

**EXMOOR PANEL  
MINUTES  
Tuesday 6 November 2018  
Winsford Village Hall, Winsford**

**Those present:**

S Pugsley (Chair)	C Knight, Brushford PC
J Anson, Cutcombe PC	V White, Cutcombe PC
K Coulman, Dulverton TC	M Ellicott, Exford PC
A Vigars, Exmoor PC	V Carveth, Exton PC
A Sparling, Luxborough PC	D Powell, Luxborough PC
M McCoy, Porlock PC	R Hall, Porlock PC
J Bray, Winsford PC	C Wilkins, Winsford PC
J Davies, Withypool & Hawkridge PC	T Howard, Withypool & Hawkridge
M O'Keefe, Wootton Courtenay PC	P Griffin, Wootton Courtenay PC
J Dawson, Avon & Somerset Constabulary	F Nicholson, SCC
N Parker, Group Manager Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue	
A Woollaston, Station Manager Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue	
D Peake, SCC Highways	K Mills, WSC
N Thwaites, WSC	P Pilkington, WSC
B Lang, WSC/TDBC	R Foxwell
S Southwell, Exmoor Rural Housing Network	

**1 Apologies for Absence**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from J Hickman (Exford PC), Sgt D Bishop (Avon and Somerset Constabulary), R McArthur (ENPA) and B Heywood (WSC)

**2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 September 2018 and Matters Arising**

2.1 Agreed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

**3 Housing Needs Survey**

3.1 Sue Southwell, Coordinator of Exmoor Rural Housing Network attended the meeting to provide an update on the Housing Needs Survey.

3.2 The summary of findings showed that there were 10 households across the Cutcombe, Exford, Exton, Luccombe, Luxborough, Timberscombe, Winsford and Wootton Courtney parishes who needed social or affordable rent – this was broken down into 6 one-bedroom, 2 two-bedroom and 2 three-bedroom need. There were also two households who could afford shared ownership but unable to buy on the open market. Overall, the housing need was 12.

3.3 A meeting was held with the parish councils to discuss the options available to them to help ascertain their housing need requirements.

3.4 Consideration would be given to whether the parish councils were supportive of the small rural development. If supportive, suitable site or sites would need to be identified, as well as resolving how parish councils would like the development to be managed. There had been a number of sites identified through the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment carried out by ENPA. A local call to sites would also be carried out to establish whether there were any suitable alternative sites available. Discussions

with the planning authority and landowners was required to be held to decide on the most preferable sites.

- 3.5 Decisions on the type of development and who the parish councils would like to work with would be explored, i.e. working with a Housing Association, setting up of a Community Land Trust, cross subsidy or self-build plots.
- 3.6 It was hoped to set up an Affordable Housing Working Group with a member from each of the parish councils and representatives from WSC, ENPA and Exmoor Rural Housing Network.
- 3.7 A further housing needs survey was planned to be undertaken in Old Cleeve and Withycombe, as well as Dulverton, Withypool and Brushford parishes.
- 3.8 Various other detailed points and issues were raised by members of the Panel and addressed by Sue Southwell, which included :
- Whether there was any flexibility on the size of 93 square metres for affordable housing.
  - Government funding for affordable housing had increased.
  - Concerns around the lack of social rented properties in the area.
  - Information was provided on West Somerset Community Land Trust and parishes were encouraged to contact them for further advice.
  - Regular updates would be provided to the Area Panel.
- 3.9 The Chairman thanked Sue for her presentation and the answering of questions.

#### **4 Police Issues**

- 4.1 PC Jo Dawson attended the meeting and circulated a report, which is attached as Appendix A to the notes of this meeting.
- 4.2 Crimes could be reported online on the Avon and Somerset Police website.
- 4.3 Advice was sought regarding CCTV and it was advised that cameras should only be erected within the boundary of the owner's property.

#### **5 SCC Highways**

- 5.1 The Chairman thanked those who attended the Area Panel meeting to discuss winter maintenance held on 29 October, 2018, at Timberscombe. The evidence collated following the submission of maps by parish councils identifying salt bins/bags would be looked at by the Chairman and David Peake to check maps had been received from all parishes and if parish councils had not commented it would be presumed that they were happy with the current arrangements.
- 5.2 It was noted that most of the Area Panel comments submitted to SCC Cabinet regarding keeping certain precautionary salted routes open had been accepted. The salting routes not reinstated included Monksilver, Luxborough/Roadwater, Brompton Regis, Withypool and the road from Simonsbath towards South Molton. A subsequent meeting had been held with the Leader of SCC and the case was put forward again for restoring all precautionary salting routes in West Somerset, evidencing the harshness of the weather in West Somerset and Exmoor compared to the rest of Somerset. Further news on the outcome was awaited.

- 5.3 The planned works in the Exmoor Panel area are attached as Appendix B to the notes of this meeting.
- 5.4 Various detailed points were raised by members of the Panel and addressed by the Highways representative, including providing information on the temperature trigger for gritter lorries, advice on the procedure for relocating speed signs and addressing concerns on the impact of budgetary cuts on routine highway maintenance.

