

## Minehead Area Panel

### Notes of Meeting held on 26 June 2019 In The Hub, Hopcott Road, Minehead

#### Present:

Mrs Jean Parbrook	Chair
Cllr Mandy Chilcott	Somerset County Council
Cllr Benet Allen	Somerset West and Taunton Council
Cllr Craig Palmer	Somerset West and Taunton Council
Cllr Andy Kingston-James	Minehead Town Council
Cllr Mimi Palmer	Minehead Town Council
Cllr Paul Bolton	Minehead Town Council
Cllr Norman Hercock	Minehead Town Council
David Peake	Somerset Highways
Karin Harwood	Somerset Highways
Sgt Dan Bishop	Avon & Somerset Police
Chris Jones	Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service
Katrina Midgley	Engage/Minehead Coastal Community Team
Maureen Smith	Transition Minehead & Alcombe/Forum 21
Julian Luke	Minehead Museum
Jared Wicks	Butlins
Paul Ramsey-Read	Town Watch Radio
Bridget O'Brien	Resident
Lorraine Peler	Resident
Wendy Wright	Resident
Nigel Padfield	Resident
Kelly Green	Resident
Monica Hartwell	Resident
Stephen Brown	Resident
John Vicary	Resident
Jacqui Sherwood	Resident
Roger Thomas	Resident
Sandra Davidson	Resident
Pete Broom	Resident
Rita Caddy	Resident
Harold Compton	Observer
Susan Stapleton	Resident
Linda Hartwell	Resident
Andrew Parbrook	Resident
Lin Reed	Resident/Minehead Conservation Society
Gail Everett	Resident
Martin Wilsher	Resident
Daphne Barr	Resident
Sarah Wilsher	Somerset West and Taunton Council

#### **1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies**

Jean Parbrook welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Andrew Hopkins (Minehead BID), Paul Johnson (Resident), Cllr Marcus Kravis (Somerset West and Taunton Council), Cllr Christine Lawrence (Somerset County Council), Lewis Lintern (MATA/The Avenue Methodist Church), Samantha Murrell (Somerset West and Taunton Council), Graham Sizer (Minehead BID), Cllr Sandra Slade (Minehead Town Council), Ray Tew (Minehead Development Trust).

## 2. Have Your Say – Community Issues/Concerns

Issues for Have Your Say, were as follows:

- (a) *Nigel Padfield expressed concern that the access for the assisted living unit associated with Dene Lodge on Bircham Road would be close to the no. 28 bus stop and the extra traffic could cause potential safety issues for pedestrians, particularly the children walking to and from West Somerset College. Cllr Mandy Chilcott advised that there was an ongoing plan to put a pedestrian crossing across Bircham Road, which had been started by Cllr Christine Lawrence a few years ago using funds from the Small Improvement Scheme. This scheme had recently been given more funding. The need for a crossing to Minehead Middle School was also needed, particularly since the school entrance moved from Ponsford Road to Townsend Road. This was being raised by Mandy.*
- (b) Maureen Smith advised that the majority of local Councils had pledged a commitment to climate change. A meeting was being held on 7 July to document all the actions needed to address climate change. She hoped to bring the final version to the next meeting. Also, every second Monday of the month through 2019 there would be a meeting at the Beach Hotel of the West Somerset Together Discussion Group, where like minded people could explore ideas for positive change in western Somerset.
- (c) *Kelly Green of Dunster Close expressed concern with the construction of the assisted living unit associated with Dene Lodge in that the work was taking place at anti-social hours such as 7am on a Sunday morning, and also about the size of the building. Sarah advised that the conditions on the planning permission would not include working hours and advised her to contact Environmental Health (Community Protection) at Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWT) about the anti-social hours. And if she thought the building was not being built in accordance with the approved plans of the planning permission she should contact Planning at SWT who would look into it.*
- (d) *John Vicary advised that the new street with the new houses of The Shires had been named Shires Close. As such post and deliveries had been going to residents in The Shires rather than the new houses. He had spoken to Minehead Delivery Office and the postal issue had been resolved but regular deliveries for Shires Close were still inconveniencing house owners/occupiers in The Shires, which was a particular problem for the less mobile/disabled. Sarah asked Mr Vicary to email her with the details and she would approach the appropriate officers at SWT in respect of street naming and signage.*

**ACTION:** John Vicary to email Sarah with details for liaison with SWT officers in respect of street naming and signage for Shire Close.

