

LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

8th February 2024

Present	Councillors: Mark Glover John Davies David Ley Pat Mitchell Geoff Bond Anna Moseby Penny Stowell Jenny Coles Colin Edworthy Chris Whateley (TDC)
In attendance	Linda Davies Parish Clerk 1 member of the public
647	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none">Apologies were received from, Melissa Baker (PCSO), Andrew Saywell (DCC), Cheryl Cottle Hunkin, (TDC)
648	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
648.1	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">The hedge at the junction with Withacott lane, had been cut whilst the road was closed to traffic.
648.2	Minutes of meeting held on 11 th January 2024 to be confirmed and signed. <ul style="list-style-type: none">These were agreed - proposed by John Davies and seconded by David Ley – duly signed.
649	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">There was no declaration of interests.
650	REPORTS
650.1	Police Community Support Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none">A report was received – crimes = 1 animal/wildlife crime.Logs = 1 highway disruption, 1 public safety, 1 harassment and 3 missing persons.

650.2

County Councillor report was read out:

DCC Budgets – The Budget setting process is continuing, and the draft Budgets have just finished going through the Scrutiny Committees. The final Financial Settlement from Central Government looks likely to be a bit more generous than first expected with some additional funding for social care services. However, as work remains ongoing, I will give you a full breakdown of the Budget once it is finalised later this month. While money does remain tight, we don't appear to be in the situation that other Councils have found themselves in in either being short of funds and/or having to make major cutbacks.

Devolution – The Devolution Deal for Devon and Torbay has now been published. The 40-page proposed Deal sets out in detail proposals that could see the transfer of powers and funding to a Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority, subject to approval by Devon and Torbay following a public consultation.

The proposed Combined County Authority would be a partnership made up of Councillors representing the councils of Devon and Torbay, including District Councils, and representatives from business and education. Together, that partnership would deliver on a jointly agreed programme, working alongside a wide range of local stakeholders to tackle key local priorities.

The Government has chosen Devon and Torbay as one of only a small number of local authority areas in the country to form a Combined County Authority (CCA), that will **not** require an elected Mayor or changes to the current structure of local councils.

The Deal should allow important decisions to be taken locally by people who know their areas best, on priorities that matter to the people of Devon and Torrington Rural such as building more affordable homes, investing in new quality jobs and skills, and improving public transport.

Highlights of the proposal are:

1. Direct control of adult education to create up to 50,000 new training and retraining opportunities by 2030.
2. Government transfer of over £16 million to invest in new green jobs, homes, skills, and business growth, and accelerate Devon and Torbay's transition to a net-zero economy.
3. Stronger partnership with Homes England to create a joint local action plan for affordable housing schemes for local people and reduce homelessness.
4. Even closer working between Devon and Torbay to improve the efficiency and co-ordination of public transport. There is an ambition to introduce a single ticketing system for travellers and investment in services to provide greater access to public transport.
5. Devon and Torbay would be responsible for developing, designing and delivering the next stages of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund from 2025

	<p>6. Boosting and supporting high growth business sectors in Devon and Torbay, such as advanced marine engineering, defence, photonics and digital</p> <p>There was a special DCC Cabinet Meeting last Friday to agree to go out to a public consultation on the Deal and once the details of the consultation are published, I will update the Parish Council accordingly.</p> <p>A388 Road Closure – I was aware of the issues we had with HGVs not following the official diversion and using the B3227 to divert around the Frithelstockstone road closure. I did liaise with Highways at the time and additional signage was going to be put up, but the crews in Frithelstock finished the works 10 days ahead of schedule so the extra signs ended up not being used. I have made it very clear to the team to give careful thought to HGV signage the next time there is a major road closure in the area. That said, because the B3227 is a B road the Council cannot compel HGVs <i>not</i> to use the road though it can try its best to mitigate with signage etc. when there is a closure.</p> <p>Community Library Update – The Library Officer at DCC will be contacting the Parish Hall early next week to arrange a conversation with the Libraries Unlimited liaison and, all being well, should hit the target of getting something up and running by the end of March.</p>
650.3	<p>District Councillor</p> <p>Joint Planning and Policy Committee- we now have a 5-year Housing and Land Supply again. Both councils have given the go ahead to do a New joint local plan and will start visioning before the formal process starts. The last meeting highlighted the need for more traveller sites which has always been a struggle.</p> <p>Full Council-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Barbara Shaw Chief Exec of Westward Housing and Rachel Searle presented to Full Council in December with their highlights. There are approximately 7500 affordable homes across Devon and Cornwall, with 826 home improvements, 5731 repairs, with £16m invested in repairs and maintenance. Also 54 new homes for rent and shared partnership in Torridge and they received a customer satisfaction award last year. -Torridge District Strategic Plan - Plan Consultation is now completed and plan now adopted and will be integrated into the council business plans. There were a few additions made because of the consultation and the plan was adjusted accordingly, including to investigate the appetite for and feasibility of a rail link connecting Bideford and Barnstaple- it should be noted that most of that line would be within North Devon District, not Torridge! -There was also unanimous support from district councillors for the mental health link centres that DCC are proposing to close. <p>Katherine Allen Director of Strategy and Zaharia Hyde Hospital Director of Estate Facilities & hospital programme for NHS presented and</p>

