

DUNSTER AREA PANEL MEETING

MONDAY 29 JANUARY 2018 AT 7.00PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, WILLITON

NOTES OF THE MEETING

Attendees: Cllr Brenda Maitland-Walker, West Somerset Council (Chair)
Cllr Philip Larmay, Carhampton Parish Council
Cllr C Oliver, Dunster Parish Council
Cllr R Buckingham, Elworthy Parish Council
Cllr P Gannon, Old Cleeve Parish Council
Cllr Geoffrey Williams, Old Cleeve Parish Council
Cllr Margaret Smith, Old Cleeve Parish Council
Cllr Marilyn Crothiers, Nettlecombe Parish Council
Cllr Steve Eggar, Roadwater Village Trust
PS535 Stuart Williams, Avon and Somerset Police
PLSO 8861 Linda Brooks
Mr G Tizzard, West Quantockhead Parish Council
Mr Marcus Kravis
Tony Murray, Magna Housing Association
Cllr Martin Dewdney, West Somerset Council
Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew, West Somerset Council
Cllr P Pilkington, West Somerset Council
Cllr Christine Lawrence, Somerset County Council
Chris Hall, Assistant Director, West Somerset Council
Eileen Ford, West Somerset Council

1) "Have Your Say" Community Issues

PS535 Stuart Williams requested that he be allowed to speak during the "Have Your Say" section of the meeting and this was agreed. PLSO Linda Brooks was also in attendance. A robbery had taken place in November in a gallery where a window was smashed. No jewellery was taken. A black Volvo was seen in the area around this time.

There have been several incidents recently of bags being stolen from cars. The Police are going around car parks to advise the public to ensure all property is kept out of sight. There has also been an increase of items being taken from vans. Advice from Police is to keep valuable tools in a locked secure box.

There have been a couple of incidents of graffiti in Watchet. It is believed this is due to 13 year old children.

If anyone wishes to report a crime they can do this via 101, 999 or via crime stoppers.

Cllr Oliver from Dunster Parish Council raised the following statement. "Disappointment is felt that SCC is unwilling to repair and maintain the cobbled pavement in West Street, Dunster, which is understood to form part of the highways. The pavement is in a very poor state and in places a serious hazard to pedestrians". The Parish Council had ring-fenced some money in which to mend the highway and wanted advice as to whether this would be possible. It was discussed that this particular part of West Street is not the responsibility of SCC Highways. The Highways Department would not mend the pavement as this would leave them with liability for the upkeep. It was originally part of the Dunster Castle Estate and when the buildings in West Street were sold off, this part of the pavement was not included in the plans and it appears that no-one is responsible for the maintenance of the pavement. It was agreed that Bruce Lang would look into the situation and advise the Parish Council on what action they can take.

A discussion took place about diversions and whether there was a possibility of indicating how long the diversion would be. Difficulties are recently arisen around Monksilver with locals avoiding the planned diversion and using alternative routes. Cllr Trollope-Bellew raised an incident where the "Road Closed" sign was only 10 yards from the blockage making it extremely difficult for vehicles to turn. It would have been more useful if the "Road Closed" sign was at the road junction and not at the closure itself. Concern was also raised that Police Officers attending road traffic incidents did not necessarily have local knowledge of the area which has resulted in some unnecessary long diversions.

Concern was raised regarding parking signs in Blue Anchor. The parking signs gives out-of-date information. The Council have informed the Parish Council that the new signs are on order. Cllr Dewdney confirmed that Officers are in the process of obtaining new parking signs but there have been difficulties. Chris Hall agreed to look into the delay and reply to the Parish Council.

SCC Highways have deferred the proposed work on the A39 at Bilbrook until November 2018. This is to allow the appropriate bus companies to come up with alternative routes during the road closures.

Old Cleeve Parish Council also raised concern that volunteers beach cleaning are putting the rubbish picked up in the waste bins rather than taking it home. Cllr Dewdney agreed to investigate this further to see how often beach cleaning takes place.

Mr Kravis raised concerns regarding the storm damage to the steps at Blue Anchor. The repairs to the railings had been undertaken within a few days but the slipway still remains closed. Mr Kravis also informed the Panel that recently there had been two further slip falls on the beach. Mr Kravis wished to restart conversations with all necessary parties to establish what, if any, works can be undertaken to shore up the coastline. A discussion took place regarding all the previous work undertaken by the various different parties regarding this over the last four years. Chris Hall explained that a funding bid had been made but the application failed on various elements.

2) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Barringer-Capp and Ian Liddell-Grainger.

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

There were no amendments and the minutes were approved.

