

# Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Memorial Hall, Church Road, Trull  
on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008 at 7.15 pm.

Present: Mr. G. Hewett (Chairman)

Mr. S. French, Mr. D. Archer, Mrs. A. Hudson, Mr. C. Ralph,  
Mr. N. Hancock, Mrs. J. Wooldridge, and Mr. P. Parris,  
together with ten Members of the Public.

In attendance: Mr. S. Martin-Scott – SCC District Councillor  
CPSO Kelly Browning  
Mr. J. White - Footpaths  
Mr. S. Watts - Clerk

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting, the Chairman invited questions from members of the public that were not related to the Agenda and the following matter was raised: -

Two local residents made representations regarding the extended opening hours at Trull Stores. There had also been disturbances caused by early morning deliveries, and it was advised that 122 people had signed a petition against the changes. The loss of an independent store to the Spar organisation was of concern and the sale of alcohol could lead to anti-social issues. Broken beer bottles had been found in the playing field and were an obvious danger to young children. Mr. Hayes, as the new proprietor, stated he had received many positive remarks from customers and could not make any particular comment on the situation. An under-21 drinking policy would be in operation for the sale of alcohol and I.D. requested where there was any doubt. The extended opening hours were a feature of the current economic pressures; he was reviewing the cost implications of alternative milk suppliers.

The Chairman stated that any specific problem should be addressed as it arose. He emphasised that this was not a matter over which the Parish Council had any powers; but that having a viable village shop was of great concern to all residents. He then read out a 'thank you' letter received from Mr. & Mrs. Luke and family.

## 152/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received and agreed from Mrs. F. Drew.

## 153/08 Declarations of Interest

The following declaration of interest was declared: -

Name	Minute No:	Personal/Prejudicial	Reason and Action Taken
Mr. G. Hewett	160/08	Personal & prejudicial	Owner of land at Claremont Lane. Spoke at meeting but was absent from the room during voting.

## 154/08 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on the following matters: -

- Mr. Best had been requested to provide a small number of additional plants at Carter's Way but had yet to submit the invoice.
- The gas main repairs at Honiton Road were causing considerable inconvenience due the length of time that the work was taking. The contractors, Morrison Civil Engineers of Swansea, appeared to be unsupervised and were unlikely to complete the work before the Christmas period. Mr. Hancock stated that he had previously contacted Somerset Highways and was advised that the work was scheduled to finish on 5<sup>th</sup> December. Mr. Martin-Scott confirmed that there were penalty clauses within the contract and it was anticipated that some form of compensation would be due. The Chairman requested that consideration be given to Morrison making a financial contribution to the community, such as repainting the bus shelter.

155/08 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November were agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

156/08 **Matters for Report**

**Public Questions**

Mrs. Wooldridge reported that CPSO Kelly Browning was intending to leave the Police force and move to Cornwall. The Chairman thanked CPSO Browning for her valued work within the community and her attendance at Parish Council meetings, and it was noted that the PACT initiative would continue in her absence.

**Kissing Gate at Trull Meadow (Minute 143/08 refers).**

Mr. Parris queried the relocation of the gate and the implications of diverting the footpath. Mr. Ralph advised that SCC ROW had clarified the permissive rights and all was in order.

**Planting of Oak Tree Sapling (Minute 141/08 refers).**

Mr. Parris advised that a suitable location for the Oak tree sapling could be an area between Staplehay Weir and the watercourse. It was agreed that the W.I. Secretary should visit the site to determine if it was suitable.

157/08 **Appointment of Clerk**

The Clerk reported that an advertisement had been placed in the Somerset County Gazette and on the Notice boards. It was anticipated that the deadline for applications would be Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January, with interviews being held on 12<sup>th</sup> January. The successful applicant would be formally offered the position at the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January, with a payable two-month handover period commencing on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. The amount of the payable handover period and salary would need to be approved at the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

158/08 **Report by SCC County Councillor Mr. S. Martin-Scott**

Mr. Martin-Scott gave an account of his recent experiences with the Taunton Police during a 'ride along' awareness session. It was explained that there were operational difficulties with the deteriorating facilities at the station, and the level of administrative bureaucracy was challenging. It was noted that there had been an emergency call-out to Trull school to attend to the intruder alarm.

