

Williton, Watchet & Quantocks Area Panel

Notes of Meeting held on 19 March 2013

at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton, at 7.00 pm

Present

E May (Chair); D Talling (Holford PC); P Gill (Kilve PC); V Boxall (Stogursey PC); L Whetlor (Watchet TC); J Sansom (West Quantoxhead PC); J Koch (Williton PC); J Foster (Watchet Town Warden); G S Dowding (WSC); D Westcott (WSC); A Knight (WSC); A Trollope-Bellew (WSC); D Peake (SCC Highways) and A Dyer (WSC).

1. Have Your Say – Community Issues/Concerns

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from S de Renzy-Martin (Watchet TC); J Richards (WACET) and G Bigwood (Williton PC).

3. Notes of the Meeting held on 4 December 2012 and Matters Arising

The notes of the meeting held on 4 December 2012 were confirmed as a correct record. No matters arising.

4. The Future of the Watchet, Williton and Quantoxhead Area Panel Meetings

There were some feelings of discontent amongst Panel members regarding the purpose of the meeting in that it was felt that the Panel had no 'teeth'. It was, nevertheless, agreed that the Panel should continue to meet but three times a year instead of four. It was recommended that a notice of all meetings of all Panels should be published in the Community Matters newsletter and sent to relevant agencies.
(ACTION BRUCE LANG)

5. Police Report

No representative was available to attend. AD reported that from the end of March 2013 Inspector Lisa Simpson would be leaving her role as the local inspector to take up a new position at the Avon and Somerset Constabulary Headquarters in Portishead.

6. Highways Report

David Peake reported on the planned works in the Watchet, Williton and Quantocks Panel area and a list of completed on-going and future works is attached at Appendix A.

7. Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service

No representative was available to attend.

8. West Somerset Council

Adrian Dyer reported on the following:

Update on Goviers Lane Crossing – The works for this project had now been completed and the official opening ceremony took place on 18 February 2013.

Watchet Harbour Cargo Shed – Naomi Griffiths, from the social enterprise The Onion Collective, had been successful in obtaining £80,000 of funding for feasibility works for the East Wharf from the Social Investment Business Fund. This was subject to the Urban Splash break clause being revoked. A report would be presented to the Full Council meeting on 24 April to request that the Urban Splash break clause be revoked so that this funding could be released to commence the study.

Watchet Public Conveniences – Work was underway to refurbish the Harbour Road PCs to bring it up to modern standards. This was a joint project with the Town Council. These works commenced on 20 February 2013 and it was hoped that they would be completed before Easter. Although it was planned to close the disabled facility in Harbour Road, the Market Street facility would be opened free of charge 24/7 for the disabled via radar key, and 20p charge for other users, with appropriate signage informing people of the changes.

Watchet Harbour – Dredging of the Outer Harbour was to take place between 25 and 29 March 2013. New life buoys had been installed on the West Quay and the Esplanade.

Washford River Outfall Works – Works had been carried out at Washford River outfall. The void was located and filled with 50 x 2 tonne boulders and the gaps filled with shingle. This was at a cost of £13,000. A visit would take place in June to ascertain whether any more works would be required.

Hinkley Point C – A Development Consent Order for the construction of a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point had been granted.

Flooding Summit took place on 15 March 2013 with 150 attendees and all the agencies had been represented. The outcome would be monitored by Somerset CEOs.

Badger Cull would commence in June 2013 and protests were expected.

9. Date of Next Meeting

11 June 2013 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton

The Panel expressed a vote of thanks to County Councillor A Trollope-Bellew for the work he had done for the Panel, as he would be standing down at the forthcoming county elections.