

DUNSTER AREA PANEL MEETING

TUESDAY 18 APRIL 2017 AT 7.00PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, WILLITON

NOTES OF THE MEETING

Attendees: Cllr Faye Barringer-Capp (Chair) Carhampton Parish Council
Cllr Philip Larmay, Carhampton Parish Council
Cllr C Oliver, Dunster Parish Council
Cllr R Buckingham, Elworthy Parish Council
Cllr Phil Gannon, Old Cleeve Parish Council
Cllr Margaret Smith, Old Cleeve Parish Council
Cllr T M Bridgeman, Old Cleeve Parish Council
Steve Eggar, Roadwater Village Trust
Martin Taylor, Washford
Cllr Brenda Maitland-Walker, West Somerset Council
Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew, West Somerset Council
Cllr P Pilkington, West Somerset Council
Bruce Lang, Assistant Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer,
West Somerset Council
Eileen Ford, West Somerset Council

1) “Have Your Say” Community Issues

Cllr Smith, Old Cleeve Parish Council, raised the issue of the gabions.
Bruce Lang provided the following update from David Peake at SCC.

“The area has been tidied. SCC have had a discussion with Dunster Parish Council regarding using some of the gabions but their advice from the Environment Agency was that re-use was not likely to be cost effective. The Parish were, therefore, not going to actively pursue using them. A local business has started talks with West Somerset Council regarding using them for sea defences. SCC Highways position remains that they were provided for a sea defence scheme that would benefit the road either directly or indirectly so we are waiting to hear how these talks go before making a final decision on disposal. A number of other organisations have expressed interest in using them for various other purposes but SCC are reluctant to see them dispersed until then”.

Cllr Gannon raised his concerns that the gabions were unsuitable for coastal defences use.

A request was made that an Officer from the Rights of Way at SCC is invited to attend a future Dunster Area Panel meeting to provide a presentation. Peter Hobley was suggested as a suitable Officer to invite.

Mr Martin Taylor from Washford attended the meeting. Mr Taylor requested advice from the Council on what advice they could provide in respect of dog fouling. Mr Taylor lives on a private access lane where members of the public have been allowing dog fouling. Mr Taylor informed the Panel that he had used the on-line form to the Council regarding dog fouling and had yet to receive a response. Bruce Lang agreed to investigate Mr Taylor's concerns. A discussion took place regarding the fact that as the lane is privately owned the Council have no jurisdiction to take any action. Mr Taylor was advised to contact the Police and to contact a solicitor to see if civil action was a possibility.

2) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Crothers, Nettlecombe Parish Council; Ian Liddell-Grainger, MP; David Peake, Highways at SCC and Cllr Geoff Williams, Old Cleeve Parish Council. Apologies were also received from Cllr Christine Lawrence, SCC, after the meeting.

3) Minutes of Meeting Held on 23 January 2017 and Matters Arising

There was one amendment on page one. The minutes were amended from "Cllr Williams and Cllr Smith would be directors, in addition to the Parish Council" to read ". Cllr Williams and Cllr Smith with three others would be sponsoring the CIC for 2017". The minutes were subsequently approved.

4) Police Report

The Police did not submit a report or send a representative to the meeting.

A discussion took place regarding that Parish Councils are advising to look at the website for updates. It was agreed that contact would be made to the Police advising of them of future Panel dates.

5) Highways Report

David Peake, Highways at Somerset Council, was unable to attend the meeting, but sent the following update.

**Planned Works in Dunster Panel Area
April 2017**

West Somerset House, Williton 18

	Parish/Town	Location	Description	Start	Finish	Duration
Completed						
SCC	Carhampton	A39 Keepers Cottage	Drainage work. Improvement of road gullies and cross drains.			Completed
SCC	Carhampton	A39 Dunster Straight	Drainage work. Construction of spillway across highway verge near Great Firs.			Completed
SCC	Crowcombe	Triscombe Lane	Embankment/Verge repairs.			Completed
SCC	Nettlecombe	B3188 Yarde to Fair Cross	Drainage work. Improvement of road gullies and cross drains.			Completed
SCC	Withycombe	Court Place Lane	Repairs to culvert.			Completed
SCC	Old Cleeve Elworthy	A39 Washford B3224 Elworthy Barrows	Retexturing of carriageway surfaces to improve their skid resistance.			Completed
SCC	Various	A39 & B3224	Strengthening around road gullies by the "PacoPatch" method.			Completed
Ongoing						

Future						
SCC	Withycombe	Rattle Row	Repairs to Withycombe Ford. Temporary road closure.	19 June	23 June	1 week
SCC	Stogumber	Vellow Road	Drainage work. Temporary road closure.	July	July	2 weeks
Other						
SCC	Old Cleeve	A39 Dragon Cross, Bilbrook	Funding has been secured from central government to carry out a further section of flood reduction works at this location. The finance is available in the 2017/2018 financial year and, although programme dates have not yet been confirmed, they will they will take place at times of lowest disruption to local residents and businesses.			

