



Notice of Meeting of

**LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK - WELLINGTON AND  
WIVELISCOMBE**

**Monday, 22 April 2024 at 6.30 pm**

**Wiveliscombe Rugby Club, The Recreation  
Ground, West Road, Wiveliscombe TA4 2TA**

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

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

Councillor Marcus Barr  
Councillor Dave Mansell  
Ashbrittle  
Bradford on Tone  
Fitzhead  
Langford Budville  
Nynehead  
Sampford Arundel  
Wellington  
West Buckland

Councillor Andrew Govier  
Councillor Sarah Wakefield  
Bathealton  
Chipstable Parish Council  
Halse  
Milverton  
Oake  
Stawley  
Wellington Without  
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 Tuesday, 16 April 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 Friday, 12 April 2024

# **AGENDA**

**Local Community Network - Wellington and Wiveliscombe - 6.30 pm Monday, 22 April 2024**

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

### **Click here to join the online meeting**

#### **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 Approve the notes of the previous meeting held on 6th February 2024. (Pages 7 - 12)**

To approve the notes from the previous meeting.

#### **4 Actions from the last 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 Feedback and discussion from Highways working group**

- 7 Feedback and discussion from Transport working group**
- 8 Presentation and discussion on local project of interest**
- 9 Next steps and future agenda items**
- 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  
Bathealton  
Bradford-on-Tone  
Chipstable  
Fitzhead  
Halse  
Langford Budville  
Milverton  
Nynehead  
Oake  
Sampford Arundel  
Stawley  
Wellington  
Wellington Without  
West Buckland  
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

## Local Community Network Meeting Notes

Meeting Title: Local Community Network - Wellington and Wiveliscombe

Date: Tuesday, 6 February 2024

Time: 6.30pm - 8.25 pm

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

Chaired by: Ross Henley (Chair)

### LCN core membership attendance:

#### Somerset Councillors

Cllr Ross Henley (Chair), Cllr Gwil Wren (Vice-Chair), Cllr Dave Mansell, Cllr Sarah Wakefield, Cllr Marcus Barr,

#### Parish and Town Councils

Christopher Summers	Fitzhead Parish Council
Ian Walker	Halse Parish Council
Theresa Jacoby	Langford Budville Parish Council
Fiona Barber	Langford Budville Parish Council
Rod Burton	Milverton Parish Council
Jenny Hoyle	Milverton Parish Council
Malcolm Vest	Nynehead Parish Council
Jeremy Toye	Nynehead Parish Council
Sue Davies	Oake Parish Council
Simon Bellamy	West Buckland Parish Council
Roger Wilson	Wiveliscombe Town Council
Tim Parker	Wiveliscombe Town Council

#### Other attendees/members of the public:

Richard Mackrory                  Wellington Bus Users Group

#### Officer attendance:

Ollie Lindsell	ICT Reactive Support Team Leader
Jeff Brown	Service Manager, Stronger Communities
Stephanie Gold	Democratic Services Officer

**Online attendees:**

Maggie Dinning	Milverton Parish Council
Janet Carol Lloyd	Sampford Arundel Parish Council
Helen Philips	Case Management Lead (Engagement Champs)
Emma Plummer	Senior Community and Parish Development Officer
Emily Window	Business Change Assistant

**Summary of discussion:**

**Agenda Summary of key points of discussion and outcome:  
item:**

Item 27: **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Andrew Govier,  
Somerset Council

Item 28: **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

Item 29: **Notes from the Previous Meeting**

**Resolved** that the notes of the previous meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup>  
December 2023 are approved as a correct record.

Item 30: **Update on Actions from the Previous Meeting**

Jeff Brown, The Service Manager, Stronger Communities advised  
that the agreed action from the previous meeting, minute Item  
24: to organise a meeting of the LCN and Somerset Council  
Highways Team would be picked up after today's meeting.

Item 31: **Public Question Time**

There were no public questions.