He advised that each County Councillor had been allocated an amount of money under the Local Initiatives Budget (LIB) scheme. Further to the Parish Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June (Minute 48/08 refers), he had now requested that £2,600 be provided to undertake a review of the TAP. The Clerk had received the necessary paperwork for the project, and it was emphasised that the work must be completed during the current financial year.

It was noted that despite an increased financial settlement from the Government of 9%, it was likely that an increase of 3.5% - 5% on the current precept would be necessary to balance the SCC 2009/10 budget.

He then invited questions from the public and members of the Council and Mr. French queried the current status of the 'Pioneer Somerset' initiative. He stated that a large arrangement was not always effective or cost efficient. Mr. Martin-Scott advised that he would not comment politically but did question the overall commitment of the District Councils to progress the scheme. By contrast, the SW1 ISIS procurement arrangement was more likely to deliver the savings over the same time period.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Martin-Scott for his report.

159/08 **Budget Set 2009/10**

The Clerk circulated a working paper for discussion and explained the projected position for 2008/9 and the proposed base budget for 2009/10. The majority of the items suggested at the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October (Minute 138/08 refers) had been incorporated within the base budget and could offer an opportunity to reduce the precept from the current £14,000 to £12,000.

The notable exception to the budget proposal was the phased resurfacing of Poke Lane, although an amount of £2,000 had been included for an extension of the low walling. Mr. French and Mr. Ralph explained how the work could be achieved and had obtained indicative costings as follows: -

Footpath resurfacing

- From Church Road to Wyatt's Field footpath - £2,100 + VAT
- From Wyatt's Field footpath to Private Road - £4,200 + VAT
- From Private Road to Amberd Lane - £2,900 + VAT

Extension to low walling

- Treated tongue & groove timber 'stock boarding' from present walling to Wyatt's Field footpath - £840 + labour costs

The Chairman advised that Mr. Vining had cleaned the walls of the Honiton Road bus shelter and stated that further maintenance was not particularly necessary.

The Chairman suggested that the Dragons football club repaint the changing rooms and undertake minor repairs to the guttering, with the Council providing the necessary materials, and it was agreed to approach them about this.

It was agreed that an additional dog bin was not required at the present time.

Mr. Martin-Scott reminded the Council that the LIB funding would need to be spent during the current financial year and that the working paper as presented would need amending.

The Chairman stated that the budget proposal was a responsible option and would achieve the majority of the Council's objectives. The specific details of how the work would be carried out will be determined at a later date.

**Resolved:** That the following main items be approved: -

- (1) The Parish Precept 2009/10 be set at £12,000.00.
- (2) Provision of £250 be made for the maintenance and development of the web site.
- (3) Poke Lane to be resurfaced over a period of three years, with the first phase estimated to cost approximately £2,100 + VAT.
- (4) That consideration be given to extending the existing low walling at Poke Lane at an approximate cost of £2,000.
- (5) A sum of £750 be designated for the purchase of picnic tables in the playing field.
- (6) That £1,000 be designated for safety surfacing and general repairs to the play equipment.

160/08 **Planning**

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

- 08/039 - Hamwood Farm, Daw's Green, Trull.  
Full Erection of yard covering.  
**Resolved** - To support the application.
  
- 08/040 - Trull Green Farm (Land off Claremont Lane), Trull.  
TEN Erection of replacement telecommunications mast and ancillary equipment.  
The Chairman, as related to the landowners, was absent during the vote on the application.  
**Resolved** - To support the application.

Not listed on the published Agenda but also considered were: -

08/042 - Great Herswell Farm, West Buckland, Trull.

Full Variation of condition 2 on planning permission in respect of holiday occupancy.

**Resolved** - To support the application.

08/043T - The Paddock, Trull Road, Trull.

TPO Management work to one Ash tree included in TDBC TPO 1986.

**Resolved** - To support the application.

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

08/0037 - Dipford Road, Dipford, Trull.

Outline permission refused for the erection of seven affordable houses and two affordable flats.

#### 161/08 **Housing & Development**

Mr. Archer reminded the Council of the TDBC-organised Local Development Framework workshop that had been held on 17<sup>th</sup> November (Minute 140/08 refers) and advised that the second phase of the exercise had been carried out on 24<sup>th</sup> November, when he and Mr French had represented TPC. This had involved studying a map of the Comeytrove and Trull area and assessing where the existing facilities were located. The group then considered where the proposed 'Comeytrove urban extension' might be located, and identified the additional community facilities that were deemed necessary. It was noted that particular emphasis had been placed on a green wedge between any new residential development and Trull; and an enhanced public transport service. The planners will take the outcome of the workshop into account when the first draft of the replacement LDF is drawn up for public consultation next year.