	<p>discussed the NHS structure, local partnerships and new hospitals with North Devon and Torridge working together to improve the integrated care systems. Travel/patient and staff issues, community development, sustainability of hospitals, housing working with private and public sectors, infrastructure, employment, redevelopment of existing buildings, rental properties, environment, health, and economy were highlighted.</p> <p>Ian Lake CMgr FCMI for South West Water and Richard Price Chief Engineering Director, Pennon Group plc highlighted to Full Council SWW approach to support development growth across the region including drainage and Water Management, Water Resources management, surface water hierarchy, £330 million for Spillages, Shared Prosperity Fund 15.6 million with ACMIC in Appledore. A fuller and more detailed discussions with Southwest Water's role in the planning process is scheduled for 1st March with TDC.</p> <p>External Overview and Scrutiny -</p> <p>Sean Mackney Principle and CEO Petroc and Bill Blythe Petroc Regional Affairs presented to council about education and employment in Torridge including outstanding learning achievement, improving life changes and opportunities, building communities and support, tackling climate emergencies, and working with partnerships, creating a University for North Devon within 9 years. Petroc looking at electric scooters as DCC have cut back on public transport and reliance on buses is with Stagecoach. Sandwich Box for additional need students and more Adult Education programs for older people was raised and to be investigated by Petroc. Currently Petroc has 23 A Levels with lack of foreign languages. Petroc have less money with existing Turin scheme though there is help for less well-off students and an increase for art and music creativity not just technical and formal subjects. Turin scheme does offer travel and learning opportunities to other countries.</p>
<p>651</p>	<p>PARISH MATTERS</p>
<p>651.1</p>	<p>Update on Langtree Park. - Still issues in transferring monies from old, closed bank account, as all signatories need to attend bank together.</p> <p>Signage on the entrance to the park needs to be changed as it currently shows 'no dogs allowed'. (see correspondence)</p> <p>The ring of willow trees shed leaves on to the path and make it slippery, it should be woven into an iglu.</p> <p>A representative from the Langtree Park Committee would be invited to the next meeting to discuss the requirement for new swings.</p>
<p>651.2</p>	<p>Other matters impacting the parish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions that arose from the DCC report.

	<p>Following the closure of the A388 why were the road closed signs left in place for so long after the completion of the work? This is an ongoing problem resulting from all road works and diversions.</p>						
652	PLANNING						
652.1	Any updates on potential planning application for land at The Crescent, Langtree. - There is nothing new to report.						
652.2	<p>To consider any other planning applications received between issuing of agenda and meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new planning applications have been received. 						
652.3	Clerk has contacted TDC to investigate if there are any 106 monies due to Parish – applications for any monies due will be made as soon as criteria are met – Clerk will monitor closely.						
653	CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCE						
653.1	<p>To receive update on financial position at end January 2024.</p> <p>The position at the end of January was:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lloyd’s account</td> <td>£2431.26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve account</td> <td>£1554.48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£3985.74</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no payments made. In addition, there is £2,010.36 in the Langtree Park account. 	Lloyd’s account	£2431.26	Reserve account	£1554.48	Total	£3985.74
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653.2	<p>To request approval of BACS Payments and cheques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No payments have been made in January. 						
653.3	<p>To review correspondence received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence was received from Sue Lee regarding the Langtree Park. 						
654	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sue Lee had attended to discuss her correspondence re dogs in Langtree Park - Signage at the Latch Lane end states ‘no dogs allowed’, but there is no sign at the ‘MUGA’ end. Discussion followed that the path had been extended through to the MUGA and Parish Hall to enable people to walk to the facilities and dog walking area without having to walk along the road, as this is a 						

	<p>safety issue. Therefore, dog walkers must be able to use the path as well.</p> <p>It was agreed that new signage would be purchased indicating that 'dogs must be kept on a lead and on the path'.</p>
655	<p>ANY OTHER ITEMS AT CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is still a need for additional bins in the village. • Wording for the memorial in the churchyard has been received from Mike Evans. • It was noted that some allotments as not being tended. • The meeting closed at 8.25pm.
656	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The date of next meeting is Thursday 14th March 2024</p>