

Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Pearce Suite, Memorial Hall, Trull
on Monday 19th February 2007 at 7.15 pm.

Present: Mr. G. Hewett (Chairman)

Mr. S. French, Mr. D. Archer, Mrs. J. Wooldridge, Mr. J. Guy,
Mrs. A. Hudson, Mr. S. Martin-Scott, Mr. P. Parris and
Mr. L. Keyte MBE, together with 15 Members of the Public.

The Chairman invited questions from the Public that were not related to the Agenda items, but none were forthcoming.

155/06 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Nick Hancock.

156/06 **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th January 2007 were agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

157/06 **Matters Arising**

Highways (Minute 146/06 refers).

The Clerk advised that the reported blocked gullies at Eastbrook and Comeytrowe Road had not been cleared, and that Somerset Highways would be contacted again.

Any Other Business (Minute 153/06 refers).

The Clerk reported that representatives from the Project Taunton scheme were unable to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on the 16th April. Mr. Archer had suggested inviting the TDBC Tree Officer, Mr. David Galley, as an alternative, but this had also been declined. Mr. Parris recommended that the invitation should be extended to another TDBC Tree Officer, Mr. Ian Clark.

158/06 **Musgrove Park Hospital Foundation Trust**

The Chairman introduced Mr. Mark Wall, the Assistant Director of Communications and Marketing at Musgrove Park Hospital, who gave a presentation on the hospital's recent application for Foundation Trust status.

Mr. Wall explained that a Trust would be similar in operation to that of a mutual building society. There would be a clearly defined structure of members; Executive and Non-Executive Directors; and elected Council of Governors. The organisation would be owned by its members, and not by the Secretary of State for Health. It was noted that there are 54 Foundation Trusts in place at the present time, having an estimated financial surplus of £60M, with the remaining NHS hospitals likely to have a deficit in excess of £100M for the current financial year.

There were a number of advantages open to a Foundation Trust, which included being able to carry funds over into the following financial year; the ability to borrow and partner with external agencies; and the freedom and flexibility to determine how capital and revenue budgets should be spent.

In line with the principles of a building society, elections were held to select Public and Staff Governors, and these normally occurred between April and June.

It was estimated that it would cost £100k to set up the Trust. The actual running costs would also increase by £70k - £100k p.a. over the existing budgets. This was partly due to the need to communicate with the community, the elections and training costs for new governors.

The Chairman asked for questions from the Council and members of the public. Mr. Wall gave a range of detailed answers that included:

- Waiting times were unlikely to be reduced as a consequence of the hospital becoming a Trust;
- It was acknowledged that there were still complaints in relation to car parking and the provision of telephone facilities;
- There was a capped limit based on the 2001 financial position in relation to the balance between NHS and private income and hence treatment;
- The land and assets would be transferred from the Secretary of State into the ownership of the Trust;
- It was not anticipated that the hospital would be relocated elsewhere; and it was the intention to build additional, multi-storey style buildings using partnership and PFI funding.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Wall for attending the meeting and providing a very useful insight into the proposal.

159/06 **Funding for Trull Players Drama Group**

The Chairman referred to the previously circulated statement of accounts received from the group, and asked if the Council were minded to provide a financial contribution. Mr. Guy queried the legal powers to enable this, and was advised that s.137 and s.145 of the LGA 1972 were applicable. It was noted that a precedent had already been set by donations made to the Dragons Football Team and Trull Scouts. After some debate, with the Council being generally supportive of the request, Mr. Archer proposed that a grant of £250 be made and, if necessary, the matter reviewed at a later date.

Resolved: That a contribution of £250 be made to the Trull Players Drama Group.

160/06 **Planning**

Mr. Archer gave an overview of the applications received from TDBC for the Council to consider: -

- 07/01 - 1 White Lodge Cottages, Dipford, Trull.
Erection of replacement garage and alteration to access.
- Resolved** - To support the proposal, with a recommendation that a condition be made requiring a hedge or fence be erected on the eastern boundary to provide a degree of privacy for the neighbouring property.

Mr. Keyte abstained from the decision.

