

LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

10th July 2025

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING	
Present	Councillors: John Davies (Chairman) Geoff Bond David Ley Pat Mitchell Penny Stowell Jenny Coles Chris Wheatley (TDC)
In attendance	Linda Davies – Parish Clerk
	Welcome and Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Mark Glover Colin Edworthy James Fishleigh Cheryl Cottle–Hunkin (DCC)
797	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE as above.
798	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
798.1	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further research showed that Mark had been chairman since 10/5/2018!• Clerk had applied for the grant for the see saw in Beech Road Park.
798.2	Minutes of meeting held on 12 th June 2025 to be confirmed and signed. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The minutes were proposed by David Ley and seconded by Geoff Bond. Approved.
799	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No interests were declared.
800	REPORTS
800.1	Police Community Support Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No report

800.2	<p>County Councillor (report issued after meeting as Cheryl was unwell)</p> <p>At our most recent cabinet meeting we presented a large number of reports which have all been reported on the DCC website. Most notable decisions included the agreement “to trial pothole repair blitz as part of £83 million road maintenance programme” Our highways teams will carry out a repair blitz on potholes, where all potholes would be filled, rather than just dealing with safety defects, in a few trial areas of the county. Although the exact details are still to be agreed, this pilot would be used to establish the budget implications of changing maintenance procedures. https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?</p> <p>And we also agreed to “Improve the outcomes of our most vulnerable children through new 10-year plan ”A new long-term plan to improve the outcomes of Devon’s most vulnerable young people by overhauling how they are supported and cared for has been approved by our cabinet. Councillors have agreed to an ambitious multi-million investment programme to establish 12 new children’s homes; 20 specialist foster places; and up to four new therapeutic schools, over the next 10 years. https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?</p> <p>Last week I was really pleased to visit a place where I have spent a huge amount of time in the past- both as a pupil and as a teacher! Great Torrington School. I want to thank headteacher Andy Bloodworth and chair of governors Ian Newberry for inviting me in, in my new role as County Councillor. They showed me around and I heard about the challenges and things that have changed since I was there 6 years ago. A big thing that I took away was the will and the need for more collaboration between Devon County Council and the school and that is one of the things I will be working on over the next few years.</p> <p>Also last week, as county councillors we were all invited down to a farm near Ivybridge. This was organised by the NFU South team, helping to build relationships and was a great opportunity for councillors to learn about the issues and especially the recent challenges we are facing in the farming sector. The family farm tax, the closure of the sustainable farming incentive, and unfair trade deals to name a few. As well as a presentation from the NFU and having a tour of the farm, we also heard from the Rural Affairs team at Devon & Cornwall Police about the different challenges in rural areas- from flocks of more than 100 sheep being stolen overnight, to GPS systems being stolen and ending up as far away as the USA and Mexico. These are highly organised crimes, and we were urged to report any suspicious behaviour that we see in the countryside to them. As cabinet member for Rural Affairs, I look forward to working together with organisations such as the NFU - National Farmers' Union, sharing knowledge and information with fellow councillors, and helping us to make informed decisions, allowing Devon County Council to be a bigger voice for our rural communities.</p>
800.3	<p>District Councillor</p> <p>Torridge District Council - Local Government Reorganisation</p> <p>Torridge District Council would like the community to be aware and have a voice towards the next stage towards Local Government Reorganisation. We are being asked by government to develop plans to move from a two-tier system to a single-tier unitary authority. North Devon and Torridge have been working councils across Devon to work up proposals and in March 2025 an interim plan was submitted to government on behalf of all Devon's district councils except Exeter.</p> <p>The proposal was known as the 1-4-5 Plan, keeping Plymouth as a standalone unitary authority, Forming another unitary authority with South Hams, Teignbridge, West</p>

Devon, and Torbay. Creating a new unitary authority combining East Devon, Mid Devon, North Devon, Torridge, and Exeter.

Final proposals will be submitted in November 2025. Though before then, the council would like to hear from residents, businesses, local communities about what matters most to you?

We want to hear from you!! This would ensure our proposals in November 2025 will help play a vital role in shaping our future.

