

LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

8th JULY 2021

Present	Councillors: Geoff Bond Jenny Coles Colin Edworthy Mark Glover (Chairman) David Ley Pat Mitchell Andrew Saywell (DCC) David Hurley (TDC)
In attendance	Leigh Pollinger – Parish Clerk 4 members of the public.
356	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies received from Jim French, Peter Haselhurst, Frank Tucker
357	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
357.1	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">Any matters arising were covered later in the meeting.
357.2	Minutes of meeting held on 10 th June 2021 to be agreed. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Proposed by Pat Mitchell and seconded by Jenny Coles.
358	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Parish Clerk advised the meeting that he would be adversely affected by the planning application at Brycourrt (item 361.1).
359	REPORTS
359.1	Police Community Support Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none">No report received.
359.2	County Councillor <u>Coronavirus</u> Stats – As of 8 th July the DCC area of Devon now up to 24,016 coronavirus infections since the start of the pandemic. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Since the 3rd July that is a weekly increase of 397 infections, an increase of just under 50% the previous week.

- By way of comparison... in Torrington there were 45 new infections in the last 7 days (down 37 on the previous week), North Devon was 93 in the last 7 days, West Devon just 48 cases in the last 7 days. The bulk of the Devon wide increase comes from Exeter where there were 365 new infections.

As I am sure you are aware, we saw a large outbreak associated with Great Torrington School and this did drive our local infection numbers up. DCC and other agencies have worked closely with the school to manage the outbreak, and it has been successfully contained – it did not spill out into the wider community. I believe GTS dealt with a difficult situation extremely well given the circumstances.

Across Devon, the increase in infections have come from unvaccinated young adults or young people still in education. But we have not seen an increase in hospitalisations or deaths.

There is also a clear ‘vaccine effect’ in infections. The infection rate in Torrington for 0-59s is 88.8 per 100,000. For over 60s it is 24.7 (and only in the last week has the rate in the over 60s increased). Some over 60s or double vaccinated people will likely test positive – but the chances of them developing serious illness will be greatly diminished by having the vaccine.

So while we are seeing a slight rise in older people being tested positive but thankfully as you see the number of hospitalisations remain relatively low (just 11 people in acute beds with Covid-19 in Devon and only 1 in ICU).

‘Unlocking’ on July 19th

Despite the increase in infections, I do not believe this should be a cause for panic. We should remain careful, up to and beyond the 19th July, I will continue to follow Covid precautions as and when it is appropriate, and will continue to take lateral flow tests. The removal of legal Covid restrictions will be good news for our local businesses, especially those in the hospitality sector. Others I know may feel more uneasy. The people of Torrington Rural have shown great fortitude and common sense throughout this pandemic, I believe they will continue to do so in the coming months and that thanks to their behaviour and a high vaccine uptake, we will keep local Covid infections low.

Above all the key message remains, **get your jab when you are called up!**

Second Dose appointments have been brought forward from 12 weeks to 8 weeks. I have brought my second dose forward to later this month and would urge anyone else in similar circumstances to do the same.

Rapid Lateral Flow Testing

Rapid Lateral Flow tests can be ordered off the Government website or collected from **DCC Mobile Community Testing Vans**. The Mobile

Service is currently in Torrington **Tuesdays 1.30pm to 5pm** and **Thursdays 9am to 12.30pm**, Sydney House Car Park. The Van is also available in Holsworthy on Wednesdays and Sundays, 9am-5pm, at The Manor Car Park. Or in Bideford, in Morrison's Car Park, on Mondays 9am-5pm and Thursdays 1.30pm-5pm.

Remember, lateral flow tests are only for people who DON'T have symptoms and are designed to pick up cases which are asymptomatic. If you have any symptoms book a PCR Test through the Government website.

More information can be found online at devon.cc/testing

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:

- **All adults aged 18 and over** on 1st July are eligible to book their vaccination.
- **Second doses brought forward from 12 weeks to 8 weeks.**
- **861,763 people in Devon received their first vaccine dose** up to 27th June, **while 657,902 second doses have been given.**
- **Over two thirds of adults in Devon have received both doses, almost 9/10 adults have received their first dose.**
- **Latest estimate is 90% of people aged over 55 in Devon has received both doses. Over 50% of 18-24 year olds in Devon have received a first dose.**

Return to the Office at DCC

Despite the removal of legal Covid restrictions the majority of DCC's workforce will, for the time being, continue to work from home. The enforcement of isolating contacts of people who have tested positive makes office working problematic... e.g. you would not want a whole team of social workers forced into self-isolation if one of them tests positive in the workplace and their colleagues are 'pinged'. However, staff who need to use or work in an Office will continue to be allowed to do so, though Covid measures will for the time being remain in place.

In the long term the Council is looking at flexible or 'agile' working arrangements though work on this is ongoing and is unlikely to be finalised until later in the autumn.

Local Highways Matters

Potholes

Just a reminder regarding potholes, **it is really important that residents continue to report potholes and other highways defects.** I cannot stress

enough this is a numbers game – the more potholes reported the more likely it is we can have permanent repair works like resurfacing take place. Please visit devon.cc/report-it to report potholes and other highways defects online.

DCC Bids for Community Renewal Funding

A programme of bids totalling more than £12.2 million has been submitted by Devon County Council to a new Government funding scheme which aims to support communities and businesses to recover after the Coronavirus pandemic.

