

LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

8TH APRIL 2021

Note – This meeting was held remotely using video conference facilities

Present	Councillors: James French (Chairman – after election) Mark Glover (Chairman - initially) Peter Haselhurst David Ley Franklin Tucker Andrew Saywell (DCC) David Hurley (TDC)
In attendance	Leigh Pollinger – Parish Clerk 1 member of the public.
324	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies received from Jenny Coles and Patrick Mitchell
325	PRESENTATION BY CLIVE LEWORTHY OF AIRBAND COMMUNITY INTERNET Airband Community Internet are in the process of rolling out fibre broadband to rural Devon and Langtree PC are in the early part of their rollout plans. Work will be carried out in Langtree during Q2 and Q3 when an alternative to the current providers will become available.
326	ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL Like any other organisation or company, the Council needs to hold an annual meeting to carry out those things that only need doing once a year. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electing a Chairman• Electing a Vice-Chairman • Mark Glover stated that after three years it was time for him to relinquish the role of Chairman. He thanked everyone for all their support over the past few years which have seen several changes to the Parish and community.• James French confirmed that he would like to take the position of chairman and there being no other candidates for the position, he was voted in unanimously.• Mark Glover said that although he was standing down as Chairman he was prepared to support James in the role of Vice

	Chairman. There being no other candidates for the position, he was voted in unanimously.
327	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
327.1	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no matters arising which are not covered later in the meeting.
327.2	Minutes of meeting held on 11 th February 2021 to be agreed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptance of the minutes were proposed by David Ley and seconded by Peter Haselhurst. Approved.
328	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None were advised.
329	REPORTS
329.1	Police Community Support Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report has been received.
329.2	County Councillor <u>Coronavirus</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stats – As of 7th April the DCC area of Devon now up to 20,042 coronavirus infections since the start of the pandemic. • Since the 3rd April that is a weekly increase of 88 infections, with most new infections coming from the East and South of Devon. • By way of comparison... in Torridge there were 3 new infections in the last 7 days, North Devon 9 in the last 7 days, West Devon 7 cases in the last 7 days. • In the ‘Shebbear, Cookworthy and Broadheath MSOA’ (which includes Langtree), there were fewer than 3 infections recorded in the 7 days to 3rd April. When there are less than 3 cases the Government does not show the data to protect individuals’ identities. • More community testing sites are being rolled out throughout the County, targeting areas with higher infection rates first. <p>Infection cases continue to fall in Devon, over Easter the decline has increased but I will wait to see what the next couple of week’s data brings in case this has been a bank holiday effect, but overall our infection rate per 100,000 remains very low (11), compared with the national England average of 38.6</p>

Torrige has the second lowest infection rate in England (4.4), behind Folkestone & Hythe. However when numbers are so low it only takes 2 or 3 extra cases to see our infection rates increase. For example, on the previous days statistics Torrige had the lowest rate in England!

Nevertheless, we are continuing to do well in keeping our infection rates down. While we hope the vaccine rollout will lead us back to normality, for the time being it is vital that we keep up our efforts to follow the guidance of staying at home and if and when we are out and about to follow the 'hands, face, space' guidance.

COVID Vaccinations

The rollout of the vaccine in Devon and in Torrington Rural continues to go well.

I sent a briefing note from the NHS to the Parish Council this week but the main points for vaccine rollout:

- **642,832 people in Devon received their first vaccine dose** between 8th December – 28th March
- **Latest estimate is 95% of over 70s in Devon have received their first dose, with 94.1% of 65-69 year olds, and 96.6% for those aged 60-64, 95.6% ages 55-59, and 88.6% ages 50-54.** Over a quarter of those aged 16-60 have also received a first dose, this group includes frontline healthcare workers and those who are clinically vulnerable.
- The NHS in Devon are focusing on people aged 50 and over, second doses, and those who are clinically vulnerable.
- Despite the supply issues that may happen in the coming weeks, **if you already have an appointment for a first or second dose these appointments remain in place and its really important that you attend it as planned.**
- Even when you have been vaccinated, you must still continue to follow the COVID-19 safety rules – stay at home as much as possible and remember hands, face, space.

This remains a huge logistical exercise, very much dependent upon the speed and rate of vaccine supplies. Please wait for the NHS to contact you when it is your turn. The roll out is getting more localised, those who cannot travel far should be able to get their jab administered locally.

Return to School

The return to school has gone very well, with a 95% attendance rate reported for Schools in Devon. The testing regime for Schools also appears to have worked well so far.

Support for Families over Easter – Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Devon County Council has been awarded £1.69 million from the Department for Education to provide Holiday Activities and Food for children aged 5-16 on benefit related Free School Meals.

Bluecoats School in Torrington are participating in this scheme for Easter and it is hoped that it will be rolled out across Devon for the summer holidays.

DCC would welcome applications from Torrington Rural if they can demonstrate it is for the eligible children on Free School Meals. The timescale for the HAF is 4 hours per day for 4 days over the Easter Holidays, which includes a nutritious hot meal, if you would like to contact the relevant officer, Melissa Filby 01392 383000 or email at melissa.filby@devon.gov.uk, she would be happy to discuss your project and if it fits the HAF criteria.

