

Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Pearce Suite, Memorial Hall, Trull
on Monday 15th January 2007 at 7.15 pm.

Present: Mr. G. Hewett (Chairman)

Mr. S. French, Mr. D. Archer, Mrs. J. Wooldridge, Mr. N. Hancock,
Mr. J. Guy, Mrs. A. Hudson, Mr. S. Martin-Scott, Mr. P. Parris and
Mr. L. Keyte MBE, together with 12 Members of the Public.

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

The Chairman referred to the previously circulated information sheet regarding the Trull Players Drama Group and invited representatives of the group, Mr. Sam Allen and the Secretary, Mrs. Linda Brearly, to address the Council. Mr. Allen gave the background to how the group was formed in early 2006 and how this had culminated in three sell-out performances of a pantomime in the Memorial Hall on 12th and 13th January 2007. A request was now being made to the Council for financial support in order to allow the group to continue. Any donations received would be spent on props and costumes, and these would be made available to other organisations as required. There were currently 30 people involved in the group and it was likely that this could increase to 50 as the work developed over time. The Chairman enquired if the price of the tickets had made provision for future performances. It was explained that start-up costs and hire charges had been considerable, and had been largely met by personal contributions from the group members. It was anticipated that the overall profit from the shows would be £100. The price for children's tickets had been deliberately set low, and the overall aim of the group was to be self-financing. The Chairman thanked Mr. Allen and Mrs. Brearly, and advised that the Council would consider the matter at the February meeting.

The Chairman introduced Police Sergeant Mark West, the supervisor for the beat officers, who was deputising for WPC Polly Livingstone. Sgt. West advised of the additional support that was being allocated to the area and the Neighbourhood Policing initiative that was intended to raise the local profile of the Police and to concentrate on solving local problems. Information flyers were handed to the Council that gave the phone numbers for key officers. All crime reporting should be directed to the Portishead administration centre or the 999 emergency codes. Mr. Martin-Scott suggested that in addition to the numbers being circulated in the next Newsletter, links could also be made to the Councils website. Mr. French commented on the reduced availability of the reception desk at Taunton Police station.

140/06 **Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

141/06 **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th December 2006 were agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

142/06 **Matters Arising**

Any Other Business (Minute 128/06 refers)

Mrs. Wooldridge reported that she had received an additional e-mail in response to the Newsletter article regarding the frequency and time of the bus service within Trull.

143/06 **Planning**

Mr. Archer explained to the members of the public that Trull Parish Council was a consultee for applications that were made to TDBC and could Musgrove Park Hospital therefore only make recommendations. Mr. Archer then gave an overview of the applications received from TDBC for the Council to consider: -

- 06/049 - The White House, Amberd Lane, Staplehay, Trull.
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 the front of dwelling.
This application had been deferred from the December meeting pending revisions to the submitted drawings.
Mr. Archer drew attention to the area of land that required a change of use from agricultural to residential. The revisions to the plans were highlighted, which primarily related to a reduction in the size of the extensions to make them subservient to the main building, and changes to several windows. The applicant, Mr. Holden, was invited to address the Council to provide further information. Major Nichols questioned the legality of the application as it had not been correctly advertised, and was concerned that other land in the area could be purchased and an application made for a change of use. Mr. Archer advised that TDBC had made an error by allocating a new reference number, 42/2006/051, to the revised plans and that this had subsequently been withdrawn. He stated that, as the location was outside the settlement of Staplehay, Local Plan policies prevented any additional buildings other than agricultural. The resident of the adjacent 'Windsong', Mr. Cramb, circulated a paper to the Council outlining his concerns and queried the consultation period given by TDBC. The resident of the adjacent 'Rivendell', Mr. Forgham, questioned the accuracy of the amended plans and stated that the extensions would render the house overbearingly large. The applicant stated that permission had been given by the landowner, Mr. Grant, in respect of a restrictive covenant on the area of land in question. Mr. Archer clarified that planning officers normally made the decisions under their delegated powers. In the event of their judgement differing from that of the Parish Council, the application would be submitted to the planning committee.

- Resolved** - To OBJECT to the application due to the following issues:
1. Overdevelopment of the site
 2. The extensions will overlook neighbouring properties
 3. Loss of shrubs and trees
 4. Site of new garage will adversely affect the streetscene and should be integral to the main building.

- 06/053 - Cherry Orchard Lodge, Cherry Orchard, Church Road, Trull.
Erection of a two-storey extension.
Mr. Archer gave the history to the original conversion of the main house into two properties and advised that an application for a similar extension had been approved by the Council in 1998 but had not been taken up.

- Resolved** - To support the application

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

046/06 - 103, Killams Green, Trull.
Permission granted for the erection of a two-storey extension.

047/06 - Haygrove Barn, Haygrove, Trull.
Permission granted for the construction of a dressage area.

144/06 **Playing Field**

Mr. Parris reported that he had obtained a quotation for the preparation and painting of the roundabout and climbing frame (Minute 112/06 refers). This was for £150 and £130 plus VAT respectively. It was noted that the sub-contractors preferred method to treat the roundabout would be to remove the equipment and spray it off site. Mr. Keyte raised concerns regarding the type of paint and the number of coats that would be applied and it was agreed that Mr. Parris would obtain further information on this.

Resolved: That Mr. Parris proceed with the work for the quotation of £280 plus VAT.

Mrs. Wooldridge suggested that when the roundabout was removed for painting, it would present an ideal opportunity to improve the safety surfacing in order to comply with the RoSPA report of June 2004. There was a lengthy debate on how best to achieve this, as the previous quotation received from the TDBC DLO of £4,075 plus VAT to undertake maintenance to the roundabout was considered excessive. Alternative specialist companies were considered, and it was noted that any work should comply with BS1176 Safety Surfacing. It was agreed that the Clerk would provide Mr. Parris with the specification and that he would make enquiries regarding the available options and costs.