## **6 Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Issues**

- 6.1 Nigel Parker, Group Manager and Adrian Woollaston, Station Manager from Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue attended the meeting to explain the situation and alleviate any concerns regarding the new fire appliance that had been introduced at Porlock Fire Station and other areas.
- 6.2 Detailed information, including the advantages, on the rapid intervention vehicle was provided, and it was considered to be a better appliance than the equipment previously used. The emergency response assets were matched and proportionate to risk and in light of budgetary constraints these assets were required to be changed and rapid intervention vehicle at Porlock was the right appliance for that risk.
- 6.3 Fire fighters were safer by the introduction of new technology and innovation and they were able to tackle incidences differently.
- 6.4 The availability of on-board appliances was a problem being experienced in fire stations country-wide.
- 6.5 There was an opportunity to increase the availability of on call fire fighters at Porlock Station and the community were encouraged to join the service. It was explained that there was no age limit for on call fire fighters and there was a proactive campaign to encourage females to the profession. Any opportunities for the Panel Members to promote recruitment would be welcomed.
- 6.6 Porlock Fire Station had been recognised and commended for their great achievements and rescues. The crew were exceptionally dedicated, enthusiastic and motivated and had won Team of the Year Award.
- 6.7 Panel Members' concerns that the rapid intervention vehicle was very different to the traditional view of what a fire engine should be were acknowledged. Reassurance was provided that the equipment it carried was extremely good and would keep fire fighters safer. Response plans were adhered to for every incident responded to and the fire stations did not work in isolation, they supported each other.
- 6.8 Various questions and issues were raised by members of the Panel and addressed by the Fire and Rescue Service representatives.
- 6.9 The Chairman thanked the two representatives for attending the meeting and answering questions.

## **7 Exmoor National Park Authority Issues**

- 7.1 A written report was submitted and circulated to panel members at the meeting.

## **8 Parish Lengthsman Scheme Update**

- 8.1 On behalf of the Clerk to Dulverton Town Council, parish councils were requested to contact her as soon as possible to confirm whether they wished to continue with the Scheme for the forthcoming year.

## **9. Items to be brought forward by Parishes**

- 9.1 No items were raised.

## **10 Update on the Boundary Commission Final Recommendations**

- 10.1 Bruce Lang provided details on the Boundary Commission's final recommendations on the new warding for the new council and advised that the original proposals were confirmed. Subject to the recommendations going through Parliament, preparations for the May 2019 Elections would commence based on 35 wards for 59 councillors for the Somerset West and Taunton Council when it came into force on 1 April 2019.
- 10.2 An update was provided on the airband provision for village halls. Cllr Mills thanked all those who had responded and it had been established that six village halls already had airband and through recent discussions with parishes there were two new halls on airband (Allerford and Luccombe), and seven were under investigation – the engineer would be going out to review Luxborough.

## **11 Dates and Venues of Future Meetings**

- 22 January 2019 at 7.00 pm – Winsford Village Hall
- 7 March 2019 at 7.00 pm – Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

## **Exmoor Police report for the Exmoor Panel meeting 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 18**

The following figures are for September until today. We received 229 calls for the area but be mindful that this does include the Dunster and Timberscombe areas as do the following crimes

Arson and Criminal Damage	9
Burglary including non-dwelling	16
Public Order	5
Theft	9
Vehicle offences	5
Violence against a person	10
Sexual offences	2

We have attended quite a few RTC's and other road related incidents, eg trees down, sheep in the road etc. With the weather changing we encourage people to check their vehicles for roadworthiness and drive according to the conditions.

Recently there has been an increase in poaching activities and we would encourage anyone with information regarding people or vehicles involved to contact us, this is not a victimless crime. It is dangerous, also often farmers' fields are being damaged and there is the potential of danger to livestock. Crimestoppers can also be called on 0800 555 111, this is completely anonymous, this can be called to pass information regarding any illegal activity.

## Planned Works in the Exmoor Panel Area

Winsford Village Hall 6 November 2018

	Parish/Town	Location	Description	Start	Finish	Duration
<b>Completed</b>						
SCC	Exford	B3223 Room Hill Road	Drainage improvement works.			Completed
SCC	Brompton Regis	Blagdon Lane	Carriageway resurfacing.			Completed
SCC	Dulverton	Catsford Lane	Carriageway resurfacing.			Completed
SCC	Exford	Chibbet Post to Monks	Drainage improvement works.			Completed
SCC	Luccombe	Pool Cross & Wilmersham Lane	Carriageway resurfacing.			Completed
SCC	Skilgate	Townsend	Drainage improvement works.			Completed
<b>Ongoing</b>						
SCC	Brompton Regis & Exton	C200 Heathpoult Cross to Machine Cross	Carriageway patching. Temporary traffic signals.	29 Oct	16 Nov	3 weeks
SCC	Exford	Chibbet Post to Monks	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures between 07:30 and 17:30.	5 Nov	9 Nov	5 days
SCC	Oare	Oare Valley Road	Repairs to Oareford retaining wall. Temporary road closure.	5 Nov	9 Nov	5 days
<b>Future</b>						
SCC	Brompton Regis	Brompton Regis Road	Drainage improvement works. Temporary road closure.	12 Nov	16 Nov	5 days
SCC	Withypool & H	Quarry Head	Drainage improvement works. Temporary road closure.	19 Nov	30 Nov	2 weeks
<b>Other</b>						