

LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

14th APRIL 2022

Present	Councillors: Jenny Coles John Davies Mark Glover (Chairman) David Ley Pat Mitchell David Hurley (TDC) Andrew Saywell (DCC)
In attendance	Leigh Pollinger – Parish Clerk 1 members of the public
448	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies received from Geoff Bond, Peter Haselhurst
449	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
449.1	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment in Play Areas. Details have been received from the primary school of where students live. This showed that more children are based in Langtree rather than Stibb Cross. This will inform future investment decisions. TK Play have been requested to provide a quote to carry out repairs at Beech Road. TDC have been informed of our overall strategy and they will respond in due course (could be many months' time).
449.2	Minutes of meeting held on 10 th March 2021 to be signed
450	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS
451	REPORTS
451.1	Police Community Support Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCSO Melissa Barker advised that reported crime remains low in the area. A new sergeant is in place and responsible for Torrington and Holsworthy. She has not heard anymore from Langtree about Speedwatch. The Parish Clerk will follow up with interested parties.
451.2	County Councillor

Ukraine

DCC have updated their website to include all the latest information and support needed for those looking to sponsor/accommodate Ukrainian refugees. Please visit - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/supporting-ukraine/>

The Council, alongside Team Devon colleagues and partners, have made considerable progress this last week contacting several hundred potential sponsors to conduct and complete required DBS checks.

In addition, working with councils across Devon, we have developed and implemented a property and people appraisal process. District councils have started to check a range of sponsor properties using this, and this will accelerate the work this week. The County Council is working with partners to ensure we can make early payments to sponsors and guests and alongside this, we are developing clear processes regarding school admissions, health registration and access to Universal Credit and other benefit entitlements.

DCC are also considering launching a joint, Team Devon, single telephone number for enquires with organisations from the voluntary and community sector. Further, the Council is currently in negotiations with several organisations to provide a consistent and comprehensive offer of wrap-around support, across each locality in Devon. In the meantime, if you have key questions that you or constituents would like an answer to, DCC have a dedicated e-mail address health.ukraineresettlement-mailbox@devon.gov.uk.

We will be building on and further developing ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) provision in Devon for this community and how best we can link key organisations providing support to local speakers for translation, alongside large providers of telephone and internet-based translation options.

Covid

The free universal testing service has now ended. We will likely see a gradual decline of local testing numbers as people use up the tests kits they have at home. While the local testing figures will play a less important role in understanding the current community infection level, we will still have the ONS national data which currently shows about 1 in 13 people have covid and in addition will have local hospitalisation rates. Testing will continue in health and care settings which will give an indication of local rates.

The key message is that if you feel unwell please stay at home and reducing your mixing with other people until you feel better. Without testing there is no certainty if it is covid or another respiratory virus, but in some respect it doesn't matter as you still have a virus and are infectious!

Despite the end of free testing, there will be some surge testing capability should it need to be deployed to support an outbreak.

The other key message is get your vaccine if you are eligible! Overall uptake for the 3rd dose/booster is lower in the 18-30 year age groups, ranging from 50-59%. I have asked that more is done to promote the uptake from younger people. The vaccination team are pushing out lots of social media messaging targeted at this younger age group and while we would clearly want uptake to be higher than it currently is, on the other hand we are performing well comparatively with national statistics and we are still seeing people from this age group coming forward for vaccinations.

Overall 3rd Dose/Booster uptake in Devon is very good 86.3% compared to the national figure of 67.5%.

Hospital rates have increased compared with previous waves, **BUT numbers in ICU remain very low and it is important to point out that approximately 55% of covid patients in hospital were admitted for other reasons, so are in hospital with covid rather than because of covid.**

A386 Landslide

Works have been progressing well. However, during the course of the works the area of netting needed has increased, and an additional area of loose rock was identified which required DCC's geotechnical engineers to come to inspect the site.

