

DUNSTER AREA PANEL MEETING

MONDAY 23 JANUARY 2017 AT 7.00PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, WILLITON

NOTES OF THE MEETING

Attendees: Cllr Faye Barringer-Capp (Chair) Carhampton Parish Council
Cllr C Oliver, Dunster Parish Council
Cllr R Buckingham, Elworthy Parish Council
Cllr Geoffrey Williams, Old Cleeve Parish Council
Cllr Margaret Smith, Old Cleeve Parish Council
Cllr Marilyn Crothers, Nettlecombe Parish Council
Garry Austin-Thompson, Williton Fire Station
Jim Kent, West Somerset Seniors Forum
David Peake, SCC Highways
Cllr Brenda Maitland-Walker, West Somerset Council
Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew, West Somerset Council
Cllr Christine Lawrence, Somerset County Council
Tony Murray, Director, Magna Housing Association
Shirlene Adam, Director, West Somerset Council
Eileen Ford, West Somerset Council

1) “Have Your Say” Community Issues

Old Cleeve Parish Council informed the Panel that since the last meeting a CIC had been formed to take over the toilets in Blue Anchor. Cllr Williams and Cllr Smith with three others would be sponsoring the CIC for 2017. Some funding had been forthcoming, but further funding was still being sought. Discussions continue to take place with West Somerset Council in respect of this. The Parish Council would like their thanks to be passed to Cllr Chilcott for her help in this matter.

Old Cleeve Parish Council requested for their thanks to be passed onto SCC Highways Department for the road markings work which had recently been undertaken in Washford and for the safety improvements at Bilbrook. Concerns regarding the adverse camber and the current speed limit at Bilbrook still remain. Dave Peake suggested that the Parish Council write to Jo Sharp, Area Traffic Engineer, SCC, to see if an advisory speed limit or chevrons could be installed to improve this accident black spot. A discussion took place regarding the criteria for the recording road traffic accidents.

Jim Kent raised the issue of the lack of notification of a road closure in Old Cleeve. After a lot of investigation it had been discovered that the road

closure was due to Open Reach installing broadband cables. Dave Peake apologised for the lack of notification on this occasion and informed the Panel that future road closures can be found on SCC's website (<https://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/roadworks/>).

The issue of the gabions at Blue Anchor was raised. Various community projects have wanted to use the gabions in the past, but these have all proved to be unsuccessful. This is due to the deterioration of the gabions and the cost of transporting them. SCC have received interest from a couple of interested local parties and are currently involved in discussions with these individuals. A request would be made of SCC for an update for the April meeting.

Cllr Smith raised the concern regarding the lack of a bus service to and from Blue Anchor now that the No 28 bus no longer operates through Blue Anchor. Numerous residents rely on the bus service in order to get to Minehead. One option available to residents is to use community transport.

The Flying Scotsman train will be coming to the West Somerset area later this year (May and September) and concern was raised about the extra number of people coming to see the steam train. The main concern raised was around dangerous parking on busy roads. The West Somerset Railway had publicised a request for local land owners who would be willing to allow their land to be used for parking.

2) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Ian Liddell-Grainger, MP; from Cllr Dewdney and Cllr Leaker, West Somerset Council. Apologies were also received from Steve Eggar.

3) Minutes of Meeting Held on 4 October 2016 and Matters Arising

There was one amendment on page 2, last sentence, to the minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2016. The minutes should read "reduce the number of stroke beds from 12 to 6 beds, with 6 rehabilitation beds" and not as stated in the minutes "8 rehabilitation beds". The minutes were subsequently approved.

4) Magna West Somerset Housing Association

The annual report from Magna West Somerset Housing Association was distributed prior to the meeting. Tony Murray, Director, attended the meeting to provide the panel with the key points of the report and to answer any questions.

Mr Murray informed the Panel that since his last attendance Magna have changed their earlier decision not to continue with a new build programme. Magna have now decided to resume their new build programme and the intention is to build 300 shared ownerships home. This will be financed by Government funding and the revenue from selling off redundant garages and small parcels of land where there is no demand. Magna have also sold off some of their non-standard homes where it was not cost effective to the organisation to bring the homes up to the necessary housing standard.

