

# LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

5<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2021

<b>Present</b>	Councillors: Geoff Bond Jenny Coles Peter Haselhurst Mark Glover (Chairman) David Ley Pat Mitchell Franklin Tucker David Hurley (TDC)
<b>In attendance</b>	Leigh Pollinger – Parish Clerk 1 member of the public
<b>366</b>	<b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Apologies were received from Colin Edworthy and Andrew Saywell (DCC)
<b>367</b>	<b>RESIGNATION OF JAMES FRENCH AS COUNCILLOR</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mark Glover confirmed that he had received a message from James French tendering his resignation as chairman and resigning from the Parish Council. Mark thanked James for his input to the Parish Council over a number of years and was sorry that he had chosen this time to leave the council.</li><li>• As Mark was originally the Vice Chairman it was agreed that he should take up the role of Chairman and Peter Haselhurst was delegated to be Vice Chairman. These roles will continue until the next Annual Meeting of the Council (approx. April 2022).</li><li>• The process for recruiting a new councillor is as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Notice issued of vacancy by TDC</li><li>• If within 14 days, 10 or more electors contact TDC requesting an election then an election will take place.</li><li>• If no election is required then the following procedure is proposed:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The position is advertised and any person wishing to apply contacts the Parish Clerk.</li><li>○ At the next Parish meeting each of the candidates gives a 3 minute presentation.</li><li>○ After the presentations candidates are asked to leave the council then discusses each candidate and agrees who will be co-opted as a councillor.</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>

<b>368</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</b>
368.1	<p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were no matters which are not covered later in the agenda</li> </ul>
368.2	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021 to be agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes were proposed by Geoff Bond and seconded by Jenny Coles.</li> </ul>
<b>369</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None were declared.</li> </ul>
<b>370</b>	<b>REPORTS</b>
370.1	<p>Police Community Support Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No report received.</li> </ul>
370.2	<p>County Councillor</p> <p>The following report has been received from Andrew Saywell</p> <p><b><u>New DCC Grant</u></b></p> <p>A new grant by Devon County Council has been launched intended to help communities reconnect, rebuild and recover after the pandemic.</p> <p>The Reconnect Rebuild Recover Community Fund will provide grant funding of up to £1,000 for smaller projects and between £1,000 and £3,000 for larger projects that help local people to reconnect, rebuild and recover their community-led facilities and/or social activities.</p> <p>The Grants will support community-led initiatives that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encourage a range of people to participate in activities that improve their physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing</li> <li>• provide safe community-led transportation links and services which encourage and help people to re-connect and re-socialise safely within their communities</li> <li>• encourage people to develop skills and learning through volunteering their time, knowledge and expertise to help and support the facilities and/or social activity and the people using them</li> </ul> <p>More information, including how to apply, can be found on the link below. Please share this to any organisations in the Parish and beyond who may be interested/eligible to apply.</p>

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/reconnect-rebuild-recover-fund>

### **Coronavirus**

Infections have fallen recently in Devon and in Torrington, and there has been a clear vaccine effect with new infections coming predominantly from younger people, and those older people who have tested positive developing mild or no symptoms at all. Hospitalisations and deaths remain thankfully low.

Nationally, Covid cases fallen which is great news, though it is still probably too early to say if it is a sustained trend. Equally we need to see what the full impact will be from the latest relaxations in restrictions.

- Stats – As of 4<sup>th</sup> August the DCC area of Devon now up to 34,251 coronavirus infections since the start of the pandemic.
- Since the 30<sup>th</sup> July that is a weekly increase of 2425 infections (a fall of just under 10% on the previous week).
- By way of comparison... in Torrington there were 177 new infections in the last 7 days, North Devon was 241 in the last 7 days, West Devon 90 cases in the last 7 days.
- The bulk of the Devon wide increase comes from Exeter, Teignbridge, and East Devon.

I appreciate these large case numbers are unsettling, but as I mentioned above, hospitalisations remain thankfully low. My advice to people would be to continue to remain cautious, but also not to panic. I will continue to follow Covid precautions as and when it is appropriate, and will continue to take lateral flow tests.

