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LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 12TH APRIL 2018

Councillors:

Terry Attridge (Chairman)

Geoff Bond

James French

Mark Glover

David Ley

Pat Mitchell

Franklyn Tucker

Dave Hurley (TDC)

Andrew Saywell (DCC)

Mr Leigh Pollinger – Parish Clerk

10 members of the public

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19.30. Apologies for absence were received from: Cllr Jenny Coles, Cllr Colin Edworthy, and PCSO Melissa Baker.

PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST YEAR AND PLANS FOR THE NEXT YEAR

The Chairman reviewed the activities of the Parish Council over the past year. These included:

- Work with the developers of Langtree Meadows to follow up the Section 106 requirements for the provision of Changing Rooms and recreation field behind the parish hall.
- The transfer of ownership of the field behind Parish Hall to Parish Council.
- Transfer of £6k to the Parish Hall as a contribution to the fitting out of the Changing Rooms.
- Provision of water to Butts Meadows allotments and community garden
- Start work on Devon Air Ambulance Night Landing Lights
- £800 of grants were distributed to various Local groups
- New website was set up for the parish: Langtree.News
- Mike Evans the Parish Clerk for 12 years retired and was replaced by Leigh Pollinger in January 2018.

Plans for 2018/19

- Apply for grant applications for Landing Lights
- To continue progressing work on completing Recreation Field / Football Pitch
- Support Parish Hall Committee activity on Changing Rooms

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- To continue to support the local community

REPORT FROM TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr David Hurley gave an update for Torrridge District Council. This included:

- An update on the green waste strategy and the changes that are being introduced to collect green bins and food waste.
- The new homes bonus scheme has been changed by central Government resulting with less monies being allocated to the local councils for each new home being built.
- The move of council offices from Bridge House to Riverbank House is underway and is scheduled to be completed in August.
- The Local Plan Consultation Period ends on 13th April.

REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Andrew Saywell gave a report on his activity for Devon County Council. This included:

- Involvement in obtaining ATMs in Torrington to cover the Lloyds Bank closure
- Working on the economic regeneration plans for Torrington
- It was commented that schools underfunding in Devon continues
- Acute services managed by the NHS continues at present in North Devon
- Lobbying for the repair and resurfacing of the A386 and A3124 in our region
- Potholes can be reported on the DCC website, normally 200 – 250 potholes are reported per day but this has increased to 600 – 700 recently.
- Cllr Saywell has a deep interest in the state of children's services in the county and it was commented that there are approx. 700 children currently in care.

REPORT FROM PARISH HALL COMMITTEE

Sue Lee gave an update on behalf of the Parish Hall committee.

- Footfall through the Parish Hall over the past year is in the order of 14,000, and since January to March 2018 there have been around 3,800 users.
- Bookings for the coming year look good.
- Toilets have been renovated during the year and new blinds fitted.
- Planned and future activities include the need to look at the state of the car park and whether grants can be obtained towards surfacing.
- Work on extending the football pitch 18 metres as required by the Section 106 agreement with the developers has started.
- The internal fit out of the Changing Rooms has been awarded and work started.

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- Work is planned to request permission and then fit patio doors which will lead out onto a new patio.
- New ceiling tiles for the Leader Room are being considered.

REPORT FROM LANGTREE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Mike Roe gave the meeting an update on Local History Groups activities over the past year and plans for this coming year:

- The group is very active with 10 full time members and other interested people that may attend the monthly meetings.
- They have had a number of speakers over the past year including a presentation on the activities of the Devonshire Regiment in the Middle East during the First World War and the efforts of the Royal Navy Auxiliary ships providing relief to islanders in the Caribbean after the hurricanes of 2017.
- Meetings held with local speakers are recorded to act as a form of aural history.
- A DVD showing the geography of the area has been released.
- On the weekend on October 5th and 6th this year it is planned to hold a photographic exhibition of the area in the Parish Hall all welcome.

REPORT FROM THE LANGTREE COMMUNITY GARDENS

Sue Leach gave a short overview of progress.

- There are currently 4 active members involved.
- The overall area has been designed and layout has been marked on the ground.
- A shed donated by Travis Perkins has been erected and concrete slabs donated by Bridgmans have been laid.
- General maintenance of the garden area continues.
- Planting out of soft fruit donated to the community garden by parishoners has been undertaken during the winter.
- During 2018 it is planned to have an open day to give parishoners an explanation of what is happening and how they can contribute and benefit from the work done in the Community Garden

A report from the Langtree Short Mat Bowls Group had also been received but lack of time precluded this being read out.

QUESTIONS FROM PARISHONERS

- A Parishoner asked for more information on the changes to Waste Collection. Cllr Hurley advised that there are plans to issue a letter and new waste caddies over the next month or so to all addresses.
- A question was raised about the collection of waste in remote areas. It was felt that arrangements would probably stay as is.

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- There was a short debate on the cutting of local services and the need for communication and consultation.
- Parking around Fore Street, Church Lane and The Crescent was raised and whether the ground in front of the Community Garden in The Crescent could be laid out as a car park.
- A question was raised on the process for adopting a new road; Cllr Saywell advised that he can obtain the information.

There being no more questions, the Chairman thanked all for attending the meeting. The meeting closed at 8.15pm.