

# LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

**13<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

<b>Present</b>	Councillors: Mark Glover John Davies Pat Mitchell Penny Stowell James Fishleigh Chris Whateley (TDC)
<b>In attendance</b>	Clerk
<b>767</b>	<b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  Apologies were received from. Jenny Coles Colin Edworthy Geoff Bond David Ley Andrew Saywell (DCC) Cheryl Cottle Hunkin, (TDC)
<b>768</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</b>
768.1	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ROSPA reports have been received</li><li>• Clerk and Councillor Davies met with Adrian Avery of TDC</li><li>• Advert for 137 grants placed on Face Book resulted in an application from Langtree School PTA.</li></ul>
768.2	Minutes of meeting held on 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 to be confirmed and signed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• These were agreed - proposed by John Davies and seconded by Penny Stowell – duly signed.</li></ul>
<b>769</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There was no declaration of interests.</li></ul>
<b>770</b>	<b>REPORTS</b>

770.1	<b><u>Police Community Support Officer: no report</u></b>
770.2	<p><b><u>County Councillor:</u></b></p> <p><i>Devolution/Local Government Reorganisation</i></p> <p>As previously reported, the Government have set a deadline for March 21<sup>st</sup> for interim local government reorganisation proposals to be submitted. Following meetings with Government officials, the Council has received guidance that multiple indicative proposals can be submitted. Work for this is ongoing and a Special Full Council meeting will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup> to agree on what to submit. While I don't yet have any firm proposals to report back on, it is likely that a number of proposals ranging from a single Devon Unitary through to dividing Devon up into 2, 3, 4 or even 5 unitary authorities will be submitted.</p> <p>I should be in a position to give you more details in April</p> <p><i>Other Matters</i></p> <p><i>DCC Budget</i> – The final budget will be agreed by DCC Full Council in February. Despite the loss of the rural services grant, additional income from the second homes council tax has ensured we have a balanced budget and no major service reductions or cuts. There will be an additional £4m going into the Highways Budget... though had the Rural Services Grant not been taken away I think we could have found an extra £10m from the Second Homes Council Tax for Highways. Instead, this funding has had to go into other services to prevent major cutbacks within Adult Social Care or Children's Services.</p> <p>Overall the net revenue budget rises to £784 million. Of which approx. £383 million is for Adult Social Care (up 8.2%) and £237 million is for Children's Services (up 5.5%). That leaves a rather more modest circa £164 million for everything else from roads to libraries.</p> <p>Again, happy to talk in more detail on the budget at the next meeting.</p>

	<p><i>And finally</i> – as you may have seen, I will be standing down from the County Council in May to pursue a new career in the aviation industry as a commercial pilot. I have outlined my reasons why in the email I sent to the Parish Clerk so won't repeat them here. However, I would like to thank the Parish Council for their support over the twelve years I've had the honour to represent them in local government. First on Torridge District Council for four years and for the last eight years on DCC.</p> <p>I remain fully committed to my role until polling day on May 1<sup>st</sup> so any problems between now and then please do get in touch as I am still here to help!! I do hope to see you all in April as Langtree is where my life in local government began all those years ago and I hope to have the opportunity to say goodbye.</p>
770.3	<p><b>District Councillor:</b>  <b>EXTRAORDINARY FULL COUNCIL</b></p> <p>Torridge District Council has announced that it has been awarded just over £20,070,000 in capital investment with £250,000 revenue funding to support several projects to benefit residents across the district. The projects announced by government, are being funded as part of the Community Regeneration Partnership Scheme (previously known as Levelling Up Partnership) and will support the council's strategic ambitions and deliver lasting benefits to Torridge. We are very pleased to have been awarded this government funding for our communities.</p> <p>The capital projects being supported by the Government are geographically spread across the district and cover a wide variety of themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Bideford Business Park (£2.6m)</i></b> - acquisition and development toward high value manufacturing and engineering facilities.</li> <li>• <b><i>Bideford Pannier Market (£1.475m)</i></b> - modernisation and improvements to make fit for future and wider use.</li> <li>• <b><i>Hatchmoor Industrial Estate (£1.6m)</i></b> - The project will design a scheme, achieve the necessary consents and then deliver the services and infrastructure to site for future development of workspace for high value manufacturing and engineering facilities</li> <li>• <b><i>Holsworthy Agri-Business Park (£7.3m)</i></b> - development of Agri-related innovation, retail, and professional space.</li> <li>• <b><i>Appledore Clean Maritime Innovation Centre (£2m)</i></b> - additional funding to support the build.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Agri-tech nutrient pilot scheme (£0.3m)</b> - testing the adaptation of a slurry condensing unit to recover nutrients and reduce the pollutants going into rivers.</li> <li>• <b>Westward Ho! Water Quality Monitoring Buoy (£0.1m)</b> - Installation of water quality monitoring buoy to provide real-time water quality data for beach users, tourism businesses and for managers of environmental systems.</li> <li>• <b>Cleave Wood, Bideford (£1.2m)</b> - The design and delivery of site servicing and infrastructure as a first phase of a residential scheme in response to local housing needs.</li> <li>• <b>Social housing decarbonisation and EPC rating improvements (£1.5m)</b> - pipeline of works to improve 57 properties with E &amp; F ratings to C or B.</li> <li>• <b>Bideford Hospital (£0.75m)</b> - reconfiguration site to create a "Community Health &amp; Wellbeing Hub" with multi-purpose space.</li> <li>• <b>The Globe Hotel, Great Torrington (£0.52m)</b> - Initial capital works on Grade II Listed long-derelect hotel to redevelop into an 11-bedroom hotel and restaurant (in a town with neither) with a strong training presence.</li> <li>• <b>Holsworthy Manor Offices (£0.725m)</b> - Phased redevelopment inc. decarbonisation, remodelling to enable improved accessibility, flow and to increase opportunity for flexible community space (for example, co- working)</li> </ul> <p>The ability to achieve such a diverse spread of projects and themes was made possible through the establishment of the Torridge Place Board. The Board, made up of 20 representatives from a cross section of local businesses and services, was established in February 2024. Since then, it has been responsible for steering a potential programme of works, designed to improve the long-term economic opportunities for the region and deliver positive environmental and health benefits to those people living in Torridge.</p> <p><b>Notice of Motion</b></p> <p>Cllr Thomas proposed a Motion to support Proportional Representation (PR) which would ensure all votes count, have equal value, and seats won match votes cast. The introduction of PR IN Scotland has increased turnout by 44.8% at the last election in 2022. In Torridge, the average turnout was 33%. It was proposed that the UK Government bring forward legislation to run using a PR voting system and TDC write to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition to support PR.</p> <p>After short discussion and a recorded vote, the Motion was passed 19 for and 10 against.</p>
771	PARISH MATTERS

