

# **Trull Parish Council**

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Memorial Hall, Church Road, Trull  
on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2011

Present: Mrs J Wooldridge (Chairman)

Mr G Hewitt, Mrs F Drew, Mr N Hancock , Mrs D Luke, Mr P  
Parris and Mr C Ralph, together with four Members of the Public.

In attendance: Mr S Martin-Scott - SCC District Councillor  
Mr Alan Paul – Councillor for Bishop’s Hull  
Mr John White – Footpaths  
Mr Steve Fawcett – Millstream Improvement Committee  
Mrs A Harding – Clerk

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting the Chairman invited questions from members of the public that were not related to the Agenda but none were forthcoming.

23/11 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received and agreed from Mr S French, Mrs A Hudson and Mr D Archer.

24/11 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

25/11 **Chairman’s Report**

In the absence of PCSO Parry, the Chairman reported that crime figures in Trull for the period 18 October 2010 to 18 February 2011 showed a reduction in the number of crimes reported. Of the 40 calls to the Police, the total number of crimes reported was 10.

Additional wire has been added to the bottom of the Playing Field fence to prevent access by dogs.

The hedge at the allotments had been cut back and the waste chipped for use by allotment holders.

The Mill Leat sleeper bridge has been widened and a handrail added on the caravan park side. Quotes are being sought for work to repair and improve the footpath.

26/11 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011 were agreed and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendments:

- Planning application 10/0052 was granted outline planning permission not full.
- Mr C Ralph was absent from the meeting.

27/11 **Matters for Report**

In a report on the Trull Memorial Halls development meeting, the Parish Council was informed that the main discussion centred on car parking. There was resistance to the suggested widening of the entrance to the car park. Without the widening of the entrance, there would be no room to fit a handrail which would enable pedestrians to walk safely.

It was reported that quotes for the required maintenance work on the Trull Green trees had been received from Mr Brian Lenthall (£550+VAT) and Parsons Landscapes Ltd (£687+VAT). Mr Hewitt proposed that the quote from Mr Lenthall be accepted. It was also proposed that the Parish Council accept the quote from

Parsons Landscapes Ltd for work on the lime trees on the playing field. The proposals were seconded by Mr Ralph

**Resolved:** that the quote from Mr Lenthall for the work on the trees on Trull Green be accepted.

28/11 **Trident Youth Club**

Mr Alan Paul, Councillor for Bishop's Hull, attended the meeting to put the case for funding in support of the Trident Youth Club, which will lose SCC funding at the end of March; £5,000 is required annually to cover overheads. Mr Paul gave a short history of the club, which had been set up to counter anti-social behaviour in the area. Trident is the only club in West Taunton with a professional youth worker, and runs a varied programme of events.

Several members of the Parish Council felt that as only one teenager from Trull attended the club, it was not appropriate that the Parish Council should make a financial contribution. Mr Hancock proposed that a one-off payment of £100 be made, to show support which might hopefully attract further funding from elsewhere. The proposal was seconded by Mrs Drew. Mr Ralph and Mr Hewitt were against the proposal.

**Resolved:** that a one off contribution of £100 be made to the Trident Youth Club.

29/11 **Mill Stream Improvement Update**

Mr Steve Fawcett of the Mill Stream Improvement Committee gave the PC an update on their work. He reported that the next job that needed to be addressed is the Church Road culvert which appears to be blocked under the road, possibly caused by rubble left after SCC work to replace water pipes. The result is a reduction in the flow of much needed water, which will unfortunately get worse during the summer months. The Committee had contacted the SCC but were informed that this work was of low priority. Jobs for the future include the sluice gates and overflow arrangements.

Mr Fawcett raised the question of future maintenance and the need for funding. Councillor Mark Edwards had made the point at the Committee's last meeting that there is money available through heritage funding which is not under the control of the government. The Committee is looking for funding from some of the smaller environmental organisations.

The Committee were in favour of greater links with the PC, whose support could lend weight to any such applications. Concerns were voiced that the majority of the land included in the improvement scheme was privately owned, and the PC was not in a position to financially support the improvement of privately owned property in the village. Indeed, applications for funding might not be considered by organisations if the land involved was privately owned. Mr Fawcett added that the footpath was becoming a very attractive amenity, and that the main area for improvement was the weir which had no known ownership.

It was decided that the question of a more formal link between the Committee and the PC, either by making it a sub-committee of the PC or financial contributions, would be left in abeyance whilst several issues were addressed.

30 /11 **PACT**

PCSO Parry was unable to attend the meeting.

