

**Minutes of Dunster Area Panel Meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.00pm in the Council Chambers Williton**

**Present**

Brenda Maitland-Walker Carhampton PC	Margaret Smith Old Cleeve PC
Alan Hemsley Carhampton PC	Geoff Williams Old Cleeve PC
Philip Laramy Carhampton PC	Marilyn Crothers Nettlecombe PC
Faye Barringer-Capp Carhampton PC	Martin Dewdney Nettlecombe PC
Julian Anderson Bicknoller PC	Ron Buckingham Elworthy PC
Anthony Brooks Crowcombe PC	Kate Adams Monksilver PC
Peter Finney Dunster PC	PCSO Linda Brook Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Doug Challoner Dunster PC	PCSO Sue Thompson Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Cllr Peter Plikington Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWT)	Cllr Marcus Karvis Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWT)
Cara Strom	Cllr Christine Lawrence Somerset County Council
Beccy Brown Localities Engagement Lead SWT	Robert Downes SWT Programmes and Projects – Hinkley Point C and Climate Emergency

**1. Apologises**

Anthony Trollop Bellow  
David Peake Somerset County Highways

**2. Minutes of meeting held on 1st October 2019**

Agreed

**3. Matters arising**

No matters arising

**4. The Somerset Climate Emergency - Somerset West and Taunton Council Plans.**

4.1 Presentation by Robert Downes (SWT). Presentation attached to these minutes.

The aim of SWT is for the District to become carbon neutral by 2030. There is an awareness that SWT needs to clean up its services (vehicles, housing etc). There is already a lot of action taking place in communities across the district and there is a need to link these together to get a fuller picture. 9 work streams have been listed in the plans.

4.2 RD explained that the SWT wanted to get input from as many groups and stakeholders as possible and to become involved moving forward. The Climate Change consultation events are being combined with the Local Plan consultation across the district in a variety of locations and times.

4.3 All information regarding the **Local Plan** including the consultation portal can be found at [www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/planning-policy/adopted-local-plans/local-plan-review-2040](http://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/planning-policy/adopted-local-plans/local-plan-review-2040)

4.4 All information including finding out more about county and district plans, key documents, completing the on line survey and dates of events can be found on the Council website at [www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/climate-emergency](http://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/climate-emergency)

4.5 Members of the public are encouraged to take part in the **Climate Change** consultation by completing the online survey at [yoursay.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/](http://yoursay.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/)

4.6 The following are combined **Local Plan and Climate Change consultation events** for members of the public to attend:

23 Jan – Quaker House, **Wellington** (10-3pm)

30 Jan – WS House, **Williton** (2-7pm)

6 Feb – Orchard Centre, **Taunton** (10-3pm)

10 Feb – Methodist Hall, **Minehead** (2-7pm)

11 Feb – The Sanctuary, Watchet (10-3pm)

20 Feb – Community Centre, **Wivey** (10-3pm)

26 Feb – Deane House, **Taunton** (2-7pm)

4.7 BMW raised a concern that 2 of the most important issues of coastal erosion and rising sea levels are missing off the work streams.

RD explained that they are in the water work stream

BMW said that it was important that these 2 issues are made explicit and highlighted and that the West Somerset Flood group will have significant information and should be contacted and that this group feeds into the Flood Board. There is a concern over the continuation of the Flood Board due to the withdrawal of the support of Democratic Services.

Cllr PP said that alternative ways of delivery where being investigated.

4.8 Question from the floor – what does carbon neutral mean and is achieving this by 2030 a realistic target

Carbon Neutrality means *'achieving net zero carbon emissions by balancing a measured amount of carbon released with an equivalent amount of sequestered or offset'* taken from SWT Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan Draft Framework Document.

Cllr PP said there will be a balanced approach by not putting more emissions into the atmosphere – stopping adding to what has already been emitted. It is not an easy science. SWT is using 2030 as a benchmark. Exeter University will be auditing the progress of SWT.

PF wanted to know what feedback will there be on success and will there be feedback to the PCs.

Cllr PP said that this will happen

JA commented on the carbon footprint of SCC.

Cllr CL replied that the SCC are looking at everything SCC do – 5 low emission diesel buses have been leased to help with transportation and climate change plus flexible working for staff. All of this takes time and there is a need to get everyone involved.

4.9 MS pointed out that the bus route was nearly lost due to the road closure and things need to be put into action quickly.

Cllr MK informed the group that Cllr HD had pinpointed an alternative route but as the road was reopened it was not brought into effect and there is a lot happening.

MC commented that the plan to build more houses would create more carbon (transport building etc).

## **5. Police report**

Reports from PCSO Linda Brook Avon and Somerset Constabulary and PCSO Sue Thompson Avon and Somerset Constabulary attached to these minutes

## **6. Highways**

6.1 Closure of B3191 West Street Old Cleeve.

The following statement was released by Andrew Turner Chartered Civil Engineer with specialisms in Highway, Transport and Flood Risk Management at Somerset County Council

Issued 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020

'I am pleased to confirm the B3191 West Street, Cleeve Hill has now been re-opened to traffic.

You will recall the road was closed due to alerts from sensors placed on the cliff face. Following a detailed survey of the cliff face, and examination of the data information from the site, it has been concluded the road is safe to re-open.

The geotechnical challenges affecting the cliff face are complex requiring a high degree of electronic stability monitoring. Unfortunately, one of the in-situ sensors suffered a failure triggering the alert. The sensor has been replaced and the telemetry reset.

Setting aside the technology failure, the current contingency arrangements worked well and the Somerset County Council Highways team was mobilised within minutes of the original alert and the road was closed quickly.

The patience and support from local residents and adjacent communities is appreciated'.

