

LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

12th October 2023

Present	Councillors: Geoff Bond John Davies Colin Edworthy Mark Glover (Chairman) David Ley Pat Mitchell Anna Moseby Penny Stowell Jenny Coles Andrew Saywell (DCC) Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin. (TDC)
In attendance	Linda Davies – Parish Clerk 2 members of the public
607	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apologies have been received from Chris Wheatley (TDC)
608	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
608.1	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work on restoring the church clock face will resume on w/c 30th October. This was halted due to bad weather.
608.2	Minutes of meeting held on 14 th September 2023 to be confirmed and signed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes were approved by David Ley and seconded by Patrick Mitchell.
609	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None reported.
610	REPORTS
610.1	Police Community Support Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No report has been received.

610.2	<p>County Councillor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devolution - Talks with Central Government remain ongoing. Hopefully there will be a deal announced in the Autumn, but we shall see as negotiations continue. • Budget Position - Currently there is a projected £9m overspend on DCC's Budget, mainly relating to pressures on Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care placements. • Work is ongoing to address the overspends. It is important that we do so. A restructuring of Council staff teams has started. Although the Council has enough in reserves to cover off this overspend, experience from other Councils shows us that if you don't tackle the overspends in year, they usually continue and are worse in the following financial year. • Mobile Libraries/Community Library - The decision to end the mobile library service was called in and referred back to Cabinet which will take a decision in November. There is the possibility of a legal challenge though I expect to be able to give details of how we can set up a community library in Langtree once the final decision is taken. • Highways - Dragon Patching in Langtree Parish on Putshole Lane and Stowford has now been completed. With my Neighbourhood Highways Officer we are now assessing sites for next year. The road past Langtree Weck heading towards Five Lane End/Little Torrington has been identified and will be assessed and we will look at other roads in the Parish as well. • Other Highways matters - A386 at Mile Hill is closed for major drainage upgrade works until October 27th. • With the cancellation of HS2 there is a possibility that Highways will receive more capital funding for resurfacing as the funds are reallocated nationally. We await details from the Department for Transport...
610.3	<p>District Councillor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torridge District Council- At our last full council meeting we agreed a draft strategic plan which sets out a vision and the ambition for the council over the next five years to 2028, which is now out for consultation. We would encourage everyone to put forward their views. The consultation closes Nov 14th with feedback being reviewed by full council in December. Personally, I am pleased to see that mental health is now formally recognised as a priority alongside physical health, and also in my lead member role for culture I'm pleased to see cultural enrichment and the northern Devon cultural strategy now included in the plan.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.torridge.gov.uk/strategicplan#:~:text=The%20Strategic%20Plan%20sets%20out,for%20spending%20and%20funding%20allocations. • Mobile libraries: After the motion to Save the Mobile Library Service was put forward a few weeks ago, Torridge Full council voted in support of the campaign recognising the rurality of Torridge and for people living in those rural areas. The importance of encouraging a love of reading for the youngest members of our communities, and also the importance for the elderly and disabled who rely on this valued service as well as a crucial point of contact and independence. • We would like to see them developing the service as they have done in other counties to benefit the rural communities, for example selling stamps, providing hearing support, a council enquiry service, citizens advice etc. The campaign is also receiving legal representation on the issue as the county council has a statutory obligation to provide a comprehensive library service. Lawyers and barristers agree that the decision making and logic behind closing the mobile libraries is flawed and challengeable. • The original decision to close mobile libraries was called in for scrutiny by opposing councillors to a DCC Scrutiny Meeting at the end of September. After much discussion and debate this resulted in cross-party majority support to find a way to keep the service running and was sent back to cabinet to reconsider their decision to decommission the service, and to get a fully costed re-appraisal with research into opportunities regarding the mobile library service. This was on the cabinet's agenda this week but was deferred to the next cabinet meeting on 8th November. North Devon Council also recently supported a motion to Save the Mobile Library Service with cross-party support. The petition currently has more than 9000 signatures.
611	PARISH MATTERS
611.1	Update on Langtree Park. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
611.2	Other matters impacting the parish. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
612	PLANNING
612.1	Any updates on potential planning application for land at The Crescent, Langtree. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This subject is still up for discussion by TDC.

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612.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erection of an agricultural shed Land at Grid Reference 245400 115650 Langtree Devon. Ref no 1/0906/2023/FUL Council has no issues with this application. 						
612.3	<p>To consider any other planning applications received between issuing of agenda and meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demolition of existing building and erection of 1 no. dwelling with associated works in lieu of approved conversion 1/0686/2023/FUL Barn At Grid Reference 247548 114573, Langtree, Devon, Council is in support of accommodation if it meets original footprint and size of the barn. This appears to be exploiting a loophole in planning. It should be where the original barn was situated. 						
613	CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCE						
613.1	<p>To receive update on financial position at end September 2023.</p> <p>The position at the end of September was:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lloyds account</td> <td>£8,419</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve account</td> <td>£4,542</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£12,961</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no payments but we received £4,875 precept payment during the month. In addition there is £2003 in the Langtree Park account. 	Lloyds account	£8,419	Reserve account	£4,542	Total	£12,961
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613.2	<p>To request approval of BACS Payments and cheques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TDC £924 payment of Clerk Salary Payments agreed 						
613.3	<p>To review correspondence received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Rough Sleeper Estimate was requested from TDC this will be checked and a response sent to TDC. Cllr Cottle-Hunkin sent The Torridge Draft Strategic Plan 2023 – 2028. 						

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will be issued to all Councillors for perusal prior to discussion at the next Parish Meeting.
614	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the public has expressed interest in the Community Speed watch and was advised to log into the CSW web site.
615	<p>ANY OTHER ITEMS AT CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Speed watch training will take place on 23rd October - Langtree only as Stibb cross have their own. • Budapest Café Orchestra on 26th October is free to hall users as numbers are a little low - although a donation would be appreciated. • It was noted that the LP Council website needs to be updated. Discussion on The Parish Plan were ongoing. • The meeting closed at 8-38pm.
616	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The date of next meeting is Thursday 9th November 2023.</p>