Unfortunately this has meant the hoped for 'full' reopening of the road without a lane closure/traffic lights has been delayed slightly, but the current aim now **is to have the road fully reopened immediately after the Easter weekend.**

Since the road has been reopened under traffic lights, disruption for motorists has on the whole been minimal and while it would be good to see the road fully reopened as soon as possible, it is better that these extra works are done now than risk having another landslide next winter.

Thank you again for your ongoing patience and understanding during these works. And thank you also to the engineers and contractors who have been working hard to restabilise the rock face since the original landslide.

New Neighbourhood Highways Officer

Russell Hookway has moved onto a new position within the County Council and the new Neighbourhood Highways Officer is Mark James who has just started working for DCC. I will be meeting him soon to discuss local highways issues in the area but I will also ask that he makes

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	<p>contact with all Parish Clerks in the near future so that you can raise any immediate issues with him directly.</p> <p><i>Other Local Highways Matters</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earlier this week I drove various country lanes throughout Torrington Rural, including local roads in Langtree. I have reported the condition of Putshole Lane and requested serviceability patching to repair it... while I can't guarantee this will happen, if you don't ask you don't get. • I remain dissatisfied with the condition of several of our local roads, but unfortunately the funding for unclassified rural road resurfacing is very, very tight... but I am pushing Highways to look at working in different ways (e.g. using 'dragon patching') to treat more minor roads as a country lane may not necessarily need being brought up to the standard of an A road. I will be having further meetings with senior Highways Management later this month to discuss these issues further.
<p>451.3</p>	<p>District Councillor</p> <p><u>Active Torridge</u></p> <p>From the beginning of this month all Leisure facilities and services have transferred from the previous contractor 1610 to Active Torridge, the arms length company set up by TDC.. There was a short period of closure to allow a deep clean, general maintenance and small repair works. Holsworthy and Torridge (Northam) Leisure centres should now be open and Torrington will follow just as soon as the boiler replacement and other repairs are completed.</p> <p>Torridge Gym is being refitted with new equipment and should open shortly. The Active Torridge team have also been putting together new schedules of classes and fitness opportunities, which will also be released over the coming weeks.</p> <p>1610 have already written to members to confirm that current memberships have automatically been transferred to Active Torridge from the handover date.</p> <p><u>Changing Places Fund</u></p> <p>Torridge has been granted £100,000 from the Government's Changing Places Fund.</p> <p>There are currently just over 1,300 registered Changing Places toilets in England – these are larger accessible toilets for people who cannot use standard accessible toilets, with equipment such as hoists, curtains, adult-sized changing benches, and space for carers. TDC incorporated just such a facility when the Visitor Centre at Northam Burrows was updated last year. The latest grant will allow 4 more facilities to be</p>