*Since the meeting John and Cllr Sandra Slade have met with Neil Corfield, SWT Highways Inspector, on site. He noted that John wished for the name of the road to be changed but advised him that it was very difficult to get the name of a road changed and thought that it was unlikely to happen. He recognised the difficulty in finding Shires Close and noted that there was no mention of Shires Close on the name plates at the entrance to The Shires. He suggested that Shires Close be put on name plates either side of the road at the entrance to The Shires and that an additional name plate be positioned to face incoming traffic, ie, outside no 6 The Shires that would direct vehicles towards 1-4 Shires Close and 3-5 The Shires. The decision on the road name change and name plates have been passed to the Asset Management Team at SWT for their decision and Neil will keep John updated. In the meantime Sarah suggested that notices be put on*

**front doors or windows of properties in The Shires advising postal workers and delivery drivers of their addresses and directing them to Shires Close.**

- (e) *Lin Reed reported that the red incident flag on the beach had been taken down despite the windy weather earlier today and asked why this was so. Cllr Paul Bolton advised that this was the responsibility of the harbourmaster with SWT. He stated that the post was currently vacant and that SWT had asked for the flag to be taken down.*
- (f) *Gail Everitt asked about the maintenance of the trees and plants by the coach park near the station and along the Trinity Way footpath alongside the railway line between Seaward Way and Warren Road (not the Morrisons side). Also, she reported that a street light near a play area close to Trinity Way had been on for 24 hours for over a year and asked for it to be looked into. Sarah advised that she had requested details of the maintenance programme for the coach park, which was owned by SWT, and would look into the footpath and street light issues.*

**ACTION: Sarah to look into these issues.**

***Since the meeting Sarah has found out that the streetlight is owned by Somerset County Council and has been informed that a repair job (ref 63140) has been raised and the light should be attended to by 4 July. The footpath is owned by Prowtings Homes South West whilst the open space land on either side of the footpath is owned by SWT. As such the maintenance of the open space land will be included in the open space maintenance programme.***

- (g) *Jacqui Sherwood asked why a contract had been given to a mobile catering unit for Blenheim Gardens that appeared not to meet all the required criteria. Cllr Paul Bolton advised that this matter had not been to the District Council's Licensing Committee and the contract had been awarded by the Licensing Manager. He would look into it.*

**ACTION: Cllr Paul Bolton to find out about the contract for the mobile catering unit for Blenheim Gardens.**

***Since the meeting Sarah has found out that the process to select a temporary cafe was considered to be fair by SWT Licensing officers and as per the Council's Environmental Health data, the food hygiene score for the chosen mobile catering unit was actually the top score that could be achieved.***

### **3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 March 2018**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

### **4. Minehead Coastal Communities Team – An Update**

A report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Gail Everett said that the ship on the Eastern Esplanade needed a spotlight as it was dark at night. Katrina Midgley advised that lighting was planned and that she would look into it.

### **5. Minehead Development Trust – An Update**

There was little news to update the Area Panel on so a report had not been provided.

6. **Minehead BID**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. There was no one available to speak further to the report. No questions were raised.

7. **Police Report**

Dan Bishop reported the following statistics for the Minehead Area Panel area:

	13/3 to 26/6/19	Three months Prior to 13/3/19
• Recorded Crimes	211	180
• Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents	99	62
• Arrests	29	52
• Missing Persons	25	12
• Stop Searches	14	8

Offence Breakdown

• Assaults	71	74
• Public Order	38	27
• Theft	38	17
• Criminal Damage	33	18
• Burglary	9	17
• Vehicle Offences	4	15
• Robbery	1	3
• Possess Weapons	0	2

Dan reported that throughout the Summer months a drug education programme would be taking place in Schools, Colleges, etc. targeting both the youth and adults and teaching everyone about County Line drug dealing. A converted double decker bus would be used to show how a drug victim lives and explain the effects of drugs. This bus was run by an outside agency and cost £800 per day. Councillors would be invited.

He said that there was more engagement and visibility of officers at the current time and that if extra police support was required to let him know. He also encouraged everyone to report crime.

*Please find attached a Minehead Town Beat poster with full contact details for Dan and his officers, for your information.*

A resident reported that vehicles were being parked in the turning head at Dene Gardens. He had contacted the Council and they had advised that it was a police matter as it was classed as an obstruction. Refuse lorries were unable to turn. The vehicles tended to be owned by staff at Dene Lodge and they said they had permission to park there. Dan said that Police officers would look into it and talk to the Dene Lodge staff.

