

# Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Memorial Hall, Church Road, Trull  
on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 7.15 pm.

Present: Mrs J Wooldridge (Acting Chairman)

Mr S French (part), Mr D Archer, Mrs F Drew, Mrs A Hudson,  
Mr C Ralph, Mr N Hancock, Mrs D Luke, and Mr P Parris,  
together with four Members of the Public.

In attendance: Mr S Martin-Scott - SCC District Councillor (part)  
PCSO Mrs. D. Perry (part)  
Mr J White – Footpaths (part)  
Mrs A Harding – Clerk

In the absence of both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, Mrs Wooldridge was appointed Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

63/09 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received and agreed from Mr G Hewitt.

64/09 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

65/09 **Chairman's Report**

There was nothing to report on this item.

66/09 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009 were agreed and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendments:-

In attendance

'CPSO Mrs D Perry' should read 'PCSO Mrs D Perry'.

Playing Field (Minute 52/09 refers)

The salvaged tiles were from Trull Pre-School and not Trull School as stated.

67/09 **Matters for Report**

Staplehay Weir (Minute 54/09 refers)

Mr Archer referred to an email from Mr Reeve advising that he has written to the County Gazette regarding the closure of the footpath across Staplehay Weir. The original 6 month closure notice, posted in November, has been replaced by one stating the work was going to tender and should be carried out in late summer. He feels the delay is unacceptable and asks The Parish Council to consider possible action to try to re-instate this much used facility. Mr Martin-Scott offered to follow up the matter.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk write to SCC.

Footpath Repairs at Poke Lane (Minute 49/09 refers)

Mr French advised that he had obtained two quotes for improvement work on Poke Lane. There was a considerable difference between these with the higher coming in at over £4000.

Mr Ralph advised that the Memorial Hall would open the Jubilee Gate whilst Poke Lane is closed for improvement work to be carried out.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk write to accept the quote of £1,845 from Ian Duddridge and to obtain a possible date for the work – ideally during the half-term holiday.

Report by SCC District Councillor Mr S Martin-Scott

Mr Martin-Scott reported that the County Council's budget made depressing reading, with cuts being made to voluntary grants, OAP transport and other services. Although the money for the Slinky bus has been cut, a new bus with better access for the disabled is shortly to be introduced on route 97.

Mr Martin-Scott advised that if the Parish Council were considering applying for County funding for any projects, then this should be done sooner rather than later.

68/09

**Report on the Corfe, Blagdon, Pitminster and Trull Almshouses**

Mrs Hudson reported on the meeting she attended in March. There were concerns about the damp in two of the houses, with 2½ pints of water being collected daily by the de-humidifier. The problem occurred after new pipes were installed in the village, although after investigation the Water Board state that this is not the cause. The Trustees propose to lift the floor to try to find the cause. Three quotes for the work are being obtained and it is hoped that the work will be carried out in the next three months. The tenants affected will be re-housed in the meantime.

As the meeting was also the Annual Finance Meeting, a rent review took place and it was decided to raise rents by £1 to £26 per week. The Trustees suggested and agreed to meet four times a year instead of twice and to consider updating the Constitution which dates to 1975.

69/09

**Planning**

Mrs. Hudson and Mr. Ralph reported on the following applications received from TDBC for the Council to consider: -

09/0008 - The Bungalow, Comeytrove Lane  
Full Erection of an adjacent dwelling  
**Resolved** - To support the application.

09/0011 - 1 Park Close, Trull  
Full Erection of single detached garage with adjacent car port.  
**Resolved** - To object to the application – considered over-development of the site, inappropriate for the area and with a detrimental effect on the street scene.

09/0012 - 5 Coplestons, Trull  
Full Erection of first floor extension to east elevation  
**Resolved** - To support the application.

09/0013 - The Old Rectory, Wild Oak Lane, Trull  
Full Erection of single storey extension and two storey extension to form garage and annexe. (This is an amended re-submission of 42/08/0019)  
**Resolved** - To support the application.

Mrs Hudson reported that the Planning Committee had refused (09/0007) application for a two storey extension to the rear of Kibbear Barton, on the grounds that it was over-extension of a barn conversion.

The following application has been withdrawn:

08/0044 - Kings Gatchell Cottage, Gatchell Green, Trull  
Erection of two storey extension to the side and single storey extension to the rear.

The Clerk advised of the following decisions that had been received from TDBC: -

09/0005 & - Middle Sweethay Farm, Trull  
09/0006 Full permission granted for the erection of livestock buildings, as amended by drawing no.001/04.2, with confirmation of planting.

09/0009T - Gatchell House, Trull  
Full permission granted for the felling of 28 sycamore trees in woodland.

70/09 **Housing & Development**

Mr Archer reported on progress with the affordable housing development in Dipford. The approval is provisional and awaiting a Section 106 agreement between the developers and Taunton Deane BC. As the decision is a departure from the Local Plan, confirmation of approval is required from the government regional office for the south west, and this is awaited.

The site has been cleared, including the removal of a lime tree, with the permission of the local authority. The work on the footway must be completed before the houses can be occupied. Although the hedging and path clearing will need to wait until the autumn to avoid disturbance for nesting birds, the work on re-aligning the kerb can take place before this.

