

# **Annual Parish Meeting**

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Pearce Suite, Memorial Hall, Trull  
on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2005 at 7.15 pm.

## **1.0 Welcome by the Chairman of Trull Parish Council**

1.1 Mr. Geoff Hewett, Chairman of Trull Parish Council, welcomed those present and explained the format for the evening. The meeting was to be followed by the monthly Parish Council meeting and all were welcome to attend.

## **2.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

2.1 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2004 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

## **3.0 Matters Arising**

3.1 There were no matters arising.

## **4.0 Chairman's Report**

### **4.0 Parish Plan**

This had been a significant piece of work and a number of proposals had been identified through the consultations. The actions were segregated into distinct categories, each with its own theme. It was then intended to create project groups that will have a combination of TAP members, Parishioners and at least one Councillor to move the process through to the next stage. The plan will be used to demonstrate that there is a robust and considered case when applying for grants from external funding bodies.

### **4.1 Proposed Works 2005/6**

The increase in the precept for this year had raised a number of comments and was perhaps a consequence of keeping the rate static for a number of years. The task now was to spend it wisely and one of the first things that the Council intended to do was to improve the footpath linking Trull Green Drive with Wild Oak Lane. This is an unadopted area that is well used but with considerable Health & Safety issues. Other projects included a new access gate to the allotments and possibly repainting some of the play equipment.

### **4.2 Party in the Park**

This was a very successful event again and is now a firm favourite with Parishioners. Barry Bloxham could rely on the support of the village and considerable time and energy had gone into the organization. Mr. Bloxham had to be particularly determined as the legal, insurance and licensing requirements were becoming ever more difficult, not to mention expensive. The Council is retaining the budget surplus of £1k until the committee reconvenes to plan for the next party in 2006.

### **4.3 Planning**

It had been another busy year that had seen two extremes. There was the announcement of the County Council's consultation paper about the Regional Assembly's future Spatial Strategy, including an option to expand significantly the number of houses in the Comeytrove area in future years, with the likelihood of a Southern Distributor Road; and 45 applications considered locally by the Parish Council. Of these, 36 were supported; there were 7 objections and 2 'no comments'. In only 2 cases did TDBC make a decision contrary to the Council's recommendations.

Mr. Don Archer had made a very significant contribution throughout the year and committed a lot of his time and energy in dealing with these matters.

#### 4.4 Playing Field

There were no particular problems with the playing field but it continued to be a big area of expenditure for the Council.

The Fun Ball Game had been installed during the summer and additional dog bins were provided at the top of the field near Pokes Lane and on Trull Green.

The Council had provided financial support to the Dragons Football Team. These are primarily local children and will eventually be making use of the changing rooms. It was hoped that this arrangement would be successful.

#### 4.5 Footpaths

The footpaths were in good order and credit must be given to Mr. Hampshire for arranging a lot of the work and even undertaking some of it himself.

The Rights of Way service at TDBC had recently been transferred to SCC but it is anticipated that the good working relationship with the staff concerned would continue.

#### 4.6 Allotments

A Parishioner, Mr. Ron Coombes, stated that one of the plots was not being maintained in accordance with the Tenancy agreement.

There was a waiting list and tenants seemed to be satisfied with the arrangements overall. A concession had been made to erect sheds on the plots but there are conditions attached to this. A number of people had now started to use toolboxes for security.

It was agreed at the Tenants meeting in October that an annual meeting only would suffice.

#### 4.7 Memorial Halls

Mr. Martin-Scott advised that the proposal to replace or refurbish the Halls continued, with the current thinking to sell the plot of the Old Village Hall to build a new Memorial Hall on the existing site. How this will be funded and in what order had yet to be determined.

#### 4.8 Trull School

The new Headmistress, Mrs. Heather Cunningham, had been in place for some months and seemed to be settling in well.

Funding had been secured for a large extension and the School is maintaining its high reputation.

#### 4.9 Newsletter

The Newsletter continued to go from strength to strength and is a good link between the Council and Parishioners. Thanks were given to the Editor, Mrs. Wooldridge, and to the Post Office and Trull Stores for their part in distributing the copies.

