

LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

19th May 2021

Present	Councillors: Jenny Coles Colin Edworthy James French (Chairman – after election) Mark Glover David Ley Pat Mitchell Andrew Saywell (DCC) David Hurley (TDC)
In attendance	Leigh Pollinger – Parish Clerk 6 members of the public.
336	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE The meeting opened at 7.55pm on the conclusion of the Annual Parish Meeting. Apologies received from Colin Edworthy, Peter Haselhurst, Franklin Tucker, Andrew Saywell (DCC)
337	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
337.1	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There were no matters arising.
337.2	Minutes of meeting held on 8 th April 2021 to be agreed. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes were proposed by Mark Glover and seconded by Pat Mitchell. Agreed.
338	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS
339	REPORTS (this section may be dropped if reports have been covered in the earlier Annual Parish Meeting)
339.1	County Councillor The following report was emailed to the clerk too late for inclusion in the meeting. Please see accept my apologies for not being with you this evening but I hope this report is useful.

Elections

Thank you to the residents of Langtree and Torrington Rural for re-electing me. It is a huge honour to be re-elected and returned with an increased majority and 55% of the vote. I will do all that I can to repay that trust and represent everyone, however they voted.

County Council business is relatively quiet at the moment and I don't expect things to get fully up and running again until after the Council AGM on the 27th May, however if there are any issues that come up within the Parish then please don't hesitate to contact me.

Coronavirus

- Stats – As of 19th May the DCC area of Devon now up to 20,408 coronavirus infections since the start of the pandemic.
- Since the 14th May that is a weekly increase of 59 infections, with most new infections coming from South Devon.
- By way of comparison... in Torridge there were just 2 new infections in the last 7 days, North Devon was 5 in the last 7 days, West Devon 5 cases in the last 7 days.
- Infection numbers are now broadly static over the past couple of week, seeing 10-15 new cases a day on average, but given low numbers we are seeing marginal rises/falls but can play out as large percentage swings.
- We are seeing infection cases predominately in young people and working age adults (picked up through asymptomatic testing) so it is important we all still adhere to the public health measures and restrictions (Hands, Face, Space, Fresh air) both within work and outside work.
- DCC are still encouraging people to get a rapid Lateral Flow test twice a week, even if you have been vaccinated as you can still catch COVID and be infectious. Please visit [Devon.cc/testing](https://www.devon.gov.uk/testing) to find out how you can get tested.

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 Councils earlier this week but the main points for vaccine rollout:

- **711,164 people in Devon received their first vaccine dose between 8th December – 9th May, while 378,188 second doses have been given.**
- **Latest estimate is more than 90% of anyone over 50 in Devon has received their first dose. In total 71.2% of the adult**

population in Devon, those aged 16 +, have received a first dose.

- Phase 2 over the vaccine programme (under 50's) has commenced. Please wait to be contact and then you can book your 1st and 2nd jab.
- **If you 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 – remember hands, face, space, and fresh air!

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.

Local Covid Testing

Rapid Lateral Flow community testing is now available in Torrington. This is for anyone without symptoms but aimed specifically at key workers/people who cannot work from home etc.

The DCC Mobile Testing site at Torrington is available on:

- **Tuesday**

- 3:30 pm to 7 pm – Sydney House Car Park, EX38 8AA

- **Friday**

- 11 am to 2:30 pm – Sydney House Car Park, EX38 8AA

My understanding is no appointment is necessary to get a test at these walk in locations. Home testing kits are also available. More information can be found at [devon.cc/testing](https://www.devon.gov.uk/testing)

Local Highways Matters

I am aware of the poor condition of the B3227 between Langtree and Watergate, along with some of our more rural roads in and around the Berry Cross area. I will raise this and other matters with our new Neighbourhood Highways Officer when I have a meeting with him tomorrow to discuss the various Highways issues within Torrington Rural.

Hybrid Meetings

Going forward, I would like the ability to still join Parish Council meetings through a virtual platform like Zoom, even if the rest of you are meeting face to face as it will help cut down my environmental and travel costs. It also makes it much easier for me to attend multiple Parish Council meetings if they are hybrid rather than having to rush

