

LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

14th SEPTEMBER 2023

Present	Councillors: Geoff Bond John Davies Colin Edworthy Mark Glover (Chairman) David Ley Pat Mitchell Anna Moseby Penny Stowell Chris Whateley (TDC)
In attendance	Leigh Pollinger – Parish Clerk 3 members of the public
596	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apologies have been received from Jenny Coles, Andrew Saywell and Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin.
597	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
597.1	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work on restoring the church clock face starts Monday 18th September.• The Parish Hall committee have been asked to contribute £1000 towards a new defibrillator. This is being debated by the committee.
597.2	Minutes of meeting held on 10 th August 2023 to be confirmed and signed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes were approved by John Davies and seconded by Penny Stowell.
598	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None reported.
599	REPORTS
599.1	Police Community Support Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No report has been received.

599.2

County Councillor

The following report was read out to the meeting.

- **Devolution** – Negotiations with Central Government remain ongoing, if all goes well a Devolution Deal *may* be agreed and ready to go public later this month or into October... but as ever with negotiations like this they are subject to change so it will be a case of wait and see!
- **Budgets** – The County Council is currently projecting an overspend of £9 million for the end of the financial year, with the main pressures coming from the Adult Social Care budget. However, I remind you this time last year we were looking at a £40 million overspend and ended up bringing that back down to a break even position. I am confident through management action plans that these overspends can be reduced and covered off. We are not anywhere near the position other Councils like Birmingham have found themselves in... BUT, that does not mean we can be complacent and rest on our laurels. And it is a reminder that our room for financial manoeuvre remains tight.
- **Great Torrington School extension** – A new ‘block’ has been constructed on the grounds of the secondary school at Great Torrington, jointly funded by the school and DCC. The project consists of a new two-story teaching block which will accommodate three new classrooms, office space, small group work areas and a new library resource area which will be connected to the main school via a new link. The project has also enabled the existing library to be re-modelled into additional dining space for pupils, providing a much-needed expansion to the original small dining hall originally built in 1939. The total cost was £1.5 million, of which DCC funded £725,000. DCC’s funds have come from local housing development contributions... so if you ever wonder where education contributions go, here is a very good example!
- **DCC Pledges to make Care Leavers a protected characteristic** – Last week DCC agreed to give care leavers – young people who have been in the care of the local authority – protected characteristic status. It’s recognition that young people’s experience of being in the care system can be a potential source of discrimination similar to other protected characteristics such as race or disability. It means that we will make sure that the experiences of young people in care and care leavers will be considered in all of its decisions. But it is also a foundation on which to develop better support across Devon as whole, not just in the services that we are responsible for. We will therefore work with partners to improve support for care experienced

	<p>people in all aspects of their lives including housing and accommodation, health, employment, as well as education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dragon Patching – Progress on dragon patching has been hampered a bit by the inclement weather over the summer, however both Putshole Lane and Stowford Lane works have now been completed. With the Neighbourhood Highways Officer we are considering sites for next year and are currently looking at the roads around the Langtree Week area though these will need to be assessed first before they are officially confirmed. • Community Libraries – I had a good meeting with Sue Lee with DCC’s Library Officer to discuss a potential community library facility at Langtree Parish Hall. Work remains ongoing on final proposals but if we are able to get this to work I think it will be a great asset for our local community. <p><i>Contribution to PTA board</i></p>
599.3	<p>District Councillor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Full council meeting last week the saving of the mobile library service was supported by the council. • There is a groundswell of local support from libraries themselves, celebrities, and authors. • It was commented that the proposed Parish Hall community library does not fit into the scheme if the mobile libraries continue. • The council agreed that affordable housing within building sites should hit 30% of all new builds as well as all new housing fitting into the environment, landscape etc. • It was commented that the planning department tends to let builders to get away with far less than 30% being affordable as developers tend to put up a smokescreen of costs v profits. This results in TDC looking to squeeze properties into small pieces of land e.g. The Crescent. • The question was asked how the number of houses built is matched to local needs as the last survey that was done was a number of years ago. • The Mental Health group discussed the need to continue the Link centres in north Devon which have been closed by DCC. • Investment is being made into play equipment at Victoria Park. • There was a round table discussion regarding the planning meeting that Penny Stowell attended last week.
600	<p>INTERVIEWS OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES FOR PARISH CLERK ROLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews were held with Anna Clarke and Linda Davies. • The council after some deliberation decided to defer their decision making for a couple of days, emails would be sent to the

	clerk by Monday with favoured candidate and candidates will be notified shortly thereafter.						
601	PARISH MATTERS						
601.1	<p>Update on Langtree Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim French updated the council. • The first meeting of the fund raising group has taken place and a second group is looking at grants. • A shopping list of wants has been drawn up and costed. • There are currently issues with getting monies from the old bank account transferred to the new account. • There are now 12 to 15 members on the committee. • Two benches have been donated by Colin Edworthy. 						
601.2	<p>Other matters impacting the parish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These have been covered elsewhere in the meeting. 						
602	PLANNING						
602.1	<p>Any updates on potential planning application for land at The Crescent, Langtree.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This subject is still up for discussion by TDC. It was commented that any building on the land by the Crescent will cause significant Harm to the community and this should be emphasised to in all correspondence with TDC. • Chris Wheatley agreed that he will keep an eye on when this topic will come before Full Council and will notify the Parish Council. 						
602.2	<p>To consider any other planning applications received between issuing of agenda and meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No planning applications have been received. 						
603	CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCE						
603.1	<p>To receive update on financial position at end August 2023.</p> <p>The position at the end of August was:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lloyds account</td> <td>£3,761</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve account</td> <td>£5,532</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£9,293</td> </tr> </table>	Lloyds account	£3,761	Reserve account	£5,532	Total	£9,293
Lloyds account	£3,761						
Reserve account	£5,532						
Total	£9,293						

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a payment of £639.36 to TK Play and we received £506.44 as VAT repayment during the month. • In addition there is £1001 in the Langtree Park account.
603.2	<p>To request approval of BACS Payments and cheques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitchell & Sons £165.00 for repairs to bus shelter. • Adrian Hinchcliffe – Millennium Garden green waste bin £52 • Payments agreed
603.3	<p>To sign off AGAR Exemption Certificate (new version).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The original has been accepted but the auditors would prefer a different version.
603.4	<p>To review correspondence received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No correspondence that has not been previously circulated.
604	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No items were raised.
605	<p>ANY OTHER ITEMS AT CHAIRMAN’S DISCRETION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Speedwatch now has enough people, but details of when equipment would be received were awaited from the Police. • The meeting closed at 9.20pm.
606	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The date of next meeting is Thursday 12th October 2023.</p>