DCC Budget

The main work over at the County Council since Langtree's last meeting has been the budget setting process. The Budget was approved at Full Council on the 18th February with more cash for vulnerable adults and children, health and potholes.

Key points:

1. £37m extra cash injection into vital services, including an additional £21.7m for Adult Care and Health, and £11.4m for Children's Services.
2. For Highways there will be an injection of extra revenue into the service including £600,000 for potholes and a new £100,000 fund for Town and Parishes to enhance street features.
3. An additional £600,000 into the Hardship Fund, to be distributed to the District Councils, to help people badly affected by the pandemic who may have been made redundant but are not yet receiving universal credit or benefit support.
4. The total overall revenue budget will be in excess of £578m.
5. To help pay for these increases, Council Tax will unfortunately have to rise – up 1.99% for general services and 3% dedicated solely to Adult Social Care. This will equate to an extra £1.38 a week for an average Band D household.
6. I know Council Tax rises are never welcome... but this will mean we both maintain vital services and can endeavour to improve them.
7. The backdrop to the budget is one of huge uncertainty and risk – we do not know how long the pandemic will continue for or what

	<p>the longer term impact on the economy, public health and demand for services will be.</p> <p><u>Highways</u></p> <p>There has been a backlog of pothole repairs over the last couple of months though anecdotally I am now starting to see evidence that Highways are catching up.</p> <p>I am aware that the B3227 between Langtree and Watergate has got several surface potholes. The B3227 has been identified as the main priority by Highways and there are plans in the system for patching/resurfacing works to take place. Exact timings remain TBC but I am hoping it will take place within this financial year! It will be a priority of mine to see this work get done if I am lucky enough to be returned as the County Councillor for Langtree.</p> <p><u>Elections and thank you!</u></p> <p>As you know, this is my last Parish Council meeting before the May Elections to Devon County. I will be standing again but should I not be returned I would like to place on record my thanks to the Parish Council for their kind support over the years and to thank you for all the work you have done for the Parish during the time I have been on the County Council. It has been a real honour and privilege to represent Langtree and I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the residents of the Parish for their kindness and support over the last four years.</p> <p>Looking back at the last four years I believe we have secured some real improvements in the Parish, with much needed Highways work done in Langtree village and the Shebbear Road from Stibb Cross. As mentioned above, plans are also in the system to repair the B3227. But as ever, there is more to do, and I will work on it if I am returned next month.</p> <p>If anyone is unsure or uncertain about voting in the election they can apply for a Proxy Vote. Emergency Proxies will also be available for anyone who is told to self-isolate.</p> <p>I remain at your service until May and as ever, if there are any issues you'd like me to look into please get in touch.</p>
329.3	<p>District Councillor</p> <p><u>Langtree DC Report April 2021</u></p> <p>The Gov't have decided that it will be permissible to hold live meetings after May 7 although social distancing rules will still apply. This will cause problems for many PC's as their meeting places often won't allow this. It seems that Torridge will also face difficulties with regard to hosting live meetings and keeping within the social distancing rules. A Full Council will have around 44 in attendance and it is estimated that the Town Hall in Bideford can only accommodate 10 with social distancing. Caddsdawn only approximately 20. Representations are</p>

being made to the Government from other local authorities and also the LGA to try and surmount this issue.

Planning

Two major projects were passed at Plans Committee recently. Brunswick Wharf in Bideford, a £22 million pound development to breathe new life into a derelict area of East the Water and a 138 home development at Westward Ho! The day gets ever closer when the future of the Creamery at Torrington is discussed.

Still with Planning.....I learn't around 3 months ago whilst "attending" Sheepwash PC meeting that a local PC was trying to gain support from other PC's to return neutral or no comment replies to planning applications as it was felt that TDC didn't take notice to what was returned. Last week I sat on the plans committee and one application that was discussed had a response from the Parish Council that echoes exactly what I have just stated. I have already asked the planning manager to compose a written reply regarding the TDC position and PC application submissions and to send it to all Parish Clerks. Hopefully this will be forthcoming in the near future.

Community Emergency Plans Event

I mentioned in my February report that a free event was taking place on Thursday 25th Feb. This was being run in conjunction with Devon Communities Together and was designed to help Communities pull together an Emergency Plan with local volunteers. The event was reasonably well attended. As I've mentioned before a Community Emergency Plan (CEP) is devised by the community themselves, very often Town and Parish Council led. It follows a template and identifies possible risks, how they might be mitigated, what resources are needed and how the community would contribute to responding to an event. Funding is available for Communities. If this PC is interested in leading the community in formulating an Emergency Plan, I will give the Clerk contact details so that further info can be obtained.