Mr. Archer referred to the outline planning application for affordable homes (Minute 139/08 refers), and stated that a number of residents of Dipford had requested that an independent survey be undertaken to establish if there were alternative suitable sites closer to the settlement boundaries, rather than relying on the survey undertaken by the potential developer. He had had discussions with Mr. Marsh of the Community Council for Somerset, who had offered to lead the work in partnership with the Parish Council (Mr Archer and Mr French were confirmed as representatives) and with Falcon Housing Association early in the New Year.

#### 162/08 **Playing Field**

Mrs. Wooldridge reported that she had recently undertaken an inspection of the playing field and the play equipment, and advised that a section of the roundabout may need attention in the near future. She also advised that the external drain to the changing room was blocked; and that the dog waste bins were being well used.

#### 163/08 **Highways**

Mr. Hancock reported that the main items of interest were the ongoing work at Honiton Road that had been previously discussed at the public questions item, and the overdue structural repairs to the bridge at Mill Lane (Minute 77/08 refers). With regard to the bridge, Mr. Archer will make further enquiries and provide an update at the January meeting.

#### 164/08 **Footpaths**

Mr. White advised that the SCC ROW footpath condition survey was underway and would be completed by the end of the year.

Mr. White referred to footpath T21/2 that was currently closed due to a landslip adjacent to Staplehay weir. Although it was initially assumed that the repairs would be the responsibility of the Environment Agency, SCC ROW had now advised that there were some difficulties in establishing the ownership of the area. Mr. French stated that

when the ROW role had been performed by TDBC, numerous repairs had been carried out over the years and therefore ownership could be determined from the existing records. He asked that the Clerk write a letter to SCC requesting urgent action be taken, as further delays could lead to additional expense or even the loss of the footpath.

The Chairman advised of a letter received from a resident of Church Road regarding the condition of the Mill Stream from Eastbrook to the Mill House, Haygrove. It was acknowledged that the stream was heavily silted and that the water flow was restricted. It was agreed to discuss this matter in more detail at the January meeting.

165/08 **Appointment of Internal Auditor**

The Clerk referred to the previously circulated letter received from Mr. B. Howe of Minehead regarding the appointment of an Internal Auditor for the 2008/9 accounts. It was noted that the rate would be £30 per hour with any photocopying charged at cost.  
**Resolved:** That Mr. B. Howe be appointed as Internal Auditor for the 2008/9 accounts.

166/08 **Schedule of Meetings 2009**

The Clerk referred to the previously circulated schedule of meetings for 2009 and asked if the dates were appropriate.  
**Resolved:** That the Schedule of Meetings 2009 be approved.

167/08 **Numbering of Minutes**

The Clerk stated that the incremental numbering of the minutes of meetings commenced from April of each year and queried if it were more appropriate to change this to January, being the calendar year.  
**Resolved:** That the numbering of minutes increment from January of each year.

168/08 **Correspondence**

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

A copy of the 2007/8 SCC/NHS PCT Annual Public Health Report.

A copy of the Autumn Edition of the Somerset Playing Fields Association Newsletter.

169/08 **Accounts for Payment**

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

Mrs. J. Wooldridge – November Newsletter	-	£19.00
Clerk's salary – November	-	£390.82
Mr. R. Vining – General maintenance (June to December)	-	£150.00
EDF Energy – Changing room	-	£8.86
Parsons Landscapes Ltd – November grass cutting	-	£47.00

170/08 **Any Other Urgent Business**

Mr. Parris stated that one of the DDA gates at Poke Lane was not closing correctly. Mr. White will inspect the item and, if necessary, inform SCC ROW.

The Chairman reported that an expression of interest had been received for the vacant Council member position. He has requested that the person concerned submit a formal application and attend the next meeting.

The Chairman advised that, although he was prepared to continue in the role of Chairman at present, the Council must at some point consider electing a successor.

171/08 **Items for the Next Agenda**

Items for the next Agenda will include: -

- Appointment of a Council Member (if appropriate).
- Appointment of a Clerk (if appropriate).
- Clearance of Trull Mill Stream.
- Risk Assessment.

172/08 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 7.15 pm on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2009, in the Pearce Suite, Trull Memorial Hall, Trull.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.40 pm.

Signed.....  
Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....