The Chairman advised that a letter had been received from the Charity Commission confirming that the King George V playing field is designated as a charitable trust and would remain on the Register of Charities. Registered trustees of the field (the Parish Councillors) would need to comply with the provisions laid down in the Charities Act 1993 (as amended).

The Chairman referred to the previously discussed need for a wooden stile to enable access to the field near the roundabout; and requested that Mr. French specify a suitable structure and obtain quotations for the work. Mrs. Wooldridge requested that an additional 'No dogs unless on a lead' sign is erected when the stile is installed. This was agreed, together with the need to retain spare signs for replacement purposes.

Resolved: (1) That Mr. French obtain quotations for a stile that would be appropriate to the location.

(2) That three additional 'No dogs' signs are purchased

145/06 **Footpaths**

Mr. Guy advised that a section of Pokes Lane was difficult to pass due to an overhanging hedge. As this particular area was a repetitive problem, the matter had been reported to the SCC Rights of Way department for action.

Mr. Guy referred to the previous request for a diversion order for the footpath through the allotments but had, to date, been unable to obtain a satisfactory response from SCC (Minute 115/06 refers).

Mr. Guy advised that two fixed price quotations had now been obtained for resurfacing of the footpath linking Wyatt's Field with the playing field (Minute 129/06 refers). These were:

Abacus Construction Ltd - £2, 560 plus VAT
Kingsley Beck Ltd - £2, 200 plus VAT

Both quotations provided for a 10 mm dense wearing course with the appropriate preparation.

Resolved: That the work be awarded to Kingsley Beck Ltd.

Mr. Guy referred to the previous request from the SCC Rights of Way Team regarding information on the most regularly used footpaths in the area and those that needed regular maintenance. The deadline for the information was now approaching and the work was almost complete, with the data being split into three distinct categories. There had only been four responses to the Newsletter article for information. Mr. French emphasised the need to repair and maintain Pokes Lane. Mrs. Wooldridge requested clarification on whether it was the SCC ROWT or the Highways department that would assume responsibility for this path, and it was understood to be the ROW team. Mr Guy undertook to complete and return the questionnaire in consultation with Mr. Archer.

Mr. Parris stated that a number of areas on the Cotlake Hill footpath were in a poor condition and suggested that scalplings should be laid to repair the damage. It was agreed to consider this matter again in July.

Mr. Martin-Scott advised of a number of trees near the metal footbridge in Trull Meadow that had fallen due to the recent high winds, and Mr. French agreed to investigate.

146/06 **Highways**

Mr. Hancock advised that he had recently dealt with two complaints but had nothing further to report.

The Chairman advised that he had reported a blocked gully at Eastbrook to Somerset Highways and this was being rectified. The organisation had also advised that a number of blocked gullies in Comeytrowe Road were due to be cleared.

147/06 **Allotments**

The Chairman advised that a new gate had been purchased and was due to be installed within the next week (Minute 115/06 refers). It was noted that an additional 'No dogs unless on a lead' sign had now been placed at the entrance to the allotments.

The Clerk referred to a letter received from TDBC regarding a questionnaire that had been sent to the allotment tenants. A survey on the provision and management of plots within the Borough was being undertaken, and the type of information required was distance travelled, age, gender and the use of organic methods etc. A copy of the minutes of a meeting held on 21st November 2006 between TDBC and Allotment Association representatives was also included.

148/06 **TAP**

There was nothing to report on this item.

149/06 **Trull Village Memorial Halls**

Mr. Martin-Scott reported that he had, together with Messrs. Keyte and French, attended a meeting that had explored various options and proposals for a new Hall. The majority of the interested parties within the community had been present, and it had been agreed that a revised plan of action would be compiled by the end of the year.

Mr. Martin-Scott advised that limited redecorating and minor improvements to the Memorial Hall were planned for the next half-term break. It was also noted that a review of the next financial year's hire charges was being prepared, and that the electricity tariff had increased by approximately 35% over the 2005/6 costs.

150/06 **SALC**

The Clerk referred to correspondence received from the Chief Executive of SCC in respect of the Unitary Authority bid, confirming that an application and the business case would be submitted to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on the 24th January 2007, if agreed at a meeting of the Council. Mr. Martin-Scott reported that further collaboration between the Authorities within Somerset was being proposed in parallel to the SCC bid, and further information would be provided as the process developed.

151/06 **Correspondence**

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

Information regarding the Community Handyman Service received from TDBC.

A number of NHS brochures were circulated that detailed the proposal to apply for foundation trust status for Musgrove Park Hospital. It was noted that a representative from the Hospital, Mr. Mark Wall, had offered to speak to the Council at the February meeting and it was agreed that this should be accepted.

152/06 **Accounts**

Resolved: That the following accounts be authorised: -

Mrs. J. Wooldridge – December Newsletter	-	£19.00
Clerk's salary – December	-	£300.00
A.P. & S.M. Parris & Son – Allotment Gate	-	£237.51

153/06 **Any Other Business**

The Chairman requested suggestions for a speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 16th April and it was agreed that a representative from the Project Taunton scheme, Mr. Mark Green, be invited to attend.

Mr. David Roberts stated that the current proprietor of the Staplehay garage was parking vehicles outside the curtilage of his premises to the inconvenience of local residents. The Chairman requested that Mr. French informally approach the owner and request that more consideration be given.

154/06 **Date of Next Meeting**

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

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.30 pm.

Signed.....
Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....