

LANGTREE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

13th June 2024

Present	Councillors: John Davies (Acting as Chair) Pat Mitchell Geoff Bond Penny Stowell Jenny Coles David Ley Colin Edworthy Chris Whateley (TDC) Andrew Saywell (DCC)
In attendance	Linda Davies Parish Clerk
687	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from, Mark Glover, Anna Moseby, Cheryl Cottle Hunkin, (TDC) Melissa Baker (PCSO)
688	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
688.1	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None
688.2	Minutes of meeting held on 9 th May 2024 to be confirmed and signed. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• These were agreed - proposed by Geoff Bond and seconded by Jenny Coles – duly signed.
689	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was no declaration of interests.
690	REPORTS
690.1	Police Community Support Officer: Crimes- 1 Domestic, 1 RTC, 1 Breach of bail, 1 Fraud/forgery. Logs –1 RTC, 1 Harassment.
690.2	County Councillor: Local Highways matters – There are a few yellow markers on the road through Langtree – this is due to the fact that the white lines will be put back even though the road is due to be top dressed again. It will not be chargeable – the contractor Kelly Bros will carry out the works again as

	<p>DCC are not happy with the work done. Councillors questioned the logic of this but were assured this is due to Health and Safety. The new works are scheduled to take place in August. Council requested that the work be carried out to give access, but it will be a rolling closure – the same as last time.</p> <p>DCC Budgets - The ongoing position is good.</p> <p>Devolution – The calling of an early election has not given enough time for this to go through, although it will go through after the election.</p> <p>Staffing – DCC are undergoing a staffing restructure which is taking a lot of Andrew’s time at the moment.</p>
690.3	<p><u>District Councillor:</u></p> <p>TDC We had our AGM of Torridge District Council. The positions largely stayed the same and we still have the same leader, deputy, and chair of council. A new addition was Cllr Doug Smith of Great Torrington who has now been elected Vice-Chair of Council, following the sad death of the well-respected Peter Christie.</p> <p>TDC Joint Meeting with North Devon Council regarding Agriculture Actions suggested during the Committee Meeting: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote use of Rural England Prosperity Fund grants (see northdevonplus.co.uk). Grants of £2.5k to £35k available requiring 10-20% match funding. <p>By NFU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed up the planning process as delayed permissions can endanger businesses. • Promote buying local produce or buying British. • Look at the key asks in here NFU manifesto. • Affordable rural housing for young people to help keep them in the sector. <p>By Land sense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overcome the problem of s106 agreements not allowing businesses to reclaim 20% VAT. • Increase public awareness of livestock worrying, including the need for the public to occasionally accept reduced access. <p>By ND+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ease the thresholds at which planning permission is required for some works e.g. ponds. • Source public procurements locally. • Address animal diseases, animal health and welfare.

By Mole Valley Farmers

- Decrease Council Tax on young farmers.
- Listen to Farming Today on Radio 4 at 5:45 each morning to better understand agriculture.
- Collect Council Tax six monthly to match the timing of agricultural income.
- Think beyond one electoral cycle.

By Robin Milton

- Ensure any source of external funding is fully taken up and spent locally.
- Locally recirculate income from offsetting required for biodiversity net gain.

By Biosphere

- Stop exporting our problems through flawed trade deals that allow the import of poor-quality food to undercut UK agriculture.

By Exmoor Hill Farm Network

- Co-design.

By members of the public

- Tax supermarkets and use the income to support local producers.
- Encourage local shopping.
- Help keep young people in agriculture.
- Speed up the land use planning process.

By just about everyone

- Listen to the agricultural sector to better understand their challenges and respond appropriately.

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Actions suggested in written submissions to the committee.

NFU

- Promote the Back British Farming message - In an increasingly volatile world, food production is vital to our country's health, wellbeing, and security
- Promote the farming sector
- Procure local produce (promoting and driving local, seasonal, and fresh food purchasing, by serving more local food in our hospitals and our schools)
- Importantly, recognise that to stay competitive the industry must continue to adapt and invest.
- Through the wider planning regime support good applications that deliver jobs and growth to the economy (either direct agriculture or diversified businesses)
- Continue to push for better broadband provision in rural areas
- Help to educate our young people about food production and taking care of the countryside
- Support a growing agricultural contribution to renewable energy.

