

# Public Agenda Pack



Notice of Meeting of

## **LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK - WELLINGTON AND WIVELISCOMBE**

**Tuesday, 6 February 2024 at 6.30 pm**

**Wellington Rugby Football Club,  
Corams Lane, Wellington TA21 8LL**

To: The members of the Local Community Network - Wellington and Wiveliscombe

Chair: Councillor Ross Henley  
Vice-chair: Councillor Gwil Wren

Councillor Marcus Barr	Councillor Andrew Govier
Councillor Dave Mansell	Councillor Sarah Wakefield
Ashbrittle	Bathealton
Bradford on Tone	Chipstable Parish Council
Fitzhead	Halse
Langford Budville	Milverton
Nynehead	Oake
Sampford Arundel	Stawley
Wellington	Wellington Without
West Buckland	Wiveliscombe

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For further information about the meeting, including how to join the meeting virtually, please contact LCN Team [lcns@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:lcns@somerset.gov.uk).

All members of the public are welcome to attend our meetings and ask questions or make a statement **by giving advance notice** in writing or by e-mail to the Monitoring Officer at email: [democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk) by **5pm on Wednesday, 31 January 2024**.

The LCN team want everybody to have the opportunity to take part in the LCN meetings and have booked appropriate venues with accessibility requirements in mind. If you have specific access needs, and are at all concerned, please contact the LCN Team so they can provide reassurance or seek solutions beforehand: [lcn@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:lcn@somerset.gov.uk).

Issued by David Clark (the Proper Officer) on Monday, 29 January 2024

# **AGENDA**

**Local Community Network - Wellington and Wiveliscombe - 6.30 pm  
Tuesday, 6 February 2024**

## **Core Membership (Pages 5 - 6)**

### **Click here to join the online meeting (Pages 7 - 8)**

#### **1 Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence.

#### **2 Declarations of Interest**

To receive and note any declarations of interests in respect of any matters included on the agenda for consideration at this meeting.

(The other registrable interests of Councillors of Somerset Council, arising from membership of City, Town or Parish Councils and other Local Authorities will automatically be recorded in the minutes: [City, Town & Parish Twin Hatters - Somerset Councillors 2023](#) )

#### **3 Notes from the Previous Meeting (Pages 9 - 16)**

To approve the notes from the previous meeting.

#### **4 Update on Actions from the Previous Meeting**

To discuss matters arising from the notes not covered in later agenda items.

#### **5 Public Question Time**

The Chair to advise of any questions, statements or petitions received that are not covered by items on the agenda for the meeting on which members of the public have requested to speak.

#### **6 Identify any changes to our LCN priorities**

#### **7 Highway Steward Scheme Presentation**

**8 Discussion: Asset and Services Devolution**

**9 Formation of Working Groups**

**10 Dates of Future Meetings**

## **Core Membership**

### **Unitary Councillors:**

Councillor Marcus Barr  
Councillor Andrew Govier  
Councillor Ross Henley  
Councillor Dave Mansell  
Councillor Sarah Wakefield  
Councillor Gwil Wren

### **City, Town and Parish Councils** (one voting member from each):

Ashbrittle	Nynehead
Bathealton	Oake
Bradford-on-Tone	Sampford Arundel
Chipstable	Stawley
Fitzhead	Wellington
Halse	Wellington Without
Langford Budville	West Buckland
Milverton	Wiveliscombe

### **Other Stakeholders** (one voting member from each):

Avon and Somerset Police  
NHS  
Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue  
Education  
Spark Somerset  
Society Local Council Clerks  
Somerset Association Local Councils  
Somerset Activity Sports Partnership  
Community Council for Somerset  
Citizens Advice  
Department of Work and Pensions  
Somerset Rivers Authority  
Somerset Local Nature Partnership  
Business Chamber

