

LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

12th June 2025

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL	
Present	Councillors: Mark Glover (Chairman) Geoff Bond John Davies David Ley Pat Mitchell Penny Stowell Colin Edworthy James Fishleigh Chris Wheatley (TDC) Cheryl Cottle–Hunkin (DCC)
In attendance	Linda Davies – Parish Clerk
	Welcome and Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Jenny Coles <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
	Election of Chairman and Vice Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mark Glover wished to stand down as chairman.• Council agreed that John Davies who had been Vice Chair, should take over as chair.• Penny Stowell was elected Vice Chair, proposed by Mark, seconded by John, and all in favour.
	Any other business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council thanked Mark for 4yrs service as Chairman.• There was no other business.• This meeting was then closed by the new Chairman.
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING	
787	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE as above.

788	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
788.1	<p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A New notice board had been installed in Stibb Cross. • Thanks to Councillors Mitchell and Davies for removing the old one. • Thanks to Councillor Bond for clearing the brambles from the allotments.
788.2	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 10th April 2025 to be confirmed and signed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes were proposed by David Ley and seconded by Geoff Bond. Approved.
789	<p>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No interests were declared.
790	REPORTS
790.1	<p>Police Community Support Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report
790.2	<p>County Councillor</p> <p>It's been an extremely busy few weeks since being elected as a county councillor, especially with the added responsibility of being Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs! This appears to have an extremely wide remit... A huge amount of work involved but I am hoping it will give me the opportunity to have a really positive impact on the council and will allow me to have a much stronger voice for our communities up here in Torridge and North Devon, which as we know are extremely rural and isolated and are so often forgotten about in favour of urban areas such as Exeter and the Southern half of Devon...</p> <p>I attended the Devon County Show this year and was pleased to speak on BBC Radio Devon alongside our new leader Cllr Brazil about rural isolation here in Devon, including the lack of public transport and poor access to services as well as the isolation experienced by farmers and the farming community.</p> <p>At our first full council meeting and AGM, as well as voting for our leaders and chairs, we also voted to install "swift boxes" to some of DCC's buildings, a quick and easy way to protect this declining species, and we will be lobbying central government to require all new builds to install "swift bricks" as standard.</p> <p>At our first cabinet meeting we heard about plans to improve support for foster carers and agreed to bring allowances in line with national</p>

levels, reduce council tax charges for registered foster carers in line with neighbouring authorities, and introduced an “equipment fund” to provide carers with equipment such as new mattresses, buggies and car seats. We hope this will show how much we value our foster carers and the important job they do and increase retention rates across Devon. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/children-families-education/news/councillors-agree-improved-support-for-devon-foster-carers/>

I have had lots of informal meetings too, some training, and briefings on a wide range of issues affecting the County, from Broadband to Childcare provision. Luckily most of these can take place online so I haven't had to travel to Exeter too much!

You will be pleased to hear I spent a day traveling throughout Torrington Rural in the Highways van with our neighbourhood highways officer. We were looking at the state of our roads, and I was learning about different methods and processes and finding out about what has been prioritised for future work. As well as this, it was the opportunity for me to highlight the many roads and areas that have been raised with me by local residents in the past few months.

I attended the public meeting in the pannier market from Torrington Regeneration Board to find out what has been happening and some of their planned projects. They have created a new website for the town, building on the original OneGreatTorrington website that was set up 5 years ago. This website has new branding and will be updated regularly to show all the local events taking place etc. I was particularly interested to find out about the Tarka the Otter Trail initiative which will involve a number of sculptures across Great Torrington and the Commons, and a dedicated book linking to the trail. The regeneration board is looking for people to join them, so if you would like to join or have any ideas for the town please email great-torrington@torridge.gov.uk

As your county councillor I have £8000 available through the locality budget! Very exciting! This can be used for projects that benefit the local community. Please get in touch with me first if you are interested in applying. The application form is very simple and can be found here along with more information about who can apply and what it can be used to support: [Locality budgets - Democracy in Devon](#)

