

LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

10th AUGUST 2023

Present	Councillors: Geoff Bond Jenny Coles John Davies Mark Glover (Chairman) Pat Mitchell Penny Stowell Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin (TDC).
In attendance	Leigh Pollinger – Parish Clerk 2 members of the public
586	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies received from Andrew Saywell DCC, Chris Wheatley TDC, Colin Edworthy, David Ley, and Anna Moseby.
587	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
587.1	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">Torridge District Council have refused to provide additional dog poo bins, it was therefore agreed to request additional black litter bins in Dragon Hill and in Stibb Cross.
587.2	Minutes of meeting held on 13 th July 2023 to be confirmed and signed <ul style="list-style-type: none">Minutes were proposed by Pat Mitchell and seconded by Jenny Coles.
588	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS
589	REPORTS
589.1	Police Community Support Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none">No report received this month.
589.2	County Councillor <ul style="list-style-type: none">Andrew Saywell was unable to attend but sent a report which was read out at the meeting.Dragon Patching – Putshole Lane has now been completed. I am expecting work on Stowford Lane to start imminently. The

	<p>biggest obstacle so far has been the wet weather! Let's hope the rest of this month brings a long period of dry weather so that the Dragon Patching can be done quickly and not drawn out over a number of weeks...!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile Library – The decision on the Mobile Library has been 'called in' to the Council's Scrutiny Committee which will meet at the end of September, ultimately though I do not think that will lead to a different outcome. However in the meantime the service will be working on the Community Library offer and I am hoping to bring the Head of Service down to Torrington Rural during the next couple of months to look at local opportunities. • Devolution – Negotiations remain ongoing, if all goes well a Devolution Deal <i>may</i> be agreed and ready to go public in September... but as ever with negotiations like this they are subject to change so it will be a case of wait and see!
589.3	<p>District Councillor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torridge's affordable housing study. <p>During the last council a number of sites were looked at and put forward as sites for potential affordable housing. Torrington's South Street car park has been removed from the list but you may have seen that Langtree's (The Crescent), is near the top saying it needs more research but could be developed quickly. This ranking was created during the last council and needs to be acted on ASAP, I would suggest a letter from the parish council with your thoughts on this to go alongside our ward member views. I'm putting forward the proposal to next full council that we put out a request to private landowners across Torridge to come forward with any land they would like to make available for community land trusts, as I believe there are other areas more suitable for affordable housing than those in Torridge's ownership (most of them are car parks!)</p> • External O&S <p>We heard from North Devon Plus, a company jointly owned by Torridge and North Devon Councils offering free business support for local businesses, and also advice for farmers through their "future farming resilience" fund. Coming up next: mental health provision in Torridge (particular concern over potential closure of the links centres) and in October the community safety partnership led by superintendent Toby Davies.</p> • Full council <p>Unanimously agreed to work towards a brand new local plan: the last one started in 2008, now there are big new projects such as Appledore maritime innovation centre, and lots of changes-</p>

	<p>covid, climate emergency, cost of living crisis, so we agreed it needs an overhaul. The current plan will still be in place but we will start working on a new one.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign to Save Devon’s Mobile Libraries. <p>There’s a campaign running across the whole of Devon, currently more than 3,500 online signatures and famous names such as Stephen Fry, Michael Rosen, Nick Butterworth, Michael Morpurgo as well as an array of local authors supporting it. Community libraries have been discussed with friends of Torrington Library; they were proposed as an alternative when cuts were made to the services in 2012 from 8 vans to 4 and very few (if any) remain. It relies on volunteers, endless books went missing, and many rural places simply don’t have the capacity: where would the books come from and who would arrange the changeover etc? We believe the right way forward is to develop the current service to offer much more for our rural communities; in other counties they offer some simple things such as selling stamps, reading glasses, handing out hearing aid batteries and offering a council enquiry service would be very beneficial and support the vulnerable in our communities. Figures for the past 5 years show that users of the mobile libraries have actually increased across more than half of Devon. There’s a children’s competition running and there are paper petitions available if anyone would like any for those without internet access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting arranged for Sept 5th 6.30pm at Baxter Hall Petrockstowe on planning led by Helen Smith senior planning officer- similar to what was held at Shebbear last year. All councillor and clerks welcome and please send Helen questions/issues in advance so she can come prepared!
590	PARISH MATTERS
590.1	<p>Update on Langtree Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates were provided.
590.2	<p>Repairs to Beech Road swings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Clerk had received several comments from residents in Stibb Cross that one of the two swings in Beech Road play area was broken. On inspection with TK Play it showed that one of the mounting brackets had sheared and that all the brackets were nearing failure. TK Play were instructed to replace all at £148 less 10% each. Invoice including VAT of £639.36 to be approved.

