

Annual Trull Parish Meeting

An Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Pearce Suite, Memorial Hall, Trull on Monday 17th May 2004 at 7.15 pm. The Chairman of Trull Parish Council, Mr. Geoff Hewett, chaired the Meeting and some 23 Parishioners were present.

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

1.0 Introduction

The Chairman welcomed those present and gave an outline of the Agenda for the evening. The Parish Council Meeting was scheduled directly after the Annual Meeting and all were welcome to attend.

2.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th April 2003 were agreed to be a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

3.0 Matters Arising

Highways

The Chairman stated that Somerset Highways had implemented a successful surface water drainage scheme at Kibbear. This section of road had previously suffered from problems caused by excessive water flowing down into Eastbrook but the creation of two additional drains and kerbing work had been proven to be very effective.

Millennium Footpath

The work necessary to enable wheelchair users access to the Millennium footpath had been completed. Thanks were extended to SCC and TDBC for the overall project.

Playing Field

The levelling and reseeding of the corner of the Playing Field adjacent to Pokes Lane had been completed with the co-operation of Mr. Keyte and Mr. French. This area had previously looked somewhat neglected and was a big improvement.

4.0 Chairman's Report

4.1 Election

The Chairman gave a summary of the Parish Election that had taken place in May 2003. This had resulted in a change in the constitution of the Council, with new Councillors and two 'co-opted' Members to give the required number of ten.

4.2 Memorial Halls

A working party of Parishioners and Councillors had been working on a strategy for the Halls. Consultants had been engaged and a number of options were being compiled for consideration. It was imperative that the views of Parishioners are ascertained in order to select the right decision and a number of Public events were planned that would offer an opportunity to obtain this information.

4.3 Parish Plan

This was another project that combined Parishioners and Councillors. An application had been submitted to the Countryside Agency for £5,000 to develop an action plan for the Parish. The Parish Council had pledged an additional 5% contribution in support of the Plan.

4.4 Planning

This continued to be a busy area for the Council with 44 applications considered during the previous year. Of these, 32 were supported, 4 were objections and 8 were not provided with comments in the response to TDBC.

The commitment given by Mr. Archer was of some note, with the recent work involved in the Gatchell House application being a testimony to his efforts.

4.5 Playing Field

A successful grant from TDBC had enabled the Council to part-fund a new set of cradle swings. The method by which TDBC allocate their funding will change in future years, from 85% in 2004/5 to 35% in 2005/6 with the emphasis on older children. This was compatible with the immediate aims of the Council as it is intended to purchase a 'Fun Ball Game' for ages 8 – 16 years.

Vandalism had been a problem on occasion and the Police had been informed.

A successive three-year contract had been awarded to the existing grass-cutting contractor, Parsons Landscapes Ltd, but had represented a significant increase in costs.

Overall, the Playing Field was in good order and well used by the community.

4.6 Trull School

The Head Teacher, Mrs. Khodabandehloo, had recently left the School to take up a position at another local School, Bishop Henderson, and would be greatly missed

4.7 Footpaths

There was very little to report on this item. Mr. Ron Vining currently undertook any necessary work on behalf of the Council and there were no particular problems at the present time.

4.8 Allotments

A new water supply pipe had recently been installed to overcome previous difficulties due to the pipe being compressed by vehicle movements. New tap support posts had been fitted, as well as an additional stopcock.

There were no plot vacancies but, equally, there was not a waiting list and the plots are, in general, being well maintained.

The Chairman referred to a well-known and respected Parishioner, Mr. Gordon Sutcliffe, who had recently passed away.

4.9 Newsletter

The Newsletter continued to be a very useful link within the Parish and had attracted favorable comments from a variety of sources, including Mr. John Meikle, the TDBC Executive Councillor. Mrs. Jo. Wooldridge was congratulated on her efforts in putting the bulletins together in such a short time period each month. Thanks were also extended to the Trull Stores and the Post Office for their assistance in distributing and displaying the letters.

4.10 Police and Community Van

Regrettably, the Police had recently withdrawn the Community Policing Van due to the perceived lack of interest from Parishioners. In general, the level of reported crime remains very low but an awareness of the opportunities for crime should still be maintained.

4.11 Highways

Although a good working relationship was being maintained with the Highways staff at County Hall and the recently re-named Somerset Highways, requests for assistance were not always met, although it was acknowledged that resources were always under pressure.

A recent speed review outside the School showed that the average vehicle speeds ranged from 18 mph to 23 mph. This was considered by the Authorities to be acceptable.

