

**EXMOOR PANEL
MINUTES
Thursday 18 June 2015
Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross**

Those present:

S Pugsley (Chair)	C Knight, Brushford PC Clerk
V White, Cutcombe PC	J Davis, Cutcombe PC
J Anson, Cutcombe PC	E Clarbull, Cutcombe PC
M Rawle, Dulverton TC	M Willison, Dulverton TC
M Ellicott, Exford PC	J Hickman, Exford PC
K Tucker, Exford PC	F Rawle, Exton PC
A Sparling, Luxborough PC	D Powell, Luxborough PC
A Wright, Porlock PC	J Parsons, Timberscombe PC
P Webber, Selworthy & Minehead Without PC	F Bray, Winsford PC
P Griffin, Wootton Courtenay PC	F Nicholson, SCC
T Howard, Withypool & Hawkridge PC	R McArthur, ENPA
D Peake, SCC Highways	K Mills, WSC
B Lang, WSC	M Willes, Business Exmoor
C Hall, WSC and TDBC	J Lynch, Veolia

1 Have Your Say

- 1.1 The Chairman was aware that Cutcombe Parish Council had an issue to raise but as there were no police representatives present at this stage in the meeting he decided to hold the matter in abeyance until the “police issues” item later on the agenda.

2. Apologies for Absence

- 2.1 R Manicom and F Gabb (Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service), West Somerset Councillor N Thwaites, Councillor A Vigars (Exmoor PC), Councillor B Foster (Selworthy and Minehead Without PC) and K Harwood (SCC Highways).

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 March 2015 and Matters Arising

- 3.1 Agreed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting.
- 3.2 Matters arising: In response to paragraph 8.3 below, the Watch Manager from Dulverton Fire Station provided the following response:

Being alerted directly from Ambulance Control can save time from between 1 – 3 minutes in mobilisation times, the targets set to respond to Category 1 calls (Life threatening) is 8 minutes. Our nearest ambulance station to the Dulverton area is Tiverton which takes approximately 18 minutes travelling time, if they are not available it can be Minehead or South Molton, and when these Stations are busy possibly Taunton or Exeter. So the time saved to mobilise us could make the difference in saving lives.

4 Road Sweeping Issues

4.1 Chris Hall, Assistant Director of Operation Delivery for Taunton Deane and West Somerset Councils and Julie Lynch of Veolia attended the meeting to answer questions from members of the Panel regarding the road sweeping service.

4.2 Matters raised included:

- Exton main road junction has not been swept for two years – it transpired there was no formal record of the issue and members of the Panel were advised to report any road sweeping concerns to the District Council.
- Cutcombe – concerned at the procedure for removing spoil – advised that the Environment Agency considered this to be contaminated waste and required it to be removed to Minehead for proper processing.
- Exford – asked if it was possible to request changing the lengths of road to be swept within a parish – parishes were advised that as long as the proposed changes did not result in an overall increase in service, this could be possible and so parishes should contact Veolia direct with any such requests.
- Exford – issue with debris not being cleared – it was uncertain whether this should be a County Council responsibility but Julie Lynch agreed to look into it.
- Cutcombe – thanked Veolia for the work they had done in the parish generally.
- General – a request for parishes to be informed of when the roads in their area were to be swept so they could at least consider asking residents to move vehicles – agreed that as a “one-off” Veolia would advise all parish clerks the next time when individual parishes were due to be swept and then each parish should be able to calculate future dates at the regular stated intervals.
- General – it was agreed that an email would be sent to all parish clerks enquiring as to whether there were parts of their parishes that were currently swept which the parish council considered did not need to be covered as this would help the District Council in meeting future savings targets.
- Dulverton – concern that the manual road sweeper was not covering Lady Street – advised that this street should be swept and so the message would be relayed back.

4.3 The Chairman thanked Chris and Julie for their attendance.

5 Business Exmoor

5.1 Mike Willes attended the meeting and gave a brief presentation on Business Exmoor. Mike explained that the organisation was established in September 2014 by eight local business people as a non-profit making community interest company. The aim of the organisation was to promote new business development and support existing businesses on Exmoor. Any business that carried on activity in the Exmoor area was welcome to be a member. The Membership fee was currently set at a £100 per year, with start-up businesses having the first year free. Currently there were in the region of 40 members. The organisation has a website and organises events with guest speakers of interest, for example, about the broadband project.

5.2 During the ensuing discussion, it was acknowledged that there would be merit in Visit Exmoor and Business Exmoor exploring how they could work more closely together. In an answer to a question Mike explained that Business Exmoor would hope that it will become easier to start a business within Exmoor and they would encourage any business that is viable and sustainable. The intention of the

organisation was to have a collective business voice that could be more effectively heard and influential going forward.