771.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Update on Langtree Park.</b> –</li> <li>• Council wants to investigate selling the park to the Parish Hall trustees.</li> <li>• Clerk and Councillor Davies met with the Community Engagement Project Officer to discuss equipment for the park – a zip wire was discussed and the maintenance cost along with the initial cost may rule this out.</li> </ul>
771.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Other Matters impacting the parish –</b></li> <li>• Councillor Stowell commented that the dog fowling in the allotments, and Church Lane has increased again. The stencils on the road have worn off. Councillor Stowell will liaise with her contact at TDC to have them repainted.</li> <li>• Brambles in the allotments and community garden need to be cleared.</li> </ul>
771.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Beech Road play Area-</b></li> <li>• ROSPA Report highlights the same issues as last year.</li> <li>• Beech Road play park was discussed also with the Community Engagement Project Officer. His comments have been noted, and quotes will be obtained for new equipment.</li> <li>• The rocker and balance beam are too damaged now for repair.</li> </ul>
771.4	<p><b>137 Fund</b> – Council approved grants be paid to –</p> <p>Siloam Graveyard - £100</p> <p>Langtree PTA - £100</p> <p>Langtree WI - £100</p> <p>Langtree Lions Football Club - £100</p>
<b>772</b>	<b>PLANNING</b>
772.1	Any updates on potential planning application for land at The Crescent, Langtree – Holding item - None
772.2	<p>Applications for discussion –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1/0151/2025/FUL – Change of use of land to equestrian and erection of stable barn and associated works.</li> <li>• Council commented that the access was very close to a blind corner, suggest access moved further away from the corner.</li> <li>• 1/0180/2025/FULM – new sheds to cover concrete yard area.</li> <li>• Council supports this application.</li> </ul>

772.3	<p>To consider any other planning applications received between issuing of agenda and meeting. -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None received.</li> </ul>						
<b>773</b>	<b>CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCE</b>						
773.1	<p>To receive update on financial position at the end February 2025 The position at the end of February was:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lloyd's account</td><td>£6096.47</td></tr> <tr> <td>Reserve account</td><td>£1574.09</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total</td><td>£7670.56</td></tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition, there is £2235.03 the Langtree Park account.</li> </ul>	Lloyd's account	£6096.47	Reserve account	£1574.09	Total	£7670.56
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773.2	<p>To request approval of BACS Payments and cheques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROSPA reports £288.00</li> </ul> <p>Payment made £67.99 external hard drive.</p>						
773.3	<p>To review correspondence received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROSPA reports – circulated by email.</li> <li>• DALC Devolution Zoom invite.</li> <li>• Christmas Tree World!</li> <li>• Notification of road works (Subsequently cancelled)</li> <li>• Letter from Andrew Saywell – circulated with these minutes.</li> </ul>						
773.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies Review: Risk Register was agreed.</li> </ul>						
<b>774</b>	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public participation. – None</li> </ul>						
<b>775</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ANY OTHER ITEMS AT CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION</b></li> <li>• Forward notice there will be no meeting in May, and the AGM will be in the June meeting.</li> </ul> <p>The meeting closed at 9.27pm.</p>						
<b>776</b>	<b>Date of next meeting – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025</b>						