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This is the on-line invite to join the Wellington and Wiveliscombe Local Community Network meeting on Tuesday 06 February 2024 at 6.30pm. Please note this is an in-person meeting at Wellington Rugby Football Club, Corams Lane, Wellington TA21 8LL

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## Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

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Meeting ID: 320 671 256 549

Passcode: nLjHZP

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## Local Community Network Meeting Notes

Meeting Title: Local Community Network - Wellington and Wiveliscombe

Date: Tuesday, 12 December 2023

Time: 6.30 pm - 8.09 pm

Location: Wellington Rugby Football Club, Corams Lane, Wellington, TA21 8LL

Chaired by: Ross Henley (Chair)

### LCN core membership attendance:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Gwil Wren (Vice-Chair)	Somerset Council
Andrew Govier	Somerset Council
Dave Mansell	Somerset Council
Sarah Wakefield	Somerset Council
David Smith	Bradford-on-Tone Parish Council
Rod Burton	Milverton Parish Council
Malcolm Vest	Nynehead Parish Council
Janet Lloyd	Sampford Arundel Parish Council
Roger Wilson	Wiveliscombe Town Council
John O'Connor	Avon and Somerset Police

## Officer attendance:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Michelle Brooks	Somerset Council
Jeff Brown	Somerset Council
Kate Hellard, LCN	Somerset Council
Ollie Lindsell	Somerset Council
Beth Poole, Locality Officer	Somerset Council
Peter Joint, One Team Co-ordinator	Somerset Council
Bel Deering	Somerset Council

## Other attendees:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing</b>
John Townend	
Jeremy Toyne	
Dave Farrow	
Tim Parker	
Michael Lodge	
Pauline Holmeshaw	
Andy Mickey	
David Milton	

## Virtual attendees:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Theo Butt Philip, Lead Member for Transformation and Human Resources	Somerset Council
Jill Larcombe	Somerset Council
Ally Laing	Somerset Council

## **Summary of discussion:**

### **Agenda Summary of key points of discussion and outcome: Action by: item:**

#### **Item 18: Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Marcus Barr (Somerset Council), Cllr Catherine Govier (Wellington Town Council) and Wellington Town Council.

#### **Item 19: Declarations of Interest**

#### **Item 20: Notes from the Previous Meeting**

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed upon, with the amendment of adding the attendance of Wellington Town Council Clerk, Dave Farrow and Wellington Town Councillor, Catherine Govier, and signed by the Chair.

#### **Item 21: Update on Somerset Council's current financial position**

The Lead Member for Human Resources and Transformation (Somerset Council), Cllr Theo Butt Philip provided an update the on Somerset Council (SC) current financial position.

A summarised overview of highlights of the update are below:

- SC knowingly declared a financial emergency, reflecting the level of concern increasing the pace of work.
- SC work to reduce the budget gap and the difficult decisions required to be able to continue to deliver services and set a budget in February 2024.
- The Adult and Childrens Social Care overspend.
- The Somerset services devolution opportunities.
- The local and national situation across the sector.
- The proposed capitalisation direction and programme.
- SC launched a 6 week consultation on budget 11 December 2023 for 6 weeks.

Following the update from Cllr Theo Butt Philip, a discussion was had between the Members where the following topics were raised:

- The autumn statement and the impact on Local Government budget.
- Whether a S114 could be avoided by devolution to City, Town and Parish (CTP) Councils and the impact on the services / assets if they are not taken on by CTP.
- The Council Tax funding model.
- The urgency for the facts, figures, data and assets and costs due to CTP meetings in early January to set precepts.
- Services that could be affected i.e. grass cutting.
- The current high level detail and the requirement for clear and more detailed information on services i.e. what is the cut to be, what is statutory, the importance to CTP, timeframe and the expected receipt of the draft SC budget (15 January 2023); 2024/25.
- Capitalisation programme and use of reserves.
- Concern from Parish Councils about the devolution project and raising of parish council precept.
- Sustainable future budget setting.

