

LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

9th MARCH 2023

Present	Councillors: Geoff Bond Jenny Coles John Davies Colin Edworthy Mark Glover (Chairman) David Ley Pat Mitchell Andrew Saywell (DCC) (part-time) David Hurley (TDC)
In attendance	Leigh Pollinger – Parish Clerk 1 member of the public
536	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies received from Peter Haselhurst and Franklin Tucker, Andrew Saywell joined the meeting part way through.
537	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
537.1	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Defibrillator at Travis Perkins is due to be removed on Tuesday and moved to the Union Inn although the transfer may not happen on the same day. Other items are covered below.
537.2	Minutes of meeting held on 9 th February 2023 to be confirmed and signed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes approved by David Ley, seconded Geoff Bond.
538	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
539	REPORTS
539.1	Police Community Support Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report.
539.2	County Councillor

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was heard at the end of the meeting but placed here for continuity. • Andrew Saywell is looking to improve the service received around road maintenance in the West Devon and Torridge districts with the contractor. • A plan to patch and resurface Puthole and Browns Lane has been laid out but will take some three years to complete. • He asked the Parish Clerk to write to him regarding upgrading the current road status level of Putshole Lane (currently level 9). • The B3227 through Stibb Cross and Langtree is to be patched. The section from Watergate to Langtree is due early June, Langtree to Stibb Cross mid June and Stibb Cross including A388 junction at end of June.
<p>539.3</p>	<p>District Councillor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Rates for Villages Halls</u> <p>As a result of the financial situation at Torridge (and indeed Councils as a whole) several decisions have been taken to both cut back on expenditure and also to increase income. To date business rates for Village halls within Torridge received mandatory 80% relief and for several years an additional discretionary relief of 20% thus their business rates were covered and placed no financial burden on the halls. However this is changing for the forthcoming tax year. The 20% discretionary relief is being withdrawn as a cost saving measure. This does not mean that halls will need to find the full 20% as Central Gov't has provided what is known as Retail, Hospitality and Leisure relief (RHL). Parish Halls are eligible for the 75% RHL relief on their remaining 20% liability meaning that only 5% of the business rates need to be found.</p> • <u>Torridge and proposed building on The Crescent</u> <p>There is nothing to report on this. As I've reported previously a decision will be taken on all 11 proposed locations in late summer.</p> • <u>Torridge meetings</u> <p>There are still a couple of TDC meetings being held via Zoom. Committee meetings have returned to the Town Hall in Bideford. The exception to this is Full Council. The meetings are broadcast live on You Tube and can also be viewed at a later date. However at present the video from the Town Hall is very good but the sound is extremely poor. I have asked what is being done about this and I understand the sound engineers are returning shortly to work on a solution to improve the sound quality.</p> • <u>Police Station Front Desks</u>

	<p>In 2014 many front desks in police stations were closed giving an estimated saving of £760,000 per year. D&C Police precepts have increased year on year and one area of expenditure that has seen a boost has been the re-opening of front desks. Offices in Newton Abbot and Tiverton in Devon, and Falmouth Truro, Bude and Penzance in Cornwall have reopened. The office in Newquay is also now open permanently, having been open on a temporary basis since 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Council Tax</u> <p>At a recent Full Council meeting it was decided to raise Council Tax by 2.99%. Since 2016-17 Torridge tax has increased by 23.77%. Contrast that to DCC (35.34%) the Police (51.33%) Fire (21.03%) and Parish precepts (43.44%). As a result of the aforementioned increases Torridge District Councils proportion of total collected C/T has dropped from 8.96p in £ in 2016-17 to just 8.18p in £. Increases this year are DCC 5%, D&C Police 6.08%, Devon & Somerset Fire 5.45%, TDC 2.99% and average Parish precept 5%.</p>
540	PARISH MATTERS
540.1	<p>Any matters concerning the football field / MUGA that may impact the Parish Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some further enquiries were received from the Trusts solicitors last week and these were responded to. • Land Transfer and Contract documentation have now been received from our solicitors (Peters Peters and Wright) for signature. • The Parish Council was requested to confirm that they still wish the land north of the Parish Hall including football field, changing room, MUGA and dog walking area covered by land register DN687938 to be sold to the Parish Hall Trustees. This was agreed unanimously and confirmed previous agreement to go down this route (meeting item 480.1, 14th July 2022). • The Parish Council was requested to confirm that Councillors Mark Glover and David Ley would sign documentation (Contract and Transfer Deed) on behalf of the Council. This was agreed unanimously. • At this point documentation was signed in front of the Council
540.2	<p>Any updates on council elections 6th May 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors were asked who is considering re-election. All councillors with the exception of Peter Haselhurst who has previously offered his resignation confirmed that they intend to stand again.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nomination papers will be circulated when received. 						
540.3	<p>Other matters impacting the parish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The play area inspections are scheduled for this month. Cost is £75 per location (x3). 						
541	PLANNING						
541.1	<p>Any updates on potential planning application for land at The Crescent, Langtree.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further information will be available until the end of the summer. 						
541.2	<p>Extensions and alterations to existing commercial business units to incorporate office and storage on the ground floor and 1no. dwelling at first floor Cherrywood Park Business Centre Langtree Torrington Devon EX38 8LQ Ref. No: 1/1292/2022/FUL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no objections. 						
541.3	<p>To consider any other planning applications received between issuing of agenda and meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No other planning applications have been received. 						
542	CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCE						
542.1	<p>To receive update on financial position at end February 2023. The position at the end of February was:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lloyds account</td> <td>£1,629</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve account</td> <td>£6,506</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£8,135</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payments were made to WI, Community Garden, Church and Methodist Chapel as section £137 monies (£400 in total). No income was received during the month. It is the end of the financial year this month. 	Lloyds account	£1,629	Reserve account	£6,506	Total	£8,135
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542.2	<p>To request approval of BACS Payments and cheques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no payments currently anticipated. 						
542.3	<p>To agree Butts Meadow allotment charges for 2023/24.</p>						

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current charge is £15 per annum • It was agreed that the charge should stay at £15 for the next 12 months.
542.4	<p>To review correspondence received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you's for Section 137 monies have been received from the WI, Community Garden and the Church.
543	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resident raised the issue of speeding traffic in Fore Street. This issue has been recognised for some years. A request to bid for funding to have Fore Street speed limit restricted to 20mph has gone into DCC Highways. It was proposed that a speedwatch team should also be set up for the village and John Davies agreed to lead this.
544	<p>ANY OTHER ITEMS AT CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was confirmed that the Parish Council will not be organising anything for the King's Coronation but would support the Parish Hall in any events that they may promote. • The meeting closed at 20.35.
545	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The date of next meeting is Thursday 13th April 2023.</p>