- 07/02 - The White House, Amberd Lane, Trull.
Change of use of land to domestic curtilage, erection of first floor and two storey extensions and double garage.
Mr. Archer explained that the application had previously been submitted as reference number 42/2006/049 at the December and January meetings, and that the Council had not supported the proposal. He gave a summary of the area of land that was subject to the change of use request; the reasons why the proposal was rejected; and the changes to the revised drawings, which related primarily to:
1. the detached garage being relocated in line with

- 'Rivendell', with tree and shrub planting for screening ;
- 2. changes to the window positions to the west and east elevations and obscure glazing to one window in the west elevation.

The Chairman invited members of the public to address the Council, and Messer's Forgham, Cram and Nichols raised concerns.

- Resolved** - To OBJECT to the proposal, on the basis that the revisions do not sufficiently address the initial concerns, namely: -
- 1. Over development of the site,
 - 2. The extensions will overlook neighbouring properties,
 - 3. Loss of trees and shrubs,
 - 4. Location of garage will adversely affect the neighbouring property and should be integral to the main building.

Mr. French abstained from the decision.

- 07/03 - Evergreen, Comeytrove Road, Trull.
Erection of a conservatory.
- Resolved** - To support the proposal.
- 07/04 - Bradbeers House, Bradbeers, Staplehay, Trull.
Erection of extension over existing garage and extension of utility.
- Resolved** - To support the proposal.
- 07/05 - Great Herswell Farm, West Buckland, Trull.
Erection of potting barn and tractor and machinery shed.
- Resolved** - To support the proposal.
- 30/07/05 - Northbound M5 Motorway Services, Taunton.
Redevelopment of service station including replacement fuel tanks, forecourt interceptor, pipework, forecourt resurfacing and tanker offset fill point.
Although this was outside Trull Parish, TDBC had provided an opportunity for consultation with the adjacent parishes and requested feedback if appropriate.
- Resolved** - To support the proposal.

Mr. Archer reported that he and Dr. Bakker were due to attend a progress group meeting at the Gatchell Oaks development, and that an invitation had been made to the Council and Gatchell Meadow residents to visit the site before the first residents moved in. This was agreed and a date in late March would be advised.

Mr. Archer reported that he continued to press the TDBC DLO to remove the vegetation from the listed footbridge at Batts Park, Sherford, and that TDBC Councillor Mark Edwards had agreed to use his influence to this effect.

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

- 06/042 - Flat 6, Garden Court, Honiton Road, Trull.
Permission granted for the creation of 8 parking spaces and turning head and reduction in height of two windows to flat 6.
- 06/049 - The White House, Amberd Lane, Staplehay.
Permission REFUSED for the erection of one two-storey

extension to side and one two-storey extension to the side and rear, replacement of existing garage with double garage to front of dwelling and change of use of land.

06/050 - Oakwood House, Dipford, Trull.
Permission granted for demolition of existing garage and erection of two-storey extension.

06/053 - Cherry Orchard Lodge, Cherry Orchard, Church Road, Trull.
Permission granted for the erection of two-storey extension to rear.

161/06 **Playing Field**

Mr. Parris reported that the repairs to the roundabout and climbing frame were complete, and the equipment would be reinstalled when the weather conditions were suitable. Reference was made to the provision of the safety surfacing and the RoSPA report of June 2004. There appeared to be a contradiction between the report and the requirements of BS1176 in respect of additional or improved surfacing for the roundabout, and further clarification was necessary. It was noted that a protective skirt had been welded to the underside of the roundabout, which would reduce the risk of injury caused by contact with the protruding bolt heads.

Mrs. Hudson stated that the steps of the large slide were of concern as small children tended to fall through the gap. A request was made for additional backing plates to be fixed to the steps, and this will be considered at a later date.

Mr. Keyte reported that there had been further digging around the BMX cycle humps, and Mrs. Wooldridge agreed to inform WPC. Polly Livingstone.

The Chairman referred to the recently completed three-year contract with Parsons Landscapes Ltd for grass maintenance work within the playing field. It was advised that a fixed price quotation for two years (1st March 2007 to 31st October 2008) had now been provided and that the rate had increased from £32 to £40 per occasion. It was noted that the total amount for the service in 2006 was £774 plus VAT. The schedule and revised costs per year are as follows: -

Cut playing field with gang mower, leaving all arisings £40.00 x 23 visits	-	920.00
Cut verges around boundary of field, leaving all arisings £17.00 x 6 visits	-	102.00
Spray edges of footpath with approved herbicide £35.00 x 2 visits	-	70.00
	Total	<u>£1,092.00</u>

Resolved: That the submitted annual quotation of £1,092.00 by Parsons Landscapes Ltd, held for a period of two years and commencing on 1st March 2007, be accepted.

