

Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Memorial Hall, Church Road, Trull
on Monday 7th December 2009

Present: Mr G Hewett (Chairman)

Mrs J Wooldridge, Mr D Archer, Mr S French, Mr C Ralph, Mrs D
Luke and Mr P Parris, together with three Members of the Public.

In attendance: Mr M Edwards – TDBC Councillor
Mr J White - footpaths
Mrs A Harding – Clerk

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting the Chairman invited questions or statements from members of the public that were not related to the Agenda.

Mr Edwards reported on the Local Development Framework, a draft of which went to TDBC on 30 November and is therefore in the public domain, although not yet publicly available. Mr Edwards informed the Parish Council that there were outline plans for the provision of 21,800 houses in Taunton Deane as a whole, and that the impact on Trull would be significant; the original figure of 3,000 houses in Comeytrowe / Trull being revised to 8,000, in line with the Revised Draft Regional Spatial Strategy. Taunton Deane has received 'ECO funding' from government. Mr Edwards felt that timing was important, and his report to the Parish Council would give residents more time before the consultation meetings which take place between 14th January and 18th February 2010. The local meetings are at Trull Memorial Hall on 19th January from 4pm to 6.30pm; Bishop's Hull Community Centre on 26th January from 3.30pm to 7.30pm; and at the Community Hall in Comeytrowe on 27th January from 4.30pm to 7.30pm. Mr Edwards urged people to study the information and make their comments, stating that, although we have to plan for the future, we do have to question the number of houses and their impact on Trull. He added that the implementation of the plan could be thirty years away, and that the Local Development Framework document was part of the consultation process extending into next year. The Regional Spatial Strategy was being challenged, but a government directive means that this consultation must take place. He recognised that Trull Parish Plan is very important as it identifies Trull's aspiration to remain as a separate community from Taunton.

Mr Parris questioned the building of so many houses without the provision of industrial sites, schools etc. stating that at present Taunton caters for academic and not practical careers. Mr French added that in his opinion Taunton should have pressed for motorway junction 24a at Walford Cross, keeping the livestock market in Taunton and not moving it, which has proved a great success for Bridgwater. Mr Edwards replied that employment land and infrastructure such as schools would be built into the plan.

The Chairman urged as many people as possible to go the consultation meetings and make their views known.

Mr Archer suggested that he make a full presentation for discussion and decision about the Council's formal response at the February Parish Council meeting, and this was agreed.

102/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and agreed from Mr N Hancock, Mrs F Drew and Mrs A Hudson.

103/09 Declarations of Interest

There was a Declaration of Interest from Mr S French who leases Trull Meadow.

104/09 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman had nothing to report in addition to items already included in the agenda.

105/09 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2009 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

106/09 **Matters for Report**

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Mr Colin Inder, who had quoted £170 + VAT for a full inspection and written report on the poplars on Trull Green.

Resolved: that the Clerk contact Mr Inder and ask that he carries out the inspection work and reports before the next meeting in January.

The Chairman reported that Mr Lehner had made a very good job of cutting back the vegetation protruding onto the footway in Dipford Road.

Mr Edwards gave an update on progress with repairs to Staplehay Weir. The DLO has liaised with an engineer, who has given an estimate of approximately £30,000 for the work. A report has been sent to SCC for approval, and if accepted it has £22,000 committed towards the cost. Mr Edwards is trying to find the remaining £8,000, and Mr Martin-Scott has indicated that there may be some money in his community budget. Mr Edwards asked if the Parish Council could include money in its precept for the weir project, as there would still be a shortfall of £1,000 - £3,000. He suggested that this would confirm the importance the Parish Council placed on the weir, and would encourage other bodies to contribute.

Mr Ralph asked if there has been any progress on establishing ownership of the weir. Mr Edwards replied that there had not, but that setting up a Trust could bring in funding in the future and protect the amenity.

Mr French asked for clarification of the repairs proposed. Mr Edwards explained that the engineer has suggested stopping the leak in the bank, before repairing the pipe and the fittings around it and building a new gabion wall across the weir.

As the mill leat flows by or through eight or ten properties which would be affected by the collapse of the weir, Mr Parris asked if the owners of those properties could be asked to contribute to the cost of repairs. Mr Archer suggested that the weir is a community resource and ought to be funded corporately, particularly as the mill stream residents will be contributing to the work on it described by Mr Fawcett at the previous meeting (minute 187/09 refers). This was accepted.