A 238 agreement requires each housing unit of new development to make a contribution to social facilities in the vicinity of the new housing. For the affordable housing scheme, this equates to £10,710 for play facilities and £6,138 for outdoor recreation facilities. The grant is paid by the developers and held by Taunton Deane. The Parish Council will be consulted about the best use for the money.

Falcon Housing will be responsible for determining occupancy for this housing. Any eligible local people who wish to be considered should apply to Taunton Deane BC through its Homefinder Somerset scheme, or contact Falcon Housing direct.

Mr Martin Scott reminded the Council that the Trull Action Plan's review of the Parish Plan 2005 is coming to a conclusion. These will be the views of local residents, and as there are always more wishes than money these can be kept in mind when considering use of the Agreement 238 funds.

**Resolved** – Mr Archer to inquire about the process for bids and report back.

71/09 **Playing Field**

Mrs Wooldridge reported that the handrail to the small climbing frame has been badly damaged; that the Elephant Springer has been repaired; and that the basketball hoop has been installed, for which she thanked Mr Drew.

Mrs Drew raised concerns from mothers using the play area. They requested that the concrete at the base of the slide be replaced with rubber safety matting. Mrs Wooldridge advised that this was in hand.

Mrs Wooldridge suggested that one of the swings be lowered for use by children who were not toddlers but too small for the bigger swings. Mr Parris will investigate whether this is feasible.

Mrs Wooldridge advised that she had obtained details of proposed picnic tables for the playing field using TAP funds. It was agreed that initially two be purchased. Mr French suggested that they be fixed down with angle irons to prevent them being moved; and, with health & safety in mind, bark chippings were considered the most suitable surface for under the tables. The siting of these would be decided after consultation with potential users and with Parsons to ensure that grass cutting could be carried out without obstruction.

**Resolved** – Mr Parris and Mrs Wooldridge to get prices and specifications for picnic tables up to a maximum of £1,000, the decision to be made at the next meeting.

72/09 **Highways**

Mr Hancock reported on the following:

- Extension of the speed limit signs in Amberd Lane – Somerset Highways has replied that there was not enough housing to warrant a change.
- Gatchell Green – the patching of the pavement will take place in the April-June quarter.
- Damage to the grass verges – this is sorting itself out but Mr Hancock will monitor.
- Killams – the deep potholes approximately 300m from Cornish Farm have been reported and Somerset Highways is dealing with them.

73/09 **Footpaths**

Mr White reported on the following:

- The footbridge handrail at Three Bridges has become unstable and the treads are worn. He has reported the matter.
- The flooding in Mr French's field was due to a field drain and Mr French stated that the work was in hand.
- That there was no news regarding repairs to Staplehay Weir (see also Minute 67 above).

Mr White raised concerns over the condition of the school wall in Poke Lane, and asked whether remedial work could be carried out at the same time as the repairs to Poke Lane.

Mr Ralph raised the issue of ownership of Poke Lane and questioned whether repairs were the responsibility of the Council.

**Resolved** – Mr Ralph to make enquires regarding ownership of Poke Lane and report to the next meeting.

74/09 **Allotments**

The Clerk referred to a recent site meeting with Mr Grant, the new Estates Manager for Queen's College, the owner of Trull Meadow. Mr Grant had approached the Council with the college's view for possible development of the field. The college is keen to develop the Sustainable School initiative and feels it is important to involve the local community. One proposal is the extension of the allotments at Wild Oak Lane. Queen's College would lease the additional land to the Council at a peppercorn rent. Plans are very much at the ideas stage but Mr Grant has asked the Council for their views. The College may also cultivate some of the field for vegetables for their own use.

The Council was in agreement in principle, but there are financial and legal implications which would need to be explored before any decision is made.

75/09 **Trull Memorial Halls**

There was nothing to report on this item.

76/09 **Trull School**

There was nothing to report on this item.

77/09 **Correspondence**

The Clerk advised of correspondence that was of interest to the Council: -

Notice of temporary closure of Poundisford Road either side of the M5 motorway bridge, beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> June for six weeks.

Letter detailing changes to bus services 624 and 626 – booking is now required.

Invitations from TDBC to attend a Civic Service on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2009; the Annual Meeting of the Council at the Alan Rogers Centre, Wellington School on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009; and a Civic Dinner and Dance to meet the new Mayor and Mayoress, on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at Oake Manor Golf Club.

78/09 **Accounts for Payment**

**Resolved:** That the following accounts be authorised: -

Mrs. J. Wooldridge – March Newsletter	-	£27.50
Clerk's salary - April	-	£395.80
SALC – affiliation fee	-	£462.23
Wickstead Leisure Ltd – play equipment repairs	-	£59.23
Community Council for Somerset – subscription	-	£30.00
Ray Shattock – March/April grass cutting	-	£32.00
Ian Perry – Carter's Way maintenance		£25.00

79/09 **Any Other Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

80/09 **Items for the Next Agenda**

PCSO Mrs Perry - PACT and Speedwatch update.

81/09 **Date of Next Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2009, in the Pearce Suite, Trull Memorial Hall, Trull at 7.15 pm, to be followed by the Annual Council Meeting.

The Acting Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.30 pm.

Signed.....  
Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....