

Southern Link

West Devon Southern Parish Link Committee

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday, 18th September 2014
At Coronation Hall, Mary Tavy at 7.00 pm

Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Cllr David Butland	Chair	Mr Alan Robinson	WDBC
Cllr Mike Benson	Bere Ferres	Mr Simon Kitchen	DCC
Cllr Brian Lamb	Bere Ferres	PCSO Kevin Williams	Devon & Cornwall Police
Cllr John Drury	Brentor		
Cllr Jim Chalcraft	Gulworthy	Cllr Diana Moyse	WDBC Burrator Ward
Cllr Robin Pike	Gulworthy	Cllr Terry Pearce	WDBC Mary Tavy Ward
Cllr Graham Mannin	Lamerton	Cllr Michael Ireland	Destination Okehampton
Cllr Chris Edmonds	Lifton	Ann Cole	Tavistock & District Local History Society
		Christopher Kirwin	Tavi Network/Greater Dartmoor Leaf/TVAONB
Cllr Lesley Fowler	Lydford		
Cllr Ruth Tainsh	Lydford		
Cllr Anita Prosser	Mary Tavy		
Cllr Howard Asbridge	Milton Abbot Grouped		
Cllr Bill Lane	Peter Tavy	Mrs Jane Gillard	Acting Clerk
Cllr Graham Antcliffe	Plasterdown Grouped		

Councils not represented:

Bradstone Parish Meeting	Burrator Grouped	Dartmoor Forest	Kelly Parish Meeting
Lewdown Grouped	Stowford	Sydenham Damerel	Buckland Monachorum

1. Apologies:

Cllr Lorraine Beeley	Mary Tavy	Cllr Ray Brook	Milton Abbot Grouped
Cllr Paul Turnbull	Dartmoor Forest	Jo Rumble	DNPA
Cllr David Cloke	WDBC Walkham Ward	Cllr Jessica Evans	Lamerton
Cllr John Sheldon	Tavistock TC & WDBC Tavistock North	Nigel Tigwell	Clerk

2. Notes of the Last Meeting

The notes of the meeting of 12 June 2014 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Policing Issues

PCSO Kevin Williams in attendance in the absence of Insp Andy Oliver. The Police LAG statistics were circulated as a briefing paper prior to the meeting. These show a drop in crime in most areas. Anti Social behaviour in Tavistock has dropped due to changes in Bedford Street car park ie installation of barriers. Overall crime down 10%, town crime down 20%, partly due to a crime department now on site in Tavistock. There are now 5 detectives covering Okehampton and Tavistock, crimes are now

these villages. They wished to purchase Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) that flash warnings to drivers when they exceed the speed limit, data would be downloaded to a Bluetooth enabled notepad/laptop for analysis. Both Councils have identified funding for the cost of one VAS each but both need an additional VAS. They have quotes from 3 suppliers of the equipment, insurance is by way of DCC and the Parish Council's existing insurance.

It was proposed by Cllr Pike to support the request and award the sum of £7300 as requested, this was seconded by Cllr Drury, all Councillors in favour of the proposition.

Ward & Chowen Digital Archive – Gulworthy and Lamerton

It was confirmed that Tavistock and District Local History Society are responsible for this project and there is no financial benefit to Ward & Chowen. Ann stated the cost of purchase of a scanner is now less than originally quoted, they are now looking at a lower specification one which will still produce the required results. Further information on the project given in the update on the first grant awarded, it was confirmed Parishes would be asked if they had any volunteers that may like to help with their own parish records, the Society were staging a display at Lamerton Tractor Day.

It was proposed by Cllr Drury to support the request and award the sum of £3309 as requested, this was seconded by Cllr Antcliffe, 8 in favour of the proposition, 2 against, proposal carried.