#### 4.10 SCC District Fund Grant

The SCC and Trull Parish Councillor, Mr. Martin-Scott, had been provided with a one-off grant of £5k that could be spent within his District of Wilton and Trull. After some discussion, the Parish Council had agreed to spend a part of it on replacement benches

in the playing field and possibly some improvements to the unadopted surface at Claremont Lane.

#### 4.11 Graffiti

Reference was made to the recent spate of graffiti. Thanks were given to the Community Service and the Police for undertaking removal using community service offenders.

#### 4.12 Somerset Highways

Trull continued to receive a relatively good service from Somerset Highways. A number of works had been requested during the year, such as cutting back of the pavement edges along Honiton Road and more frequent cutting of the grass verges. Not so successful have been the regular requests to have additional street lighting at Bradbeers. The Council planned to meet the Assistant Area Manager in the autumn.

### 5.0 **Financial Report for 2004/5**

5.1 The Clerk gave a report on the financial position of Trull Parish Council. The accounts for 2004/5 had been subject to an Internal Audit on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2005 and found to be satisfactory. An external Audit undertaken by Moore Stephens of Bath would be made on 31<sup>st</sup> August.

5.2 The total receipts for the period amounted to £18,698.85 and total expenditure was £13,788.70 inclusive of VAT. Expenditure was divided into four main headings as follows: -

- |                   |           |   |
|-------------------|-----------|---|
| 1. Playing Field  | £3,567.70 | For utility bills, provision and repairs to the play equipment, payments for the grass-cutting contract, dog bin servicing and the maintenance of two mowers. |
| 2. Allotments     | £249.18   | For the supply of water, compost and new taps.  |
| 3. Footpaths      | £283.02   | For general cleaning and maintenance.   |
| 4. Administration | £9,164.24 | For the purchase of stationary, postage and printing costs, Clerk's salary, subscriptions, donations, insurance premium, Audit fees and the Parish Plan.      |

### 6.0 **Village Charity Reports**

#### 6.1 Parish Lands Charity

The Chairman advised that this report would not be available until June.

#### 6.2 Trull Village Memorial Halls

Mr. Martin-Scott reported that the income/expenditure profile for the Halls was critical and effectively cancelled each other out. It was reiterated that it was the intention to build a new facility on the existing site and would entail the Old Village Hall being sold and the main Hall being out of use for at least a year while the work was being carried out. The design consultants were currently preparing a specification for the building and from this, estimated costs could be obtained. It was anticipated that it would be several years before the project came to a conclusion.

#### 6.3 Trull, Pitminster and Corfe Almshouse and Relief in Sickness

Mr. Keyte, Trull Parish Councillor, reported that a financial report was not yet available but could advise that a Trull person had recently moved into one of the Almshouses.

7.0 **Any Other Business**

7.1 Mr. Don Archer referred to the housing development at Gatchell House. Planning permission had recently been given for a further six units. A letter had been received from the Chief Executive of Somerset Redstone Trust inviting two persons to attend monthly progress meetings with the successful contractor when the overall scheme commences. This was a very welcome offer and Mr. Archer and Dr. Adriaan Bakker of 3, Gatchell Meadows would be attending as appropriate. It was noted that recent tree works had been undertaken in accordance with the planning permission given.

7.2 Mr. Martin-Scott made reference to the SCC intention to introduce Police Liaison Officers within the District. These would wear the standard uniform but would not have the power of arrest. However, it was considered of benefit to the community, as their presence when walking the streets would provide a degree of reassurance to parishioners. There was a debate regarding recent break-ins at Killams and the effectiveness of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

8.0 **Questions from the Public**

8.1 There were no additional questions from the Public.

9.0 **An address on 'Affordable Housing' by Mr. Justin Roxborough**

9.1 Due to unexpected illness within the family, Justin Roxborough was unable to attend the meeting. The Chairman said he would invite him to a Parish council meeting later in the year.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.55 pm.

Signed.....  
Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....