Kate Hellard, Service Manager Local Community Network Development, provided information on the Highway Steward Service, via a PowerPoint presentation, a summarised overview of highlights of the presentation are below:

- The Highway Steward scheme delivers minor works within the capability of a single operative
- The Highway Steward is a skilled highway operative, with a branded vehicle, employed by a main contractor to deliver a defined work programme and empowered to undertake ad hoc works when identified.
- The Parish or town Council decide on local priorities i.e. maintenance hedgerow / verge cutting drainage / drainage maintenance / weed removal / sign cleaning.
- The Highway steward targets discretionary parish works, any statutory or safety-relate work (potholes, damaged regulatory signs to be reported in the usual way for the Highway Authority to inspect and assess.
- The options for delivery through Somerset Councils' Highway

Maintenance Contract or self delivery through suppliers commissioned by a Parish or Parish / LCN collaboration.

- The costs, commitment and timeframes.

Following the presentation from Kate Hellard, a discussion was had between the Members where the following topics were raised:

- The capacity of work within the year, scope of CTP work needed.
- The differing rural and urban demands.
- The need for more information to factor into budgets.
- The complicated budget setting for precepts for CTPs, including inflation and Council Tax Bills.
- Highways works and other options for delivery.
- What the minimum of reduced highways services looks like for the future.
- Parishes across all LCNs related to highways not happy, highways reduced over next year, HS offer to enhance what minimum looks like in the future

The Chair summarised the discussion, and requested all information regarding the Highway Steward be circulated to the Wellington and Wiveliscombe LCN Membership, the LCN team to collate feedback, and look to establish priorities and to make informed choices for the future.

### **Actions**

**Kate Hellard** to circulate the Highways Steward Scheme information and presentation.

### **LCN Team**

Collate Highway Steward feedback from the LCN Membership.

Item 22: **Update on Actions from the Previous Meeting**

The actions from the previous meeting were agreed.

Item 23: **Public Question Time**

There were no public questions.

Item 24: **Discussion: Themes identified in the July meeting**

Group discussions took place regarding collaboration working and devolution opportunities, the following points were highlighted;

- Highways and practicalities of how scheme will work, understand implications, clear interest in what can be done.
- Meeting with highways only meeting, discuss with individuals involved with the Exmoor pilot.
- The opportunity for control of services and ability to direct in the best way for the needs of the local community.
- The importance of consistency from Somerset Council and clarity of what is expected from CTPs.
- The risks of devolution, including increased precepts, not being able to set a relevant and adequate precept and impact on communities.
- Governance, provision and delivery of services – service level agreements.
- Collaborative working and benefits with neighbouring parish and cross boundaries.
- The LCN membership, inclusion, spreading the word and gaining involvement and engaging of VCFSE, residents, private sector and partners.
- LCN members talk to residents – orgs and partners in the room not just for parishes what's important to communities is complex.
- The importance of Members of LCN to be acquainted with information.
- Social enterprises funding.
- Wellington Town Council Clerk, Dave Farrow, offered support for local Parish Councils in aid to look at delivery across the local area.

### **Actions**

#### **Kate Hellard**

1. Organise a meeting of Wellington and Wiveliscombe LCN and Somerset Council Highway Team (Microsoft Teams meeting during working hours) – early January 2024.
2. Circulate the Highways Steward Information to all Parish Councils not in attendance.

#### **Somerset Association of Local Councils**

Circulate list of precepts to Wellington and Wiveliscombe LCN Members.

Item 25: **Provisional formation of working groups**

There were no agreed formation of working groups.

Item 26: **Dates of future meetings**

Dates of Future Meetings:

Tuesday 6 February 2024

Thursday 18 April 2024

Thursday 11 July 2024

Call for venues to host the Wellington and Wiveliscombe LCN

Contact officer for meeting: LCN Team [lcns@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:lcns@somerset.gov.uk)

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