**ACTION: The Police to look into the issue of vehicular obstruction in Dene Gardens and talk to the Dene Lodge staff.**

In respect of reporting crimes, Dan advised that this could be done online and via messages to individual officers for the area.

Sandra Davidson expressed thanks to Sam Donati and Linda Brooks for their updates on Facebook. Dan informed that not all officers were given Facebook

accounts; he did not have one. PCSO Katherine Williams was to be given a Facebook profile.

Dan further added that a Safer Stronger Business Network was an online system for retail, commercial and licensed premises, whereby they could sign up to an App to share information on problem people within the town. This was a new venture which would be up and running by the end of July. Jean asked if this would replace the current TownWatch system. Paul Ramsay-Read advised that there were 40 radios within the town and the new system would be integrated with the current radio system. A closed meeting for TownWatch members would be held on 10 July where the Safer Stronger Business Network would be discussed.

A resident said that there had been an attempted burglary at his home over the weekend and he had not received any word from the Police even though he had reported it. Dan to talk to him after the meeting and look into it.

## **8. Highway Matters**

David Peake spoke to the report on Major Road Network Investment which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. He explained that the A39 in West Somerset was only eligible for Large Local Major Schemes funding under exceptional circumstances. However in terms of traffic flow the A39 at Dunster made this highway the third busiest County road, and about 50 years ago this was recognised and Marsh Lane, which had been the A39, was superseded by a new road. Also, Seaward Way was built in the 1980s.

### **Completed Highway Works:**

- Repairs to cattle grids in North Hill, Minehead.
- Footway resurfacing between Ponsford Road and Lower Meadow Road.
- Footway resurfacing in Doone Way, Alcombe.
- Carriageway patching in North Road, Minehead.
- Carriageway patching in Blenheim Road, Minehead
- Carriageway patching in The Avenue, Minehead

### **Future Highway Works:**

- Carriageway patching on the B3190 Sticklepath with temporary road closures between 8am and 5pm from 1 to 5 July inclusive.
- Carriageway patching on the A39 Minehead Road between Bilbrook and Washford with temporary traffic signals between 9.30am and 3.30pm from 8 to 12 July inclusive.
- Carriageway resurfacing on Marshfield Road, Alcombe with temporary road closures between 7.30am and 5.30pm on 16 and 17 July.
- Carriageway surface dressing on the B3190 Sticklepath between Chidgley and Raleghs Cross with temporary road closures during the day on 18 July.
- Carriageway surface dressing on the A39 Minehead Road between Bilbrook and Washford with a temporary road closure between 6.30pm and 23.30pm on 18 July (one evening).

David advised that roadworks were weather dependent as if it was too hot the works may need to be suspended. Works were currently three weeks behind schedule but those programmed for West Somerset would be undertaken and completed.

A resident advised that on Saturday, 22 June the bus stop outside the Co-op in The Avenue was closed but there was no signage to alert potential passengers. Karin apologised for this and said that she would speak to her colleagues in the Traffic Management Team at Somerset County Council and the Cycle Grand Prix organisers.

**ACTION: Karin Harwood to look into the closure of the bus stop outside the Co-op in The Avenue on Saturday, 22 June.**

**9. Highway Trees – Karin Harwood, Service Manager – Engineering Programmes, Somerset County Council (SCC)**

Karin reported that SCC were responsible for 21,041 trees within the County, 575 of which were in Minehead urban area. This included the trees on roadside verges and on streets in urban areas. Their aim was to manage the risk associated with trees, whilst retaining the arboricultural landscape. Public safety was a high priority so, for example, subsidence caused by tree roots was looked into. Checks were made for mechanical damage caused by vehicles hitting trees. Non-urgent cases were dealt with within ten working days, urgent cases more quickly. The majority of trees were inspected on a five-year basis. However, the trees on The Avenue in Minehead were given 6-month inspections.

A tree on the lower part of The Avenue towards the seafront had mechanical damage. The tree outside the Hairy Dog was diseased and needed to be removed. Hornbeams at the Middle School had been vandalised – the Police and School had been notified with the aim of stopping the vandalism.