I was really pleased to be invited to the Friends of Great Torrington Library's AGM and to hear from their guest speaker Alex Kittow, Chief Executive of Libraries Unlimited. I heard about the numerous craft events, message in a bottle, bounce and rhyme, walk and talk, plans for a repair café, and being the only place to print in Great Torrington. The friends have raised £1500 from book sales and do such a fab job

	<p>volunteering at the library. Summer '25 has a new reading scheme with an underwater adventure theme, launching 12th July! The importance of the summer reading challenge was really emphasised, and I learned that children drop two reading levels at school if they don't read over the summer holidays! There was a reminder too that libraries are a charity. Libraries Unlimited run 54 libraries across Devon, have 2.3million visits, and receive help from more than 700 volunteers offering more than 24,000 volunteer hours (including teenagers doing their Duke of Edinburgh Award!). Yes, reading is a tool to increase life chances. But libraries are much more than a place to borrow books. The slogan for Libraries Unlimited is "Enriching lives, building communities", they are a community hub where everyone is welcome, and libraries are for everybody. And in terms of looking after the environment, libraries are the ultimate form of recycling. Why buy when you can borrow?</p> <p>I was shocked to hear on the news the plans to phase out fire service co-responders across the Southwest and put forward a response on the same day and will be looking to find out the details and whether the decision can be reconsidered. Devon County Council's concern at plans to phase out co-responder service - News</p> <p>Finally... PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE can I ask you to support The Globe Hotel community project in Great Torrington. They will be holding a public meeting this Saturday 14th June, 5pm in the Town Hall. There is currently around £100,000 raised but the goal they need to reach is £230,000. With less than two weeks to go this is urgent. Once this amount is raised the hotel will be owned by the community and a grant of more than half a million pounds will be released by central government towards its renovation. The aim of the globe project is to provide a training hotel to train young people in the hospitality sector. It would raise aspirations and would transform our town centre. Wouldn't it be great to have a hotel right next door to our Plough Arts Centre! Community shares start at just £50. Please spread the word with everyone and encourage them to invest. Link to crowdfunder here: The Globe Hotel Torrington - a Community crowdfunding project in Torrington by The Globe Hotel Torrington</p>
790.3	<p>District Councillor</p> <p>TDC Annual General Meeting</p> <p>Annual General Meeting was recently held, and the focus was voting and the re-appointments of both Councillor Ken James as Leader and Councillor Claire Hodson as Deputy Leader for the sixth year in a row. Councillor Doug Bushby was re-elected as Chair of the Council and Councillor Doug Smith</p>

as Vice- Chair. Other Committee Councillors were appointed as Chair and Vice Chair of various Committees. Please see our press release/website for further details.

Steve Hearse Chief Executive presented and update regarding TDC approval of several changes to its Constitution following recommendations from a Local Government Association Peer Review initiated in April 2024 as a friend and support not a critical inspection perspective. Key areas covered were local priorities and outcomes, organisational and place leadership, governance, and culture, financial planning and management and capacity for improvement. Out of 11 recommendations the Report noted that 91% of the actions had already been completed or progressed.

EXTRAORDINARY FULL COUNCIL

Torridge District Council voted to extend the existing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in relation to control of dogs for another three years. Since it was initially introduced in 2022, The Councils Environmental Protection Team has dealt with 117 stray dogs' incidents, 246 Reports of dog fouling, 234 barking dog complaints and 138 involving dangerous dogs. A breach of a PSPO is a criminal offence and can result in a fixed penalty notice of £100 or up to £1000 can be imposed by a court in conviction of a breach. The Council voted that dogs should be kept on a leash and all year round in Victoria Park, adjacent to Park View Terrace, and from 1 May to 30 September annually on Westward Ho promenade and excluded from on the designated area of Blue Flag Westward Ho beach from 1 May to 30 September annually and permanently excluded from Westward Ho Park's enclosed Tennis and Sports area.

TDC Announcement

We are pleased to announce that the highly anticipated development of Brunswick Wharf in East-Water Bideford has taken a significant step forward as Developers, Red Earth have announced the appointment of Morgan Sindall Construction and Infrastructure Limited as the project's principal contractor.