4) MAGNA Housing

Tony Murray attended the meeting to give an update – attached.



29 1 18 Item 4
Annual Magna Hou:

Mr Murray confirmed that since his last attendance in January 2017 that three housing associations have amalgamated into one organisation. This has reduced the amount of duplication and has increased the efficiency of the organisation. Magna have 9,500 properties across Somerset and Dorset. Magna currently have 341 homes in the Dunster Area Panel region.

All lettings are via the Somerset wide Homefinder Choice Based Lettings Scheme. Magna give preference to local people. From 2016 Magna have begun a new build programme. The aim is to build 300 new homes for social rent across their organisation. In the West Somerset Magna have a small number of redundant garages where there is no demand. The aim is to potential build homes on these sites.

Magna's key performances at November 2017 were:-

- An average re-let of properties within 17.4 days
- 2.45% of rent arrears
- Following Magna's annual tenant satisfaction survey 88% of the tenants were satisfied with their services

Mr Murray answered questions at the end of the update. One question was regarding the cost effectiveness of air source heating. Magna have found this source of heating to be cost effective for their tenants which is why they continue to install them in their homes.

5) Police Report

Sgt Williams provided his update during “Have Your Say”- Item One.

6) Highways Report

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	Parish/Town	Location	Description	Start	Finish	Duration
Completed						
SCC	Clatworthy	Forches Cross	Drainage works and carriageway resurfacing.		Completed	
SCC	Williton	A39 Washford Cross to Bowhayes Cross	Carriageway resurfacing.		Completed	
SCC	Old Cleeve	A39 Washford to Washford Cross	Carriageway resurfacing.		Completed	
SCC	Watchet	B3191 Swain Street	Carriageway resurfacing.		Completed	
Ongoing						
SCC	Old Cleeve	Road Lane, Roadwater	Drainage improvement works. Temporary road closure.	8 Jan	31 Jan	4 weeks
SCC	Nettlecombe	B3188 Woodford Road, Yarde	Drainage improvement works. Temporary road closure.	22 Jan	9 Feb	3 weeks
Future						
SCC	Williton	B3191 North Street & North Road	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closure.	12 Feb	16 Feb	5 days
SCC	Williton	Stream Road, Stream	Drainage improvement works. Temporary road closure.	19 Feb	2 Mar	2 weeks
SCC	Watchet	B3191 Cleeve Hill	Safety fencing replacement. Temporary road closure.	19 Feb	23 Feb	5 days
SCC	Old Cleeve	A39 Minehead Road, west of Bilbrook	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures between 18:30 and 23:30.	16 Apr	17 Apr	2 eves
SCC	Carhampton	A39 Minehead Road, Blue Anchor Turn to Butchers Arms	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures between 18:30 and 23:30.	18 Apr 23 Apr	20 Apr 23 Apr	3 eves 1 eve
SCC	Watchet	B3190 Brendon Road	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures between 18:30 and 23:30.	24 Apr	27 Apr	4 eves
SCC	Old Cleeve	A39 Minehead Road, Dragon Cross, Bilbrook	Drainage improvement works. Temporary road closures between 09:30 and 15:30.	Nov	Nov	2 weeks

Other			

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7) Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service

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

8) West Somerset Council Report

Somerset West Lottery Local Community Funds (SWL LCFs) launched

Both the Taunton Deane and West Somerset SWL LCFs have now reached in excess of £4,000 each and the Somerset Community Foundation is now inviting applications for these funds from voluntary and community groups in West Somerset and Taunton Deane. The closing date for application is Monday 26 February 2018.

The maximum grant - £1,000. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.somersetcf.org.uk/somersetwestlottery>

We had excellent press coverage for the lottery as result of this launch via BBC Somerset on their Breakfast Show.

Valentine Bolt-on Prize

Purchase lottery tickets this month (January 2018) and you will also be entered for the Valentine Bolt-on Prize draw for two tickets on the Dunster Castle Express. The draw will take place on Saturday 10 February, 2018. This prize has kindly been sponsored by West Somerset Railway.

Good cause December 2017 Payments

A total of £3,647.40 was raised for good causes in December, a decrease of £520.90 on last month's total.

As always, if you have any queries regarding the Somerset West Lottery, please contact the helpline: 0300 30 20 666 or e-mail: support@somersetwestlottery.co.uk. The team are always there to help you or your supporters.

9) Dates of Future Meetings

Dunster Parish Council said that the next scheduled meeting on 9 April 2018 clashes with their Parish Council and the meeting on 23 July 2018 clashes with Old Cleeve Parish Council Parish meeting. Alternatives dates would be found.