



ASSET & SERVICE DEVOLUTION WORKING GROUP MEETING NOTES: 16TH September 2024.

Present: Cllr M Cooke, T Hathway, M Mitchell, G Pettitt, J Reeves & J Zorab.
Cllr Johns sent apologies.

Terms of Reference

The Clerk was to amend the presented Terms of Reference before sharing with the group. The changes related to a) an insert regarding voting rights; b) details for electing the Chair of the working group; c) clarification that meetings could be in person if required; d) that members would be drawn from the Parish Council; e) that agenda and notes will be published online.

Election of Working Group Chair

Cllr Jacqui Zorab was elected as Chairperson.

Meeting routine & timings

It was agreed that future meetings would be held at 7pm. It was proposed that future meetings should be scheduled and not used if not required. Future dates to be decided at the next meeting.

The next meeting is to take place online on Monday 7th October 2024 at 7pm.

Marcel, as Chair of Finance & Scrutiny, should be included in all communication, and attend when he sees it appropriate.

The Clerk is to set up a User Group whereby all relevant shared documents can be accessed on the website.

WASTE COLLECTION

The Chair clarified that, from 1st April 2025, there would be no litter collection by Somerset Council of bins not owned by that council. Gill raised the matter of different prices being charged previously by Somerset Council; the price quoted by Somerset Council of £7.82 + VAT is likely to be higher when a final price is offered. The Clerk suggested that a 5% increase might be appropriate.

Number of bins Quotes for waste collection should include bins not on SCO land, to ensure reliable collection. (*Below: bins & land owned by SCO, bins owned by SCO but not land.*)

Collaboration It was agreed that neighbouring councils should be contacted, to understand how SCO PC might fit into their existing or imminent waste collection schemes. Wells CC, Glastonbury TC & Shepton Mallet TC were obvious contacts, as would Priddy, North Wootton, Wookey, Godney and Croscombe. The clerk is to investigate the opportunities with Wells, Glastonbury and Shepton Mallet. Understanding the numbers of bins in smaller neighbouring parishes would be useful information for potential contractors.

It was agreed, however, that initially SCO should get firm details regarding their own parish responsibilities (ie contractor costs) and then be able to extend an offer of a service outwards or tap into a service offered elsewhere.

It should be mentioned to contractors that there is a possibility of extending the collection rounds & confirm they would be willing to expand from the core SCO requirements.

There was a suggestion that, to ensure a good collection service, those bins owned by Somerset Council could be absorbed into SCO PC's collection routine but this had its challenges and could require SCO PC to pay for the asset ownership.

Quotes Somerset Council are expected to announce their rates for collection but the working group agreed it was prudent to gather quotes in the meantime.

Collection frequency It was confirmed that the parish council would require weekly collections from all bins.

ACTION: Clerk is to provide quotes from contractors & ensure the necessary licences are in place for the next meeting. The Clerk is to request information from Wells City, Glastonbury Town and Shepton Mallet Town Councils regarding their own waste collection services.

ENHANCED HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

A discussion followed about what it was exactly that Somerset Council were proposing to devolve: Gill clarified that only statutory responsibilities would be met by Somerset Council; all else are 'discretionary' works and subject to devolution, with various conditions, and would have to be paid for. Gritting was an example.

The document outlining these statutory responsibilities, Levels of Service, explicitly stated Somerset Council's statutory responsibilities for surface water drainage (gullies), harmful/poisonous weeds, roadside hedges, trees located within the highway, grass-cutting, winter gritting, safety defects including potholes, traffic signals & traffic engineering. This is the baseline of what Somerset Council will continue to do.

Tony suggested that an approach would be create a spreadsheet that encompassed all possible scenarios that residents may request support for, beyond those statutory issues and to include – over time- a cost for repair/maintenance and servicing.

Gill referenced successful schemes in Priddy, Dinder & east Compton where councils had used devolution positively.

Jim pointed out the overlap between gully clearance and flooding, particularly in Coxley.

Martin raised a concern for litter pickers who were kindly acting in some areas in the parish; Jacqui could confirm they are properly and safely managed.

Gill noted that the Finance & Scrutiny Committee should be made aware of all possible financial implications for budget-setting; the next meeting is 6th November 2024.

The question of Somerset Council's devolving of responsibilities for East Horrington churchyard was raised by Martin, given parish council responsibilities; Gill felt this was not going to happen, once it had been taken on by a higher authority.

ACTION: The Clerk is to produce the spreadsheet of possible maintenance options for the next meeting.

Meeting ended, 7pm.

Lisa Pool

BIN OWNERSHIP & LOCATION- ST CUTHBERT (OUT) PARISH

Yellow – bin & land owned by SCO; **blue** – bin owned by SCO but not land

Item		Address	Bin Ownership	Land	Collection
Coxley 1	Dog waste	Bowring Close, Coxley	SCO PC	Private	SCO PC
Coxley 2	Dog waste	Car park, Coxley Recreation Ground	SCO PC	SCO PC	SCO PC
Coxley 1	Litter	Playing field, Coxley Recreation Ground	SCO PC	SCO PC	SCO PC
Coxley 2	Litter	Play area, Coxley Recreation ground	SCO PC	SCO PC	SCO PC
Dinder 1	Dog waste	Church Road, Dinder	SCO PC	Dinder Estate	SCO PC
Dinder 2	Dog waste	Sharcombe Lane, Dinder	SCO PC	Private	SCO PC
Dinder 1	Litter	Dragons Den play area, Dinder	SCO PC	SCO PC	SCO PC
Dulcote 1	Dog waste	Constitution Hill, Dulcote	SCO PC	Private	SCO PC
Dulcote 2	Dog waste	Dursdon Road - Strawberry Line, Dulcote	SCO PC	Private	SCO PC?
Dulcote 3	Dog waste	n/a	n/a	n/a	?
Dulcote 1	Litter	Dulcote Recreation Ground, Dulcote	SCO PC	SCO PC	SCO PC
Dulcote 2	Litter	Constitution Hill / Palace Fields, Dulcote	SCO PC	Church Comm	SCO PC?
Easton 1	Litter	Jubilee Playing Field, Easton	SCO PC	SCO PC	SCO PC
Easton 2	Litter	The Green, Easton	SCO PC	SCO PC	SCO PC
Easton 3	Litter	Easton Hill layby, Easton.	SCO PC	Highways	Somerset Council
Haybridge 1	Dog waste	Haybridge Lane / A371 junction	SCO PC	Highways	SCO PC
Haybridge 2	Dog waste	Haybridge Lane / end of MUP from Leisure Centre	u/k	MUP?	WCC
WHorrington 1	Litter	Junction of Bath Road & West Horrington	SCO PC	Highways	SCO PC?
WHorrington 2	Dog waste	End of Peace Close, entry to Biddlecoombe	n/a	n/a	SCO PC?
Wookey Hole 1	Dog waste	River Axe bank/High Street, Wookey Hole	SCO PC	n/a	SCO PC?
Wookey Hole 2	Litter	Old bus shelter, end of Monarchs way / School Hill	n/a	n/a	SCO PC?