

LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

13th November 2025

	Councillors: John Davies Penny Stowell David Ley Pat Mitchell Geoff Bond Jenny Coles Mark Glover Chris Whateley (TDC)
In attendance	Clerk – Linda Davies, No Members of the public.
837	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from. James Fishleigh Colin Edworthy Cheryl Cottle Hunkin, (DDC)
838	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
838.1	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response received from Solicitor – discussed later.• Proofs for signage has been received from Jags Signs for Stibb Cross and Langtree Park.• Parish Hall will get quote for line marking a badminton court in the hall.• Thank you to Mark for putting up the ‘Tommy’
838.2	Minutes of meeting held on 9 th October 2025 to be confirmed and signed. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• These were agreed - proposed by David Ley and Seconded by Jenny Coles – duly signed.
839	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was no declaration of interests.
840	REPORTS
840.1	<u>Police Community Support Officer:</u> No report - Place holder
840.2	<u>County Councillor:</u> We are having a consultation in relation to Devon’s library service and this is being launched later this month- looking at how we can do things differently, taking into account the financial pressures but also looking at other

opportunities- for example new technology and “open access” which is used successfully in other parts of the country to improve opening hours beyond staffed hours, and opening up opportunities for different groups and organisations to use the library spaces too. It is hopefully being launched 24th Nov and we urge everyone to get involved- children too!

[Residents to be asked for their views on the future of Devon's library service - News](#)

I am organising lots of informal meetings at briefings at the moment with officers and organisations, particularly in relation to digital exclusion, rural deprivation, and how to better support isolated and rural communities. Hopefully we can help to develop more solutions in partnership.

We also had another meeting with the Chief executive of Stagecoach who has reconsidered the current pricing zones and we hope he will soon be making an announcement in relation to a bigger zone in North Devon (currently only the Barnstaple zone) which we hope will be an improvement, especially for those living in Great Torrington.

Local Government Reorganisation:

- [We've published our proposal for a simpler, stronger and more sustainable Devon - Inside Devon - news](#)
- Devon County Council has now published its proposal for a new unitary council for the whole of Devon, also respecting the current unitaries in Plymouth and Torbay. This new unitary would include the county and the current Devon districts, and is known as the 9:1:1.
- This proposal will be debated in a Full Council at County Hall, livestreamed, on Friday 14th November, and advice from that council will be passed to DCC Cabinet, which then makes the final decision on Tuesday 18th November.
- The Devon County Council proposal makes a strong case that the most significant services, children's services and adult's services, will benefit from the scale of a large unitary, and that there is significant risk in breaking the current county area into smaller unitaries to their conservation and improvement.
- The Devon County Council concept also centres on Neighbourhood Area Committees in Localities across the county. Likely to be 16 committees with local populations of 50,000, these committees will include towns & parishes, the voluntary sector, NHS, Police, Fire Service, business, chambers of commerce and more. Each committee will have 6 or 7 unitary councillors,
- The committees could take on a number of powers but these are yet to be defined by government. The way they are funded will emerge as the consultation in the new year begins, but there would be a commitment to having a Cabinet member for NACs, IT support, democratic officer support etc provided by the new unitary. One of the key ideas