Mr Edwards reported that the Mill Stream Committee was working hard to improve the mill stream, and the Chairman added his thanks to the Committee and to Mr Edwards for all his hard work and support.

107/09 **Budget 2010/2011**

The Clerk circulated a working paper for discussion, and explained the projected position for 2009/10 and the proposed base budget for 2010/11.

The Chairman advised that feedback from people he has spoken to who use Poke Lane indicates that they feel there is no pressing need to resurface the whole length. He suggested that the money set aside for this could be put towards the cost of the Staplehay Weir repairs. Mr French was of the opinion that 'a stitch in time saves nine' and resurfacing now would save a larger financial burden later on. Mr Parris agreed that there were short lengths of the lane that would benefit from repair but added that in the current financial climate it would be irresponsible to use all the money to resurface the lane. Mr Archer suggested that the Parish Council keep it under review for a year in view of more pressing needs for the funds.

Mr Archer enquired if some money could be put into the budget to cover any costs incurred with conversion of the phone box in Staplehay if the Parish Council were to adopt it from BT. He noted that there was a damaged pane of Perspex and that materials would be needed for the conversion. There would also be the cost of electricity for lighting to consider. Mr Ralph suggested putting in a contingency of £500 to cover the costs.

The Chairman reported that Queen's College has indicated that it will accept £100 per annum from the Parish Council for the leasing of the additional strip of Trull Meadow for an extension to the allotments. Additional costs for laying these out would include fencing, stand pipes, water supply and spraying. Mr Parris offered to spray the new allotments when necessary. A figure of £2,000 was suggested, and a quotation for the cost of the fencing will be obtained as soon as possible.

Mrs Wooldridge reminded the Council of her suggestion to provide a circular bench round the cherry tree on the playing fields. She added that Benchmark, which supplied the new picnic benches at the bottom of the playing fields, could supply one at £329. The Chairman suggested that this item could be put on the back burner. Mr Parris enquired if there was anything to prevent the Parish Council adding to the Affordable Housing monies for play and recreation facilities. Mr Archer added that he felt that in view of all the other budget needs this should be delayed until after the final costs for the phone box and the allotments are known.

Mr Ralph asked members whether they were in agreement with him that the Parish Council carried too large a balance in the bank, and he suggested that the amount carried forward be cut. The Chairman agreed that the carried forward balance was large but that it did provide a 'buffer'.

Mrs Luke put forward the suggestion of providing public toilets in Trull, as many public toilets were closing. Both the Chairman and Mr Edwards agreed that the cost of building, vandal proofing and running these would be prohibitive but the Chairman agreed to bear it in mind, particularly with the prospective improvements to the Parish Rooms, which does provide a facility available to the public, on application to the church office during office hours, and during church services.

Mr Parris proposed that the Parish Council contribute up to £4,000 towards the cost of the weir, and Mr Edwards suggested that this needed to be added as a specific budget item to show that the Parish Council were prepared to contribute this amount.

Mr Ralph proposed and Mrs Wooldridge seconded that the precept be set at £14,000.

Resolved: That the following main items be approved: -

- (1) The Parish Precept 2010/11 be set at £14,000.
- (2) Provision of £500 be made for the repair, conversion and maintenance of the phone box at Staplehay.
- (3) A sum of £2,000 be designated for the work required to extend the allotments.
- (4) A sum of up to £4,000 be put towards the cost of repairs to Staplehay Weir.

108/09 **Planning**

The following applications had been received from TDBC for the Council to consider: -

- 09/0041 - April Day, Comeytrove Road
- Full - Erection of porch.
- Resolved** - To support the application.

- 09/0043 - 9 Park Close
- Full - Erection of garage.
- Resolved** - To support the application.

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

- 09/0036 - Jubilee House, Comeytrove Road, Trull
Permission refused for the erection of a two storey dwelling and formation of new vehicular access.

The Chairman reported that he had been contacted by a resident who raised concerns over the safety of pedestrians in Mill Lane if a proposed extension to the caravan park were to go ahead.