7. Okehampton & Tavistock Railway Update

Cllr Dr M Ireland advised a meeting had taken place on 7 August between the Destination Okehampton Working Group and Claire Perry, Parliamentary Undersecretary of State, Department for Transport with Mel Stride, Central Devon MP. Many Councils were also represented, the Business and Community case for the complementary rail route to Plymouth via Okehampton were outlined. It was a very positive meeting – full meeting notes distributed with these meeting notes. An article has also been published in the 'Rail Professional' magazine and also an advertisement placed for consultancy services – copies of both distributed with these meeting notes. There has also been a meeting of the Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership looking at the importance of community railways. Representatives of the Destination Okehampton Working Group have now been invited to attend a further meeting with Mel Stride and Claire Perry with Network Rail in London.

8. Parish Feedback and Issues

Future Link Meetings –

A general discussion was held to ascertain what committee members wanted from future meetings. Attendees felt they wanted to be able to input into 'things' where they could make a difference for their community. It was also asked if the meeting could help WDBC more with consultations or projects. It was felt the meetings were useful for informal feedback to officers and networking. Previous meetings were also used for information delivery by WDBC and DCC and it was thought this has now changed. Alan Robinson stated it was difficult sometimes for officers at WDBC to know what issues Parishes felt important and relevant to them. The Police session need not be on every agenda, information could be cascaded out to Parishes and a Police representative asked to attend if there was a specific need.

Also suggested that WD ward members be encouraged more to attend together with WD officers.

Discussions on Affordable Housing and feedback on Neighbourhood Plans suggested for future topics.

Feedback from this meeting and the other Link Meetings to be reviewed by the Link Chairmen at their meeting on 20th October.

9. West Devon Borough Council Update – Alan Robinson

3G Connection for Rural Communities - details circulated with meeting agenda. Designed to boost mobile phone coverage in an area with poor signal, boxes installed by Vodafone, usually on public buildings, costs are only ongoing electricity estimated at £30 per annum. **‘Our Plan’** consultation has continued from the last meeting. Community events have been held throughout the summer. There is to be a workshop in Tavistock on 26 Sept, all parishes have been invited, looking at Growth including scale and locations and the role of Neighbourhood Plans as the next stage in the process. It is anticipated a draft document will be published in the autumn with formal consultation late Autumn/Winter. WDBC website contains updates.

T18 project – on track, aim is to retain services but to cut costs by 25%. Alternative ways to deliver services being progressed.. Also looking at the opportunities to share services with Torridge, very early stages still.

The Chairman thanked Alan Robinson for his support during his time at WDBC – this may well be the last Southern Links he will attend.

10. Devon County Council Update – Simon Kitchen

Road Warden Community Self Help scheme – details circulated prior to meeting. This is for Groups who want to take on services from DCC but not a requirement. It was suggested that this should be an item for discussion at the next meeting with sufficient time allocated for a full discussion.

DCC Highways rural speed limits policy –discussed at previous meeting but not yet published. It was suggested this could be an item for fuller discussion at the next meeting to enable parishes to influence the policy.

Delivering Differently –this is WDBC and DCC exploring different ways of delivering services locally. Exploring in Tavistock and Totnes use of public assets. Totnes also looking at a local commissioning model. It is a Government funded initiative.

Devon Local – a commitment across the Devon Strategic Partnership Board organisations looking at public and voluntary sectors joining up to shape services. Full details circulated prior to meeting.

11. Dartmoor National Park Authority – no update in the absence of Jo Rumble. There was a suggestion that a future meeting could discuss the role of parish comments in the consideration of planning applications within the National Park.

12. Any Other Business

Cllr Pearce advised that the Greater Dartmoor LEAF project has been awarded a further £2M to make grants over the next 5 years for economic growth and employment. The Scheme is for small rural businesses looking to expand. Full information available on website www.fundingsouthwest.co.uk/gdl

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13. Date of Next Meeting – confirmed as Thursday 4th December 2014, 7 pm at the Coronation Hall, Mary Tavy.

Meeting declared closed at 9.35 pm

Enclosures:

1. Okehampton Rail Link information
2. Police report