31 /11 **Staplehay Phone Box**

Mr Archer was unable to attend the meeting but details of the quotes obtained for work on the phonebox had been forwarded. Sage & Council quoted £342 for painting and redecorating the kiosk, and undertook to do the work within a fortnight. For making good the door and fitting shelving and a notice board, Dennis Mountstephens quoted £137 and PJ Signs could produce signage for £45. Mr Ralph proposed that

the three quotes be accepted and that work should commence as soon as possible. The proposal was seconded by Mr Parris.

**Resolved:** that quotes from Sage & Council, Dennis Mountstephens and PJ Signs for work on the phonebox be accepted.

32 /11 **Report by Councillor Stephen Martin-Scott**

SCC District Councillor Stephen Martin-Scott reported to the PC following the full meeting of Somerset County Council in February.

In addition to the £43 million cuts and savings to be made over the next three years which were agreed in November, the SCC had agreed a further £34 million cut from the budget for 2011/2012. SCC has reduced the number of Corporate Directors by 40%, senior management as a whole by 15% and the Cabinet has been reduced by a third.

Mr Martin-Scott told the PC that although savings are vital, it is not all about cuts. The SCC has:

- Negotiated with EDF to ensure the county secures long-term gains from the Hinkley Point C nuclear development. If it all goes ahead 5,600 jobs will be generated and significant funding will be sought to cover the development's impact on transport, emergency planning, flooding, skills, tourism, education, landscape, rights of way, etc.
- Ensured the county's exemplary waste management record continues, with the 'Sort-it' roll-out in Mendip and South Somerset continuing well and the roll-out in West Somerset due to start in the Autumn.
- Taken stock on the potential closure of the 4 Waste Recycling Centres by seeing if all 18 county centres can in fact continue to be kept open with reduced hours.
- Worked with a Ramblers group to deliver maintenance and improvements to the Rights of Way network, particularly in the Mendip area. This work is now being expanded across the County, and the SCC is continuing to look for new ways of engaging volunteers in delivering services.
- Sought broadband funding from government to bring high-speed connectivity to areas of the county currently poorly served.
- Rethought how money can be saved from the library budget. The SCC has listened to library users and has changed the ways the savings will be made. No changes will be introduced until October 2011 at the earliest.
- Continued to help pupil attainment rise. Somerset has enjoyed record GCSE exam success, with an increase of 5% in those achieving A-C grades.
- Kept children's centres open. Recognising the vital role they play, all 41 of the county's Children's Centres will remain open.
- Made a successful bid which has already brought £15m of government funding for the Northern Inner Distributor Road. With the £4.3m already received from developers, this has the potential for 3,600 new jobs and 900 new homes.
- Reduced night-time street lighting with a pilot scheme in a number of volunteer parishes, whilst considering the fear of crime and health and safety issues. There is local support in many areas for reducing light pollution and making savings.
- Tackled winter weather by using around 800 tons of salt to keep our 870 miles of primary routes open. There have been no shortages this year with all planned salting taking place.
- Lobbied for funding to mend potholes. As a result of successful negotiations with central government, almost the whole of the coming year's highways grant will be spent on maintaining the county's roads. The scheme for the public to report pot holes directly, as well as via parish councils, has also been very successful. Since SCC enabled people to record potholes via the county website more than 800 have done as the problems have become visible, leading to repairs being undertaken faster.

Mr Ralph enquired how many SCC departments were to be closed. Mr Martin-Scott agreed that some departments would close eg. Police funding of the Camera Safety Partnership will end, and the provision of some services would pass to other organisations.

Mr Martin-Scott was asked if SCC were tied into contracts with Atkins and SWOne. He replied that SWOne had made a loss of £15 million but the loss, and indeed any profit, goes to IBM. Any services must be delivered as per the agreed specifications. SCC are re-negotiating the contract with Atkins

33 /10 **Planning**

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

- 10/0043 - Hamwood Farm, Taunton  
Outline - Application for the erection of an agricultural worker's dwelling. This application was been withdrawn. TDBC raised objections to the position of the building. Mr Stanbury attended the meeting to request that the Parish Council reiterate its support for the original application, in which the proposed development was adjacent to existing buildings.  
**Resolved** - that the Clerk write a letter of support for the original application to TDBC.
  
- 10/0049 - Westbrook, Church Road, Trull  
Full - Erection of gabion basket wall as flood protection, work already undertaken.  
**Resolved** - To support the application.
  
- 11/0003 - Elanka, Honiton Road, Trull  
- Formation of pitched dormer window to rear elevation.  
**Resolved** - To support the application
  
- 11/0004 - 6 Southwell Close, Trull  
Full - Erection of single storey extension to side. The Parish Council supported the original application and as this is a small proposal there were no objections.  
**Resolved** - To support the application.
  