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 brought my second dose forward in July 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, Thursdays 9am to 12.30pm, and Saturdays 1.30pm to 5pm.**

	<p>Full times and availability of mobile testing sites can be found online here - <a href="https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/rapid-testing-devon/rapid-lateral-flow-tests-site-locations-and-opening-times/">https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/rapid-testing-devon/rapid-lateral-flow-tests-site-locations-and-opening-times/</a></p> <p>Remember, lateral flow tests are only for people who <u>DON'T</u> 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.</p> <p>More information can be found online at <a href="https://devon.cc/testing">devon.cc/testing</a></p> <p><b><u>COVID Vaccinations</u></b></p> <p>The rollout of the vaccine in Devon and in Torrington Rural continues to go well.</p> <p>I sent a briefing note from the NHS to the Parish Councils earlier this week but the main points for vaccine rollout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Second doses brought forward from 12 weeks to 8 weeks. Anyone under 40 is being urged to bring forward their second vaccine dose to 8 weeks after their first.</b></li> <li>• <b>899,718 people in Devon received their first vaccine dose up to 25<sup>th</sup> July, while 729,558 second doses have been given.</b></li> <li>• <b>9/10 adults have received their first dose and 7/10 adults have received a second dose.</b></li> <li>• <b>Latest estimate is just under 95% of people aged over 50 in Devon have received both doses. 73.6% of 18-24 year olds in Devon have received a first dose, rising to 73.7% for 25-29 year olds. For 30-34 year olds it rises to 86.4%.</b></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Local Highways Matters</u></b></p> <p>Serviceability Patching has been carried out on the B3227 which has removed most of the potholes/damaged road surface that was causing so many problems for local residents and motorists.</p> <p>Serviceability patching is not to the same quality as full resurfacing works, but it does address the 'ride quality' issues we've had and will keep the road going in relatively good condition ahead of more permanent works that are being planned for in the future. There is a more comprehensive patching and resurfacing scheme being planned for the B3227 which will cover a wider area, but this probably won't be delivered for another year or two.</p>
370.3	<p>District Councillor</p> <p>Northam Burrows visitor centre was Officially opened by Sir Geoffrey Cox on 23<sup>rd</sup> July.</p> <p>On the same day the Plans Committee sat and discussed 4 separate applications to develop the Creamery site at Taddipport. The applications</p>

	<p>all had to be approved for the development to go ahead as the cost of the demolition of the dairy will be shared by all applicants. The plans committee passed all 4 applications so we now wait for the demolition phase to begin.</p> <p>As previously reported Councillors at TDC, during July, attended workshops to discuss both the Leisure contract and also the housing crisis. The Leisure contract has just been discussed during Pt2 at the Full Council meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August.</p> <p><b><u>Area Advisory Groups</u></b></p> <p>I reported last month that 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. Questions have been asked as to where the meetings would be held. I have spoken with the Chairs of both Advisory Groups and have been informed that the meetings will be held via Zoom.</p> <p><b><u>Housing Crisis</u></b></p> <p>I spoke a couple of minutes ago about the housing crisis. An action group known as North Devon and Torridge Housing Crisis are holding a public meeting in September in Barnstaple and are inviting all local County and District Councillors to attend in addition to our 2 MP's. I'm hoping to be able to attend in what should be an interesting meeting.</p> <p><b><u>OPCC</u></b></p> <p>I have received an urgent road safety notice from the OPCC with regard to accidents on our roads. Two weeks recently resulted in 10 serious collisions and 5 deaths in Devon and Cornwall. As a result we have been assured that the Police will take a closer look at road users in our area and in particular speeding. Devon Live have just reported that in one hour on the A386 at Landcross, near Bideford, police caught 33 motorists exceeding the 30mph limit. The highest recorded speed was 49mph. This was close to the scene of one of the recent fatalities. The mobile camera units were also involved in this initiative.</p>
<p><b>371</b></p>	<p><b>PARISH MATTERS</b></p>
<p>371.1</p>	<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"> <li>• The Parish Clerk reported he was waiting information from Sue Lee, but was advised that apparently Sue Lee is awaiting information from him. The Clerk will contact Sue Lee.</li> </ul>
<p>371.2</p>	<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"> <li>The stop mechanism on the mower is still faulty but repairs and modifications are underway – Mark Glover is co-ordinating.</li> </ul>
<b>372</b>	<b>PLANNING</b>
372.1	<p>1/0818/2021/FUH Single storey extension - Little Comfort Langtree Torrington Devon EX38 8NY.</p> <p>This covers extension of roof line for a previously approved application. The Council had no objections.</p>
372.2	<p>To consider any planning applications received between issuing of agenda and meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were no further planning applications to consider.</li> <li>The Parish Clerk advised the meeting that the two large houses next door to Brycourt had been granted planning permission. However within the grant documentation was the comment from TDC of “given that the proposal does not meet the various policy requirements set out above, the principle of an open market dwellings at the site would ordinarily be unacceptable and the proposal conflicts with Policy ST07.”</li> <li>The Clerk also referred the meeting to the previously circulated email from Shaun Harrington Planning Officer dated 14<sup>th</sup> May and particularly the following paragraph: <p>“As a Council we are however constrained by the provisions of the “planning” system which can in some instances make it challenging to resist the principle of some of this development. We do however do our best to influence proposals to try and ensure that they deliver the best possible development, even if it is not necessarily something that the community would like to see come forward. As many of you will be aware, this has been as a result of the Council not being able to demonstrate a so-called five year housing land supply. Demonstrating a five year housing land supply is a national test that requires the Council to be able to show that there is sufficient land for housing for the next five years. The consequence of not being able to meet this test is that the Council has to look much more favourably for developments for housing than it might otherwise look to do so – applying the so-called ‘presumption in favour of sustainable development’.”</p> </li> <li>The Clerk raised 3 questions for the meeting to consider: <p>Question 1 to David Hurley how close are the TDC to obtaining a recognised 5 years land supply.</p> </li> </ul>

