

Chairman's Report - 2005/6

Councillors

An interesting time that has seen the recent resignation of three Councillors due to personal circumstances. Fortunately, these have all been replaced under the co-opt scheme and the Council remained fully functional through out this period.

Precept

At the budget set meeting held in December 2005, a number of community-based projects were considered and agreed. The precept was held at £10k, the same level as the previous year, in order to help achieve these aims. We are also enormously grateful for the support given via the Somerset County Councillor District Grant Scheme.

TAP

The Trull Action Plan is a standard item on the Agenda at meetings and the plan has the overall support of the Council. One of the priorities was to address dog fouling within the playing field and the provision of new fencing should go some way to prevent this. Further initiatives during the course of the forthcoming year include: -

- Clearance of Sherford Brook
- Identifying a site for additional recycling facilities
- Extending the low wall at Pokes Lane
- Additional funding for 'handy man' work within the Parish

Nominated members of the Council will be working with TAP on other projects, such as ensuring that the interests of the Parish are preserved, and to keep a watching brief on funding allocations that may be available.

Party in the Park

The event will be held on 1st July after having had a rest year in 2005. I hope that the support given in previous years will be repeated and that people will be able to come along and enjoy what is a now very successful and well-organised event.

Planning

Another busy year that has seen two extremes. On the one hand we have been assessing the implications of the Regional Spatial Strategy, and on the other we have considered a total of 50 applications locally. Of these, 34 were supported, with objections recorded on 8 and 'no comments' made on the remaining 8. The Council is a consultee for the applications and TDBC subsequently made 4 decisions that were contrary to the Council's recommendations.

Once again, Mr. Archer has made a very significant contribution and willingly committed a great deal of his time and energy to this area of work.

Playing Field

Three wooden benches were installed in the summer and there is an additional metal bench for the under 5's area waiting to be fitted. We also have a new litterbin to replace the missing one near the roundabout. The installation of another dog bin at the top of the field appears to be well supported. The playing field continues to be our biggest area of expenditure and we are grateful for the grants that we received from TDBC and the SCC District Award Scheme.

Footpaths

Mr. John Guy is now the Lead Councillor for footpaths and has spent some time walking the routes, dealing with various issues and liaising with the SCC Rights of

Way Team. A number of improvements to gates, signs and stiles have been made in recent months and things in general are in good order, but we must not let these standards drop. The Council continues to press for the surface of Claremont Lane to be improved and will be looking to undertake further work later in the year.

Allotments

The allotments remain a popular facility and all of the 31 available plots are currently in use. The rents remain at a very modest £14.00 per year and represents good value. At the annual meeting with the Tenants in October 2005, a number of maintenance items were identified, such as cutting back the trees overhanging the footpath, and we have managed to address most of the issues raised. A number of small sheds have now been installed following an earlier request to site them for convenience and security.

Memorial Halls

The Halls Committees remain as active and committed as ever and work on a replacement facility continues. The Council has contributed to a number of debates on this matter and resolved to support the current policy of rebuilding on the existing site of the Memorial Hall. We look forward to the consultation sessions with Parishioners later in the year when the outline proposals will be made available.

Newsletter

This continues to go from strength to strength and my thanks go to Mrs. Wooldridge for producing such an informative document and to Trull Stores and the Post Office for distributing the copies.

Web Site

The web site has undergone a makeover by a local company and is now ready to include a series of local interests and businesses. Mr. Archer has been very involved with this development and maintains information on the planning applications that are under consideration. The Council views the site as useful link with the community and we have recently included information on the Trull Scout Group.

Somerset Highways

There have been a number of highway and footpath issues raised during the course of the year and the Council has always endeavoured to resolve them. Unfortunately, this has not always been successful due to the resources that are available to Somerset Highways. We continue to have regular liaison with the Assistant Highways Services Manager and look forward to parts of Honiton Road being surface dressed later this year.

Geoff Hewett
Chairman
15th May 2006

Trull Parish Council

Financial Report for the Year 1st April 2005 to 31st March 2006

Presented to the Annual Parish Meeting on 15th May 2006

The total expenditure for the year was £16,478.75 plus £1,306.88 VAT (£17,785.63).
The expenditure is divided under six main headings as follows: -

a) Playing Field & Open Spaces	£3,510.60	For utility bills, provision and repairs to the play equipment, payments for grass cutting contract, dog bin servicing and the maintenance of two mowers.
b) Allotments	£265.83	For the supply of water and compost.
c) Footpaths	£4,342.00	For cleaning and maintenance. (Includes repairs to Carter's Way footpath).
d) General Administration	£6,763.10	For the purchase of stationary, postage and printing costs, Clerks salary, subscriptions, donations, insurance premium and Audit fees.
e) Party in the Park	£1,097.22	Return of funds.
f) Web Site	£500.00	Development cost

The total receipts of the Parish Council for 2005/6 were: -

	£
Precept on Trull Council Tax Payers received via Taunton Deane Borough Council	10,000.00
Allotment Rents	406.00
Taunton Deane Borough Council Grant:	
Church Yard Maintenance	335.00
Open Spaces	700.00
Footpaths	<u>175.00</u>
	1,210.00
VAT Refund 2004/5	626.50
Village of the Year Award	50.00
SCC District Award Grant:	
TAP	1,500.00
Litter bin	240.00
Gross Interest Received	<u>157.65</u>
Total	14,190.15

The Total Balances of the Parish Council as at 31st March 2006 are £9,846.24