Brunswick Wharf is set to transform a long-neglected Area of Bideford's historic Riverside offering a restaurant, six retail units, more than 100 apartments, a pop-up cafe, surface, level car park, and a riverside walk linked to a public open square.

	<p>The car park will also double up as an outdoor events space acting as both a hub for residents and the wider community. In addition, including a shared public space, a new riverside walk, will include a shared cycle and pedestrian route that links the Tarka Trail encouraging active travel and better accessibility to the public.</p> <p>Further good news is that the refurbishment of the Pannier Market in Torrington is now completed.</p> <p>Please support the Globe Hotel community project in Great Torrington</p> <p>Cheryl's report covers all the details with £100,000 approx. raised and need to reach £230,000 with less than 2 weeks to go!</p> <p>Please help if you can and spread the word!</p>
791	PARISH MATTERS
791.1	<p>Update on Langtree Park – maintenance of the parks -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quotes for maintenance work on Langtree Park and Beech Road (Stibb Cross) had been received, it was agreed that due to the delay in the Council meeting approval would be by email. However, they had not been 'like for like' and due to the differences in the works quoted the decision needed to go back to a meeting for fuller discussion. The Clerk had met the contractors to clarify, and the meeting agreed that Academic Facilities would carry out the works. • Cheryl (DCC) has a small grant available to local causes and suggested we apply for £500 to cover the cost of refurbishing the seesaw in Stibb Cross. • It was agreed that funding from the Langtree Park account would be used for maintenance works as well as council funds. (see Finance section)
791.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting of the allotment rental - The allotment fee has been kept at £15.00 per year.
791.3	<p>Other matters impacting the parish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Stowell had been in contact with Lisa Stevens at Torridge and requested Councillor Wheatley chase up the request for leaflets about Dog fowling. • The people of the allotments and Community Garden would like to say a big 'thankyou' to Geoff Bond for his excellent work tidying the allotments. • Dragon Patching in Southcott – tarmac has been laid over mud – we need to complain to DCC •

792	PLANNING						
792.1	Any updates on potential planning application for land at The Crescent, Langtree. (Holding item only, no discussion anticipated). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 						
792.2	Applications for discussion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/0425/2025/OUT – Outline application for 1 dwelling. • Council wants hedge and mature trees to be preserved. 						
792.3	To consider any planning applications received between issuing of agenda and meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new planning applications have been received. 						
793	CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCE						
793.1	<p>To receive update on financial position at end May 2025.</p> <p>The position at the end of May was:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lloyd’s account</td><td>£8164.20</td></tr> <tr> <td>Reserve account</td><td>£1577.67</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total</td><td>£9741.87</td></tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payments in the April 25 were to £288.00 to ROSPA. £1770.54 to TDC, £4.25 Bank Charge • April receipts were £622.51 HMRC (VAT refund) and TDC Precept £5375.00 • Payments in May 25 were £351.89 DALC, £4.25 Bank Charge £437.00 Zurich insurance, £669.60 Jag Signs. • Langtree Park account balance = £2240.11. 	Lloyd’s account	£8164.20	Reserve account	£1577.67	Total	£9741.87
Lloyd’s account	£8164.20						
Reserve account	£1577.67						
Total	£9741.87						
793.2	<p>To request approval of BACS Payments and cheques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £750 funds proposed to be used for park maintenance. • Additional £750.00 used from Langtree Park account for maintenance, proposed by Cllr Bond and seconded by Cllr Glover • £300 of the 137 grant funds to be paid to Southwestern Ambulance charity. (see correspondence below) • All were approved. 						

793.3	<p>To review correspondence received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emailed complaint re condition of the Beech Road seesaw. • Request for funding from Southwestern Ambulance Charity - community response vehicle appeal.
793.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGAR – presentation and sign off of accounts. - • Accounts have been audited, and a copy was distributed to each councillor. Chairman (Mark Glover – as they relate to 24/25 year) signed them off and they will be published for viewing by Parishioners for the statutory period.
794	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none
795	<p>ANY OTHER ITEMS AT CHAIRMAN’S DISCRETION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None • The meeting closed at 8.35pm.
796	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The date of next meeting is Thursday 10th July 2025</p>