4.12 Party in the Park

The plans for the proposed Party in the Park on 3rd July 2004 were well advanced and the Parish Council had pledged support for the event. This will take the form of a grant of £500 and a loan of £500. There was every reason to suppose that this year's event will be as successful as the last.

5.0 Trull Parish Council Accounts 2003/4

The Clerk referred to the previously circulated reports and gave a summary of the Council's 2003/4 Accounts. The total income for the year, exclusive of the yet to be determined interest on the deposit account, was £12,058.41. The total expenditure was £10,979.60, exclusive of £846.63 VAT payments, and was divided into four main areas, these being £5,006.70 for the Playing Field, £387.92 for the Allotments, £125.00 for the upkeep of Footpaths and £5,459.98 for General Administration.

The Accounts would be subject to internal and external Audit in due course.

6.0 Village Charity Reports

(a) Parish Lands Charity

The Chairman advised that this report would be available in June.

(b) Trull Village Memorial Halls

Mr. Martin-Scott stated that he did not have a report to hand but could advise that the work on the strategy for a replacement or refurbished Hall(s) was progressing. A working party of Parishioners and Councillors had appointed a firm of Architects, Gail and Snowden Ltd, and a feasibility study for a variety of options was being prepared. The group intended to consult with Parishioners and obtain their views during the Party in the Park, through the Parish Action Plan and a comprehensive questionnaire that will be distributed throughout the Parish. Overall, the situation for the Halls was satisfactory at the present time.

(c) Trull, Pitminster and Corfe Alms Houses and Relief in Sickness

Mr. Keyte advised that urgent repairs to the roofs of the four Almshouses located at Blagdon Hill had now commenced. The anticipated cost for the work was £14,000 and a 50% contribution had been grant aided from TDBC.

7.0 Any Other Business

There was no further business.

8.0 Questions from the Public

The Chairman invited questions from the Public and the following was raised: -

Mr. Neville Sharp stated that the position of the Jubilee Gate was inappropriate - it had even been locked this evening – and that the adjacent hedge was overgrown, obscuring the facility. Mr. Sharp asked what action was intended to address the situation. Mr. Barry Bloxham and Mr. Martin-Scott replied to the question, outlining the very restrictive criteria for the installation of the gate from the fund. It was agreed that the situation was far from ideal and would be considered anew later in the year through the Memorial Hall feasibility study, the Parish Plan and Trull Parish Council.

9.0 Presentation by Somerset Waste Action Programme

The Chairman introduced Louise Reily of the Somerset Waste Action Program, who gave a presentation on “What Happens to the Material in the Green Box”.

Louise gave the background to the structure of the Somerset Waste Action Programme and how it was funded. The intention of the programme was to inform and educate the Public on the benefits of recycling and waste minimisation with particular emphasis on the younger generation, and undertook a busy schedule of School visits, targeted campaigns and promotional events.

The group is based at an environmentally friendly building at the Carymoor Centre at the Dimmer landfill site in South Somerset and hosts regular visits from Schools and other interested parties.

The principal driver for recycling was a series of European Directives that required the recycling of materials and the prevention of waste entering landfill sites. It was noted that new landfill sites were unlikely to be permitted in the UK in future years.

The routes and treatment methods for recovered materials was explained, with examples given of the type of products that could be remade.

It was evident that recycling would have to become an everyday routine and additional recycling schemes would be introduced in future years as even more stringent legislation was likely to be imposed.

A series of contact numbers were given in order to reduce junk mail and recycle the more difficult items such as computers.

The presentation finished on a 'call to arms' to support the programme by purchasing goods made from recycled materials when ever possible.

The Chairman thanked Louise for a very entertaining presentation and invited questions from the audience.

A query was made regarding building new houses on closed landfill sites. It was explained that very restrictive regulations were in force that controlled this aspect. Although there were methods and technology to overcome the problems associated with methane emission and landfill site slippage, it was better to avoid building in these areas if at all possible.

The question of not offering a kerbside service for plastics was raised. This was an obvious omission and it was of concern that these items were landfilled. Louise explained that this was something that the Local Authorities were very aware of but at the present time, the economics of recycling plastics at the kerbside prevented real progress being made. It was suggested that pressure needed to be applied to central Government to restrict goods being heavily packaged in the first instance and to provide funding to enable suitable plastic recycling schemes to be introduced.

The Chairman again thanked Louise for her excellent presentation.

The Meeting closed at 8.30 pm.