

Trull Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Pearce Suite, Memorial Hall, Trull
on Monday 21st January 2008 at 7.15 pm.

Present: Mr. G. Hewett (Chairman)

Mr. S. French, Mr. D. Archer, Mr. C. Ralph, Mr. N. Hancock,
Mrs. F. Drew, Mrs. A. Hudson and Mr. P. Parris, together with
17 Members of the Public.

In attendance: PCSO 7309 Kelly Browning (part)
Mr. J. White – Footpaths
Mrs. R. Howat - Newsletter
Mr. S. Watts - Clerk

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting, the Chairman invited questions from members of the public and Mr. John Webb made the following statements: -

- Congratulations to the Chairman for the recent recognition of his long service to the community, and to the Clerk in achieving the CiLCA.
- The Parish Council should provide an opinion on the effectiveness or otherwise of the Taunton Deane Area Working Board, ideally at the April or May meeting when the arrangements had been in place for approximately a year. The Clerk advised that this could be done in conjunction with the local representative, County Councillor Mr. S. Martin-Scott.

166/07 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and agreed from Mrs. J. Wooldridge and Mr. S. Jeffrey.

167/07 Declarations of Interest

The following declaration of interest was advised: -

Name	Minute No:	Personal/Prejudicial	Reason and Action Taken
Mrs. F. Drew	172/07	Personal & prejudicial	Applicant and resident of 1 Kibbear Cottages, Kibbear, Trull. Absent from the room during the vote.

168/07 Chairman's Report

There was nothing to report on this item.

169/07 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th December 2007 were agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

170/07 Matters for Report

There were no matters for report.

171/07 Appointment of a Lead Councillor for Housing & Development

Mr. Archer referred to the previously circulated proposal for changes in the lead roles for planning and housing & development. He advised that the Parish Plan, which was adopted by the Council in November 2004, set out eight key aspects and identified a lead member for each issue. However, the designated lead for housing and development resigned from the Council shortly afterwards, and Mr. Archer had carried that and the planning lead roles since that time. He stated that it had been agreed that in order to avoid an excessive workload, the lead role for housing and development

would not be the same as for planning, and he was unable to continue in the current circumstances.

Resolved: That the following changes be implemented with immediate effect:-

- (1) Mrs. Hudson and Mr. Ralph to lead on planning matters, supported by Mr. Archer where necessary.
- (2) Mr. Archer to be the lead for housing and development.

172/07 **Appointment of a Playing Field Advisory Group**

Mr. Archer referred to the previously circulated proposal for a playing field advisory group. He pointed out that there was a requirement to engage with members of the public and representatives of local groups such as Trull School, the Church, Scouts and Castle School in accordance with the adopted Parish Plan. The group should be chaired by one of the Parish Council lead members, and may well be able to identify and access funds not available to the Council. He suggested that Mrs. Wooldridge could convene and Chair the meetings on a quarterly basis. Mr. Parris stated his preference that the group did not include the Council, but met and made their requirements known. Mr. Hancock stated that there could be a one-off meeting of the group to initiate the process, and review the need for future meetings.

Resolved: To defer this item until Mrs. Wooldridge returns from holiday in April 2008.

173/07 **Planning**

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

- 07/055 - Nevin Lodge, Private Road, Trull.
Full Erection of first floor extension to rear, demolition of garage with erection of two storey extension to front and two storey extension to side.

Resolved - No objection to the application.

- 07/056 - Little Oaks, Honiton Road, Trull.
Full Erection of first floor extension.

Resolved - No objection to the application.

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

- 07/057 - 6, Trull Green Drive, Trull.
Full Erection of single storey extension and conservatory.
Resolved - No objection to the application.

- 07/058 & 059LB - 1, Kibbear Cottages, Kibbear, Trull.
Full & LB Erection of single storey extension to rear, erection of porch to front and internal alterations.
Consent

Resolved - That the applications are beyond the technical ability of the Council to comment.

Mr. Archer reported on the affordable housing awareness event that had been held in the Pearce Suite of the Memorial Hall on 17th January (Minute 150/07 refers). The event had been led by Falcon Rural Housing and supported by the Community Council for Somerset. There had been a good overall attendance, including some six local families who would appear to qualify for housing for rent or fixed equity sale were it to be provided. It was noted that West of England Developments was also in attendance to provide further information on the type of properties that would be suitable for such schemes, including the design of a model scheme as an example of what could be provided locally. Mr. Archer explained that Falcon Rural Housing and the Community Council would now review the information obtained to date and a report should be available for the February meeting of the Parish Council.

The Chairman referred to a letter received from a resident of Dipford Road, Mr. Bazely, who had questioned the Minutes of the Meeting held in December, and considered that there was an assumption that the West of England proposal for Dipford Road would be approved. Mr. Archer advised that there was no commitment from TDBC or the Parish Council to this particular scheme at the present time, and that it would be considered on its merits were a formal planning application to be made. The Chairman apologised to Mr. Bazely for any unintended offence or misunderstanding.

