

# LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

14<sup>th</sup> December 2023

<b>Present</b>	Councillors: Jenny Coles John Davies Mark Glover David Ley Pat Mitchell Geoff Bond Chris Whateley (TDC)
<b>In attendance</b>	Linda Davies Parish Clerk 0 members of the public
<b>627</b>	<b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Apologies were received from Melissa Baker (PCSO), Cheryl Cottle Hunkin, (TDC) Anna Moseby, Penny Stowell, Colin Edworthy and Andrew Saywell (DCC)</li></ul>
<b>628</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</b>
628.1	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Members of the Langtree Park Committee had swept the pavement in the park.</li><li>The cheque deposited in Langtree Park account had been returned by the bank as the branch in Torrington had been closed.</li><li>A donation of £50 was sent to the Royal British Legion.</li><li>Langtree School were approached regarding the hedge that has grown over the footpath, and they have had it cut back.</li><li>The hedge at Wonders Corner was reported to Highways, who have stated that hedges are not their responsibility.</li></ul>
618.2	Minutes of meeting held on 9 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 to be confirmed and signed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>These were agreed and the minutes were signed.</li></ul>
<b>619</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>There was no declaration of interests.</li></ul>
<b>620</b>	<b>REPORTS</b>

630.1	<p>Police Community Support Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A report was received – 3 highway disruptions and 0 safety crimes.</li> </ul>
630.2	<p>County Councillor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Highways</b> – Thanks to the cancellation of HS2 DCC will be receiving an extra £6.7 million this financial year for capital highways funding. It will be followed by the same amount next year, and then there will be a minimum of £208.6 million between now and 2033/34. I will be working with my Neighbourhood Highways Officer to put further sites in Torrington Rural forward for consideration for patching and resurfacing.</li> </ul> <p>We will also be looking at additional sites for Dragon Patching, with the road going past Langtree Weik currently being assessed for the ‘dragon’.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Devolution</b> – It has now been announced that the Government have approved a Devolution Deal in principle for Devon and Torbay (Plymouth have dropped out). Negotiations on finer details remain ongoing but at the very least the deal will involve a £16 million fund for environmental skills and infrastructure projects, a devolved Adult/Further Education Budget which will involve a closer working relationship with Petroc and Exeter Colleges, further funding for local transport infrastructure projects, and a joint investment plan for housing, working with Homes England to unlock potential affordable housing sites. More details as and when they are announced.</li> <li>• <b>Budgets</b> – At the moment the County Council remains on target to balance the budget for this current financial year. I will get an updated overspend position on Friday, but my understanding is that the £13m overspend has reduced further. Heading into Christmas we are well into preparations for setting a budget next year. Draft target budgets will be set in early January after we have received our annual financial settlement from Central Government, which we are expecting just before Christmas.</li> <li>• <b>Community Library</b> – The Library Officer should be getting in touch with Sue Lee/the Village Hall before Christmas to discuss setting up the Community Library. Langtree has been selected as a pilot project which will have access to a larger pot of funding to help set up. I am keen that we progress this as quickly as possible and will keep in touch with the officers on this project.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for Residents struggling with the Cost of Living - DCC</b> has received funding from Central Government via the Household Support Fund to help residents struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. For this coming winter, Devon’s district and city councils have over £2 million to offer ‘one-off’ financial help to those who are struggling to pay for their food and utility costs or other household essentials. Help may also be available for unexpected or exceptional circumstances, for example, rent arrears prior to being in receipt of appropriate housing benefits.</li> <li>• DCC are also working with the Devon Community Foundation to provide grants to voluntary sector organisations supporting communities that don’t always get the help they need. Their ‘Food, Fuel and More’ grant scheme was very well received earlier this year and will re-open this winter with a further funding pot of over £260,000. The scheme will offer large grants of up to £25,000 to organisations that support homeless people or people in temporary or insecure housing.</li> </ul> <p>Further details as to what help can be provided can be found online at <a href="http://www.devon.gov.uk/cost-of-living">www.devon.gov.uk/cost-of-living</a></p>
