

LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

14th August 2025

	Councillors: Mark Glover John Davies David Ley Penny Stowell Pat Mitchell James Fishleigh Geoff Bond Chris Whateley (TDC) Cheryl Cottle Hunkin, (DDC)
In attendance	Clerk,
807	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from. Colin Edworthy Jenny Coles
808	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
808.1	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None.
808.2	Minutes of meeting held on 10 th July 2025 to be confirmed and signed. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• These were agreed - proposed by Geoff Bond and Seconded by James Fishleigh – duly signed.
809	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was no declaration of interests.
810	REPORTS
810.1	<u>Police Community Support Officer:</u> No report - Place holder
810.2	<u>County Councillor:</u> Following up on the shock news about the plans to phase out fire service co-responders across the Southwest, and the decision to move solely to volunteer community first responders: The ambulance trust was called in for scrutiny by Devon County Council's Health and Adult Care Scrutiny committee which was held last month. The committee heard from a large number of members of the public talking passionately about the need to retain the service, and the

Southwest Ambulance Trust was heavily scrutinised by councillors. The recommendation from the committee was that SWAST should pause the termination of fire co-responders, respond within 28 days with more detail and metrics, and come back to committee in September, as they were not satisfied by the detail and reasoning that was provided.

Great news to report on The Globe in Great Torrington, they reached their £230,000 goal with just a few days to go! People can still invest and be part of the community ownership, as additional funds will go further towards the restoration. The goal being reached means it is now owned by the community, unlocking more than half a million pounds from central government as part of the previous government's "levelling up" funding. Brilliant news for Great Torrington and the surrounding area!

I had a large number of people contact me, including the headteacher of Great Torrington School, in relation to Stagecoach's price hike which took effect 20th July. There was no warning and a lack of communication that this was happening, meaning that many children didn't even have enough money to get home from school (those who travel out of catchment ie mainly those from Bideford). There is also huge concern for post-16 students who saw a massive increase to £444 per term to get to college. Not only this but for everyone more generally with both return tickets and the North Devon zone now scrapped as part of their new ticketing strategy. I raised concern over the price increases urgently at our cabinet meeting and launched a petition which was actively supported by more than 2/3 of county councillors from all parties. <https://chnng.it/rK7VQ5mfBN>

We have now met with Peter Knight, Managing Director of Stagecoach and have agreed to work more closely in partnership, both to lobby central government in terms of the need for fair funding for our large rural county, but also he has agreed to seriously look at re-zoning and costs for young people under 18 which will likely come into effect in January

2026 <https://www.northdevongazette.co.uk/news/local-news/1870285/devon-mps-and-councillors-quiz-bus-boss-over-rising-fares-for-schoolchildren.html>

At our recent cabinet meeting I presented a report from the public health manager on alcohol harm in Devon. I had to declare that I am not teetotal by any means! But there was real seriousness in the report, and some of the figures for Devon are double the national average. For example in Devon alone premature death (*which means dying before the age of 74yrs*) from alcoholic liver disease has increased by nearly 42% since 2001 and within the last 10 years alcohol related hospital admissions have grown by 46%. Admissions for alcoholic liver disease have increased by 70%. While nationally we are seeing a *reduction* in alcohol consumption in younger adults (18-34yrs) it still causes significant harm to young people. In Devon, our under-18s hospital admission rate for alcohol-specific conditions are *nearly double the national average*. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/cabinet-backs-plan-to-reduce-harm-caused-by-drinking/>

We also agreed a new strategy aiming to increase the number of young people in education, employment or training called "Brighter Futures – Employment,