	<p>underpinning the new NACs is to mitigate the democratic deficit caused by the loss of district councils. If done well, they provide for the first time a single forum for all tiers of local government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas from across Devon must be submitted by 28th November. It is expected that the districts will put forward 4:5:1, county 9:1:1, Exeter a new expanded unitary, Plymouth an expansion on their current unitary. Torbay is not yet clear and political decisions are yet to be made. They certainly wish to retain their current footprint, but in recent days an idea has come forward for them to expand their boundaries. • The Secretary of State then assesses which proposals he wants to put out for consultation in the new year. This will be with other statutory consultees and not the public. • In July he will make a decision as to the chosen option, but this date on previous evidence is likely to slip. Elections to an interim authority would be in May 2027, with the authority going fully live on vesting day in April 2028. <p>Finally, I really want to emphasise again the new grant fund we have set up at Devon County Council. Designed by young people, for young people 😊 Please share with your local youth groups. I would encourage them to apply for the £3000 because you never know 😊 ! It's very easy to apply and has been designed by the Devon Youth Council who designed the fund and they are on the team who sign off the applications (and so am I!). The young people would really like to see new groups and activities being set up if possible so please encourage anyone who you think might be interested. With it being a brand new fund we really want to get the word out there. It doesn't require match funding and it can cover wages if needed. https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/new-grant-fund-laims-to-enrich-the-lives-of-devons-young-people/</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> <p>Grit bins can be requested via Grit bins and salt bags - Roads and transport</p> <p>Speed concerns can be raised from the "report a concern" link at Speeding, Speed Limits and SCARF - Roads and transport</p>
840.3	<p><u>District Councillor:</u></p> <p>It has been an eventful yet enthralling time this month in the Ward and Council with being involved in various Committees and meetings. Pleased to announce last month the Taw and Torridge River Champions was established operating out of Chigwell Street in Bideford. Having joined this group, we are working together with the Biosphere Community Project and West Country Rivers Trust. For those people attending at Chigwell Street undertook a successful first Meeting recently for participants to become a new group of citizen scientists. The newly formed group learnt about how to spot pollution,</p>

learn about the water environment, take action to improve our rivers and be part of the wider catchment community. Within our ward of Shebbear and Langtree three potential areas for river monitoring along the Torridge in particular Dipper Mill / Shebbear, Sheepwash and Taddiport. Next meeting is on Saturday 10am 6th December at 13 Chingswell Street in Bideford. Having undertaken e-coli testing myself 2 years ago in Taddiport there is a need for further testing to be carried out on a regular basis. All are welcome to attend!

I have been out and about pothole patrolling particularly around Langtree though the responses I've been receiving is that's its improving though some way to go yet! I have reported x2 potholes in Putshole Lane Langtree.

Another recurring problem which has been ongoing for a long time now is recycle vehicle spillages. This has been happening around some of the lanes particularly along hedge and roadsides in Petrockstowe, Newton St Petroc and Merton. This I have reported to the TDC Joel Baker our Waste and Recycling Manager who said is checking the CCTV footage and ensuring the recycle vehicle procedures are followed. Of course, wind at times can be a factor and spillages happen more when the recycle vehicles are fully loaded or near full towards the end of their collection.

I have also been dealing with abandoned vehicles X2 in Shebbear liaising with DVLA and TDC recycling.

Recently I attended as part of the licensing sub-Committee making decisions on Taxi License holders under review and in another meeting, we the Committee members were presented with a report from the Lead licensing Officer regarding council licensing policy for Taxis and Private Hire Licences. After discussions it was agreed by Committee out of the three options(A, B and C) that the level of fare increases the committee voted for Option B which entails a flag fare (first 3/4 of a mile increase to £4.50 and then £3.30 per mile thereafter and to amend the nighttime rate to commence at 10pm instead of 11pm. As of 1st November 2025. Option B Taxi fare rate is now in operation.

After attending our recent full council meeting a motion regarding TTVS (Taw and Torridge Voluntary Service) was raised by Cllr Thomas regarding financial support. It was agreed that a report from TDC regarding full options would be provided for financial support in the immediate term and beyond into 2026 at our next Full Council Meeting. This was supported by Council. Pleased along with many councillors to keep TTVS afloat in relation to the excellent work they do for the needy both young and old alike and they have received many councillors' donations!