6.2 Additional comment from Andrew: There is a separate piece of work commissioned by Somerset County Council to review the options to safeguard the route between Watchet and Blue Anchor. The output from that review is still expected late January, early February.

6.3 AT has offered to attend the Panel meeting at a later date to take questions and explain progress. Panel members agreed that they would like to invite AW to the meeting.

**Action:** BB to invite AT

6.4 Cllr CL informed the panel that AT had been on call officer at the time of the road closure and had to act swiftly to close the road avoiding any risk to life and communicated all progress to Cllrs throughout the period. 2 Bridge Officers also gave up their holidays to assess what had happened. Cllr CL requested that thanks to AT be minuted.

### 6.5 Salt bins and gritting

Salt bins are all out but the salt bins need to be filled. If any PC s bins need a top up please let County Roads know

6.7 AH has asked for the following comments to be added to the minutes thanking David Peake and his team:

*'Milletts Close, Carhampton – pothole reported on-line and was repaired within a week. High Street, Carhampton – 3 potholes reported on-line – 2 have been repaired within 2 weeks. Winsors Lane, Carhampton – tree down blocking the parking area at the northern end opposite Chestnut Close reported on-line was cleared with 24 hours.*

*I get good service using the on-line system. Thank you to David and his Team (especially Robin Miles!)*

6.8 FB-C requested that all highway requests and comments be emailed to BB to be forwarded to David Peake.

6.9 Highway queries ref Monksilver drainage scheme as follows and have been passed to DP: *Monksilver Parish Council was delighted that extensive drainage works were carried out in the village last summer, to reduce the risk of flooding on the B3188, Beech Tree Hill, Front Street and High Street. At our parish council meeting on 6th December, it was pointed out that it is standard practice to produce "as built" drawings following such works. It would be most helpful for the Council to have access to these drawings, for two reasons:*

*1 Though we have information about the original plan of work, we understand that some changes were made to this as the work progressed.*

*2 During the course of the work, it was found that our existing local knowledge of the drainage system in the village was in fact faulty.*

*It would be very useful for the Parish Council to have drawings of the drainage system as it now is, to ensure that our local knowledge is complete and accurate when questions of drainage, flooding, etc arise in the future.*

*As the works were funded by the SRA, I did address my query initially to them (24th June and 15th November 2019). However, I have had no reply, other than to be assigned a query reference number (300). I would be most grateful, therefore, if David Peake could help me with this matter.*

## **7. Have your say**

7.1 GW raised concerns as follows (full commentary attached to these minutes):

Closure of the coast road and the breach in the harbour wall at Watchet both caused by coastal erosion. The importance of the coast road as a link to the communities and businesses along the coast. This has been acknowledged by SCC and SWT but no plan has been forthcoming. The instability of the cliff at Cleeve Hill is known and was pointed out at a recent planning committee meeting when outline plans for 136 houses near this location was discussed.

A report stating that disturbing the ground surface for development this will allow water ingress that will further destabilise the cliff is attached to these minutes.

Concern that limited development land around Taunton and the open spaces within West Somerset are now being viewed as prime development land.

7.2 Land slips that have blocked and closed the steam coast cycle trail at Washford due to the inadequate management of surface run off. The highway has regularly flooded in Washford causing a hazard to homeowners, pedestrians and other road users. The location of this flooding is also close to the school, increasing the risk to children at the start and end of a wet school day. GW went on to say that to date there have been no steps taken to provide adequate drainage, nor any plans to improve the situation.

FB-C asked what other actions can be taken to another forum?

7.3 MS asked whether Blue Anchor was being side lined giving examples of the closure of the toilet block by SWT and the growth of weeds. At high tide the sea throws over large pebbles over the sea wall causing a hazard. Beware of slipping signs have been erected but can the pebbles be removed by SWT

**Action** BB to investigate

7.4 CS asked if any plans can be put in place to save the hotel falling into the sea, what happens when it does fall into the sea and does she have a right to get rid of it before it does fall in? Where will the money come from to clear it?

Cllr PP said that that all options were being looked at and it was being kept on the table.

BMW explained that SWT monitor the situation and CS does have the right to get rid of it before it falls in but it is the owner's responsibility to pay for it.

## **8 SWT update**

8.1 Cllr PP and Cllr MK informed the panel that 4 Directors posts had been created. There are considerable resource and financial pressure at SWT with no money available.

A report on the Transformation process has been commissioned.

8.2 Cllr PP reiterated the importance of members of the public taking part in the Local plan consultation.

8.3 Discussion around the floor on planning issues and concerns raised:

Members feel WS is left out – no planning meetings take place in WS. Cllr MR replied that the at the last planning meeting booked to take place in WS – there weren't any applications for WS

Lack of knowledge of WS area by planners.

Lack of representation - only 3 WS councillors are on the planning committee.

MD said that the planning committee need to come to WS.

AH said that an application recommended for approval by the planner had been put in which was dangerous and requested that either Cllr PP or Cllr MK attend the planning meeting.

MR said that a member of the community is a qualified planner and would be willing to give his knowledge. Cllr MK replied that a meeting had been set up for him to meet with the planning portfolio holder

Cllr PP suggested that the Head of Planning be asked to the panel meeting to take questions. The Panel were in agreement

**Action** BB to ask Head of Planning to attend panel meeting

8.4 SALC training on How to Respond to Planning Applications was mentioned as being very worthwhile. Next training event is on the 13.02.2020 at Edgar Hall Somerton. Topics include

- An overview of the planning system
- The role of the parish/town council
- How councils should respond to applications
- Material planning considerations
- How councils can best get their voices heard

More details at <https://www.somerset-alc.org.uk/training/>

**Dates for next meeting starting at 7.00 at the Council Offices Williton**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October

Meeting closed at 8.45