Devon’s bid is made up 16 projects from across the county which have the potential to generate around 620 jobs, support the creation of 400 new businesses, and help 3,000 people to retrain.

Torridge activity accounts for £3million of the £12million bid, including bids for the biosphere, agriculture, and upskilling young people and self employed workers. I recently met with Torridge District Council’s Economic Regeneration Manager Chris Fuller and stressed to him that if these bids are successful that I would like to see funding drawn down into our area, and not focused exclusively on the larger towns.

359.3

District Councillor

Northam Burrows visitor centre is now open to the public but the cafe is suffering at this time with procurement problems. It is hoped that this facility will be open in a couple of weeks. The Centre is due to be officially opened by Sir Geoffrey Cox on Friday 23rd July at 2pm.

Speed Watch Report

I mentioned last month that I had attended in my Cllr Advocate for the OPCC role a zoom meeting where members of Speed Watch Teams inputted their views of how the Teams were functioning and how the system could be improved. A report recognising those views has now been compiled and published and has made a number of recommendations that could see the scheme rolled out in more communities across the South West. The report also called for greater police involvement and a more data driven approach to the scheme that would allow volunteers to see the real impact of their work in local communities. At present speeding drivers are reported to the police but other than a caution nothing else happens. Going forward that the police plan to deploy more Speed Detection Officers and embed some within Community Speed Watch teams to give them extra ‘teeth’ when catching speeding drivers, so those groups will be able to issue on-the-spot fines and report drivers who are caught breaking the law.

Across Devon and Cornwall there are currently 426 volunteers who make up 31 Community Speed Watch groups. As I've just said, Devon & Cornwall Police are increasing support for Community Speed Watch which will allow their efforts to result in fines, points or even a court

	<p>appearance.</p> <p><u>Councillor Workshops</u></p> <p>Torrige Councillors are at present attending two strategic workshops. The Leisure Workshop, discussing the route the Council should take when 1610, who are the present Leisure provider, contract expires next March, took place on Monday 5th July. On Friday the second Strategic Workshop, Provision of Housing, takes place. This is where Councillors will discuss how to tackle the present housing crisis in this area and will, with the help of experienced in this field consultants, look at all avenues TDC can take including returning to house building.</p> <p><u>Area Advisory Groups</u></p> <p>The Chairs of the Torrington and Holsworthy Area Advisory Groups have decided to amalgamate both meetings. These meetings are run to allow Parish Councillors direct access to TDC officers. It is felt that by combining both Area Groups it would not only reduce the administration running separate meetings and that it is hoped that it will promote greater attendance from Parish Councillors.</p>
360	PARISH MATTERS
360.1	<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"> • Sue Lee attended the meeting on behalf of the Parish Hall. • The parish hall committee are confident that they have found a way of keeping total income for the parish hall under the VAT threshold for the present. • The MUGA committee will keep sports income in a separate bank account and will arrange donations to the parish hall on a regular basis. • The parish hall committee requested that the dog walking area should be transferred to the parish hall with the other areas (MUGA, football field) as being a charity it may be easier for them to find appropriate grants. This was agreed by the Parish Council. • It was also suggested that the lease for the football field, MUGA, dog walking area should be extended from the current proposed 25 years to 60 years and be co-terminus with the parish hall lease. This will be looked into. • Further discussions will be held by the parish hall committee.
360.2	<p>Update on mower repairs, grass cutting, and any other actions the Parish Council may be responsible for in order to get the football pitch up to scratch.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mower is now working but the stop solenoid needs to be replaced (replacement item ordered). 						
361	PLANNING						
361.1	<p>To consider planning application 1/0421/2021/FUL Erection of two dwellings - Land Adj To Brycourt Church Meadow Langtree Great Torrington EX38 8RS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite no comments in favour of this proposal the council did not raise any objections. 						
361.2	<p>To consider planning application 1/0656/2021/FUL Proposed No.1 dwelling with associated works - The Bungalow Stibb Cross Torrington Devon EX38 8LH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was concern about access onto the main road however the council has no objections. 						
361.3	<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. 						
362	CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCE						
362.1	<p>To receive update on financial position at end June 2021 The bank figures at the 30th June 2021 were</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Main Account</td> <td>£2490.23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve Account</td> <td>£4000.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£6490.41</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since the last meeting payments were made as follows Andrew Symons £46.44 + £5.99 A Hinchcliffe £40.00 Greenbarnes via L Pollinger £630.00 Travis Perkins £18.14 Tim Sanders £95.00 Total £836.34 <p>Receipts included Allotment payments of £52.50</p>	Main Account	£2490.23	Reserve Account	£4000.18	Total	£6490.41
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362.2	<p>To request approval of BACS Payments and cheques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitchmarkers (football pitch white lining) £156.00 <p>Agreed</p>						

362.3	<p>To review correspondence received</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence regarding a proposed new build at Nuthatch Cottage was noted.
363	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that there are a number of piles of dog mess in the dog walking area where owners have not cleared up after their pets. It was felt that dog owners should be reminded not to let their dogs off the lead on the football pitch field. • A couple of the oak trees planted in the dog walking area appear to have died and will need to be replaced in due course.
364	<p>ANY OTHER ITEMS AT CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55pm
365	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on a date to be confirmed at 7.30pm. Subsequently arranged for the meeting to take place on Thursday 5th August.</p>