Magna have continued with their planned maintenance of replacing kitchens, bathrooms and heating systems in their housing stock.

Mr Murray also informed the Panel that Magna's three companies will, later this year, be merging into one company. This decision is being made to avoid duplication and to become more efficient and cost effective.

Questions raised by the Panel included:-

- Any home Magna wish to sell will be advertised with local agents eg Fox & Sons in Minehead. Mr Murray confirmed that these homes will need some major repair.
- The question of obtaining a mortgage to purchase one of these homes was raised. Mr Murray confirmed that, to the best of his knowledge, that this had not been a problem. Most of the recent purchases had been cash buyers.
- Concern was raised regarding the points system currently used as one individual on the housing list currently had inadequate washing facilities. Mr Murray explained that there are three bands – gold, silver and bronze – with an additional emergency banding for individuals suffering with overcrowding or with medical conditions. An individual would need to complete an application form and the information contained in that application form would result in the appropriate banding.

5) Police Report

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

6) Highways Report

Planned Works in Dunster Panel Area

West Somerset House, Williton 23 January 2017

	Parish/Town	Location	Description	Start	Finish	Duration
Completed						
SCC	Huish Champflower	Brown Lane/ Chilcombe Rocks	Drainage work and carriageway resurfacing.		Completed	
ENPA	Dunster	A396 West Street	Footway scheme.		Completed	
SCC	Nottlecombe	Baggearn Huish to Clitsome Farm	Drainage work.		Completed	
SCC	West Quantoxhead	A39 BridgwaterRd near Wibble Farm	Carriageway resurfacing.		Completed	
SCC	Withycombe	A39 Minehead Rd, west of Bilbrook	Carriageway resurfacing.		Completed	
SCC	Old Cleeve	B3224 Beulah Chapel	Drainage work.		Completed	
SCC	Various	A39 & B3224	Strengthening around road gullies.		Completed	
Ongoing						
SCC	Carhampton	A39 Keepers Cottage	Drainage work. Temporary traffic signals.	16 Jan	17 Feb	5 weeks
SCC	Crowcombe	Triscombe Lane	Embankment/Verge repairs.	9 Jan	27 Jan	3 weeks
Future						
SCC	Porlock	A39 Porlock Hill	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closure.	Mar	Mar	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 take place at times of lowest disruption to local residents and businesses.			

7) Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service

Gary Austin-Thompson attended the meeting and informed the Panel that very little had changed since his last update in October. The Williton fire station attended 620 calls in 2016. 451 of these calls were also in connection with the ambulance service. The station will also be getting a 4 x 4 vehicle in March.

The following report from the Devon and Somerset Fire Brigade was received after the meeting.

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

Since the last area panel meeting held in October 2016, Minehead crews have attended 57 operational calls. These have included 7 Road Traffic Collisions, 15 fires of which some were Chimney, roof and thatched roof. Almost all have been accidental causes. Crews have also attended a variety of special service calls to events such as flooding, rescues from flood water, assisting ambulance to gain entry to property for medical emergencies.

Crews have also attended a number of domestic smoke alarm calls and calls made with good intent that did not require our attendance.

Dunster A39 flooding Incident of note:

Whilst the majority of motorists understood the situation it was a shame that some of our crews were faced with others who felt the need to swear and tell us how to do our jobs properly.

As I mentioned on the Minehead Fire Station Community facebook page, we cannot compete with the full flow of the river Avill in full flood following its banks breached at pack horse bridge.

This was compounded by the issues at the Luxborough turning A396 Dunster being closed for some time.

Crews attended a number of sites to deal with property floods and clear and dig out known black spots.

They were also in attendance at the A39 Dunster as it developed on return from a property fire.

Crews rescued one motorist who had become trapped in rapid rising flood water initially and then did everything within their powers to try and improve the water levels alongside the highways teams and diggers.

- **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 and Dunster.

These have included:

- Continued Fire Safety Checks at local businesses.
- Home fire safety visit promotion offering free home safety checks to vulnerable members of the community.

Efforts and negotiations are being put into place to raise a flood warden scheme for the local area. Discussions are ongoing with Minehead Town Council and should Dunster Residents be interested, they are to monitor the local press to see when meetings will be taking place in the future.

