

LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

13th APRIL 2023

Present	Councillors: Geoff Bond Jenny Coles Colin Edworthy Mark Glover (Chairman) Peter Haselhurst Pat Mitchell Franklin Tucker Andrew Saywell (DCC)
In attendance	Leigh Pollinger – Parish Clerk 3 members of the public
546	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apologies have been received from John Davies, David Hurley (TDC).
547	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
547.1	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The defibrillator has been moved to the Union Inn in Stibb Cross and is working fine.
547.2	Minutes of meeting held on 9 th March 2023 to be confirmed and signed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes were proposed by Geoff Bond and seconded by Jenny Coles.
548	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None were declared.
549	REPORTS
549.1	Police Community Support Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No report received.
549.2	County Councillor Potholes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• From January 1st to the end of March, a total of 16,572 safety defects have been repaired. Over 40 gangs have been deployed

and the Dragon Patcher also used in Torrington Rural to help with the repair backlog. From the anecdotal evidence I'm seeing locally they have now caught up, including on patching repairs – which involves planing off the top road surface and resurfacing it, not a basic pothole repair – and where there had been some delays.

- Of the 16,500 repairs – 7,603 were additional defects identified by safety inspectors when responding to public reports.
- To give you an idea of the weather impact this winter has had... in December 2,431 potholes were repaired verses 7,376 for January. In January 2022 3,494 defects needed repair in comparison with the 7,000 this year.
- Non-safety defect repairs (i.e. small or shallow potholes) were suspended pending catching up on the backlog, however the Service is confident they can resume non-safety defect repairs starting this month in April.
- In addition, in the Budget the Government awarded DCC over £9.4m of additional capital funding, the highest amount for any local authority in England. This will be used to fund further patching and resurfacing schemes. I have already put forward Putshole Lane and the road past Stowford for consideration.

Devolution

- The Government have given outline approval for a Devon-wide devolution deal which could bring greater local control and allow partners to tap into additional resources to help tackle key local priorities such as affordable housing, better public transport and connectivity, and providing for the skills that the local economy needs.
- More details to be confirmed but this will not involve the creation of an elected Mayor for Devon or a change to the existing democratic structures.
- Local partners across Devon have now been invited to work together to prepare a Final Business Case to present to Government for final approval later in the year.

Councils to receive additional funds to help support households with rising food and energy costs

- Devon has secured additional funding to help households weather the rising costs of living, to help pay for food, energy and other essential items.
- The latest bid amounts to a little over £10 million, to cover the period from April 2023 until March 2024. It will take Devon's total level of Household Support Funding received so far to just over £25 million.
- The funding is to support households in most need that are struggling to pay for food, energy, water bills and other related

	<p>essentials. And specifically, those households that may not be eligible for other support that is already available from the government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More details online here - https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/councils-to-receive-additional-funds-to-help-support-households-with-rising-food-and-energy-costs-2/ <p>Growing Communities Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCC has announced another round the Growing Communities Fund, and are encouraging not-for-profit groups, charities, church or faith groups, schools and councils to bid for grants. Typically these are grants of between £500 and £1,000, although funds of up to £3,000 will be considered for exemplary projects that will receive their funding when their project is completed. • The Growing Communities Funding is to support projects that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ could offer warm safe spaces, something to eat and drink, and a place to work, learn, socialise or encourage healthy activity, or that address hardship such as food or fuel insecurity ○ build greater degrees of self-reliance and community resilience, for example offering advice, peer support or guidance on budgeting, cooking low-cost nutritional meals ○ tackle loneliness and isolation and build self-esteem ○ and that have a clear and direct community and environmental benefits • More information can be found online here - www.devon.gov.uk/communities/growing-communities-fund <p>That's it for this month. Can I wish all retiring Councillors well in their future endeavours? I look forward to working with re-standing and new Parish Councillors after May. In the meantime, please let me know if there is anything locally that you would like me to look into.</p>
549.3	<p>District Councillor</p> <p><u>Police Station Front Desks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have previously reported that several front desks have been reopened. I also said that it is proposed to open 6 more front desks this year. They are Devonport (Plymouth), Looe, Ilfracombe, Honiton, Okehampton and Kingsbridge. At a very recent PCC meeting I attended I asked PCC Alison Hernandez why there is such an emphasise on South Devon and Cornwall and asked that N Devon is given more support. I mentioned that opening the front desk at Torrington or Holsworthy, or better still

