

# LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

**13<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

<b>Present</b>	Councillors: Geoff Bond Jenny Coles Colin Edworthy Mark Glover (Chairman) Peter Haselhurst David Ley Pat Mitchell Franklyn Tucker David Hurley (TDC) Andrew Saywell (DCC) (part time)
<b>In attendance</b>	Leigh Pollinger – Parish Clerk  0 members of the public
<b>387</b>	<b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No apologies have been received.</li></ul>
<b>388</b>	<b>TO CO-OPT A NEW COUNCILLOR</b> <p>The process is Invited candidates for the post will give a 3 minute presentation, Opportunity for councillors to question candidates, All members of the public will then be asked to leave room, Voting process will take place for councillors to select new parish councillor, New councillor will be invited to join the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Two parishoners had applied for the position: Mr John Davies and Mr Mike Evans. Both were invited to address the council giving an overview of their experience and what they felt they could contribute to the council. Councillors also asked questions of the candidates.</li><li>• Councillors then discussed the merits of both candidates and reached the conclusion that Mr John Davies should be invited to join Langtree Parish Council.</li><li>• Both candidates were advised of the decision. Mr Mike Evans was thanked for his contribution and Mr John Davies joined the council for the remainder of the meeting.</li></ul>
<b>389</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</b>
389.1	Matters Arising

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the previous meeting it was discussed whether and if, and how the council may wish to contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the football pitch and MUGA. It was agreed at this meeting that the council will contribute and will use the Section 137 process to contribute (at the end of the financial year the council assesses available sums and distribution).</li> </ul>
389.2	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to be agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed by David Ley and seconded by Pat Mitchell.</li> </ul>
<b>390</b>	<p><b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None were advised.</li> </ul>
<b>391</b>	<p><b>REPORTS</b></p>
391.1	<p>Police Community Support Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No report received – however an updated report has been received from the PCSO subsequent to the meeting which show reported police incidents continue to be low in the area.</li> </ul>
391.2	<p>County Councillor</p> <p>Due to diary clashes Andrew Saywell presented his report at the beginning of the meeting, but is reported here for continuity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Fuel update</b> – back to normal, services not too disrupted thankfully...</li> <li><b>BUS ROUTE FUNDING</b> - £34m bid to Govt. Would include new strategic routes through Torrington... one connecting to the railway line at Umberleigh, possibly to express service to Tiverton Parkway but details TBC</li> <li><b>Reopening of Okehampton railway line, on 20<sup>th</sup> November</b></li> <li><b>Covid</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are seeing an increase in numbers of people testing positive with Covid driven by and large by young people (secondary age). Torridge is currently at 452 per 100,000 which is an increase of 22% over the past week, though weekly figures have fluctuated. Like elsewhere in Devon this is being driven by younger people being tested positive so we have cases in colleges and secondary/primary schools in Torridge which account for most of the cases.</li> <li>Current hospital figures in Devon ICS is 108. This has been increased over the past couple of weeks but still less than mid-September when it was 130. North Devon</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>similar pattern in terms of recent increase currently 15 in North Devon Hospital.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vaccines</b> – 93% of 16+ adults in Devon have had one dose, 82% have had two doses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Awaiting confirmed data but booster rollout seems to be going well. School children should be offered a dose by November.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Free school meal vouchers</b> - DCC are sending families of nearly 18,000 children in Devon free supermarket vouchers this October half term, worth £15 per child per week.</li> <li>• <b>Foster Carers</b> - DCC is still looking for more Foster Carers in Devon, especially for children with more complex needs. A recruitment campaign will be launched shortly... If you know anyone who would be interested, please refer them to this DCC webpage - <a href="#">Child and Parent fostering - Fostering in Devon</a></li> <li>• <b>Funding for self-isolating residents</b> – DCC have launched a new fund to help community organisations provide practical, social and emotional support to Devon residents self-isolating due to COVID-19. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The grants of up to £5,000 for small projects and £20,000 for larger projects can be used to help those self-isolating with any caring responsibilities; accessing food and other supplies; practical tasks such as dog walking; and mental health and wellbeing support to address things like loneliness and boredom.</li> <li>○ More information available online - <a href="#">The COVID-19 Outbreak Management Grant (Self-Isolation) - Coronavirus (COVID-19) (devon.gov.uk)</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
391.3	<p>District Councillor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>TDC Website</u></b></li> </ul> <p>I'm pleased to be able to report at long last that Torridge District Council have a new website. Around 18 months ago a task group consisting of Parish Councillors, TDC officers and Councillors was set up to sift through several web designs and choose one that was both modern, functional and above all easy to navigate. The last few months have seen the chosen web pages being fine tuned and the launch of the website has just taken place. Ease of use is the key. Residents can now check on their accounts 24/7, whether it is to pay a bill, check on their council tax or report a problem. There is even a link to the DCC webpage to report pot holes, lights not working etc. A vast improvement on being constrained by TDC office hours.</p>

- **Joint Planning Policy Committee**

At a recent Full Council meeting Councillors agreed to the proposal to form a Joint Planning Policy Committee consisting of seven Councillors each from N Devon and Torrridge. This Committee will supersede the previous Working Group and will have delegated powers which will prevent the need for reports to be taken to each individual Council at key decision making stages of the Local Plan as has historically been the case. However the final adoption of the Local Plan will be referred back as a recommendation by the Joint Committee for a decision as to adoption by each individual Council.

