

**Exmoor Area Panel Meeting - Attendance Record**  
**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020**  
**Moorland Hall Wheddon Cross**

<b>C. Knight Brushford PC</b>	<b>A. Vigers Exmoor PC</b>
<b>S. Moran Clatworthy PC</b>	<b>A. Chapman Exton PC</b>
<b>N. Martin Clatworthy PC</b>	<b>J. Duke Luxborough PC</b>
<b>V. White Cutcombe PC</b>	<b>J. Bray Winsford PC</b>
<b>R. Foxwell Cutcombe PC</b>	<b>C. Wilkins Winsford PC</b>
<b>J. Anson Cutcombe PC</b>	<b>T. Howard Withypool and Hawkrigge PC</b>
<b>K. Vellacott Dulverton TC</b>	<b>A. Bray Wootton Courtenay PC</b>
<b>M. Ellicott Exford PC and ENP</b>	<b>S. Baker Avon and Somerset Constabulary Partnership Officer</b>
<b>D. James ENP</b>	<b>Cllr F.Nicholson SCC</b>
<b>D. Peake Somerset Highways</b>	<b>Cllr S. Pugsley SW&amp;T</b>
<b>Cllr N.Thwaites SW&amp;T</b>	<b>Cllr P. Pilkington SW&amp;T</b>
<b>Cllr A. Milne SW&amp;T</b>	

**Apologises**

**M. Rawle Dulverton TC**

**R. McArthur ENP**

**B. Brown SW&T Officer**

## Exmoor Area Panel

### Minutes of AGM and meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross

**Attendees: TBA**

**1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Chairman: Cllr Steven Pugsley (proposed Mike Ellicott seconded Cllr Nick Thwaites)

Vice Chairman: Mike Ellicott (proposed Cllr Steven Pugsley seconded Cllr Nick Thwaites)

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Malcolm McCoy-Porlock PC

Margaret Rawle-Dulverton TC

**3. Minutes of last meeting**

**Min 2.1** Regarding cutting back vegetation- Cllr Nicholson responded to Roger Foxwell and clarified SCC's policy.??

**Min 4.** Regarding Highways- Cllr Pugsley confirmed that Cllr Nicholson has arranged for Cllr David Fothergill (Leader SCC) to attend a meeting at Exford on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm. Parish representatives have been invited to discuss matters of strategic concern to the area.

**Min 6.3** Regarding Glover Review-Cllr Pugsley stated that ENPA have agreed that a meeting needs to be held sooner rather than later to ensure that local views are taken into account before government action is taken.

**Min 6.5** Regarding fingerposts-Cllr Pugsley advised that a small budget has been agreed by ENPA for repair of fingerposts. The point of contact for parishes at ENPA is Shirley Blaylock. Possible additional funds may be available through CareMoor. Although priority will be given to fingerposts within the NP, those in adjoining parishes which indicate NP locations will also be considered.

Also concerns raised by Mike Ellicott regarding recent vandalism of both fingerposts and salt bins.

**4. Winter Gritting and Salt Bins**

David Peake (SCC Highways) reported:

4.1 Mild weather since mid-November so no gritting required recently. Gritting will take place this weekend as colder weather forecasted.

4.2 All dumpy bags are now on site. There has been a delay in refilling grit bins. This should be completed shortly. In some cases a dumpy bag has been put next to the bin. This is partly due to some parishes purchasing additional grit bins this year. SCC intend to leave this situation this year as not good use of public money to move salt from bags to bins.

Cllr Nicholson agreed.

4.3 Any instances of criminal damage to highway signs should be reported to the police.

## **8. Highways**

David Peake reported:

8.1 B3223 Exford to Simonsbath. Highways acknowledge that this closure in November 2019 caused major problems. Further drainage works are required on the B3223 approaching Simonsbath however these have been postponed and the closure is now likely to be in the autumn.

Cllr Nicholson stated that another road closure should be avoided at all costs. The Porlock Hill diversion is not practical and there is no cut through to avoid this section. As the road is fairly wide, a partial closure with lights could be possible. David Peake agreed that options should be considered although safety concerns are paramount. He also confirmed that Highways are now aware of local market days.

Additional areas of concern raised:

Roger Foxwell-Inappropriate and badly placed signage for road closures is a serious concern and waste of public money.

John Anson-Lack of channels of effective communication with Highways.

Cllr Nick Thwaites-clarification needed on forthcoming closure of Northmoor Road.

Query regarding confusion as to whether road closure dates include weekends. David Peake agreed that this can be ambiguous but that it is usually specified in the notice.

## **5. Somerset Climate Emergency**

Report from SWT officers regarding the Council's strategy going forward. Two plans will be developed, one for County and one for the District. The core plans should be ready by April and final plan by August. The team will be engaging with local groups and members of the public and a list of roadshows and events will be sent out shortly. All details are on website. A number of actions are already happening: planning to make the council housing stock more energy efficient, protecting wildlife habitats, paths and cycle route planning and electric charging points.

SCC are working towards the area being carbon neutral by 2030. Huge challenge.

Summary document was circulated.

Cllr Andy Milne commented that it is good that SCC can be seen as seizing the initiative from more extremist climate organizations. Parishes are now able to follow their lead.

Point raised that good broadband coverage is essential enabling more people to work from home and travel less.

Also, it is essential to work with the farming community on Exmoor and take their views into account. This needs to be reflected in the consultation document to avoid alienating local people.

## **6. Police Issues**

Report presented from local police.

There have been a number of instances of theft of diesel. This is probably linked to recent increase in fuel prices. Also some antisocial behaviour reports in Dulverton.

Police are working with Farm Watch and Horse Watch and signs are being distributed. Anti-poaching training also taking place. The Christmas drink drive campaign was very successful with fewer than expected positive breath tests. Focus on speedwatch continues as speeding is the top concern locally.

General crime should be reported by calling 101 or online. The recent problems with accessing this service have been improved with extra resourcing.

**7. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Services**

In the absence of a representative, Cllr Andy Milne reported that following a very effective campaign, Porlock Fire station is remaining open. He thanked everyone from adjoining parishes who have supported the campaign.

**9. Exmoor National Park Authority Issues**

Dan James (ENPA) reported:

9.1 Update on Rural Enterprise Exmoor. The survey has now closed with over 300 responses received. ENPA are trying to identify as many small enterprises as possible and understand what their issues and challenges are. Also to identify whether these challenges are due to local NP policies, geography or other factors.

9.2 Ongoing project regarding linking up local producers, hospitality providers and retailers.

9.3 Climate emergency. ENPA policy is to add value to existing local initiatives and are working with local organisations as well as other National Parks to reduce carbon footprint.

9.4 Cllr Pugsley advised that ENPA will be meeting representatives of the Hill Farming Network to discuss concerns and issues at Cutcombe Market.

**10. Parish Lengthsman Update**

Dulverton advise that invoices will be out within next few weeks.

**11. AOB**

John Anson raised subject of proposals regarding reorganization of local government in Somerset and the possibility of creation of a unitary authority. Cllr Pugsley agreed that this is a complex issue which will need much future debate. It would also have an impact on the role of parish councils.

**Date and Venue of Next Meeting: TBA**