribunal by the 30 April deadline so the registration was upheld.

6. Police Report

In the absence of the Police, Adrian Dyer reported that meetings had taken place between West Somerset Council and the new Chief Constable and Superintendent for the area. Restructuring had taken place at management level and whereas there used to be five Superintendents for Somerset there were now only three. Chief Superintendent, Nicky Watson, covered Minehead. This restructuring, however, was not expected to have an adverse impact on front line policing.

Adrian further reported that he would be meeting with Sue Mountstevens, the Police Commissioner, in July and that West Somerset Council was represented on the Police Crime Commissioners Panel, which looked at preventing police resources being concentrated in Bristol at the expense of rural areas and districts.

Graham Sizer reported that he was helping out at Minehead Information Centre about three weeks ago during an adult weekend and unusually there were no police officers about. The meeting expressed their concern at this lack of police officers. Marcus felt that sometimes the area was over-policed, but agreed that more PCSOs would have been a good idea to provide a uniformed presence. It was also noted that Butlins paid for extra policing over the adult weekends.

Please note that following the meeting the Police contacted Sarah to advise that they were they had not been aware of two recent adult weekends. The weekends had not been advertised at the outset as adult weekends and when they had become adult weekends the Police had not been informed. A meeting had been held with Julian Highfield, General Manager of Butlins, and the problem identified and situation resolved.

7. Highway Matters

David Peake reported that the A39 emergency route scheme, as discussed by the Minehead Area Panel on 12 December 2012, was moving forwards. This scheme involved splitting the A39 into sections so that if part of it was closed due to a traffic accident or flooding, for example, then a particular diversionary route would be put in place so that traffic could be diverted safely. A public exhibition would be held on Wednesday, 19 June from 4pm to 8pm at The Moorland Hall in Wheddon Cross where the plans showing the latest proposals could be viewed and comments made. This project was also referred to as the Static Diversionary Signage Project and was funded out of the Small Improvements Scheme section of the Highways budget. The details of the routes could be viewed on the County Council's website, as follows:
<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/irj/public/council/initiatives/initiative?rid=/wpccontent/Sites/SCC/Web%20Pages/Council/Initiatives/Small%20Improvement%20Schemes>

Andrew Hadley referred to the recent closure of Porlock Hill, which had involved a very circuitous alternative route. He wondered whether a sign could have been erected providing details of the Toll Road, cost, etc., which although not a public highway could provide drivers with an easier and quicker alternative. The meeting also felt that the signage in place had been misleading as it had not been specific enough. The first sign was 'A39 closed ahead', the second sign read 'Porlock Hill closed' and the third sign said 'Businesses open'. David explained that the signs had to be read in sequence; it had been thought that there were too many words for just one sign. However, the meeting were concerned that the 'messages' conveyed by the signs were not sufficiently informative.

The meeting then discussed advisory notices in the event of a road traffic collision or similar. It was agreed that they had to be very precise as to which piece of road was closed and where the incident was so that drivers knew whether they could gain access around the area in question and not use long scenic routes unnecessarily.

David advised that the various proposed Traffic Regulation Orders for Minehead: Holloway Street (east), The Close, Alcombe, Bernard Crescent (at the junction with Paganel Road), Station Terrace and Bampton Street (west) were in their implementation phase.

David then reported the following:

Completed Highway Works:

Carriageway resurfacing along the eastern section of King George Road.

Footway repairs along The Parade.
Drainage repairs in Townsend Road.
Water main refurbishment on the A39 Alcombe Road and A39 Hopcott Road.

Ongoing Highway Works:

Carriageway patching on the A358 at Crowcombe and Bicknoller from 10 to 21 June, with temporary traffic signals at times.

Future Highway Works:

Surface dressing small lanes programme in various locations within West Somerset from 17 to 30 June.

Carriageway patching on the A39 at Williton, Old Cleeve and Withycombe from 17 to 28 June, with temporary traffic signals at times.

Carriageway resurfacing at Black Arch Bridge on the A358 at Sampford Brett with the road closed from 7pm to 7am for the nights of 18 and 19 June.

Surface dressing main roads programme in various locations within West Somerset from 22 to 30 June.

Carriageway resurfacing in Selbourne Place, Minehead from 16 to 18 September with a temporary road closure.

Carriageway resurfacing on the A39 at Tivington from 6.30pm to 11.30pm on the 16, 17 and 18 September.

There would also be temporary road closures in Warren Road, Minehead for the 'Red Arrows Day' on 14 August.

In addition, the Ironman UK 70.3 triathlon event would have a cycle route around Wimbleball Lake (B3224, A396 and B3190) on 16 June. This would mean that vehicles would only be able to traffic one-way to allow for the cycling route. (For details view: www.ironmanuk.com).