Mr. Archer stated that the footpath at the bottom of the field was very slippery due to the recent period of wet weather and requested that consideration be given to provide hard surfacing. There was some debate of the most suitable type of surfacing and it was noted that the installation of the stile in the new fencing would ease the situation.

162/06 **Footpaths**

Mr. Guy advised that Kingsley Beck had begun preparations to resurface the footpath at Wyatt's Field in mid-March (Minute 145/06 refers); but it would be beneficial to clear the adjacent ditch beforehand. A quotation had been provided by Kingsley Beck of

£250 for the work, which would include the hire of a mini digger. Mr. Parris stated that he considered the cost to be rather high for the work involved.

Resolved: That Kingsley Beck undertake the clearance work to the ditch at the quoted cost of £250.00, unless the Chairman can obtain an alternative more satisfactory quotation.

Mr. Guy reported that the SCC ROW team had now dealt with the fallen trees at footpath T21/2.

Mr. Guy stated that the overgrown hedge at Pokes Lane (Minute 145/06 refers) had now been rectified.

Mr. Guy advised that the self-closing mechanisms to the gates near the Bell House Private Drive were broken, and that he had advised SCC ROW.

Mr. Guy advised that there was a significant amount of mud at the kissing gate in Trull Meadow, and that Mr. French had agreed to rectify the problem when the weather improved.

Mr. Guy advised of a broken stile between Daw's Green and Chilliswood, and that the matter had been reported to SCC ROW.

Mr. Guy referred to the previously circulated information from SCC ROW regarding the diversion of a footpath from the allotments. It was indicated that if it was indeed possible, the legal cost could be in the region of £1k - £2k. It was agreed that it was not prudent to pursue this issue further.

Mr. Guy referred to the previously circulated information regarding a request from a resident of Killams, Mr. John Pepper, for a permissive footpath across Cotlake Hill linking Killams Avenue with Lower Kibbear Barns. There were some difficulties with this approach as the land in question was in private ownership. It was agreed that Mr. Pepper should be invited to address the Council at a future meeting in order to discuss the matter in more detail.

The Chairman reported that there was wind-blown debris at Carter's Way, and he had requested Mr. Ron Vining to sweep the footpath at regular intervals.

163/06 **Highways**

There was nothing to report on this item.

164/06 **Allotments**

The Chairman reported that the new entrance gate had now been installed, and that the remaining ground works would be completed when the weather improved.

165/06 **TAP**

There was nothing to report on this item.

166/06 **Trull Village Memorial Halls**

Mr. Martin-Scott advised that there was nothing particular to report, and that the process of preparing a new set of proposals by the end of the year continued.

167/06 **Trull School**

The Chairman advised of a letter received from Mrs. Wardell regarding the Book Reading Week initiative during 12th–16th March. A request had been made for assistance in attending the School to read to pupils. It was agreed that Mrs. Wooldridge would ascertain the exact requirements prior to making an appeal in the Newsletter.

168/06 **SALC**

Mrs. Hudson reported that the next meeting was on 8th March at Wiveliscombe Village Hall, and it was likely that a representative of the Council would attend.

169/06 **Taunton Deane Area Working Panel**

Mr. Martin-Scott reported on the first meeting of the Taunton Deane Area Working Panel that had been held on 5th February at Norton Fitzwarren Village Hall. The meeting had been attended by both SCC and TDBC Councillors, and had been opened up to include Parish Councillors and members of the public. It had been held in two parts, having an informal Agenda for the first part and a formal Agenda for the latter part.

The deputy leader of SCC, Mr. Paul Buchanan, had given an introduction and further information on the policy to devolve a significant amount of the overall SCC budgets to the five area panels (Minute 135/06 refers). Mr. Mark Stone, SCC Head of Partnerships and Community Development, then explained the contents of the information packs that were distributed to Councillors.