	<p>Education and Training Strategy” https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/strategy-aims-to-create-brighter-futures-for-young-people-in-devon/</p> <p>And we backed ‘innovative’ proposals to work with children’s charity Barnardo’s to create eight new ‘gap’ homes, specifically designed to house and support care leavers with complex needs in Barnstaple and Exeter. https://www.devon.gov.uk/children-families-education/news/were-working-with-barnardos-on-new-homes-for-care-leavers/</p> <p>On Langtree specific issues I am pleased that the councillor locality grant has been processed for the play area equipment/rocking horse! And I have also spent time with the neighbourhood highways officer and we specific looks at the area of dragon patching which went right over the mud/grass in the middle of the road. Mark took pictures and is looking into this as he’d never seen them do that before!</p> <p>If there are any safety defects or other highways type issues please do report them here: Report a problem - Roads and transport</p>
810.3	<p>District Councillor:</p> <p>FULL COUNCIL</p> <p>Holsworthy Leisure Centre</p> <p>We were pleased to receive a Report/update regarding Holsworthy Leisure Centre swimming pool roof, PV and changing Area Reinstatement Works. The swimming pool roof has been replaced and the PV (Photovoltaic- solar panels) installed. The changing area fit out has been completed and was handed back to Active Torridge team for opening.</p> <p>Decarbonisation investment and work in the facility has been completed including substantial thermal efficiency with thicker insulated roofing panels, draught stopping triple glazed windows and doors, funded by the public sector decarbonisation scheme and the Rural Prosperity Fund.</p> <p>Atlantic Raquet Centre - Bideford</p> <p>A loan of £100,000 for the ARC (Atlantic Raquet Centre) was voted for unanimously by members. The Loan to be repaid over as 10 years for completion of phase 6 development.</p> <p>Currently there are 5,500 users per week of the ARC and its many facilities. ARC are awaiting extra 100K funding 106 money. Phase 6 development will entail a Community Hub and Learning Space within a multi-use hall and community cafe.</p> <p>Councillor Climate Change Working Group</p> <p>Donna Sibley Climate Officer updated our group and we discussed and recommended some minor changes to our TDC Carbon Environment and Biodiversity Plan. We operate a traffic light system for indicating and tracking progress and made amendments to the Plan which covers Energy, Transport, Planning, Biodiversity, waste and recycling.</p> <p>Donna Sibley Climate Officer updated the Group regarding Treeconomics involving tree planting proposals for the continuation of developing plans and</p>

	<p>undergoing site assessments, though an initial cost would be £6000. Donna stated that actual tree planting would be cheaper due to available grants.</p> <p>Globe Hotel Community Project - Torrington</p> <p>Very pleased to announce as of yesterday the target of £230,000 for the Globe was achieved and now over half a million will be released by central Government.</p>
811	PARISH MATTERS
811.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Langtree Park. - Email correspondence had been received from James French stating that the Friends of Langtree Park Committee was no longer in place and requesting Parish Council take back the running of the park. The heavy-duty mats installed by the park committee which had been removed as part of the ROSPA recommendations belong to James personally and he has stated that he will retrieve them from the shelter adjacent to the Parish Hall, where they are being stored. He will pass over a box of documents and the key for the waste bin as soon as he returns from his holiday.
811.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Matters impacting the parish – Council thanked Cheryl for the grant of £500 to restore the seesaw in Beech Road Play Park.
812	PLANNING
812.1	Any updates on potential planning application for land at The Crescent, Langtree – Holding item - None
812.2	<p>Applications for discussion –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1/0571/2025/FUL Proposed calf housing - No Objection 1/0589/2025/FUL Proposed two story extension – No Objection 1/0611/2025/FUL Demolition of existing building - comment was the same as previously uploaded = council cannot see any change to the previous application - the new building does not use the original footprint. Size and orientation are different.
812.3	<p>To consider any other planning applications received between issuing of agenda and meeting. -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1/0425/2025/OUT 1 dwelling – Position of dwelling has been moved to protect treeline as requested by council – therefore now No Objection. 1/0233/2025/FUL - No.1 dwelling and associated works including new garage and extended parking for existing dwelling. (Variation of Condition Number 2 of planning 1/0483/2022/FUL – granted permission.

813	CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCE						
813.1	<p>To receive update on financial position at the end July 2025</p> <p>The position at the end of July was:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lloyd's account</td><td>£6433.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Reserve account</td><td>£1579.63</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total</td><td>£8012.63</td></tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition, there is £1492.89 the Langtree Park account. 	Lloyd's account	£6433.00	Reserve account	£1579.63	Total	£8012.63
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813.2	<p>To request approval of BACS Payments and cheques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None required. <p>Payments made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £2599.20 to Academic for park maintenance, £4.25 Bank Charge. £56.00 A Hinchcliffe green bin, £100.00 T Sanders Audit £300.00 SW Ambulance charity, Transfer £750.00 from Langtree Park Account for maintenance. Receipts: £500.00 DDC and £82.50 allotments. 						
813.3	<p>To review correspondence received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thank you from SW Ambulance Trust. RBLI VJ day merchandise. Email from Lisa Stevens re dog fowling. 						
814	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public participation. – None 						
815	<p>ANY OTHER ITEMS AT CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penny discussed the email from Lisa Stevens, but it did not help as there are no flyers available as requested by Penny in her original email to TDC. Local government reorganisation was discussed = but as we are still in the consultation stage there are no firm plans yet – deadline for decision is November 25. The meeting closed at 8-32pm. 						
816	Date of next meeting – Thursday 11 th September 2025						