EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
EXMOOR CONSULTATIVE AND PARISH FORUM
MINUTES of the meeting of the Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum held on Thursday 12 September 2019 at 7.00pm at Withypool Village Hall.

PRESENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Ellicott</td>
<td>Exmoor National Park Authority and Chairman of the Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Anson</td>
<td>Cutcombe Parish Council</td>
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<td>Andrew Bray</td>
<td>Wootton Courtenay Parish Council</td>
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<td>Valerie Carveth</td>
<td>Exton Parish Council</td>
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<td>Kevin Connell</td>
<td>Winsford Parish Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Pugsley</td>
<td>Exmoor National Park Authority and Somerset West and Taunton Council</td>
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<td>Frances Nicholson</td>
<td>Exmoor National Park Authority and Somerset County Council</td>
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<td>Jeremy Payne</td>
<td>Oare and Culbone Parish Meeting</td>
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<td>Will Lock</td>
<td>Exmoor Young Voices</td>
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<td>Vivian White</td>
<td>Exmoor National Park Authority and Cutcombe Parish Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Edgell</td>
<td>Exmoor National Park Authority, DCC &amp; North Devon District Council</td>
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<td>Susan J May</td>
<td>Exmoor Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roger Webber</td>
<td>Selworthy and Minehead without Parish Council</td>
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<td>Penny Webber</td>
<td>Selworthy and Minehead without Parish Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Rullason</td>
<td>Skilgate Parish</td>
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<td>Liz Bulled</td>
<td>North Molton Parish Council</td>
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<td>Martin Ryall</td>
<td>Exmoor National Park Authority</td>
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<td>Roger Foxwell</td>
<td>Cutcombe Parish Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeremy Holtom</td>
<td>Exmoor National Park Authority and Parracombe Parish Council</td>
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<td>Nick Thwaites</td>
<td>Exmoor National Park Authority and Somerset West &amp; Taunton Council</td>
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<td>Ron Buckingham</td>
<td>Elworthy Parish Council</td>
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<td>Marilyn Crothers</td>
<td>Nettlecombe Parish Council</td>
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<td>Eric Ley</td>
<td>Exmoor National Park Authority</td>
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<td>Caitlin Collins</td>
<td>Timberscombe Parish Council</td>
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1. Apologies for absence were received from:

John Bray          Winsford Parish Council
Sarah Bryan        Exmoor National Park Authority
Louise Crossman    Invitee
Beccy Brown        Somerset West and Taunton Council
Molly Groves       Portlock Parish Council
David Woodbury     Combe Martin Parish Council
Christine Wyer     Combe Martin Parish Council
Representative     Brompton Regis Parish Council
Sir Richard Peek   North Molton Parish Council
Prof John Wibberley Invitee
Roger Ferrar       Invitee
Sarah Takle        Exmoor National Park Authority
Peter Pilkington   Somerset West and Taunton Council
Jeremy Payne       Oare and Culbone Parish Council
Sarah Cookson      Brushford Parish Council
Baroness Mallalieu Invitee
Lady Downes         Invitee
National Park Authority staff in attendance:
Dean Kinsella, Head of Planning & Sustainable Development
Tim Braund, Head of Information and Communication
Hazel Malcolm, Business Support Officer (Note Taker)

1. MINUTES: The minutes of the Forum meeting held on 13 June 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

Matters Arising
• Chair of the Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum – The new Chair introduced himself and was welcomed by Forum Members. The Chair thanked Steven Pugsley for his previous 12 years as Chair of the Forum.
• Consultation on The Rural Workers Succession Farm Dwellings. A Forum Member asked how many responses there had been to the consultation and how many of the responses were from Parish Councils? Action: Dean Kinsella to provide Forum Members with consultation response figures.

2. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR:
• Partnership Plan Groups. A Forum Member asked of availability to the general public of agendas and minutes of the various Partnership Plan Groups held by Exmoor National Park Authority. *UPDATE from Exmoor National Park Authority. Membership of the different Partnership Plan Groups include representatives from across Exmoor National Park Authority's partners and those with a particular interest or specialism relevant to the topic. On the point about minutes and agendas from these groups being made publicly available. The meetings are not formal meetings and are not decision-making groups. Information about the meetings and their activities are available via the Lead Officer. Information about the different Partnership Plan Groups and Lead Officers can be found on a PDF on the website at: https://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/about-us/partnership-working
Exmoor National Park Authority are looking at how to improve communications about what the groups do.
• Health of the Red Deer on Exmoor. Forum Members raised the health and monitoring of the health of the red deer on Exmoor as a concern, particularly relating to TB. It was noted there was a prevalence of TB in deer around and on National Trust Land. The National Trust have a dedicated Stalker tasked with culling any deer showing signs of TB. Anyone licensed to shoot deer must take samples post mortem to send to Defra for analysis. These samples must reach Defra within 24 hours of culling. Forum Members have asked for a deer expert to present at the November meeting of the Forum. Action: Arrange for an expert on deer to present at the next ECPF to be held in November.
• Consultation on the closure of Porlock Fire Station. Forum Members raised that the consultation on the proposed closure of Porlock Fire Station would close on 22 September. The consultation can be responded to online. Forum Members noted that individuals must write in, rather than representing Parish Councils. ENPAs response to the consultation would be discussed at a Leadership Team meeting on 16 September.
• Minutes of the Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum. A Forum Member asked that the minutes of the ECPF be produced promptly and circulated to Parish Councils as soon
as possible, as this would inform Parish Council meetings. **Action:** The ECPF is currently being reviewed, the question raised by Forum Members on the availability of the meeting minutes is noted as part of the review.

3. **TWO VALLEYS NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROJECT:**

Carina Gaertner, Project Manager (Rural Catchments) WWT, provided a presentation on the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust (WWT) project the Two Valleys Project on community action against flooding, referred to as Natural Flood Management (NFM). This project is currently taking place in the Doniford and Monksilver catchments and is one of 58 projects benefitting from £15 million of Defra Funding into Natural Flood Management projects.

Some of the aims of the Two Valleys project are:

- Reduce flood impacts
- Create and restore wildlife habitat
- Promote NFM as an exemplar in delivering multiple wetland benefits to individuals and communities.

The Two Valleys project is a partnership project between the WWT, the Environment Agency, the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), the National Trust and others. It is not connected to Exmoor National Park Authority’s Mires Project.


Carina alerted Forum Members to a Community Event taking place on 16 October at the Williton Pavilion. **Action:** Carina to send details to Hazel Malcolm for dissemination to Forum Members. *NB An email providing details of the event was sent to Forum Members on 16 September.*

4. **HEALTH AND WELLBEING UPDATE:**

Tim Braund, Head of Information and Communication at Exmoor National Park Authority presented initiatives the Authority is involved in the area of Health and Wellbeing.

In 2016 Defra published its 8 Point Plan for England’s National Parks, which included directives to promote innovative schemes for National Parks to serve national health. As part of its Partnership Plan Exmoor National Park Authority has the 3 points of:

- **Be inspired:** people have a range of high-quality opportunities to learn about and understand Exmoor from digital and printed information and interpretation, formal and informal education, attending events or visiting National Park Centres
- **Get involved:** more people volunteer, enabling deeper experiences and connections with Exmoor and supporting National Park purposes
- **Be connected:** more people are enabled to experience, enjoy and understand Exmoor, particularly young people and people from diverse backgrounds. Individual **health and wellbeing is enhanced** as a result of engaging with the National Park

One of Governments health initiatives is ‘Social Prescribing’ using the outdoors to promote healthy lives and improved mental health. 90% of the population are urban based, initiatives are based to look at how to help such people gain access to the open air. Tim highlighted some of the projects that Exmoor National Park Authority are involved in such as the FUN Project (Families United through Nature) and Outreach initiatives taking place in the Halcon
Estate in Taunton and Hamp Estate in Bridgwater. Tim’s presentation can be viewed on our website at https://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/about-us/meetings-agendas-reports/exmoor-consultative-and-parish-forum/12-sep-2019

- Forum Members noted the biggest challenge to such initiatives is that of transport to enable urban based populations to make the most of places such as the UK’s National Parks.
- Rural isolation was also highlighted as a contributor to mental health issues amongst rural based populations.