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.

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

8) West Somerset Council Report

Shirlene Adam provided the Panel with the following update.

West Somerset Budget Update

The Cabinet's draft budget proposal has now been shared with Scrutiny and will be formally presented to Cabinet on 8th Feb and Full Council on 22nd Feb.

The financial challenge facing WSC is well understood and has increased since the business case for transformation and creating a new Council was considered in the summer.

The business case described WSC having to close a gap of £1.2m by 2020 and we are now looking at an update figure of £1.9m for that period. The increase is due to:-

- Pension deficits increasing (not just at WSC)
- Changes to Business Rates – Hinkley B revaluation (again)
- Reductions in NHB (Govt policy shift)

The Cabinet's proposal is to increase ctax by the maximum of £5 (3.44%) taking the Band D to position to £150.56 (plus £1.76for SRA).

The Cabinet are sharing some savings options totalling £61k, but will be largely closing the budget gap for 17/18 using reserves.

Update – Consultation on Creating A New Council

Many of you attended the briefing for Parish Council Chairmen and Clerks on 11 January 2017 – thank you and heard the Leader of WSC explain why this proposal was being progressed / and made some requests of you to consider this matter at your forthcoming PC meetings.

I have some booklets with me tonight if you haven't had the chance to look at this yet and there is a website – "yournewcouncil.org" where you can read all the documents relating to this and complete a questionnaire.

Your views are important and will be shared with the Secretary of State for him to consider alongside the case being presented by TDBC and WSC.

We have done 5 Roadshows so far and have 3 still to do – Wiveliscombe 26 January 2017, and Taunton and Minehead on 11 February 2017.

As this cluster of Parish Councils was invited to a briefing on 11 January 2017 there are others taking place across both WSC and TDBC to ensure all PC's are sighted on the proposal – why we are doing this and what it may mean.

Please take the time to complete a questionnaire online and share your views.

Update from Housing and Community Development

Somerset West Lottery

Both West Somerset Council and Taunton Deane Borough Council agreed in December 2016 to establish a joint Local Authority Lottery for West Somerset and Taunton Deane. On 11 January 2017 each Council individually made an application to the Gambling Commission. The Gambling Commission will take 16 weeks to process these applications.

The aim of the weekly lottery is to raise money for good causes for the residents in West Somerset and Taunton Deane. The Councils will be enabler for the lottery and will use the services of the External Lottery Manager, Gatherwell, to run the lottery. The Councils will not take any of the proceeds and the cost of running the lottery will be met from the sales and be taken directly by the External Lottery Manager. For every £1.00 ticket sold, 60% of the proceeds will go towards goods causes within West Somerset and Taunton Deane.

If both the applications are successful the aim is to hold a launch event for the "Somerset West Lottery" on Tuesday 16 May 2017 at West Somerset House. A similar event will be held in Taunton. The launch event is open to any good cause eg sports clubs, community groups, charities to come along and find out for themselves how the lottery will work and if they wish to become involved and become a beneficiary of the proceeds raised.

The public launch, if successful, will take place in June 2017 when the public will be able to purchase tickets online via the Somerset West Lottery

Website. Tickets will cost £1.00 and a 6 digit winning combination wins the top prize of £25,000. The draw will take place weekly on a Saturday.

Further information can be found in the Joint Lottery report which went to the Scrutiny Committee at West Somerset Council on Thursday 15 December 2016 or by contacting Angela Summers (tel no: 01984 635318, e-mail: asummers@westsomerset.gov.uk)

My request is for your help in providing the contact details of voluntary or community sector organisations who we can invite to the launch event on Tuesday 16 May 2017. Please e-mail the contact details to Gail Sloman (e-mail: gksloman@westsomerset.gov.uk)

Update from Asset Management

Church Street Public Conveniences in Dunster

I am pleased to inform you that the public conveniences in Dunster went to auction on 8 November 2016 and were sold for £44,000.

Dunster Steep Public Conveniences

The Asset Management Department continue to have discussions with Dunster Parish Council regarding the future of these public conveniences.

9) **Dates of Future Meetings**

The next meeting is on 18 April 2017 at 7.00pm.