

LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

9th October 2025

	Councillors: John Davies Penny Stowell David Ley Pat Mitchell Geoff Bond Jenny Coles Mark Glover Colin Edworthy Chris Whateley (TDC)
In attendance	Clerk – Linda Davies, No Members of the public.
827	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from. James Fishleigh Cheryl Cottle Hunkin, (DDC)
828	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
828.1	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chairman has contacted the Community Speed Watch Group for signage for the village but there are none available.Dogs Trust posters have been displayed in notice boards.A letter was sent to Dr Martin requesting clarification of the plan to discontinue local Fire Co-responders.
828.2	Minutes of meeting held on 11 th September 2025 to be confirmed and signed. <ul style="list-style-type: none">These were agreed - proposed by Jenny Coles and Seconded by Patrick Mitchell – duly signed.
829	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">There was no declaration of interests.
830	REPORTS
830.1	<u>Police Community Support Officer:</u> No report - Place holder
830.2	<u>County Councillor:</u> As you know, my cabinet role has a very broad remit, and as well as everything else it also includes refugees and resettlement. Following the protests which had been taking place outside of the Asylum hotel near Exeter, a visit was arranged for me and the Leader of the council to go inside, meet with the staff and also the

local organisations helping the asylum seekers. We wanted to show solidarity and compassion to these people who have experienced so much trauma to get here. We saw mothers and babies and families and were told there are people from more than 20 different nationalities there, and all are either women or families. My own children had made some cards and friendship bracelets for the children there and we are arranging for others to send in cards of support and kindness. It's something very small but these things can make a real difference.

Southwest Ambulance Service came back to DCC's Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee meeting 22nd September and the committee remained extremely concerned. I also spoke against SWAST's decision to phase out the fire co-responder service across Devon and the rest of the Southwest. The County Council are requesting they abandon this decision as we believe it puts lives at risk in rural communities and we urged them to continue with both the firefighters as co-responders as well as volunteers. [Devon fires back: Ambulance trust urged to reconsider fire co-responder phase-out | Mid Devon Advertiser](#)

We have also sent a response to the Post Office green paper, emphasising to central government the importance of our post offices both for the local economy and as a social hub, often the last service left in a rural community. [Could your Post Office change? Devon residents invited to respond](#)

I have been flooded with emails from concerned residents about the lack of NHS dentistry provision locally, particularly with the loss of an NHS dentist in Great Torrington where my dentist has automatically moved people over to private dental care (including children). I have contacted our MP about the situation and have sent a letter to the chair and chief exec of NHS Integrated Care Board as a matter of urgency to find out what can be done locally. [Outrage as Devon families 'removed' from NHS list](#)

This week we had an incredible day at Farmwise Devon at Westpoint! The whole event was absolutely buzzing with excitement as children got hands-on learning about where their food comes from — from farm to fork. It was fantastic to see so many young people inspired by farming, food, and the natural world around them. Events like this really show the power of education outside the classroom. At Devon County Council we are calling on government to embed food and farming into the national curriculum — and to see more events like Farmwise happening right across the country. [Farmwise returns to teach children in Devon where their food comes from | News - Greatest Hits Radio \(Devon\)](#)

Finally, I really want to emphasise 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-claims-to-enrich-the-lives-of-devons-young-people/>

	<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>
830.3	<p><u>District Councillor:</u></p> <p>External Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>We received a presentation from the Chief Executive Beki Sharples of TTVS (Taw and Torridge Voluntary Services) who are committed to providing free services to those in need. This included a homelessness pilot run this year which provided a drop-in service for the homeless and statistics were shared with Public Health. TTVS provided us with Hidden Stars which provides support for carers. Other work is with pensioners, community development and befriending services, memory cafe peer mentoring for those people recovering from addiction and cancer awareness/smoking. This valued work of inclusion continues to provide a huge cost benefit with over £3 million in unclaimed benefit brought back into the community. Members of the Committee noted and reflected upon TTVS request for core funding particularly the impact of LGR (Local Government Reorganisation) was put to members and it was explained that without further financial support, TTVS would need to close by June 2026. TTVS requested for funding was put to members for stability of £45,000 till September 2026 and an increase of TDC annual investment from £16,900 to £50,000 to sustain core services. The issues raised by TTVS would be taken up with the Officer.</p> <p>Members of the Committee recognised the excellent work TTVS provides for the community.</p> <p>Licensing Committee</p> <p>TAXI Policy Review</p> <p>We 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 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. The above amended fares to commence provided no objections and advertised for a period of not less than 14 days under s. 65(2) of the Local Government Provisions Act 1976 to be introduced on 1st November 2025.</p> <p>TDC - Local Government Reorganisation</p> <p>Still very much the review of ongoing and undecided is where we are at with Angela Rayner MP having resigned recently from government. We are waiting to see what is going to happen regarding LGR from government as to where we stand! The intention is structure of local councils is changed to replace the existing two-tier system of county and district with more unitary</p>