- 11/0005 - Not on the Agenda but also considered:  
3 Jubilee Terrace, Trull  
Full - Single storey extension to rear. Neighbouring properties had already carried out similar extensions and there were no objections.  
**Resolved** - To support the application.
  
- The Clerk advised of the following decisions that had been received from TDBC: -
  
- 10/0053 - 31 Killams Green, Taunton  
Permission granted for the erection of a first floor to side and ground floor extension to rear.
  
- 10/0054/T - Canonsgrove Halls of Residence, Staplehay, Trull  
Application to fell one Oak, one Birch and one Pine and to carry out management work to 3 Poplar, 3 Sweet Chestnut, 4 Beech, 12 Hornbeam, 3 Oak, 6 Horse Chestnut and to crown lift all trees in TPO groups G15 and G20.
  
- 00055/T - Hillbrook House, Trull  
Application to fell and replace (with Oak trees) 5 Horse Chestnut trees included in TDB (Trull No 1) TPO order 2010.

34/10 **Housing and Development**

There was nothing to report on this item.

35/10 **Playing Field**

Mrs Wooldridge reported that her inspection found all equipment in good order. The fencing behind the pavilion had been repaired. Annual maintenance work on the benches is in hand.

The water meter reading is 000.523, the same as last month. The Clerk informed the Parish Council that following an onsite meeting, Bruce Criddle had quoted £1,300 for replacing the pipe between the water meter and the pavilion. However work cannot start until the position of the electricity cable leading from the pavilion is confirmed to prevent its damage during excavations. This information was proving difficult to find.

**Resolved:** that the work be postponed and kept under review.

36/10 **Footpaths**

Mr White reported that, on the Mill Leat footpath, the widening of the bridge over the sluice had been completed, and the repairs to the steps have still to be carried out. As the footpath will be closed temporarily for the work Mr White will enquire when this is likely to be, so that the footpath resurfacing can be scheduled for the same time to minimise disruption.

Mr Parris suggested that Abacus Ltd, who carried out work on the Playing Field, be contacted to quote for the resurfacing.

37/10 **Highways**

Mr Parris reported that flooding in Amberd Lane and Eastbrook has been caused by blocked drains that have yet to be cleared. Mr Hancock replied that SCC had inspected the site.

The Chairman praised SCC for the prompt way they have carried out the work on Wild Oak Lane.

38/10 **Allotments**

The Clerk informed the Council that the hedge bordering Ladylawn had now been cut back and the waste chipped for use by allotment holders.

Plot 16A which had been used as a burning plot is now let.

39/10 **Trull Village Memorial Halls**

The Chairman reported that plans for the Royal Wedding celebrations are continuing and will take the form of a live screening and lunch, a celebration tea in the afternoon and a social evening with a band. Posters and flyers advertising the event will go out soon and tickets go on sale at the Memorial Hall from 8<sup>th</sup> April.

40/10 **Trull School**

There was nothing to report on this item.

41/10 **Correspondence**

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

- Nomination forms for Parish Council election on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

42/10 **Accounts for Payment**

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

Mr S Watts – refund of cheque banked in error	£549.35
Wessex Water – Water supply to pavilion 08/07/10-11/01/11	£100.10
Mr G S Hewitt –reimbursement for payment to Gordon Hart	£30.00
Mediakitchen – website hosting 2011	£58.75
Clerk’s salary – October	£395.80

43/10 **Any Other Business**

Mr Parris updated the Parish Council on the repairs to Staplehay Weir. Mr Parris had attended a site meeting, and reported that planning permission had not yet been granted. The new bridge is twenty two metres long, and a large crane will be required to lift it into place. Fifty metres of hedge will need to be removed to allow access for the digger and crane. These trees cannot be removed until July to prevent disturbance to nesting birds. The cost of the new bridge is likely to be in the region of £60-70,000, and in a change to the original conditions SCC has agreed that repairs to the weir can commence before work on the bridge is completed. Mr Mark Edwards has arranged for the DLO to discuss repairing the bank to stop the water leaking through.

Mr Hewitt notified the Council that the bus shelter on Honiton Road was in need of repainting. The Clerk agreed to inspect the bus shelter and obtain paint to carry out the work.

44/10 **Items for the Next Agenda**

Staplehay Phone Box  
Parish Council Election Nominations

45/10 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011, in the Pearce Suite, Trull Memorial Hall, Trull at 7.15 pm.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.55 pm.

Signed.....

Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....