C/T Bills

You are all aware now of the updated charges for C/T. Please remember Torridge may collect the money but only retains 8.4p in the £

Councillor Advocate for the OPCC

I recently "attended" a Councillor Advocate meeting in which Community Speed Watch was discussed. You may recall around 3 years ago a call went out from this PC for volunteers to form a Speedwatch team. Unfortunately there was a poor response and the idea was dropped. The meeting was called to listen to co-ordinators and gauge problems with setting up and running teams. Volunteer recruitment and retainment was a major problem. In addition the support from local Police and PCSO's was patchy. In addition some people struggled to

	adapt to online training. I have contacted the team co-ordinators in our local area and updated them with the outcome of the meeting.
330	PARISH MATTERS
330.1	<p>To receive an update on the formal transfer of the MUGA to Langtree Parish Hall and Langtree Hall Players (operating organisation).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed lease for the MUGA has been forwarded to Sue Lee for review and comment. It should be noted that the insurance cover for the MUGA will remain the Parish Council responsibility (cost approximately £160 p.a.)
330.2	<p>Opening of the MUGA for general use as Coronavirus restrictions are relaxed. Formal opening of MUGA in July.</p> <p>Peter Haselhurst gave a short overview of the current position with the MUGA with Langtree and Peters Marland school using the facilities and 5 a-side football and netball starting up as lockdown eases.</p>
330.3	<p>Consider ROSPA report and future ideas for the Children’s Play Area – Langtree</p> <p>Consider ROSPA report for the Children’s Play Area – Stibb Cross</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ROSPA report for Langtree Park showed that the facilities are tired but generally okay. A discussion was had regarding whether the play equipment should be moved up to the Parish Hall area. It was agreed that before any further consideration of this matter the Langtree Park group should be invited. It was also confirmed that Pat Mitchell is due to break through the hedge separating the football field from Langtree Park which should improve access. It was confirmed that Dave Steggles has removed the Cypress tree in the Park, he has also commented that several of the willow trees need removing and trimming. The Beech Road play area is also reported as being tired. James French agreed to visit the site and report.
331	PLANNING
331.1	<p>To consider planning application Conversion of building into a single dwelling Building At Wood View Stibb Cross Devon EX38 8LR Ref. No: 1/0331/2021/FUL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This application was reviewed and it was agreed that the Parish Council should object to this application. Reasons include:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We do not believe that this conversion is for a dwelling, the design and layout suggests that this building will be used as a hotel / hostel and as such is not appropriate for the area. • This building is outside of the agreed planning envelope for Stibb Cross. • The location of this building within the existing field system suggests that applications for infilling could be made in the future along the roadway between the building and the A386. • We think the photos show that there is an owl nesting box in the existing building 						
331.2	<p>To consider any other planning applications received between issuing of agenda and meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no other planning applications. 						
332	CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCE						
332.1	<p>To receive update on financial position at end March 2021</p> <p>The bank figures at the 31st March 2021 were</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Main Account</td> <td>£725.51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve Account</td> <td>£4000.09</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£4725.60</td> </tr> </table> <p>Since the last meeting on 11th February payments have been made as follows</p> <p>Langtree Parish Hall, Parish Council bill paid in error £453.20 Abacus Lighting, final MUGA lighting payment £4841.47 JAG Signs, sign for MUGA £144.00 Symons, spare for mower £14.27 L Pollinger, Ashridge Oak Trees for park £189.60 D Steggles, removal of tree in Langtree Park £180.00 ROSPA, play ground safety inspection £447.60</p> <p>Receipts include</p> <p>Devon County Council grant £158 Allotment let (nos 6 and 7) £20</p> <p>The end of year accounts are being finalised and will be sent to our auditor for review in mid April. It is planned to have the accounts back in time for the next meeting so that they can be signed off.</p>	Main Account	£725.51	Reserve Account	£4000.09	Total	£4725.60
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332.2	<p>To request approval of BACS Payments and cheques</p> <p>Approval requested to pay</p>						

	<p>Torrige District Council, Clerks salary £1044 Symons, mower spare part £39.13 DALC, annual affiliation fee £186.32</p> <p>Approved.</p>
332.3	<p>Review changes to the regulations regarding Parish Council meetings effective from May 7th 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the 7th May Parish Council meetings cannot be held using video conferencing facilities but should be face to face. This causes problems as the Parish Hall cannot be used before 17th May. It is suggested that the next meeting is delayed until later in May.
332.4	<p>The requirement to hold an Annual Parish Meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Annual Parish Meeting is not a council meeting. It is a meeting of the Parish electors taking place between 1 March and 1 June. Electors can contribute to the Agenda and in practice these meetings often celebrate local activities and debate current issues in the community.
332.5	<p>To review correspondence received</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None that have not been previously circulated.
333	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment
334	<p>ANY OTHER ITEMS AT CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Franklin Tucker requested status of a footpath and was pointed towards TDC for further information. • David Ley asked whether the football field needs fertiliser spread on it – agreed yes • Peter Haselhurst advised that an outside team may be interested in using the field and facilities. • The meeting finished at 9.25pm
335	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th May at 7.30pm at Langtree Parish Hall.</p>