	<p>councils. So far Five separate reorganisation Plans have been put forward by Devon. The deadline for submission of final LGR proposals is November 28th, 2025.</p> <p>Langtree specific -</p> <p>I updated Linda regarding status of 7 dwellings at Chapel Close Stibbs Cross. (1/0702/2025/PIP).</p>
831	PARISH MATTERS
831.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Langtree Park. - • Still waiting for funding from TDC.
831.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Beech Road Play Park – Clerk contacted a solicitor to try to find out the process and the cost for having the land title transferred to the PC = await response, A quote has been sourced from Jags signs for signage for the park. (no dogs etc) TDC have declined our request to lump all funding pots together and therefore we will only be able to buy one item for Stibb play park and Parish Council will need to make up the shortfall of funding for this item of approx. £850.
831.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Matters impacting the parish – • Council discussed spending the S106 funding for sport and recreation that could not be lumped to provide play park equipment for Stibb Play Park and suggestions for the spend were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 - buy a badminton court mat for the Parish Hall. • 2. -A covered shelter for football spectators. However, as Parish Council Chair is involved with the football team, he declared an interest and declined to comment. Council discussed and agreed to investigate this as an alternative to a badminton court. • Councillor Bond addressed his concerns about potholes, road closures and bad workmanship to Councillor Wheatley, and was assured that this issue is high on the County Council list. • Councillor Stowell requested an additional dog walking sign be added to the MUGA end of Langtree Park. She would also check which bench behind the Parish Hall is listed as an asset on PC asset list. • Remembrance 'Tommy' to be put up around 31st October. • Discussion about reduced voltage Electricity due to transformer outage in Shebbear – Clerk to complain to National grid. • Hedge Cutting – • Hedge cutting of common land – Clerk will contact DCC to establish who is responsible.
831.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset Register Check. The asset register was checked for accuracy; Play Area Beech Road is not our asset at this time. Bus shelters are ours. Jubilee Bench will be identified, and Tommy figure needs to be added.

832	PLANNING						
832.1	Any updates on potential planning application for land at The Crescent, Langtree – Holding item - None						
832.2	Applications for discussion – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None received. 						
833	CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCE						
833.1	<p>To receive update on financial position at the end September 2025</p> <p>The position at the end of September was:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lloyd’s account</td><td>£11,706.72</td></tr> <tr> <td>Reserve account</td><td>£1581.50</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total</td><td>£13,288.22</td></tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition, there is £1494.92 the Langtree Park account. 	Lloyd’s account	£11,706.72	Reserve account	£1581.50	Total	£13,288.22
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833.2	<p>To request approval of BACS Payments and cheques.</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. • Jags Signs £285.84 - Stibb signage • RBL £50.00 - Remembrance donation. <p>Payments made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service charge £4.25 • NALC £42.00 (Zoom Meeting) • Income – Precept £5,375.00 <p>Quotes from M Baker for grass cutting - £1060.00 agreed second quote sent back for amendment to add additional cuts in summer in Stibb park.</p>						
833.3	<p>To review correspondence received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rough Sleeper estimates 12/13th November. • Planning complaints from Andy Roe and Val Hollingsworth re PIP application – (1/0702/2025/PIP) circulated prior to the meeting and response issued. Agreed to invite both to the meeting when the actual application is discussed. • Appeal from the North Devon records office for a donation. Council agreed would donate £100 • Letter re supplies of pads for the defibs emailed to Gina Hazelhurst and Georgi Curtis 						

834	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public participation. – None
835	ANY OTHER ITEMS AT CHAIRMAN’S DISCRETION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. • The meeting closed at 8-55 pm.
836	Date of next meeting – Thursday 13th November 2025