590.3	<p>Replacement defibrillators at Langtree and Stibb Cross due January 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An email from South West Ambulance Service has been circulated to all councillors regarding replacing the defibrillators at the end of their working life in January 2024. The cost is £1800 each (+ VAT) if bought separately or £1800 + £1000 (+ VAT) for the second if bought at the same time. • Last time the defibrillators were bought and owned by the Parish Council with a £1000 contribution from the Parish Hall.
590.4	<p>To confirm a possible contribution to the PTA noticeboard fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that LPC would donate £200, Councillor Cottle-Hunkin would provide £200 from her funds and the balance of £266 would be requested from Andrew Saywell.
590.5	<p>To review CV's received for role of Parish Clerk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two CV's received from Linda Davies and Debbie Newcombe. • John Davies advised that as his wife had applied for the role he did not wish to be involved in the interview and decision process. He also wondered whether there may be a conflict of interest issue with Debbie Newcombe due to her work in planning. • It was agreed to invite both to the next meeting.
590.6	<p>Other matters impacting the parish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was commented that vehicles are still speeding through Stibb Cross and Langtree. • The Langtree Speedwatch group needs more a minimum of two more members to activate. Penny Stowell agreed to join the group. Stibb Cross has its own Speedwatch group. • The School hedge alongside the path on Fore Street needs trimming .
591	PLANNING
591.1	<p>Any updates on potential planning application for land at The Crescent, Langtree. (Holding item only, no discussion anticipated).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For consistency the discussion held in response to Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin's report regarding The Crescent is recorder here. • It appears that TDC still wish to build on The Crescent. • It was agreed that the Parish Council will write to TDC objecting to any change of use of land in The Crescent. Reasons will include:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ten year lease on Butts Meadow confirming the donation of the land to the community for recreation purposes. ○ The shortage of parking spaces in the village, removal of parking spaces will result in 8 – 12 extra vehicles being parked in Fore Street and Church Lane. ○ On-going issues with water pressure in the village. ○ Sewerage in Fore Street, The Crescent, and Church Lane is a continuing issue. ○ The Crescent is a private road. ● A note will be distributed to all affected residents updating them and proposing that they should write to TDC Chief Executive at Steve.hearse@torridge.gov.uk 						
591.2	<p>Conversion of barn to dwelling. Planning Application Barn At Grid Reference 247548 114573 Langtree Devon Ref. No: 1/0686/2023/FUL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No objections 						
591.3	<p>Reserved matters application for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for 10 no. dwellings pursuant to application 1/1033/2020/OUTM Land Off Fore Street Langtree Devon Ref. No: 1/0646/2023/REMM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No objections. 						
591.2	<p>To consider any other planning applications received between issuing of agenda and meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No other applications have been received. 						
592	CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCE						
592.1	<p>To receive update on financial position at end July 2023. The position at the end of July was:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Lloyds account</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£3,894</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve account</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£5,528</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£9,422</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There were no transactions during the month. ● In addition there is £1000 in the Langtree Park account. ● We are in the process of claiming £506 VAT back for payments over the last year. ● It was agreed to notify the history society when clock repairs are being completed. 	Lloyds account	£3,894	Reserve account	£5,528	Total	£9,422
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592.2	To request approval of BACS Payments and cheques. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TK Play for swing repairs £639.36
592.3	To sign off AGAR Exemption Certificate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed and signed off
592.4	To review correspondence received. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No correspondence which has not been previously issued.
593	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alice Turner who is interested in the Parish Clerk role attended the meeting. Praise was given to Hockin's the builders responsible for Mays Meadow for listening to near neighbours and adjusting their plans accordingly and the people working on site.
594	ANY OTHER ITEMS AT CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bus Shelter opposite the Green Dragon needs some tlc. Pat Mitchell agreed to carry out the necessary repairs. It was requested that an update regarding the Community Library should be obtained from Sue Lee for the next meeting. The meeting closed at 9.00pm
595	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The date of next meeting is Thursday 14 th September 2023.