Mandy Chilcott expressed concern regarding some cycling events taking place on roads which remained open to traffic and the lack of signage to inform drivers that these events were happening. David advised that proper cycle races (such as the Tour of Britain) had road closures and marshals. In other cycle events, eg Exmoor Beast, cyclists had to abide by the rules of the road.

Adrian asked whether the temporary traffic lights at Withycombe Straight would still be in place on Friday, 14 June when visitors would be arriving at Butlins. David advised that the traffic lights would not be in situ on this day.

Marcus Kravis felt that the parking time slot of one hour was not long enough for the bays opposite the Exchange Studio, a hair salon, in Mart Road as some customers may need longer than one hour. David stated that the issue needed to be taken to Minehead Town Council and if they thought the time period needed changing they would approach Richard Newby of West Somerset Area Highways, who could then raise a Traffic Regulation Order which involved public consultation. David added that it was often the case that historical parking restrictions no longer met current demands and needed changing to suit today's circumstances.

Val Welch stated that there were no road markings at Tesco, Stevenson Way and Hawkmoor. David said he would look into it.

ACTION: David Peake to look into the lack of road markings at Tesco, Stevenson Way and Hawkmoor.

8. Burning Issues

Chris Jones of the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service (DSFRS) reported the following:

Operational News

- Minehead crews had attended over 50 operational calls during the last quarter, including several property fires, chimney fires, heath fires, vehicle fires, road traffic collisions, lift rescues, a large animal rescue and a small number of automatic fire alarms.
- There had not been any cases of deliberately ignited fires during the last quarter in the Minehead town area.

Community Safety News and Activities

- Minehead Fire Station's Community Facebook page continued to offer Fire Safety advice and incident news.
- DSFRS community safety officers and the education team would be starting work in Minehead Middle School where children would be taking part in the 'Focus on Fire' programme. This would be covered over several weeks in class and home study throughout June.
- A DSFRS Community Safety Officer, in partnership with The Ambulance Service and other services, would be assisting with a Safety week for St Michaels First School in Watery Lane on 24 June.
- Minehead Men's Guild would be attending Minehead Community Fire Station to discuss 'What the modern Fire Service do' and some Home Fire Safety awareness.
- DSFRS were looking at the potential for St Johns Ambulance to take part in some community partnership training at the Fire Station.
- Plans were in place to deliver a multi-agency community safety event at this year's Dunster Show. This would include a large stand with Road Safety advice from DSFRS, Avon & Somerset Police and the Somerset Road Safety Partnership; Rural, Farming and Home Fire Safety advice from DSFRS, and Health and Well-being advice from The Ambulance Service.

News and Public Information

- The Fire Authority were currently considering budget cuts and proposals. Announcements and decisions by The Authority on the plans to save £5.5 million during 2013/14 and 2014/15 were likely to be announced during July 2013. Chris advised that would be staffing cuts, including voluntary redundancies in certain departments. However, this would not adversely affect frontline services.
- Public information can be sought from the website: www.dsfrs.gov.uk

David Archer asked how many houses in Minehead were fitted with smoke alarms. Chris replied that he did not know specifically for Minehead but generally the figure was that 70% of houses had fire alarms fitted, but in only 10% of these houses were they actually regularly tested. The DSFRS would fit smoke alarms free in the homes of vulnerable members of the community. Tenanted homes were 7% more likely to have fires than privately owned homes.

9. Town Council Update

Paul Grierson reported the following:

- The Mayor was now Val Welch, with Ron Bridle as Deputy Mayor.
- There was now new playing equipment on the Periton Way playing field and a multi-coloured fence and gate were due to be erected.
- The maintenance of roundabouts started today.
- The Town Council were cutting back the grass verges of Somerset County Council land.
- The Town Council were looking after the flowers in the planters, half of which had been grown by West Somerset Community College.

- Minehead Town Council had recently weed sprayed in Minehead and Alcombe and would do so again in the Autumn. This cost £2,500 and was a task they were doing because the community wished it to be done.
- Minehead Town Council would be maintaining the roundabouts for Somerset County Council.
- New benches had been installed at the Irnham Road recreation ground and new play equipment of £25,000 was being looked into.

10. District Council Update

Adrian reported the following:

- The gents and ladies toilets on the lower floor of the Carousel would remain closed. However, the two disabled units had now been turned into unisex toilets and a baby change unit would be included in the left hand cubicle. There would be lighting 24/7. It was also proposed to build a single unisex pod onto the side of the Jubilee Café which would be a pay facility. Cllr Karen Mills, the new Lead Member for Economic Regeneration and Tourism, would be talking to local businesses regarding the future of public conveniences.
- The main sand clearance works had taken place during the week commencing 25 February and was a combined clearance with the Environment Agency, Veolia and CJ Lynch (working on behalf of West Somerset Council). Further clearance had occurred in March (the week before Easter) and then on Friday 4 May (prior to the bank holiday). It was acknowledged that there had been a further build-up of sand since these works due to the high winds along from the seafront public conveniences to the golf course. A request for a contribution for a further clean-up before the start of the school holidays had been made to Minehead Town Council and Butlins.
- Two of the three storage units under the Quay West Upper Boat Park had now been let out to local boat owners for storage purposes. The remaining unit was remaining with the district council for their own storage.
- Orders had been raised for resurfacing some uneven patches on Minehead Harbour and for repairs to the broken edging of the slipway.
- Works to the Bratton Walk and Woodcombe Walk footbridges and resurfacing of areas that were damaged by the flooding had now been completed.
- The lights along the Seafront were now functional and on-going maintenance would be put in place.
- An agreement was being drawn up to enable the Minehead Vision Manager to use the VIIC on the Seafront for exhibitions during July/Aug/September.
- There was money in the capital programme for a final phase of works on the cliffs behind Quay West car park. Phased works had taken place over the last two years and this final work was to enclose a loose outcrop in closely contoured rock netting which was behind the boat park. There was no firm date for these works yet as the contractors had a full schedule but it was anticipated to be July/August.
- Signs would be going up over the next week or so to advertise the sale of the former Aquasplash site, the land from the new hospital to the Rose Garden, and the VIIC. The sites would also be advertised in the appropriate journals. The District Valuation of the VIIC site was £250,000 to purchase or £20,000 per year to lease.

- Negotiations with David Wilson Homes were ongoing for the sale of the land at Seaward Way for 55 to 59 new homes (17 to 19 to be affordable).
- The poster/banner at the Ellicombe roundabout advertising the removal of tattoos had not received permission from the Council and had been removed.
- The Council had granted £50,000 of S106 monies to Minehead Cricket Club for a new pavilion which had been officially opened on Friday 7 June.
- £50,000 had also been granted for improved facilities at the Rugby Club and these were currently under construction.
- The footpath from Morrisons to the level crossing would be widened and new, hopefully vandalproof, lighting would be installed. This was hoped to be completed before the dark nights at the beginning of Winter but there were some legal aspects to be completed first before work could commence.
- EDF Energy were winding down operations due to the failure to agree a guaranteed price for electricity with Government. This meant that if the guaranteed price was agreed tomorrow a final investment decision would need to be made by the Board in Paris, with full mobilisation not until January/February 2014.

Marcus Kravis expressed disappointment and concern that West Somerset Council did not intend to clear the sand until before the start of the school holidays when it badly needed clearing now. Mobile scooters, pushchairs, etc were particularly finding access along the seafront difficult. He also felt the sand would need clearing during the six weeks summer holiday. Adrian agreed with Marcus that the work needed to be done, but there was only £100 in the budget to do it and it needed to be done at a time to suit the Environment Agency in order to reduce the cost to the Council. It actually cost between £400 and £500 per day to clear the sand.

Martin Dewdney further explained that there had never been a proper budget for sand clearance as in the past it had only needed doing on an ad-hoc basis so was generally done at the end of March using any funds left at the end of the financial year. This year due to climate change the jet stream had changed causing problems.

Marcus asked whether sand clearance had been discussed at the devolution meetings with parish councils. Adrian replied that it had not been included in the talks. Minehead Town Council had been written to asking for a monetary contribution and Butlins would be contacted. Sue Sanders advised that they gave a regular payment of £3,000.

David Archer suggested that a budget be set for the work and asked whether Council officers could supervise volunteers to remove the sand. Adrian thought this was an admirable idea, however, the Council had looked into using those on Community Service but the health and safety issues had made the idea unworkable. Chris Jones asked whether the cleared sand could be used for sandbags and to prevent the problem of long-term storage (wet sandbags rot if not under cover) residents could be encouraged to take sandbags home in the Summer months for use in the Winter.

ACTION: Adrian to look into the issue of the community clearing the sand on the Seafront and report back at the next Minehead Area Panel meeting.

Andrew Hadley informed the meeting that the Local Development Plan would be put out to consultation for eight weeks from mid-July to mid-September and urged everyone to read the Plan and to make comments on this important document which

determined the future development of land in Minehead (and West Somerset). He asked Adrian whether the VIIC could be used for a display and Adrian agreed that this would be a good idea. All Parish Councils would be sent a copy.

11. County Council Update

As Terry Venner, the County Councillor for Minehead, had sent his apologies there was no County Council update. Mandy Chilcott asked that in the future a written report be requested if the Councillor was not able to present one.

ACTION: Sarah to request a written report from the County Councillor so that if he is unable to attend an update would still be available.

12. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Date & Venue of Future Meetings

Future meetings to be held on:

Wednesday, 11 September 2013 at St Michael the Archangel Church Hall, Alcombe

Wednesday, 11 December 2013

Wednesday, 12 March 2014