

LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

11th April 2024

Present	Councillors: Mark Glover John Davies Pat Mitchell Geoff Bond Anna Moseby David Ley Penny Stowell Colin Edworthy Chris Whateley (TDC)
In attendance	Linda Davies Parish Clerk
667	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Jenny Coles. Andrew Saywell (DCC) Cheryl Cottle Hunkin, (TDC) Melissa Baker (PCSO)
668	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
668.1	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Issue raised by Aideene Turley had been directed to Torridge and Andrew Saywell will follow it up with highways.• Travis Perkins had been approached to supply materials required to replace the fencing in Beech Road play park.
668.2	Minutes of meeting held on 14 th March 2024 to be confirmed and signed. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• These were agreed - proposed by John Davies and seconded by Geoff Bond – duly signed.
669	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was no declaration of interests.
670	REPORTS
670.1	Police Community Support Officer: Crime – 4 violence, 2 criminal damage,

	<p>Logs – 1 animal/wildlife report, 1 violence</p> <p>Discussion of report details concluded that these had no effect on the villages.</p>
670.2	<p>County Councillor – report circulated prior to the meeting:</p> <p>DCC Budgets – Final figures to be finalised but it is looking like the County Council will have come in with a small underspend for the outgoing financial year. Having delivered two balanced budgets in successive years without the need to raid reserves to balance the books, this puts the Council in a strong position and gives the organisation time and space now to restructure and modernise.</p> <p>Restructures – Several internal restructures within the Council are ongoing. There will be some redundancies though the actual number at this stage is still likely to be small as the Council are looking to redeploy staff to new roles or different positions as and when people leave the organisation.</p> <p>Modernisation – As part of the restructure and modernisation the Council’s estate is being reviewed to look at repurposing buildings, whether it is for community use, key worker accommodation, etc., or to dispose of it if the buildings are no longer required. Current measures have already generated some significant savings which are likely to be re-invested into Highways... I should be able to report in more detail on this next month.</p> <p>Devolution – Consultation is due to close shortly and I will give a full update for my May report. I would reiterate my own view that Devolution is good for Devon and is good for our area. It gives us the opportunity to gain direct powers from Government, and access to funding from Government in a way that Parish, District and County Councils all acting separately have not been able to draw down. I will report back on the consultation findings which are due to be discussed by DCC Cabinet and Full Council later this month.</p> <p>Community Library Update – Libraries Unlimited have been in touch with the Parish Hall and discussions have gone well and are ongoing. From an update I had from Sue Lee, we are aiming for an opening in mid-May if all goes well.</p>
670.3	<p><u>District Councillor:</u></p> <p>Full Council: Appledore Clean Marine Innovation Centre - Project Update</p> <p>Demolition works on site is progressing well and due to be completed next week. The next phase will be engineering in nature and the</p>

construction of the new quay wall by the autumn of 2024. The site perimeters have been secured and with random security patrols. The planning application for Development is being worked through for Presentation at the July Planning Committee.

Current First Past the Post (FPTP) to PR:

A notice of Motion was raised by Councillor Thomas regarding voter apathy, disconnection from local and national democracy with our current FPTP voting system. Proportional Representation (PR) ensures that all votes count with equal value and seats won match votes cast. The Single Transferable vote (STV) variant is already used in Scotland and Wales.

With PR in Scotland this led to an increase in turnout which was 48% at the last elections in 2022 and the Welsh Assembly agreed to change their voting system in 2021.

Unfortunately, on this occasion the vote by council members was close 14 to 12 in favour of maintaining the FPTP.

Potholes and State of Roads:

Following on from our previous Full Council Meeting and unanimous motion regarding the poor state of roads, we are waiting to hear from Devon County Council.

External O&S:

Active Torridge- talking about their progress since setting up the council-owned company. Active Torridge runs the leisure centres at Holsworthy and Northam and the pool in Torrington. Northam gym is pretty much full for gym and classes, so plans are in place to set up a gym in Bideford at the old library.

Lendology CIC- worked in partnership with TDC since 2008, providing home-improvement loans with only 4% interest, open to anyone regardless of income. It all sounded positive so please spread the word.

Climate change Working Group:

We (TDC) are working towards having an Air Quality Strategy by the end of 2024.

Currently TDC is monitoring air quality in our main towns with 18 Diffusion tubes and pleased to report we are operating well under the Government guidelines of below 40ug.

Air quality claims many lives, and it's been identified with vehicle traffic is idling, slow moving traffic and in and around schools. High levels of

	NO2 (Nitrate Oxide) from Vehicles is the major cause of deaths in UK and around the World. In the UK, its estimated to cause 29,000 to 43,000 deaths and a cost to the NHS and social care 153,000,000 million pounds.
671	PARISH MATTERS
671.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Langtree Park. - Issues in transferring monies from old, closed bank account, have been resolved £1167.00 paid into Langtree Park Account. • The swings will be sited on the grass and consist of 2 standard swings and 2 baby swings. • James French will be invited to next meeting to discuss equipment needed.
671.2	<p>Other matters impacting the parish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ROSPA report received for Parish play areas was discussed. Beech Road Play area fence is a priority, and several other items were flagged. Councillors will check the gates to Langtree Park can be closed properly. • It was agreed a Face Book post would request suggestions from the parish for new play equipment in Beech Road Play area. • It was agreed the fee for an allotment would remain at £15.00. • Council would like clarity from Torridge on the wording of the 106 Grant funding application form. • Discussion on blocked drain by the allotments – it is not clear whether this DCC or TDC Chris Wheatley will investigate.
672	PLANNING
672.1	Any updates on potential planning application for land at The Crescent, Langtree – None
672.2	Applications for discussion – None received
672.3	To consider any other planning applications received between issuing of agenda and meeting. - None Received
673	CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCE
673.1	To receive update on financial position at end March 2024. The position at the end of March was:

	Lloyd's account	£2317.26
	Reserve account	£1557.92
	Total	£3875.18
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Payments have been made. • In addition, there is £3682.58 in the Langtree Park account after receipt of the £1167.67 from old Barclays account. 	
673.2	<p>To request approval of BACS Payments and cheques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DALC – 336.00 • ROSPA – 280.80 • TDC (Clerk Salary) – 1443.60 	
673.3	<p>To review correspondence received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claire Allen – Bike rack. • Fiona Skilton – Pop up shop. Both Passed to Parish Hall. • Phipps and Poorlands Charity requested additional council trustees. David and Mark volunteered. 	
674	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public participation. 	
675	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANY OTHER ITEMS AT CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION • The next meeting will be the annual Parish meeting followed by the council meeting. • Request for any councillors wishing to stand as Chair or Vice Chair be received prior to next meeting. • The meeting closed at 8.35pm. 	
676	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DATE OF NEXT MEETING • The date of the next meeting is Thursday 9th May 2024 	