Beacon Solar Project proposed around the vicinity of Holsworthy developed by Galileo Empower (GE) covering 2,700 acres presented by Head of Planning

	<p>Helen Smith. Already there is much local objection to this proposal with the sheer size and impact on local/farming land, communities, and wildlife.</p> <p>We also received Reports: -</p> <p>External Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report 2024/2025 from Cllr Thomas</p> <p>Internal Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report 2024/2025 from Cllr Hodgson</p> <p>Annual Report from Chief Executive Steve Hearse</p> <p>A brief update on LGR (Local Government Reorganisation) So far, the favoured proposals are Devon Districts 4:5:1 and Devon County Council 9:1:1. DCC have a Full Council livestream Meeting this Friday 14th of November, and the final decision will be made by DCC Cabinet on Tuesday 18th November. It is expected that Devon Districts will put forward 4:5:1 and Devon County 9:1:1 and to be submitted by 28th November.</p> <p>After Councillor Wheatley's report there was discussion about the content: <i>Councillors were advised to report all potholes that meet the criteria and check they are listed on the interactive map – if they are not on the map then report them again. If they are badly mended report this to Chris or Cheryl. Following the report that the recycle lorries are littering in Petrockstow, and Newton St Petrock – Langtree Councillors praised the recycle and rubbish collectors in our area and requested that Chris report this feed back to the Council.</i></p>
841	PARISH MATTERS
841.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Langtree Park. - • Still waiting for funding from TDC. E mail from Adrian Avery states that the claim did not make the agenda for the 17th November meeting. Next one will be 19th January! • Jag signs given approval to produce signage.
841.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Beech Road Play Park – Response from Peter, Peter and Wright Solicitors was not very positive. They stated that the matter may be complicated – • They would need to establish who has the right to sell the land. • As PCB are no longer in existence then it is possible the land title has returned to the crown! This would make the process very long and costly. • They would need to establish whether the transfer of the land was to be to Parish Council or Torridge. • Whoever the landowner is they would need to agree to sell the land to us. • Peter, Peter and Wright are very busy and cannot give any sort of price guide due to the complexity. • In view of the above Council agreed to leave the purchase of the land for now and continue to maintain the park as a community service.

841.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Matters impacting the parish – • Mike Baker will not renew the contract to cut the grass for the Council. • Barnstable Hospital is full and sending patients to Exeter. • Penny carried out the rough sleeper return with the report of no people doing so in the parish. • 						
841.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beacon solar • Council is worried about all aspects of this development of 2700 acres of solar panels but particularly the disposal of the panels when they are decommissioned as only 10% of panels are properly recycled currently due to a lack of specialised facilities. Lead, cadmium and lithium are toxic if they end up in land fill. Slides from the CPRE meeting were distributed, full details are available from their web site. 						
842	PLANNING						
842.1	Any updates on potential planning application for land at The Crescent, Langtree – Holding item - None						
842.2	Applications for discussion – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None received. 						
842.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications received between issuing the agenda and the meeting. • None 						
842.4	Planning application decisions: 1/0702/2025/PIP, 1/0589/2025/FUL, 1/0652/2025/FUL 1/0647/2025/FUL. 1/0611/2025/FUL All of the above were approved.						
843	CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCE						
843.1	<p>To receive update on financial position at the end October 2025</p> <p>The position at the end of October was:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lloyd's account</td><td>£8,534.68</td></tr> <tr> <td>Reserve account</td><td>£1582.28</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total</td><td>£10,116.96</td></tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition, there is £1495.66 the Langtree Park account. 	Lloyd's account	£8,534.68	Reserve account	£1582.28	Total	£10,116.96
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843.2	<p>To request approval of BACS Payments and cheques.</p> <p>No payments to be approved.</p> <p>Payments made:</p>						

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Coast Media £52.19 - web site • TDC £1450.62 - Clerk salary • M Baker £495.00 and £1020.00 – grass cutting. • RBL £49.98 - Remembrance donation. • Southwest Heritage £100.00 • Service charge £4.25
843.3	<p>To review correspondence received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic services – Devolution - circulated prior to meeting. • 5 Year Plan - circulated prior to meeting. • Thank you from North Devon records office for the donation of £100 • Complaint forwarded from Cheryl – Fox hunting on private land - circulated prior to meeting. • Complaint forwarded from Cheryl - Clive Aldridge re closure of roads with lack of notice.
844	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public participation. – None
845	<p>ANY OTHER ITEMS AT CHAIRMAN’S DISCRETION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. • The meeting closed at 8-35 pm.
846	<p>Date of next meeting – Thursday 11th December 2025</p>