109/09 **Housing and Development**

Mr Archer reported that he had contacted Andy Lehner to thank him for the improvement work carried out on the footway between the Dipford Road development and Honiton Road, and to request an update on the affordable housing. Mr Lehner's reply indicated that most major works should be completed by the end of the year, and it was expected that all work would be completed by March 2010. The applications for the five houses for sale have been sent to TDBC for approval. The units for rental are being managed by Falcon Rural Housing, and it was agreed that Mr Archer should invite a representative from the association to report to the March meeting of the Parish Council.

Mr Ralph asked what the criteria were for someone applying for affordable housing. Mr Archer confirmed that first time buyers with a connection to Trull would be given priority, and Mr Parris added that the income level of the applicant would be taken into account.

.110/09 **Playing Fields**

There was nothing to report on this matter.

111/09 **Footpaths**

Mr White reported that he and Mr French had inspected the main bridge at Three Bridges and there were several minor faults which Mr French would repair. In addition to these the handrail was broken, the splayed fence beside the bridge had not been reinstated, and the addition of kick boards would improve safety for pedestrians using the bridge. These items have been reported.

The Chairman informed the Council that he had been contacted by the Rights of Way team at County Hall with an enquiry about the ownership of the footpath at the abattoir on Comeytrove Lane; they were seeking access to carry out repairs. Mr White offered to inspect the bridge.

112/09 **Highways**

In the absence of Mr Hancock the Chairman referred to an email sent to Mr Hancock by Mr Cliffe from Somerset Highways. On the matter of the ponding of water in front of the bus shelter, the Chairman stated that he does not agree that the problem is a pre existing condition as there has been no problem there before. Mr Cliffe is hopeful of improving matters around the stop especially the newly requested drop crossing point.

The email also requested that the long term issue of overhanging trees and leaf drop be considered. But the Chairman stated that the issue of ownership of the land behind the bus stop has always been a problem.

Mrs Wooldridge reported to the Council that she and the Headteacher of Trull School attended a meeting with Highways to discuss the problem of parking and access to the school. The driver of the school bus from Blagdon Hill to the school is refusing to drive right up to the school as there have been several 'near misses' involving children. To

help remedy this Highways are to extend the zigzag lines down to the corner past the school; and the small gate from Church Road into the playground will be open to allow access to passengers on the school bus only.

On another matter Mrs Woodridge enquired if it would be possible to direct traffic for Taunton at Brown's Elm down Amberd Lane, to discourage drivers from the Pitminster direction passing through the congested village centre en route to Taunton.

113/09 **Allotments**

The Chairman reported that he had been contacted by a resident in Wild Oak Lane with concerns that if the proposed extension to the allotments goes ahead there may be a parking problem caused by the increased number of allotment holders. He suggested that double yellow lines might be a solution.

114/09 **Trull Village Memorial Halls**

There was nothing to report on this item.

115/09 **Trull School**

There was nothing to report on this item.

116/09 **Correspondence**

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

Letter from Mr Alcock, Headmaster of Queen's College, in reply to the letter regarding the danger to students walking in Wild Oak Lane at night.

Copy of the Amendment to Public Transport Timetable for Taunton and West Somerset Area.

A copy of the December 'Heart of Somerset' events diary.

Letter from Mr Grant, Estates Manager for Queen's College, indicating that it would accept a nominal rent of £100 per annum for leasing the addition strip of Trull Meadow to the Parish Council to be used for allotments.

117/09 **Accounts for Payment**

Resolved: That the following accounts be authorised: -

Mrs J Wooldridge – November newsletter and delivery	£30.00
TDBC – dog bin servicing 2008/09	£613.89
Mrs A Harding – printer ink and photocopying	£35.57
Mr R Vining – general maintenance	£150.00
Clerk's salary – December	£385.82

118/09 **Any Other Business**

It was agreed that a birthday card be sent to Mrs Lorna Hooper, a life-long resident of Trull, to mark her 100th birthday.

The date of the December 2010 meeting was discussed and agreed for 6th December, the first Monday of the month (as in December 2009). With that amendment the provisional Schedule of Meetings for 2010 was agreed.

119/09 **Items for the Next Agenda**

PC Claire Griffiths to attend to give an update on PACT.

120/09 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 18th January 2010, in the Pearce Suite, Trull Memorial Hall, Trull at 7.15 pm.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.20 pm.

Signed.....
Chairman of Trull Parish Council
Date.....