Cllr Bridgeman updated the Panel that money provided to the Somerset Rivers Authority had been used to clear and clean gullies and drains.

Cllr Gannon raised concern regarding kerb edges as to what is SCC Highways boundaries and what is private land owner's boundaries. Cllr Gannon's understanding is that on highways there should be a clearly defined margin of 500mm. At a recent Parish meeting a planning condition was made that a hedge be installed which would go up to the edge of the tarmac. Cllr Gannon was concerned that in the future the hedge would encroach onto the highway.

Cllr Smith raised concern regarding the proposed temporary installation of a speed indicator device which had been cancelled due to the relevant Officer being on annual leave. Cllr Smith had been advised that although the SID had been delayed, the SID would be reprogrammed into the forward plan.

Cllr Maitland-Walker raised concern that the drains in Carhampton had been cleared, but the debris had not been removed. Following rain the debris had ended up back in the drains. The difficulty is that SCC are responsible for cleaning the drains and the District Council responsible for the removal of the debris. The same issues surround weed cleaning; SCC are responsible for controlling weeds, but the District Council responsible for the removal of dead weeds. The issue of ragwort was raised and panel members were advised to report any sightings to SCC.

6) Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service

No representation and report was received from the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service.

7) West Somerset Council Report

Bruce provided the following update.

A General Election had been called for 8 June 2017. SCC elections would take place on 4 May 2017.

Somerset West Lottery

There has been an excellent response with nearly 80 local good causes wishing to attend the 'Somerset West Lottery Launch for West Somerset and Taunton Deane Local Good Causes' on Tuesday 16 May 2017. We still have few places available for any local good cause including sports clubs, community groups, voluntary organisations and school PTAs.

There is a choice of two events which you can attend:

- 1 9.30am at the Council Chamber, West Somerset House, or
- 2 6.30pm at the Albermarle Centre, Taunton

Please contact Gail Sloman on 01984 635 208 or email gksloman@westsomerset.gov.uk if you or anyone from your local good causes would like to attend. The deadline for attending either of the above events is Tuesday 25 April 2017.

The Somerset West Lottery will provide the potential for local good causes to have a web presence, free of charge as well as potentially earning another income stream.

If you need to find out more information, please contact Angela Summers on 01984 635318.

Update from Assets Management

Dunster Steep Public Conveniences

These facilities were handed over to the Dunster Parish Council on the 31st March under a temporary licence, with a view to transferring the asset to the group in the next few weeks.

Blue Anchor Public Conveniences

These facilities were handed over to the Blue Anchor Toilets Community Interest Company on the 31st March under a 12 month lease, with a view to transferring the asset to the group at a further date.

Blue Anchor

- Access to the slipway at the east end of Blue Anchor beach has been closed off due to the perceived unmanageable risk to the public. The area is not the responsibility of the District Council, but that of the landowner/s. The action was purely taken in the interests of public safety
- It should be noted, the Council have informed other agencies and placed notices up to warn the public of the issue
- Other access points have been highlighted as has the issue of being cut-off by the tide
- At the west end of Blue Anchor beach the landowners blocked access – this has been eased, this is not a District Council concern. County and the landowners are in discussions concerning the 'public right of way'
- The gabions which sit on WSC land and belong to SCC are now being discussed with the possibility of being used by a local landowner. All enquiries need to go through SCC

- The Council and the Cleansing Service Provider have agreed some changes to the street sweeping route to enhance the cleansing within Old Cleeve Parish and help with flood elevation concerns
- The Council did receive a complaint concerning noise from the sweeper however, due to the time, (04:30am) it was found it was not the WSC sweeper, (does not start work until 06:00am and would not be on site until 07:00 – 07:30am). The complainant was full advised

Carhampton

- No concerns reported

Update on West Somerset Council's budget

Following recent Hinkley point appeal decision the Council's budget gap for year 2018/19 is £130,602.

The total gap up to year 2023/24 is £529,325.

Cllr Gannon raised a concern he had with a recent FOI request he had made. The request was made to both WSC and TDBC but the response he received was from TDBC only. The response contained no signature or telephone number in case of further questions. Cllr Gannon telephoned on two separate occasions and spent a considerable amount of time being forwarded to various Officers who were unable to help him. It was only when he requested to speak to Bruce Lang that managed to speak to the right Officer and obtain the information he required. Bruce took a copy of the response and agreed to follow up the reasons for the failure in service.

Cllr Dewdney wished his thanks to be passed onto the Dunster Parish Council and the Blue Anchor Community Interest Group for their help in the transfer of the public toilets. In particular, Cllr Dewdney wished to thank Cllr Smith. Cllr Trollope-Bellew also wished his thanks to be passed on.

Concern was also raised about the use of Council e-mail addresses for private e-mails. Bruce informed the Panel that there was a protocol in place for the use of e-mails and social media and if anyone had any specific concerns Councillors could contact him outside of the meeting.

8) Dates of Future Meetings

The next meeting is on Monday 24 July 2017 at 7.00pm.