5. FARMING ISSUES: Forum Members noted the following:

- Exmoor National Park Authority does not have a branding for food products compared to other National Parks. The example being given of Dartmoor Lamb being sold in a supermarket in Minehead.
- Exmoor Young Voices suggested that Exmoor National Park Authority and the Exmoor Hill Farming Network (EHFN) should work together on such an initiative.
- Richard Edgell Chair of the Devon County Council Farming Group made Forum Members aware of a presentation to be arranged with a date TBC on promoting farm tenancies as an opportunity for people to get into farming.
- Forum Members noted theft was an increasing issue across Exmoor, with Police aware of several individuals involved. Forum Members were advised to alert police if a white Ford Focus car and a white Transit van were seen together and not to approach the individuals.
- The NFU has recently published a report on greenhouse gases. It was suggested by Forum Members that Exmoor National Park Authority should work with farmers and the NFU on greenhouse gases.

6. PLANNING ISSUES: Dean Kinsella, Head of Planning and Sustainable Development at Exmoor National Park Authority updated Forum Members on the following:

- Responses to the consultation on Rural Farm Worker Succession Dwellings Guidance are being considered. An update will be provided towards the end of September with the guidance being signed off at the November Authority meeting.
- Separate to Planning Issues, Dean updated Forum Members on the Sustainable Economy project ‘Rural Enterprise Exmoor’ led by Dan James, the Sustainable Economy Manager for Exmoor National Park Authority. The project Rural Enterprise Exmoor aims to better understand the breadth and depth of business activity within the National Park. The type of activity involved is:
  - Initial audit of business activity
  - Engage with businesses on the benefits and barriers to locating a business on Exmoor
  - Once the data has been collated and analysed it will be used to inform a rural enterprise strategy.
Dean asked Forum Members to alert communities to this new project. **Action: Forum Members to make wider communities aware of the Rural Enterprise Exmoor project.**

For further information about the project contact Dan James, Sustainable Economy Manager at ruralenterprise@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

- **Planning Consultations.** A Forum Member asked if comments made after the 21 days consultation period would still be taken into consideration. Dean reiterated that all comments relating to a planning consultation would be taken into consideration.

- **Winsford Emergency Services Mast.** Members noted concerns about position within the landscape of the proposed emergency services mast at Winsford. **Action: Dean Kinsella noted the concerns relating to landscape. The National Park will investigate these concerns.**

7. **EMERGING ISSUES OR TOPICS FOR WIDER DEBATE:** The following were noted:

- The Review of the Exmoor Consultative Forum is ongoing. Responses to the Review and recommendations on the Forum are encouraged by emailing Dean Kinsella dkinsella@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk. The ECPF is to be moved around, several potential locations such as Molland and Luxborough were noted. It was noted for the meeting at Withypool those responsible locally for the village hall, had set up the tables and chairs in advance and were happy to have them left at the end of the meeting to be cleared away the following day. This is extremely helpful as often the tables at village halls are far too heavy for one person (usually female) to move around without help or risk of injury. **Action: Forum Members to suggest suitable locations, which include a good amount of parking available.**

- In 2021 there will be a new mandatory EID system for farm livestock. This system will rely on having a good phone signal. This prompted some discussion around the use of phone masts, and the recent Government consultation on relaxing the permitted rights on masts, for example, to make them taller, and whether Exmoor National Park should be exempt from these relaxations. It was recognised by Forum Members that there needs to be some acceptance of the infrastructure needed to attract high tech businesses to Exmoor. Members also noted with the pace of technology the need for masts could be outstripped by evolving technology.

8. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held on Thursday 14 November 2019 at 10:30am at the Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross.

9. **OTHER BUSINESS OF URGENCY:** There was none

The meeting closed at 9:10pm

(Chairman)