	<p>created in our area.</p> <p><u>Call for empty properties</u></p> <p>Torrige are searching for empty and derelict properties within our area with a view to bringing them back into use and helping relieve the present housing crisis. If any are known to you please let me know.</p> <p><u>Beech House Data Breach</u></p> <p>A brief update... Despite going back and forth between the CQC (Care Quality Commission) and the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) in an attempt to find out who is actually investigating this serious occurrence I, working with an Officer at TDC have established that the ICO are looking into the data breach and handling the formal investigation. An FOI was submitted and as the investigation is ongoing little information is forthcoming. The TDC Officer has diarised a date to contact the ICO for an update.</p> <p><u>Planning Training for PC's</u></p> <p>I mentioned in February that I had spoken with the Planning Manager, Shaun Harrington, regarding planning training for PC's. The Planning Officer agreed that it was a good idea to give training regarding planning comments and that a meeting would be arranged and held via Zoom. As was stated previously nothing has been heard from TDC. The training has been delayed due to a number of planning issues at present such as the Local Plan Review. In addition Shaun will be leaving TDC in May and therefore has a number of differing things he's trying to conclude before he departs. I'm informed that he has asked a senior planner to look at suitable dates and will contact PC clerks directly.</p> <p><u>New Library in Bideford</u></p> <p>Work to transform the Bideford Arts Centre building into a community hub complete with a modern library is to commence in June. The existing adult education services will continue to be housed in the same building and the £1.7million redevelopment and modernisation of the building will be carried out by Pearce Construction.</p>
<p>452</p>	<p>PARISH MATTERS</p>
<p>452.1</p>	<p>Any matters concerning the football field / MUGA / Jubilee Celebrations that may impact the Parish Council.</p> <p>Sue Lee who was attending the meeting was asked to contribute to this discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community Lunch or Tea is now going to be on 12th June as will the village photograph.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been agreed that there will be a bonfire on the field outside the Parish Hall (exact positioning to be confirmed) on Thursday 2nd June in place of a brazier. • There was discussion about wording in the lease and whether clarification is required between rental and leasing as in particular clauses. Peter Peter and Wright to be contacted for advice. • To ensure certainty of requirements it was suggested that a meeting between the Parish Hall committee and representatives of the Parish Council should be held. • It was proposed that a bench should be purchased to commemorate the Queen’s Jubilee. Prices to be obtained. 						
453	PLANNING						
453.1	<p>To consider any planning applications received between issuing of agenda and meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/0347/2022/FUL Single storey side extension, conversion of garage and internal alterations 34 Fore Street Langtree Torrington Devon EX38 8NG • The council had no objections. 						
454	CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCE						
454.1	<p>To receive update on financial position at end March 2022.</p> <p>The position at the end of March was:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="432 1361 1385 1581"> <tr> <td>Lloyds account</td> <td>£1237.73</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve account</td> <td>£4000.41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£5238.14</td> </tr> </table> <p>Payments during the month were TK Play £192, Mitchell & Sons £695, ROSPA £252. There were no receipts during the month.</p> <p>We are starting to pull together the information required for the end of year audit.</p>	Lloyds account	£1237.73	Reserve account	£4000.41	Total	£5238.14
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454.2	<p>To request approval of BACS Payments and cheques</p> <p>BHIB insurance £584.15</p> <p>TDC Parish Clerk salary £1044.00</p>						

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	<p>DALC £196.71</p> <p>MJ Baker Hedgecutting round Langtree Playing Field £80.00</p> <p>MJ Baker extra fuelcosts £45.00</p> <p>All approved.</p>
454.3	<p>To review allotment rental fees (currently £15.00 pa).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed to keep these at £15.00.
454.4	<p>To review correspondence received</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have received a request for a dog poo bin at top end of Church Lane – approved. • The following has been received from Mike Evans regarding the winding up of the the Halifax Memorial Group. <p>The funding for it is down to single figures, currently a shade over Six Pounds [£6.00]. The suggestion of the remaining two members of the Committee, myself and David Hill, is that we donate this small sum to a suitable charity, for instance the Air Ambulance and close down the Committee.</p> <p>Previously we have used funds left over from the initial fund raising to maintain the Memorial, without any further regular income. The timescale has been prolonged by further donations from Mrs. Mary Branson, the sister of the aircraft's Pilot. Sadly the lady is now deceased.</p> <p>Expenditure has been approximately £40 per annum, basically two RBL Poppy Wreaths, and funding is now practically non-existent. The Village School was given Three Hundred pounds [£300] a couple of years back to enable the pupils to maintain an interest in and the upkeep of the memorial. This was pretty much the bulk of our funds.</p> <p>David Hill is over 90 years old now and I'm closing in on 80, and we need to hand over the reins so to speak. To this end we ask that the LPC take over the care of the memorial. Cllr . D. Ley is the other nominal member of our Committee. The care and maintenance is quite nominal, simply cutting the grass around it a couple of times a year, and a literal wash and brush up of the actual granite tablet every year or so.</p> <p>The Council agreed to take over responsibility.</p>
455	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p> <p>None</p>

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456	ANY OTHER ITEMS AT CHAIRMAN’S DISCRETION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The new path connecting Langtree Park with the main field was praised.• MJ Baker was asked to cut the grass shorter more frequently in Langtree Park• There is brush being dumped in front of the gate leading from the Methodist Chapel into Langtree Park.• The meeting ended at 8.45pm
457	DATE OF NEXT MEETING <p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday 12th May at 7.30pm.</p>