Mr. Archer reported that the independent Panel's report of the Examination in Public of the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy had now been published. He reminded people of the sequence of events, starting with the County Council's option paper three years ago. TDBC had supported the majority of development being concentrated on town centre brownfield sites, with an urban extension at Monkton Heathfield, and that this had been incorporated into the Draft RSS published in March 2007.

The Panel recommends an increase of 28.6% over the Draft RSS figures in the provision of new housing. For the Taunton area, this means 18,000 new dwellings in the period to 2026, rather than the 14,000 in the Draft RSS. The Panel suggests that an area 'to the west of the town, known broadly as Comeytrowe ... offers a suitable additional source of housing supply', subject to road access problems being suitably resolved. 'We therefore recommend provision for 3,000 dwellings here, and urge the Council to do its utmost to achieve that level, and more if possible.'

The Panel's report is not subject to public consultation. The Secretary of State for Communities will now consider its recommendations and representations made on the Draft RSS, and publish proposed changes to the Draft RSS this spring. There will then be further public consultation on these proposals, and a final and definitive version of the RSS is expected to be published in the autumn. This will set the outline for development over the next 20 years, and its decisions will be incorporated into the new Local Development Framework (Local Plan), which TDBC will produce to replace the present one from 2011 onwards.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Archer for his research and excellent presentation, and advised that the implementation of the eventual Strategy would be developer led and subject to demand.

Mr. Archer advised that the application for outline planning permission for the erection of a detached dwelling on land to the west of Eastbrook House (42/2007/051 refers) had been withdrawn pending further information on the flood risk appraisal.

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

- 07/046 - 7, Orchard Close, Trull.
Full permission granted for the erection of a dwelling adjacent to property.
- 07/053 - 12, Mill Lane, Trull.
Full permission granted for the erection of a conservatory to rear.
- 07/054 - The Coach House, Wild Oak Lane, Trull.
Full permission granted for the erection of a single storey extension to rear and replacement garage to front.

174/07 **Playing Field**

Mr. Parris reported that, in consultation with Cllrs. Wooldridge, French and the Chairman, he had placed an order with Wicksteed Leisure Ltd for a 1 bay, 2 x flat seat swing at a cost of £1,429.00 plus VAT (Minute 151/07 refers). The unit was now ready

for collection and the arrangements had been made. The swings would be sited across the field, rather than facing down it, as this would enable the present safety surface to be used without the need to extend it. He also advised that Minster Machinery Ltd were due to undertake repairs to the swing, see-saw and slide up to a maximum cost of £1,000 plus VAT when the current weather conditions had improved (Minute 134/07 refers).

Mr. Parris advised that it would be prudent to routinely allocate a part of the budget to provide a long-term programme for repairs and replacement of the playing field equipment and safety surfacing. He suggested that this should be in the order of £1k to £2k each year. Mr. Hancock stated that he supported this approach.

175/07 **Footpaths**

Mr. White reported on numerous defects that he had reported to the SCC ROW Team during 2007 that still required attention. These were: -

- Gate at Honiton Road end of T 21/30 difficult to open.
- Finger post sign from Kibbear Lane to T21/5. These are currently on order for the SCC Rangers.
- Damage to bridge lead-in fencing and rotting treads to bridge at T21/14 -T21/2.
- Access to T29/12A from Comeytrowe Road.

The Clerk reported on the following information received from the SCC ROW Team: -

- Provisional agreement to part fund the gravel used for the footpath at the bottom of the playing field, and an extension of the low walling at Pokes Lane (Minute 149/07 refers). This would be subject to submission of the appropriate quotations and invoices.
- Provisional agreement for the provision of two kissing gates at Trull Meadow, subject to mutual agreement with Mr. French.
- Information regarding the current SCC policy on DDA access to open countryside (Minute 154/07 refers).

176/07 **Highways**

Mr. Hancock reported on a blocked gully at Eastbrook, and advised that he had requested Somerset Highways to ensure this matter was a high priority as it had been reported on a number of previous occasions. Mrs. Drew stated that she had reported a series of large potholes in the road surface at Kibbear.

Mr. French reported that he had had a discussion with Mr. Kali Martin of Somerset Highways regarding the verge at the entrance to Spearcey Lane (Minute 155/07 refers). Mr. Martin had stated that the work could not be funded at the present time, and that any incidents relating to the placement of the stones on the verge would ultimately be the responsibility of the resident concerned.

Mr. Parris and Mrs. Hudson advised that the ditch at Brown's Elm had recently been cleared. It was assumed that Somerset Highways had carried out the work, and it was noted that it had been done to a high standard.