ND+

- Government legislation on slurry is also seeing a lot of farms leaving the Dairy sector. Some discussions I have had seem to say that planning for bigger lagoons will not be passed – something that the councils should investigate if they wish to keep milk being produced in our area.
- Get a better understanding of agriculture as its changing and being told to change by central government. New animal health and welfare guidance is making some of the more older buildings redundant and new sheds will need to be built to accommodate guidance from the vet. The councils should not be looking at the old buildings first for class R or Q but the need of the business if it is to stay farming. In many cases most farmers wouldn't want to convert those buildings as they are too close to their farmhouse and wouldn't want long term tenants or tourists in and out all day.
- Family businesses that split need some support. Businesses can't be left until the last minute to inheritance issues so if we want vibrant businesses they need to be supported at an early stage – so if a farmhouse needs to be built after a partnership split – what does the farmer need to do to show that this is needed for the farm to succeed?
- Look to support and promote initiatives for people and businesses to buy local produce and support wherever possible local supply chains to ensure food security.

Land sense

- As a Rural Chartered Surveyor, common issues affecting my client base where I think NDC could offer further support would be a better understanding of agricultural needs and regulations around planning, s106 agreements and their implications on taxation, infrastructure requirements, and an increase in public awareness of agricultural sensitivity such as livestock worrying, farm thefts, trespass etc.
- Working with the farming community and understanding roles and needs is fundamental

EHFN

- Signposting, convening and facilitating opportunities for business development and collaboration.
- Efficient and understanding planning processes.
- Enabling improved understanding between the farming and non-farming communities.

Mole Valley

- As all politicians barely think beyond their electoral cycle, it would be great if the council really put in some thinking of what is required for the next 10 or twenty years.

	Since grassland [and permanent grass in particular] is a good carbon sink, it would be good if the council realised the rearing of livestock in North Devon is very sustainable and resisted the temptation to jump on the vegan/ vegetarian band wagon.
691	PARISH MATTERS
691.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Langtree Park. – New swings have been ordered and are due for delivery 28th June 24.
691.2	<p>Other matters impacting the parish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog fouling – Council has received complaints about this problem especially in Church Lane. TDC have stencilled stickers on to the road, and confirmed there are fines of £1000 for those caught. Lisa Stevens – Neighbourhood Officer had been contacted regarding providing more rubbish bins. Council had received a report that there had been an upset in the properties at Barley Hayes, Langtree Week – a telegraph pole had been cut down. BT had been informed. There was discussion around the variance in the price of Affordable property in the area, as the house in Southlands drive had sold for a higher price than a market priced house in Shebbear
692	PLANNING
692.1	Any updates on potential planning application for land at The Crescent, Langtree. - There is nothing new to report.
692.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1/0498/2024/FUL Extension to existing dwelling: Council Support application.
692.3	<p>To consider any other planning applications received between issuing of agenda and meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None received.
693	CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCE
693.1	<p>To receive update on financial position at end May 2024.</p> <p>The position at the end of May was:</p>

	Lloyd's account	£4776.83
	Reserve account	£1562.98
	Total	£6339.81
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment £ 55.00 Adrian Hinchcliffe. • Payment of £401.00 Zurich Insurance. • In addition, there is £3,694.53 in the Langtree Park account. 	
693.2	To request approval of BACS Payments and cheques. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No payments to be made. 	
693.3	To review correspondence received. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence was received back from ROSPA stating that they could not recommend any specific playground paint. • Report from Tim Sanders for AGAR – covered below. 	
693.4	Discuss Audit Report and Sign off AGAR Documents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The accounts 2023/2024 were circulated. • Internal Audit report findings were discussed – Risk assessments and Policies should be updated every year. • AGAR documents were not signed off as Chair was not in attendance. These will be signed at a later date. 	
694	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public participation. 	
695	ANY OTHER ITEMS AT CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that policies will be sent out to be read prior to each meeting for update. • Councillor Coles requested that the verge outside Church Cottage be left until the flowers have died down before it is cut. Discussion ensued around ownership of this strip of land. Clerk to check if it is on PC asset register. • The meeting closed at 8.45pm. 	
696	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The date of next meeting is Thursday 11 th July 2024	