Torridge residents can complete the survey online on the **Let's Talk website** or alternatively if you require a large print or paper version you can request this by emailing customer.services@torridge.gov.uk or calling 01237 428700 option 9

Paper copies are available at Riverbank House, Bideford, EX39 2QG

Community and Resources-

Household Support Fund 7

£302,310.00 inclusive of 12% for administration of Household Support Fund 7 has been allocated by Devon Council to Torridge District Council to help those people in financial hardship, typically those people currently in receipt of benefits. This is for period 1st April 2025 until 31st March 2026. Encompass are assisting TDC with reviewing applications. This was voted for unanimous.

Cllr Chris Bright Notice of Motion - The Plough Arts Centre

The exceptional reward of £45,000 of exceptional funding assistance to be approved and delivered in two payments of £22,500 (one in financial year 2025/2026 and one in April for financial year 2026/2027. Over the next 2 years the Plough Arts Centres will report twice a year to External Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Lead member Cllr Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin and Ward member Cllr Chris Bright spoke very positively regarding the importance of The Plough to the community and working with a renovated Globe Hotel.

Members voted for 11 and 1 against with no abstentions.

The Globe Hotel community project in Great Torrington

Please support and help spread the word for The Globe Hotel community project in Great Torrington who need to reach £230,000, for the Globe Hotel Torrington crowdfunding project. As of today £153,895, has been raised and if we achieve the target the hotel will be owned by the community and over half a million pounds would 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. The Globe next door to the Plough would work incredibly well together and offer much potential and benefit the community and further afield!

Loan Request for ARC Atlantic Raquet Club) - Bideford

A LOAN OF £100,000 to the Atlantic Raquet Centre to be repaid over 10 years with terms to be recommended by Full Council for completion of phase 6 development. Currently there are 5,500 users per week of the ARC and its many facilities. Voted for unanimously by members.

	<p>Torridge Estuary Strategy 2025-2030</p> <p>The estuary strategy is to be adopted and that the 1-year action plan be submitted to members by January 2026 to ensure delivery of key actions within the adopted strategy.</p> <p>Voted for unanimously.</p>						
801	PARISH MATTERS						
801.1	<p>Update on Langtree Park – maintenance of the parks -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance on the two parks was in progress by Academic Facilities Services Ltd. • The willow in Langtree Park has started to re grow, it was suggested we need to find some one to carry out hedge laying. 						
801.2	<p>Other matters impacting the parish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several councillors commented on correspondence they had received regarding trade recycling, and that the tone of the letter was unduly heavy handed. Councillor Wheatley would feed the comments back to TDC. • Councillor Davies wished to thank the Parish for their support at the charity football match. 						
802	PLANNING						
802.1	<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"> • None 						
802.2	<p>Applications for discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None received. 						
802.3	<p>To consider any planning applications received between issuing of agenda and meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new planning applications have been received. 						
803	CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCE						
803.1	<p>To receive update on financial position at end June 2025.</p> <p>The position at the end of June was:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lloyd's account</td><td>£8204.95</td></tr> <tr> <td>Reserve account</td><td>£1578.72</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total</td><td>£9783.67</td></tr> </table>	Lloyd's account	£8204.95	Reserve account	£1578.72	Total	£9783.67
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Langtree Park account balance = £2241.60 • Payment had been made to SW Ambulance trust fund for £300.00.
803.2	<p>To request approval of BACS Payments and cheques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Sanders £100.00. • Academic Facilities Services Ltd £2599.20, • Adrian Hinchcliffe £56.00. • NALC online training for the clerk £35.00+vat and fees.
803.3	<p>To review correspondence received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you letter from WI for 137 grant. • Email from TDC re Housing monitoring Dashboard. • Notice of road closure in October from SW water at Meadow Farm. • Posters from Matt Lane (for G Cox MP) and invite to surgery on 29th July at LPH. • Letter from Holesworthy Motor club re classic reliability trial of 80 motorcycles coming through Langtree on 14th September.
803.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman requested that the grass cutting schedule be increased in the school holidays in Beech Road play park. During July and August increase to weekly from fortnightly. This will add 5 extra cuts and cost an additional £110.00. This was agreed unanimously.
804	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none
805	<p>ANY OTHER ITEMS AT CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Ley commented that it was good to see the old Travis Perkins site being used and giving employment - it was a positive step. • The clerk made a point that now the Chair was her husband, she wanted to ensure transparency and in future on the rare occasion that a decision was needed prior to the full meeting she would email the vice chair (Penny) as well as the chair for approval. • The meeting closed at 8.25pm.
806	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The date of next meeting is Thursday 14th August 2025</p>