177/07 **Allotments**

The Clerk referred to the meeting held with the allotment tenants in October 2007, when a request was made to reduce the height of the trees and lay the hedge that was in the ownership of the Ladylawn residents (Minute 117/07 refers). An invitation had been sent for an on-site meeting with the residents and Mr. Archer, Mr. Coombes, Mr. Sage and the Clerk on 12th January but, unfortunately, only one had chosen to attend. Correspondence had been received from the other four residents stating that the proposal was not agreeable in any circumstances, although two might consider some form of hedge laying work if it were to be professionally carried out.

The Chairman advised that this was a difficult issue as the trees were in the ownership of the residents, and there were no statutory powers available to the Council.

Mr. French queried the method of laying the hedge, and advised that it should be carried out between September and March. Mr. Archer suggested that further information should be sought on laying the hedge, and a request made to the resident who attended to lay a short section of the hedge as a trial. In addition, a letter should be sent to the allotment tenants advising them of the current position, as it was important to demonstrate that the Council had tried to act on their concerns.

178/07 **Trull Village Memorial Halls**

The Chairman of the TCCDG, Mr. Bloxham, advised that the accounts for 2006/7 detail an overall operating loss of £1,300. This was primarily due to the extensive decorative works, new windows and doors and relocating the gent's WC. However, the committee retained cash assets of £63k, and it was agreed that the work had been beneficial.

Mr. Bloxham reported that Mrs. Susan Barrett had taken over as Bookings Secretary.

Mr. Bloxham explained the current position regarding the TCCDG Briefing Document that had been completed in October 2007. A brief summary was then given on the initial proposals for the Memorial Hall, and it was noted that, together with Mr. Archer, he had met with a TDBC Area Planning Officer, Gareth Clifford, to identify any particular issues. The main issue was what options would be acceptable on the Parish Rooms / Old Village Hall site, and Mr Clifford undertook to consult the Conservation Officer about this. The meeting had been subject to an unexpected charge of £94 for a pre-planning consultation. Mr. Archer had since requested the TDBC Planning Manager to either waive or reduce the bill. If this was not possible, it was likely that the Council would be requested to meet the cost.

Resolved: That, if required, the Council would accept the TDBC charge of £94 for a pre-planning consultation.

179/07 **Trull School**

There was nothing to report on this item.

180/07 **Matters of Correspondence for Report**

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

A letter of introduction received from Mr. Gary Bickers of GWB Services of North Petherton. A request to undertake general maintenance works on behalf of the Parish Council was made, and his abilities were supported by a testimonial from Nether Stowey Parish Council.

Information received from the SCC Civil Contingencies Unit regarding a Parish Flood Fair event on 21st and 22nd February at Yeovil and North Petherton respectively. The event was in conjunction with the Environment Agency, and was intended to provide support to Parishes in preparing an emergency plan for implementation in instances of localised flooding. Mr. Archer offered to attend the session on 22nd February.

Information regarding a consultation on Site Allocation Representations for the Taunton Town Area Action Plan. Any comments had to be received by TDBC by 28th February 2008.

An information bulletin received from PCSO 7309 Kelly Browning. Mrs. Drew stated that the information was insufficient to place on the web site, and it was agreed that it should be edited into the Newsletter if space were available.

181/07 **Accounts for Payment**

Resolved: That the following accounts be authorised: -

Mrs. R. Howat – December Newsletter	-	£24.00
Clerk's salary – December	-	£300.00

Trull Village Memorial Halls – Oct/Nov/Dec	-	£40.50
Mr. Ray Shattock – mower service	-	£49.50

182/07 **Any Other Urgent Business**

Mr. Ralph reported on the Party in the Park 2008 event that would be held on 12 July. The committee had now agreed a draft programme for the day, and a number of fine details, such as the need for additional grass cutting and line marking, were advised. Mr. Ralph also requested that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman make the necessary arrangements for the Parish Council to run the skittles event and this was agreed.

The Chairman advised that TDBC DLO had been instructed to carry out a camera survey to the blocked drain at Carter’s Way at an anticipated cost of £100.00; and that Mr. D. Mountstephens had been requested to repair a broken lock to the Notice board at Killams.

The Clerk referred to an example of a Notice board that Mr. French had brought to the meeting that may be of interest to the Council. The item was locally made using high quality materials, and a portfolio of details of the company concerned, Notice-It Ltd of Bishops Lydeard, was also provided. The current arrangements for displaying Notices at Staplehay were not satisfactory and the Chairman asked Mr. French and Mr. Parris to identify suitable locations to site a new board such as the one demonstrated.

183/07 **Items for the Next Agenda**

Items for the next Agenda will include: -

- Location of a Notice board at Staplehay.

184/07 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Meeting will be 18th February 2008, to be held in the Pearce Suite, Trull Memorial Hall at 7.15 pm.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.20 pm.

Signed.....
Chairman of Trull Parish Council

Date.....