Karin explained that trees that needed to be removed were cut down to a height of about 4ft to ensure that accidents could not occur by people tripping over low stumps. The 4ft stumps around the town would be removed en masse as it was cheaper to do them all at the same time.

A resident reported that in Irnham Road near Irnham Mews the roots of a tree were going through the tarmac and along the pavement. Katrina also advised of a problem with a tree stump outside nos. 3 and 5 Alexandra Road. Karin would arrange for these trees to be inspected.

Karin stated that following a survey on 24 June a total of eleven trees had been identified in the Minehead area as needing to be felled. Removal notices would be displayed to inform local residents. Unfortunately, SCC did not have a policy to replace trees so there was no budget for replacement trees. However, they were happy to work in partnership with other Councils and organisations willing to fund replacement trees by helping with the choice of species, waiving licence fees (about £120 per tree) and undertaking general maintenance. Talks would be held with Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWT) in this respect. Replacing trees was important, particularly in terms of climate change. Due to the disease Ash dieback 4,000 trees needed to be removed in Somerset and funding was required to replace the trees with other species.

The total revenue works budget for SCC was £93,000 to cover maintenance, removal and agency agreements. It was much cheaper to maintain a tree than to fell a tree.

Sometimes tree roots were cut through by contractors for the installation of utilities. The trees had to be removed and the ground repaired/infilled and SCC worked with the companies to obtain funding for replacement trees to be planted elsewhere.

Thanks were given to Karin for her interesting and informative presentation.

**10. Burning Issues**

A written report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Chris Jones outlined to the meeting six options being put forward by the Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service to modernise the service and make cost savings of about

£8m under the banner of 'Safer Together'. These options included the loss of stations in Devon and Somerset, including Porlock, and a reduced number of fire engines/services, affecting Lynton and Williton. These options were to be discussed by the Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service on 28 June and the chosen option would be subject to a 12-week public consultation exercise commencing on 1 July, following which the chosen option would be implemented in November 2019.

The reason given for the changes was that the stations had been set up in 1948 and were now no longer fit for purpose and needed modernising. It was expected by the Authority that response times would still be met with the proposed reductions.

The meeting felt that the loss of the Porlock Fire Station and reduced services at Williton and Lynton would adversely affect the efficiency of the Minehead service.

It was agreed that Chris would email Sarah with the weblinks to the Safer Together programme and consultation process for forwarding to the Panel emailing list. Chris urged the meeting to take part in the consultation.

**ACTION: Chris to email Sarah with weblinks to the Safer Together programme and consultation process for circulating to the Panel distribution list**

*This was done and the links can be found below:*

<https://www.dsfire.gov.uk/SaferTogether/ServiceDeliveryConsultation/Index.cfm?siteCategoryId=18&T1ID=211>

<https://www.dsfire.gov.uk/ContactUs/MediaEnquiries/Index.cfm?siteCategoryId=6&T1ID=66>

**11. Town Council Update**

A written report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

**12. District Council Update**

A written report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

**13. Somerset County Council Update**

No report was available.

**14. Any Other Business**

**Cost of refurbishment of shelters**

Craig Palmer pointed out that 'Matters Arising' had been omitted earlier in the meeting. Under Item 2(f) of the 13 March minutes Mimi Palmer had asked for the cost of the refurbishment of the shelters but as Andy Hadley had sadly not come back with the cost, he wished to report that the total cost of repairs, replacements, re-painting, etc. had totalled £28,850.

**A Man Shed in Minehead**

An enquiry was raised as to progress in setting up a man shed in Minehead. Katrina Midgley explained that it was an Engage project and a venue was still being looked for. If anyone had any suggestions to please put them forward.

**Blenheim Gardens Café**

This would be discussed at the next meeting.

**Annual Election of Chair for Minehead Area Panel**

Jean reported that the election of Chair would take place at the next meeting on 11 September. Anyone wishing to be Chair should let Sarah know by email on: [s.wilsher@somersetwestandtaunton.go.uk](mailto:s.wilsher@somersetwestandtaunton.go.uk) by the end of August with a proposer and nominator.

**15. Dates & Venues of Future Meetings****Future meeting to be held on:**

Wednesday, 11 September 2019 at 6.30pm in The Dunkery Room, The Old Hospital, The Avenue, Minehead

Thursday, 12 December 2019 at 6.30pm at The Hub, Hopcott Road, Minehead.

Wednesday, 18 March 2020 at 6.30pm at The Hub, Hopcott Road, Minehead.