	<p>Question 2 to councillors – as anything you say about a planning application for building will be broadly ignored is there any point in bothering to look at any planning applications.</p> <p>Question 3 to councillors – as it appears that TDC will rubber stamp every planning application should the Parish Council consider selling off any of its land for building and reinvest the monies earned into the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was considerable debate about the whole issue of planning and the parish council and the fact that the current situation is likely to last sometime – possibly years. David Hurley advised the meeting that TDC did not have sufficient information to answer whether the 5 year land supply could be satisfied now or in the future. In addition the known issues of lack of materials and building skills was hampering completion of houses which also contributed to the overall issues.</li> <li>• The council’s lack of objections to the Brycourt housing development being outside of the planning envelope did not help the case for trying to restrict unwanted or unneeded development within the parish.</li> <li>• It was strongly felt that despite the likelihood of comments from the Parish Council being ignored by TDC Planning the council should still make every effort to respond to planning applications.</li> <li>• The Council after further debate decided that now was not the right time to consider selling off any land that it owns for housing development, but it was likely that feedback will be required from the wider community before any decision was made.</li> </ul>						
<p><b>373</b></p>	<p><b>CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCE</b></p>						
<p>373.1</p>	<p>To receive update on financial position at end July 2021</p> <p>The bank figures at the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021 were</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="435 1541 1385 1756"> <tr> <td>Main Account</td> <td>£1608.13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve Account</td> <td>£4000.21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£5608.34</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since the last meeting payments were made as follows  Task- It (line paid a robot marking) £156.00  Bridgmans (materials to build cover beside container) £746.00  Receipts included Allotment payments of £20.00</li> </ul>	Main Account	£1608.13	Reserve Account	£4000.21	Total	£5608.34
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373.2	<p>To request approval of BACS Payments and cheques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None currently due.</li> </ul>
373.3	<p>To review correspondence received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None that have not been previously circulated.</li> </ul>
<b>374</b>	<p><b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was pointed out that the Langtree Lions football friendlies are now up and running on a regular basis.</li> </ul>
<b>375</b>	<p><b>ANY OTHER ITEMS AT CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The opening day of the MUGA and football field were considered to be a great success.</li> <li>• The clearing of roadside signs was commented on and the number of fingerposts in the area which have rotted away.</li> <li>• The sewage smells in Fore Street are still there on a regular basis and it was wondered if these were in existence in Church Lane. Parish Council will write to residents in Church Lane about this.</li> <li>• The Chairman has been contacted by an individual who is considering creating a mini industrial development at Chapmans Barn. He will meet him on site and report back at the next meeting.</li> <li>• The Clerk reported that the Notice Board in Church Lane has been replaced.</li> </ul>
<b>376</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm.</p>