

Trull Parish Meeting

An Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Pearce Suite, Memorial Hall, Church Road, Trull on Monday 14th April 2003 at 7.15 pm. The Chairman of Trull Parish Council, Mr. G. Hewett, chaired the Meeting and some 15 Parishioners were in attendance.

Due to an oversight, the Attendance book was not available for signing.

1. **Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed those present and explained that the Meeting was being held at an earlier date than usual due to Easter and the forthcoming Elections.

2. **Minutes of Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th May 2002 were agreed to be a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

3. **Financial Report**

A summary of the accounts for the year to 31st March 2003 was reviewed. It was evident that the main areas of expenditure related to the playing field and general administration. There were no concerns raised and the Chairman signed the report.

4. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman gave an account of the current position and of items of interest that had occurred during the year: -

Planning

There had been a marked increase in planning applications in recent months. Overall, the Council had considered 61 of which five were refused.

Post Office

There had been some difficult moments when it was thought that the Post Office might close due to rationalisation programme. However, following a successful campaign it had retained its 'rural' classification but it is a situation that requires constant vigilance.

Highways

The SCC Highways Maintenance Agents, W. S. Atkins had been much more active of late. Regular site meetings had taken place and improved surface water drainage to Eastbrook was proposed. The Chairman asked to be advised of any particular problems in order to affect a repair.

Allotments

Generally, the allotments were in good order. Two plots were available with potential interest on one. A delivery of compost had recently been made and it was intended to meet with the Tenants in October.

Footpaths

It was advised that a recent meeting had been held to improve wheelchair access to Pokes Lane. This would involve grading of surfaces and post and rail safety fencing. The TDBC DLO would undertake the work in early summer.

Playing Field

The playing field was considered to be in good order. It was anticipated that that the top (south) corner would be grassed over when the weather conditions were appropriate. Mr. Ron Vining had taken over the general maintenance work from Mr.

Ron Yard. The BMX humps had not proven to be particularly successful and a degree of vandalism had occurred to various items of play equipment.

Jubilee Event

This had been the highlight of the year. The Parish Council had provided a 'pump prime' fund of £1,000 and the event had succeeded in bringing the community together whilst remaining within the overall planned budget. Everyone connected with the organisation were to be congratulated.

Code of Conduct

There had been controversy amongst the Council Members following the implementation of the Code of Conduct. An element of the Code was to declare interests in land, property or investments within the Parish that could be conceived to be prejudicial to the operation of the Council, and the majority of Members had not signed the necessary form. This requirement would be mandatory following the Election on 1st May 2003 and all Councillors would need to fulfil the obligation or be disqualified.

Regional Government

It is the Governments intention to introduce Unitary Authorities and a 'soundings exercise' was recently held to provide information to the Secretary of State to decide which area should hold a referendum. This initial consultation period ended on 3rd March. It is likely that England will be divided into eight regions with an additional tier of Local Government for each area. It will be interesting to see how this process develops and it essential that Parishioners remain aware of the proposals.

Final Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council would be the last in its term of four years. It was now confirmed that of the ten available places only eight nominations had been declared and therefore an Election would not be necessary. The new Council would hold it's first meeting on 12th May 2003 and it was intended to co-opt two additional Members if suitable candidates could be found.

The Chairman gave his thanks and appreciation to the outgoing Members for their hard work over the years.

At this point, the Chairman introduced Sgt. Frewin and P.C. Murphy, who were intending to speak to the audience about community safety following the completion of the Meeting.

5. Presentation of Village Charity Reports

a) Parish Lands Charity

It was advised that the report would be available in June.

b) Trull Village Memorial Halls

Mrs. Jo Wooldridge gave a summary of the current position. The Chairman, Mr. David Anderson, would be retiring as he now lived outside of the area. The Secretary and Treasurer had also stated that would be retiring at the end of the next financial year. A feasibility study to examine the possibility of relocating the two halls onto one site has been held in abeyance due to the withdrawal of lottery funding. The accounts were in good order with a total available balance of £43k, which included £11k allocated for repairs and maintenance.

c) Trull, Pitminster and Corfe Almshouses and Relief in Sickness

The Minutes of the last Meeting would be advised in due course. The four Almshouses at Sellicks Green were in need of major refurbishment, including re-roofing. Grants for the work were available from TDBC but had to be 50% funded from revenue. A Trustees group managed the houses and borrowing the necessary amount of finance was not considered appropriate.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Questions from the Public

Changing Rooms

A Parishioner asked if any plans were made for the future of the changing rooms. The building is currently out of use due to the fact that the Trull Rovers football team no longer used the facilities. The Chairman advised that the long term view was to purchase the adjacent field. This would then offer an area approaching three acres and a new Pavilion might well be considered. At the present time, however, this remained only an aspiration and funding would need to be acquired.

Pokes Lane

Mr. R. A. Haskell reminded the meeting that a large part of Pokes Lane was unsuitable for wheel chair access and any available finance should be directed to this need first. A site meeting had recently taken place with the DLO on this subject and it was anticipated that funding would be provided from SCC with the DLO undertaking the work in the near future. There were also a number of overhanging trees in private ownership along the lane and this matter would also need to be addressed.

Following this debate, the Chairman gave his thanks again to the Councillors who had all worked hard during the year and trusted that the Parish Council as a whole had served the community well.

Sgt Frewin and P.C. Murphy were then able to speak to the Meeting on a number of local issues. There were four main topics: -

- How best to contact the Police
- Availability of dedicated Police patrols in the area
- Enforcement of parking restrictions and speed limits
- The actual geographical area covered by the Police Officers

Parishioners raised a number of questions during the talk. Examples of lengthy phone calls were given and the Officers explained a series of improvements made in their ability to receive and act upon calls from the Public. PC Murphy had every intention of being an active presence within the community and also had access to a cycle to support his vehicle patrols. The recently introduced 20 mph speed limit at Trull Road had generated considerable disquiet. Although the officers could give some discretion, the fact remained that there was a limit that they now had a duty to enforce it. A map was examined showing the large rural area that formed the Officers beat. Trull was one of a number of villages in their responsibilities but fortunately the incidence of crimes reported was very low, being predominately thefts from garden sheds and unoccupied buildings.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for attending the Meeting and it was considered of great benefit if a regular presence in the village could be introduced.

The Meeting closed at 8.30 pm and was followed by cheese and wine.

Signed:.....
Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date:.....