	<p>from one end of Torrington Rural to another to make more than one meeting.</p> <p>Having spoken to the Clerk about this, we are hoping that this should be possible for future meetings, especially if/when social distancing restrictions end. I will though be happy to attend meetings face-to-face as and when it is needed.</p> <p>Thank you again for your support in the Elections and as ever, if there are any DCC matters you'd like to raise with me then please get in touch.</p>
339.2	<p>District Councillor</p> <p><u>Cllr Advocate and OPCC</u></p> <p>I reported two months ago to this PC that I would be attending via Zoom a meeting with the OPCC to discuss Speedwatch and associated problems with both setting up the Team, and member retention. I attended the meeting and have sent a precis of the minutes of the meeting to the relevant Speedwatch co-ordinators in our area.</p> <p><u>Leisure Facilities</u></p> <p>As I'm sure you are aware Leisure Facilities in our area at Northam, Torrington and Holsworthy are now able to admit the public. Unfortunately at this time only the pool at Northam has reopened. It was noticed during a reopening inspection at Torrington that the water temperature was too low. This was traced to a faulty valve. A new one should be fitted shortly and the pool will be able to be reopened a few days later when the water has reached an optimum temperature. I've received notification today that the Torrington pool is scheduled to reopen on 1st June. Staffing at these centres is causing a problem as some have moved away at the end of their contracts. Holsworthy is actively recruiting and will reopen when staff levels have reached the appropriate level.</p> <p><u>County Councillor Elections</u></p> <p>Congratulations to Andrew Saywell for being re-elected as the County Councillor for Torrington Rural.</p> <p><u>Update to Local Plan</u></p> <p>Councillors have been invited to attend a virtual workshop to enable them to get involved with the review of the Local Plan. Towards the end of last year N.Devon and Torridge Councils committed at their respective Full Council meetings to undertake a comprehensive review of the N.Devon and Torridge Local Plan that was adopted in Oct 2018. Since those meetings at the end of last year officers have undertaken a range of initial work and now wish to present their findings. It is recognised that Councillors are well placed to understand the issues facing their communities and officers want to ensure that the opportunity to feed those issues in at this early stage is available. Officers are therefore</p>

	<p>asking for Councillor input as to the range of issues that they may feel need to be addressed.</p> <p><u>Planning Manager Response</u></p> <p>I have mentioned previously that I had asked the Planning Manager at Torridge for a response to be sent to all Parish Councils with regard to some PC's feeling that their comments about applications were being ignored and maybe a neutral response to everything was being suggested.</p> <p>Shaun Harrington has now issued a response to Parish Councils after a further prompt from me and I hope you have received a copy and have been able to find time to read it. I know Shaun has been particularly busy with some major planning applications of late hence the delay in producing the email. I think it makes good reading and explains a lot including the value of Parish Councillors comments.</p> <p><u>Local Searches</u></p> <p>I have mentioned at previous PC meetings of the time taken for local searches. At one time prior to Christmas it was 37 days. At present it is around 15 days and staff are striving to reduce this number. I'm sure when the stamp duty holiday ends the local search time will reduce.</p>
340	PARISH MATTERS
340.1	<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"> • We have not had a response from the Parish Hall committee about the draft agreement, but believe it is on the agenda for the Parish Hall AGM scheduled for 20th May.
340.2	<p>Roofing of space between Changing Room and Container.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide additional storage it was agreed to roof over the area between the Changing Room and Container. Pat Mitchell has costed materials at approx. £610 (plus VAT) and there will be a small labour charge from Greg Mitchell in helping to assemble the whole. Agreed to go ahead.
340.3	<p>Review rental fees of the Allotments (currently £15 per annum).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed to leave the allotment rental at £15 for another year.
340.4	<p>Replacing notice board at end of Church Lane.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The notice board in Church Lane (which was originally installed about 30 years ago) needs replacing. It was agreed that this should be replaced with a man made wood (recycled plastic)

	<p>board which will not require any maintenance. Cost will be approximately £450 plus VAT. Agreed to go ahead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Glover advised that the Berry Cross notice board needs some TLC and offered to do this work. • It was reported that the lock on the Stibb Cross board has rusted in and cannot be opened. Geoff Bond agreed to take an angle grinder to it. 						
341	PLANNING						
341.1	<p>To consider any planning applications received between issuing of agenda and meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No plans have been received. 						
342	CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCE						
342.1	<p>To receive update on financial position at end April 2021</p> <p>The bank figures at the 30th April 2021 were</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Main Account</td> <td>£3831.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve Account</td> <td>£4000.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£7831.81</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the last meeting on 11th February payments have been made as follows Torrige District Council £1044.00 Andrew Symons £39.13 DALC £186.32 • Receipts include Torrige District Council (precept) £4375.00 • The end of year accounts are finalised and will be returned from our auditor shortly. It is planned to have the accounts back in time for the next meeting so that they can be signed off. 	Main Account	£3831.66	Reserve Account	£4000.15	Total	£7831.81
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342.2	<p>To request approval of BACS Payments and cheques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None requested. 						
342.5	<p>To review correspondence received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any correspondence received has been circulated by email. 						
343	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION						

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was commented that there are divots in the paths of the dog walking area (question – is this badgers at work?). Geoff Bond agreed to have a look into it.
<p>344</p>	<p>ANY OTHER ITEMS AT CHAIRMAN’S DISCRETION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The situation with the mower being out of action was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact Andrew Symons to find out the current position. • Geoff Bond asked to receive copies of the MUGA / Sports committee agenda / minutes etc. The Clerk will contact that committee and ensure that Geoff is added to the circulation list. • It was commented that the growth of hedgerows and trees at the Wonders Corner junction makes turning onto the A388 difficult due to poor visibility. Clerk to report to Devon Highways. • Devon Highways have advised that they have funding available to contribute to the repair and replacement of direction finger posts. The Clerk asked everyone to contact him so that he can coordinate a list to send to DCC. • The meeting closed at 8.30pm.
<p>345</p>	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on date to be agreed.</p> <p>Date agreed is Thursday 10th June 2021 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall</p>