There had been presentations from Mr. David Smith, the Chairman for the Taunton Deane Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), on the links between the LSP Community Strategy and the delivery of the Somerset Local Area Agreement (LAA); and from Mr. Brendan Cleere, the TDBC Head of Policy and Performance, on the Council's neighbourhood working arrangements.

The second part of the meeting concentrated on matters such as the Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the panel, which is currently constituted of 10 SCC Councillors, and this was agreed as Cllrs. Claire Gordon and Stephen Martin-Scott respectively.

A workshop discussion was then held, in order to determine the geographical scope of the panel and the topics and frequency for future meetings. This has initially established that the area should be the current Deane boundaries, and that youth services and highway matters were priorities. It was suggested that the meetings should be held at least on a quarterly basis, but subject to continual review. Other points of note arising from the meeting were:

- TDBC was not intending to apply for Town Council status unless it was part of a package of related issues
- The more rural Parish Councils should be considered by panel, but it was to be recognised that there were wards within the Deane that had a high deprivation index
- The initial allocation of £15k per SCC Councillor was in addition to the current £5k Community Grant, thereby giving the panel a collective total of £240k for the 2007/8 financial year,
- It was essential that the panel reached a collective decision regarding expenditure of the fund, and that the initiatives accord with the LSP.

170/06 **Appointment of Internal Auditor**

The Clerk referred to the appointment of an independent Internal Auditor for the 2006/7 accounts and review of the management system. Mr. A. J. Bullen had again offered his services for the work and the rate charged would be £30 per hour, with photocopying at cost. This represented an increase of £1.00 per hour on the 2005/6 rates. It was noted that the total cost for the 2005/6 Internal Audit was £146.60.

Resolved: That Mr. A. J. Bullen be appointed as the 2006/7 Internal Auditor.

171/06 **Progress Report on CiLCA Qualification**

The Clerk gave a progress report on the CiLCA and the portfolio that was necessary for the qualification (Minute 047/06 refers). It was explained that the work was approximately 85% complete, and it was anticipated that the portfolio would be submitted and approved before the next Election on 3rd May 2007. It was noted that a number of changes in the way that the Council currently conducts its affairs would be required in order to fully address the issues given in the assessment criteria. Examples of this were the format of the Agendas, and the formal adoption of the Code of Conduct.

172/06 **Formal Adoption of Code of Conduct**

The Clerk advised that in order to achieve the CiLCA and to qualify as Quality Council at a future date, a formal resolution regarding the Code of Conduct as given in the Local Government Act 2000 was required. As all of the Council members had previously signed the acceptance of office and the declaration of interest forms, this action did not now present an issue.

Resolved: That the Code of Conduct be formally adopted.

173/06 **Correspondence**

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

A copy of the 'Team Somerset: Connecting Communities' information booklet received from TDBC.

A copy of the November 2006 edition of the RSS Update (previously circulated).

A letter of thanks from the SCC Rights of Way Team for the information provided by Mr. Guy in the prioritising of footpath maintenance work within the Parish.

A letter received from SCC advising that Mrs. Penny Phillips CBE, a previous Leader of the Council, had passed away on 10th February.

A copy of the Sunday and Public Holiday bus services for 2007 received from SCC.

An information flyer detailing contact points for the South West Planning Aid service.

An Elections Timetable, 7 information booklets and the 2007 Electoral Roll received from the TDBC Parish Liaison Officer.

A copy of the nomination form for the SCC Chairman's Award for Service to the Community 2007 (circulated at the meeting).

A consultation paper received from DCLG on the revised model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members.

174/06 **Accounts**

Resolved: That the following accounts be authorised: -

Mrs. J. Wooldridge – January Newsletter & Toner.	-	£27.99
Clerk's salary – January	-	£300.00
Active Signs Ltd – 4 x 'No Dogs' signs	-	£53.11
Trull Memorial Halls – Nov/Dec/Jan Hire	-	£30.60
Mr. Ray Shattock – Mower Service	-	£51.88
Wessex Water – Allotments - July 06 to Jan 07	-	£73.76

175/06 **Any Other Business**

There was none.

176/06 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Meeting will be 19th March 2007, to be held in the Pearce Suite, Trull Memorial Hall, at 7.15 pm.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.55 pm.

Signed.....
Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....