- **Waste Collection Services**

Due to the recent HGV driver shortage many Authorities are having to suspend, albeit temporarily, some waste and recycling collections. Fortunately as at this time Torrridge have been able to provide a full service partly as a result of waste and recycling supervisors being HGV drivers.

- **Sensitive material in skip**

An incident occurred a couple of weeks ago in Shebbear at the old Beech House Surgery, which is presently being converted into living accommodation, whereby sensitive material such as patient records were deposited in a skip. There were also sharps, chemicals and a quantity of drugs deposited. Fortunately this was seen by a member of the public and 4 residents removed the items and stored them in a safe place. I advised at 5.25pm that 101 be called to assist (after several other routes were explored to no avail). 101 also proved fruitless. Eventually after several more phone calls that evening I emailed the Community Safety and Public Health manager at Torrridge and asked that TDC become involved. This duly happened the first thing following morning and the various Authorities were contacted and the materials removed from the skip were safely collected for disposal.

I have contacted the OPCC to ask why 101 were unhelpful to the resident who called. 999 is probably not the way to go for a non emergency situation as we all know this service is pretty stretched. I will be speaking with a Police Officer tomorrow (Thursday) and will ask why more appropriate assistance wasn't given.

- **Devon Rail Forum**

I represent Torrridge on the Devon Rail Forum and I attended the latest meeting recently. Of great interest was the fact that the Dartmoor Line is due to open on Nov 20th. This year will see 2 hourly services between Okehampton and Exeter and 1 hourly

	<p>services from May/June next year. The station facilities will be upgraded, including refurbishment and fit out of station building, buffet and other facilities. This will open next year.</p> <p>Plymouth bridge strike –a lorry caused considerable damage to the bridge. This bridge was categorised as quite high risk as has been hit twice in 20 years. Damage was extensive and was the worst in the UK in the last 5 years – primarily due to the speed and force the vehicle hit the bridge. You could see daylight through trackbed above. One of two lines reopened whilst the bridge was repaired. He was a new driver, new to area, but fully qualified. An investigation is ongoing.</p>						
<b>392</b>	<b>PARISH MATTERS</b>						
392.1	<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"> <li>The final draft document is due back to the council in the next couple of weeks. This will required to be signed by two members of the council and two members of the Parish Hall committee.</li> </ul>						
<b>393</b>	<b>PLANNING</b>						
393.1	<p>To consider planning application ref 1/1036/2021/FUL</p> <p>Proposed extension and alterations to dwelling Chapmans Barn Stibb Cross Torrington Devon EX38 8LN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After some discussion it was agreed to accept this proposal.</li> </ul>						
393.2	<p>To consider any other planning applications received between issuing of agenda and meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None received</li> </ul>						
<b>394</b>	<b>CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCE</b>						
394.1	<p>To receive update on financial position at end September 2021</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lloyds account</td> <td>£5317.13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve account</td> <td>£4000.31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£9317.44</td> </tr> </table> <p>During the month we paid</p> <p>Littlejohn (audit fees) £480.00</p> <p>Andrew Symons (parts for mower) £231.00</p> <p>We received from TDC £4375.00</p>	Lloyds account	£5317.13	Reserve account	£4000.31	Total	£9317.44
Lloyds account	£5317.13						
Reserve account	£4000.31						
Total	£9317.44						

394.2	<p>To request approval of BACS Payments and cheques</p> <p>Pat Mitchell fuel £212.00</p> <p>Torrige District Council (parish clerk costs) £924.00</p> <p>Approved</p>
394.3	<p>To review correspondence received</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correspondence has been circulated.</li> </ul>
395	<p><b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
396	<p><b>ANY OTHER ITEMS AT CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments have been received regarding the MUGA lights being distracting as one travels into Fore Street from the Stibb Cross direction. John Davies has experience of lighting and will investigate if the lights can be adjusted. A group formed of Mark Glover, Peter Haselhurst, Franklin Tucker, and John Davies will look at how to physically adjust lighting.</li> <li>• After a parishioner fell over and was injured walking down Dragon Hill it was commented that road lighting in Dragon Hill is poor and it was suggested that DCC should be approached to add a street light along this lane.</li> <li>• A pothole outside no 7 Church Lane should be reported to DCC.</li> <li>• Owners are letting their dogs run and potentially leave mess on the football field. Dog owners should be reminded that the dog walking area is available for use.</li> <li>• There is a MUGA committee meeting scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> October.</li> <li>• The meeting closed at 9.10pm</li> </ul>
397	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.</p>