	<p>both, would be a good start.</p> <p><u>Torridge Meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no meetings being held at TDC at this time so little to report regarding council business. <p><u>Beech House</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm still perusing an acceptable response to my questions regarding the "Beech House" incident in Shebbear. I now know who is being investigated and at what stage the investigation has reached. I have been advised that a further response to my request for information will be available in 5 months time. At present I can say no more than that. <p><u>Potholes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am pleased to report that thanks to potholes being reported by Leigh and myself some action has been taken. The nasty one on the road from Watergate to Homelea was recently repaired. I also reported a nasty pothole in the middle of a narrow stretch of road at Newton Tracey. This was repaired a couple of days later but the repair was so bad that I wrote to the Head Of Highways at Devon County Council. She has subsequently asked her team for an explanation. I'm awaiting her reply.
550	PARISH MATTERS
550.1	<p>Any matters concerning the football field / MUGA that may impact the Parish Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sale of the football field and dog walking area to the Parish Hall Trust was completed on 6th April. • Sue Lee has been advised about transferring insurance and Play Safety inspections.
550.2	<p>To review Play Safety inspection reports for Beech Road, Langtree Park, and the MUGA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In summary the reports stated: MUGA no real issues Beach Road – tired and back fence needs replacing. Langtree Park – tired. Because of health and safety issues the metal framed swing needs to be taken down and scrapped. • It was agreed amongst the councillors that they will organise removal of the swing. • It was requested that MJ Baker should be instructed to cut the grass shorter.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was some discussion over where future Section 106 monies should be allocated for play areas, however it may be that the section 106 agreements may stipulate where monies should be spent. 						
550.3	<p>Updates on council elections 4th May 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 7 councillors who put themselves up for re-election have been formally accepted, plus a new councillor Penny Stowell who joins from 4th May 2023. Peter Haselhurst and Franklin Tucker have resigned from the Parish Council. The Chairman thanked all for their contributions and the two leaving members good luck in their next endeavours. He also welcomed Penny Stowell to the council when she becomes a member next month. 						
550.4	<p>Other matters impacting the parish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The hands of the church clock are due to be replaced during June. 						
551	PLANNING						
551.1	Any updates on potential planning application for land at The Crescent, Langtree. (Holding item only, no discussion anticipated).						
551.2	<p>Erection of extension and conversion of existing garage. The Warren Stibb Cross Torrington Devon EX38 8LH Ref. No: 1/0275/2023/FUL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council had no objections. 						
551.3	<p>To consider any other planning applications received between issuing of agenda and meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no other planning applications. 						
552	CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCE						
552.1	<p>To receive update on financial position at end March 2023. The position at the end of March was:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lloyds account</td> <td>£1,494</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve account</td> <td>£6,512</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£8,006</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payments were made to CDEC of £135 for moving and rewiring of defibrillator. 	Lloyds account	£1,494	Reserve account	£6,512	Total	£8,006
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Reserve account	£6,512						
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No income was received during the month. • The end of year accounts have been forwarded to our auditor for review.
552.2	<p>To request approval of BACS Payments and cheques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DALC annual fee £236.75 • Peter Peter Wright solicitor work for field £471.40 • ROSPA play safety inspection £270.00 • It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to the Union Inn for accepting the defibrillator.
552.3	<p>To review correspondence received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter has been received from Phipps Charity asking for a trustee from the Parish Council. It was agreed to discuss at next month's meeting.
553	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parish hall activities over the Coronation weekend were advised to us.
554	<p>ANY OTHER ITEMS AT CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No other matters were raised. • The meeting closed at 8.40pm
555	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The date of next meeting is Thursday 11th May 2023, this will also be the annual meeting of the council.</p>