Item 32: **Identify any changes to our LCN priorities**



The Chair invited members to identify the key priorities for the LCN by holding discussions in small groups. Following the discussions each group fed back on its two key areas of focus and the following suggestions were made -

- Public Transport accessibility - Bus Services and Community Transport
- Affordable Housing
- Agriculture issues such as farm run-off.
- Flytipping and similar environmental issues i.e litter, dog fouling.
- Access to Leisure, Arts and Culture
- Climate change
- Social issues such as food poverty, mental health, support for young people ,
- Rural broadband connectivity
- Rural isolation
- Road safety

### **Resolved**

After each group had listed its key issues, the LCN came to a consensus that the Public Transport/Community Transport issue was listed by all groups and would therefore become the second working group of this LCN, in addition to the Highways working group that had been agreed upon at the previous meeting.

### Item 33: **Highway Steward Scheme Presentation**

Jeff Brown, The Service Manager, Stronger Communities gave a [presentation](#) on the Somerset Council Highway Steward Scheme.

In summary, members were advised that -

- The Highway Steward will cost 50k per year.
- Clusters of Parish and Town Councils may share the service and costs where appropriate (i.e neighbouring parishes).
- The Highway Steward service does not replace Somerset Council Statutory Highways services - it is an optional enhancement.
- The Highway Steward will undertake low tech/high value work i.e. weeding, clearing vegetation.
- The Highway Steward will not undertake any major

works including tree works.

The Chair invited comments and questions and the following points were discussed –

- There is no need for any additional insurance, this is covered in the 50k annual fee.
- The scheme can be cancelled after 12 months if it not found to be effective.
- There are no direct employment requirements for the parishes, but it would require some co ordination to plan the work required.
- The Highway Steward Scheme has been proposed very late in the year, many precepts and budgets have already been set.
- The scheme will help to minimise the impact of the cuts to Highways Services that are part of the savings proposals being taken to the 2024/2025 Budget Setting meeting of Full Council on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Item 34: **Discussion: Asset and Services Devolution**

Jeff Brown, the Service Manager Stronger Communities asked members to refer back to the communication that had been sent to parish and town councils concerning potential devolution of assets and services as part of Somerset Councils response to the Financial Emergency and the impacts of this on the services that the council can continue to fund. The Service Manager asked members to hold discussions in small groups to consider the following questions.

- a) What opportunities have been identified?
- b) What additional information is required?
- c) Where are you working together to achieve actions?

During the discussions the following points were recorded –

- Wellington Town Council is already proposing to pick up a lot of assets and services at risk, and the precept will be going up by 96% to bring it up to the level need to be able to deliver those services. Part of this service delivery will include employment of an Open Spaces Manager, and

there is an opportunity for neighbouring parishes to work with Wellington Town Council on this.

- More information is needed in terms of ownership and management of assets such as open spaces, gulleys, public rights of way, bus shelters, salt bins, litter bins etc.
- More information is needed regarding contracts, budgets, condition surveys etc.
- Parish and Town Councils may consider linking up with neighbouring councils to share resources and use economies of scale.
- Somerset Association of Local Councils has written a Legal Pack on devolution and members of SALC should be able to obtain this.
- Many community groups are already managing assets and services at a local level, and this is an opportunity for the Council to work with them and identify where the gaps in service provision may be.
- In terms of its impact on biodiversity, a reduction in grass cutting can be considered a positive cut in service provision.
- The LCN is a conduit for collaborative working between parish and town councils regarding potential devolution agreements.

**Item 35: Formation of Working Groups**

The Chair asked that all members consider joining one or both of the working groups to address the LCN priorities as agreed at Agenda Item 6 and at the previous meeting. He asked that names and contact details be given to the Democratic Services officer at the end of the meeting, or by email by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**Item 36: Dates of Future Meetings**

The Chair advised that the dates of future meetings were proposed as –

- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024

The LCN team were advised that both of the proposed dates clash with Oake Parish Council meetings.

The LCN team have worked hard to avoid diary clashes but please contact them on [LCN@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:LCN@somerset.gov.uk) if there are any issues. The team would also like information on alternative suitable venues within the Wellington and Wiveliscombe area. For any other queries regarding the LCN Wellington and Wiveliscombe, please email [wellingtonandwiveliscombeLCN@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:wellingtonandwiveliscombeLCN@somerset.gov.uk).

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