630.3	<p>District Councillor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Market House in Torrington</b> - entrance to Torrington's Pannier Market has been beautifully restored by the contractors who restored RAAM - Museum in Exeter.</li> <li>• <b>Victoria Park Bideford</b>- There also lots of exciting new play equipment in Bideford Victoria Park, total cost of £330K being spent largely grant funded. Planning permission was granted recently.</li> <li>• <b>Torridge District Strategic Plan</b> - Plan Consultation is now completed and adopted.</li> <li>• <b>Joint Planning and Policy Committee</b>- have a 5-year Housing and Land Supply. The creamery is not included so that will provide more development for housing. Both councils have been given the go ahead to do a New local plan and start visioning before formal process starts. There is a need for more traveller sites which has always been a struggle.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Full Council</b>- Barbara Shaw Chief Exec of Westward Housing Property and Development highlighted to Full Council there are currently 826 home improvements with £16m invested in repairs and maintenance. Strategic Plan adopted.</li> <li>• <b>Old Torrington Creamery</b>- The start of the redevelopment of the old Torrington Creamery demolition to commence this November and last for 8 to 10 months. The project is being carried out by the joint administrators of Waterside Construction Southwest Ltd and Valley Estates Southwest Ltd (in administration) that own the site, with support of Farm Finance Ltd, TDC assistance, Cornwall Police and Devon and Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service. Des UK have been engaged to carry out the work, Developments next stage will be to go to tender for Development and the site will contain houses, retail units and a public open space. This move has been welcomed by Torrington District Council.</li> <li>• <b>Shebbear Primary School</b>- Cheryl and I recently visited the Head of the School, and we are very supportive and donated £450 grant money for tablets match funded to a class.</li> <li>• <b>Community Safety Partnership with North Devon Council</b>- who emphasised importance of street Marshall's funded through safer street fund the police will not fund it and funding in Torrington not available. There has been success regarding a night bus Barnstaple/Bideford and requesting one to extend to Torrington and Ilfracombe.</li> <li>• <b>First Meeting was held recently of the North Devon Culture Board</b> - to deliver North Devon culture strategy for wellbeing, talent development, cultural links hubs to market towns, youth training, skills to include heritage and museums, youth workshops. Particularly looking for young people to work in this sector. Work is well underway to restore the Pannier market in Market House in Great Torrington funded by government prosperity fund. This is greatly welcomed and will have a positive impact on the town centre.</li> </ul>
631	<b>PARISH MATTERS</b>
631.1	Update on Langtree Park. - none
631.2	Other matters impacting the parish.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following response from Highways it was decided to try to contact the owner of the field and request the hedge that obstructs the road from Stibb Cross towards Bideford, be cut back.</li> <li>• A Street light in Stibb Cross is not working – Clerk will contact the complainant to confirm the location.</li> </ul>						
<b>632</b>	<b>PLANNING</b>						
632.1	<p>Any updates on potential planning application for land at The Crescent, Langtree. - There is nothing new to report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning application 1/0906/2023/FUL Erection of an agricultural shed – granted permission.</li> <li>• Planning application 1/0968/2023/FUL Demolition of existing barn and erection of dwelling – granted permission</li> </ul>						
632.2	<p>To consider any other planning applications received between issuing of agenda and meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new planning applications have been received.</li> </ul>						
<b>633</b>	<b>CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCE</b>						
633.1	<p>To receive update on financial position at end November 2023.</p> <p>The position at the end of November was:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lloyds account</td> <td>£6,109</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve account</td> <td>£4,547</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£10,656</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a payment of £50 to All Coast Media, £1285.00 To Mike Baker, £50 Royal British Legion.</li> <li>• In addition, there is £2,005 in the Langtree Park account.</li> </ul>	Lloyds account	£6,109	Reserve account	£4,547	Total	£10,656
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633.2	<p>To request approval of BACS Payments and cheques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £3360.00 to Southwest Ambulance for Defibrillators. - Approved.</li> <li>• 200.00 Langtree PTA. For notice board – Approved.</li> <li>• £5742.00 to Cumbria Clock Co for clock repair - Approved.</li> </ul>						
633.3	<p>To review correspondence received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter received from Mike Evans regarding a memorial at the church. Lengthy discussion around the fact that the church clock is the memorial and there is nothing to mark this fact. Lots of</li> </ul>						

	ideas were forthcoming and it was decided the Council Chair should meet with Mike and the Reverend to discuss further.
<b>634</b>	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None.</li> </ul>
<b>635</b>	<b>ANY OTHER ITEMS AT CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was reported that there is a dwelling at long Close, and it was proposed that a check be made with planning.</li> <li>• The meeting closed at 8.40pm.</li> </ul>
<b>636</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b> The date of next meeting is Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2024