- 5.3 The Chairman thanked Mike for his attendance and encouraged members of the Panel to contact Business Exmoor if they were interested in either becoming a member or had issues that they would like the organisation to take forward.

6. Police Issues

- 6.1 It was noted that no police representative was present.
- 6.2 In their absence, Cutcombe Parish Council explained their particular concern in that the main junction in the centre of the village was in many ways considered the “gateway” for persons entering the Exmoor area to commit crimes. The Parish Council had an ambition to install a CCTV system including vehicle registration recognition but research demonstrated that such a piece of equipment would cost at least in the region of £10,000. The Parish Council were therefore intending to make a bid for funding to the Police and Crime Commissioner and sought the Panel’s support for this initiative.
- 6.3 It was unanimously agreed that the Exmoor Panel support Cutcombe Parish Council in its request for funding towards a CCTV camera with vehicle registration recognition in the village. The police would be advised of the Panel’s decision.

7. SCC Highways

- 7.1 David Peake from Somerset County Council Highways attended for this item and went through the planning works in the Exmoor Panel area, as set out in the appendix to the minutes of this meeting.
- 7.2 In the discussion that ensued, the following points were made:
- On 24 June 2015 at 7.30 pm in Moorland Village Hall, Cutcombe there was to be a presentation about local highways works on Cutcombe Hill and everyone was encouraged to attend.
 - The question was raised about offset ploughing on highways/verges and does the Highways Authority still undertake such works. The response was yes they do but there was only 10% of the previous budget available so the works were much reduced.
- 7.3 The problems of unsuitable heavy vehicles ending up in Dulverton and getting stuck due to satnavs were raised – both Exmoor National Park and the Highways Authority had been approached to help with the problem and it was recognised that it was a very difficult issue to deal with, and really required a national initiative.
- 7.4 On the fingerposts initiative, the County Councillor reported that she was attending a meeting with Exmoor National Park and West Somerset Council representatives on 22 June 2015 to see if a coordinated project/funding could be put together.
- 7.5 In addition, any parish/town council was invited to approach Exford Parish Council who could advise them of the cost/arrangements that they had made to refurbish fingerposts in their village.
- 7.6 The contact details for reporting lighting faults on Somerset County Council highway lighting stock:

Telephone

0300 123 2224

Option 3

Option 1

Option 0

SCC Website

www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/problems-on-the-road/report-problem-with-a-street-light/

8. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Services Issues

- 8.1 In the absence of representatives at the meeting, a report from Dulverton Fire Station was read out that stated that since the last Panel meeting 16 fire calls had been responded to and 33 co-responder calls had been attended by the Dulverton Fire Co-responder Team.
- 8.2 The co-responders at Dulverton had now been issued with airwave pagers which are operated directly from Ambulance Control cutting down attendance times to emergency medical calls.
- 8.3 The Panel requested that the Fire and Rescue Service be asked to quantify specifically by how much this new development should cut down attendance times to emergency medical calls.

9. Exmoor National Park Authority Issues

- 9.1 Ruth McArthur confirmed that all parish clerks should have received information regarding the Exmoor National Park Local Plan which was out for consultation for the period 22 June until 31 July 2015. All parish councils were encouraged to submit their views particularly if they were in favour of particular policies as this would carry much weight in the process.
- 9.2 Exford Parish Council welcomed the policies within the draft Plan that supported new business development in the Exmoor National Park area.

10. Parish Lengthsman Scheme Update

- 10.1 Councillor M Rawle thanked all the parishes for settling their invoices so promptly.
- 10.2 In response to a request, it was agreed to ensure that Cutcombe Parish Council is given notice of when the Lengthsman would be coming to that parish to do work.

11. Items brought forward by Parishes

- 11.1 An issue was raised regarding sheep stealing which appeared to be becoming more prevalent in the wider region and it was suggested that local people should be very vigilant on this matter.
- 11.2 Representatives from Exford made reference to a very successful litter picking exercise that had been undertaken in the village at the end of May/early June. After some discussion it was agreed that it would be a good idea to try and coordinate a wider initiative across a number of parishes for spring time 2016 and the Chairman agreed that this matter should be kept in mind.

12. Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

- 1 September 2015 – 6.30pm for Highways Warden's Meeting and 7.30pm for main meeting – Winsford Village Hall, Winsford
- 3 November 2015 at 7.00 pm – Winsford Village Hall, Winsford
- 19 January 2016 at 7.00 pm – Winsford Village Hall, Winsford
- 3 March 2016 at 7.00 pm – Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm